



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

Take a peek inside this issue. Here's what's coming up...

In Every Issue

- Upcoming Events
- Capitol Corner: New Election Maps Set to Change Centralina's Congressional Delegation
- In the News: Disaster Recovery Financial Administration Training, UNCC's EDA Tech Hub Grant, Raise the Roof Honoree, Centralina Community Anniversaries, Centralina AAA Staff Recognitions

Announcements & Featured Articles

- Leading the Region for 55 Years: The History of Centralina
- Highlights from Centralina Regional Road Trip Visits
- Centralina Launches New Peer Learning Opportunity for Smaller Communities
- Centralina Learns Recap: Climate & Sustainability Planning
- Survey: Funding for Climate Pollution Reduction Projects
- CONNECT Beyond Implementation: Creating a Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan
- Digital Inclusion Plan Initiative
- You're Not Alone: Reflecting on One Year of the PEARLS Program
- How Does Your County Rank? Aging Profiles by the Numbers
- NC Works Conference Highlights
- NCWorks Veterans Specialist Receives National Employment Service Award
- Centralina Spotlight: Housing Preservation & Home Rehabilitation Services
- Centralina 2024 Board Retreat Facilitation

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17	Centralina Subcommittee: Advancing the Plan Meeting
November 30	Small Town Peer-to-Peer: How to Engage Your Community
December 5	Centralina Learns: Aging Sensitivity & Age-Friendly Communities
December 12	Centralina Learns: Artificial Intelligence & Ethics for Planners

CAPITOL CORNER



New Election Maps Set to Change Centralina's Congressional Delegation

In late October, the North Carolina General Assembly approved new district maps for the upcoming 2024 election. As required by the North Carolina Constitution, the state legislature draw districts from which representatives and senators are elected, including members of the United States House

of Representatives. Following each decennial census, district maps are redrawn in a process known as redistricting. Barring any successful legal challenges, the new district maps will be used in the next election races for North Carolina's fourteen congressional districts and the state House and Senate.

[Read More](#)

Centralina Region Local Elections

Centralina extends its congratulations to all the winners of the various electoral races throughout our region this fall. We look forward to working with our local elected officials, new and reelected, throughout FY24 and beyond as we continue to support our mission to expand opportunity and improve quality of life for all of our member governments and their residents.



Celebrating 55 Years

Centralina's History & Evolution

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the founding of Centralina Regional Council, formerly known as Centralina Council of Governments. Over the last five and a half decades, our organization has helped support the growth and prosperity of our region through various projects and initiatives. In honor of this historic year, we're looking back at how our organization has evolved to where it is today.

The First Twenty Years

In the initial formation period of the organization, Centralina focused on issues of regional significance as identified by member governments. Former chairman of the board, Milton Short (left), gave an address in 1972 that stated Centralina would expand its focus to address housing, transportation, parks and recreation and the



environment. Our portfolio evolved to include responsibilities delegated to it from federal and state agencies, including administering aging services and older adult programs.

The 1990s

With the region growing rapidly by the 1990s, it was evident that local governments needed to focus on collaboration to coordinate on growth and economic development in response to the continued decline of the region's textile industry....[continue reading](#)



Former Board Chair & NC Governor
Dr. James G. Martin



Former Wadesboro Mayor Bill Thacker, Anson County Commissioner & Centralina Board Secretary Jarvis Woodburn with former Executive Director Al Sharp



Former Executive Director Jim Prosser with current Executive Director Geraldine Gardner

[Learn More about the History of Centralina](#)

Regional Road Trip

Thank you to all the communities who have welcomed our team with open arms during our road trip series this fall. We're hoping to wrap up our final visits around the region in time for the holiday season. Here are some highlights from our community visits this past month!



City of Kannapolis



City of Lowell



Town of Dallas



FEATURED ARTICLES

Centralina Launches New Peer Learning Opportunity for Smaller Communities



In response to the unique needs of smaller communities throughout the region, Centralina launched a member services initiative, **Small Towns Thrive**. This program provides direct technical services, education and peer learning opportunities for smaller municipalities. A key component of this initiative is the small-town peer-to-peer sessions. Free to Centralina members, this series of bi-monthly, virtual sessions will focus on specific topics of interest to smaller communities. Participants will hear from Centralina's in-house experts and have an opportunity to exchange ideas with peers.

[Learn More](#)

Centralina Learns Recap: Climate & Sustainability Planning

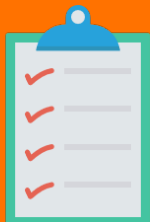
On October 24, 2023, Centralina held a Centralina Learns session focused on the topic of climate and sustainability planning. During this session, local government staff learned about strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting built environments to be more resilient and saw examples of what climate planning looks like in our region.



Centralina staff also used this time to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant**, including the anticipated timelines, deliverables and engagement that will occur as part of plan development and the funding available through implementation grants.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

Survey: Funding for Climate Pollution Reduction Projects



We are assisting member governments and partners to develop strategies to plan for and achieve low-cost reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, create economic growth and job creation to foster a low carbon economy. Information collected will ensure that organizations can apply for the \$4.6 billion in EPA implementation grant funding to support local needs. If your organizational priorities can be supported by these funds, it is imperative that you participate in this survey and are

thereby included in our region's Priority Climate Action Plan.

[Take the Survey to Qualify for Funding](#)

CONNECT Beyond Implementation: Creating a Regional Transportation Demand Management Plan

October 2023 marks the two-year anniversary of the adoption of the [CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan](#). During this time, focus has been on the implementation of the plan's key near-term recommendations. One of the most important and impactful recommendations is the development of a regional transportation demand management (TDM) plan and program. TDM refers to a program of education and incentives that are meant to complement existing transportation infrastructure to allow travelers to better understand and increase the use of transportation choices, such as flexible work schedules, bike/walking, carpooling and riding transit. A fully realized TDM program will benefit our region in many ways, with desired outcomes displayed in the chart below. A key objective of the TDM program is to make sure that every community is represented in the plan (urban, suburban and rural) and that TDM strategies are tailored for each community type.



[Learn More About Our Progress](#)

Digital Inclusion Plan Initiative

Digital inclusion ensures all communities, especially the most disadvantaged populations, can connect to and use the internet. Recognizing that a regional approach is critical to closing the digital divide, Centralina is partnering with the Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State University to improve broadband access and equity through the Building a New Digital Economy in North Carolina grant program. This initiative seeks to assist county leaders in our region in developing and implementing digital inclusion plans that include intentional strategies to reduce and eliminate barriers to broadband access and technology use.

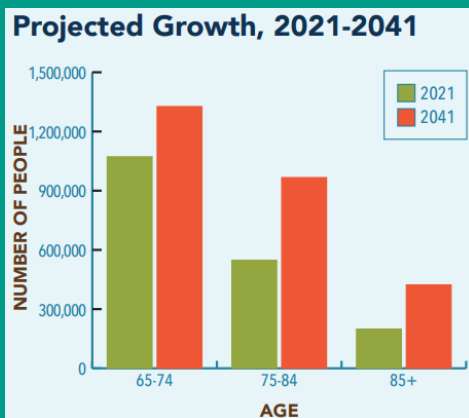
[View Our Flyer to Learn More](#)

You're Not Alone: Reflecting on One Year of the PEARLS Program

In 2022, Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was awarded grant funding from the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness to pilot the Program to Encourage Rewarding, Active Lives (PEARLS). This unique evidence-based program is implemented to combat depression and social isolation in older adults throughout NC. Centralina AAA staff began accepting participants in designated regional areas last December.

[Read More](#)

How Does Your County Rank? Aging Profiles by the Numbers



Did you know that by 2028, one in five North Carolinians will be 65 or older? In fact, research estimates that by 2031, there will be more NC residents 65+ than under the age of 18! In 2021, the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services compiled Aging Profiles for all 100 counties in the state. Each profile drills down to specific information associated with older adults in that county, including population size, race & ethnicity, social and economic characteristics and more. Click the button to view the

profiles and learn more about the older adult populations by county and across our state.

[Learn About Your County's Aging Demographics](#)

NCWorks Conference Highlights



In October, Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) staff attended the 36th Annual NCWorks Partnership Conference, with Centralina WDB Director, David Hollars, serving as the conference emcee. Attending team members had the opportunity to engage with and learn from various workforce professionals from around the state. The team plans to implement lessons learned from presentations and workshops during the conference in their

work throughout FY24 to help foster economic competitiveness for local businesses and to best support career seekers in the region.

**NCWorks Veterans Specialist Receives
National Employment Service Award**

Dora Devarie, a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, was recently presented with the 2023 National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Employment Service Award for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. As the Consolidated Veterans Employment Career Consultant for Union, Stanly and Anson counties, Ms. Devarie is responsible for helping military veterans and eligible spouses overcome barriers to gaining meaningful employment. A Navy veteran and former hospital corpsman, Ms. Devarie's advocacy and deep concern for veterans is evident in all that she does while serving her community.



[Read the Full Article](#)

Service Spotlight: Housing Preservation and Home Rehabilitation Services



The population of adults over the age of 65 is the fastest-growing age cohort in our region, with an 58% increase between 2010 and 2021 and an anticipated increase of 65% between 2021 and 2041. These data trends point to the increased need for supportive services for older adults in the region, specifically services to

bolster aging in place. Click the image to view our recent "Service Spotlight" video to learn more about Centralina Community Economic Development's housing program administration services, including recent success stories involving homes of older adults in our region.

Time to Start Planning for 2024 Board Retreat Facilitation

The new year is just around the corner, which means now is the time to begin planning your community's upcoming board retreat! As a reminder, Centralina members can take advantage of our meeting design and facilitation services to help you engage participants and meet desired objectives. We are happy to assist with both in-person and virtual meetings, retreats, budget and planning sessions and more.

[Learn How We Can Help](#)

IN THE NEWS

Disaster Recovery Financial Administration Training Program

Centralina is working with the NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments on a program to support local governments in effectively managing and building capacity for disaster recovery, mitigation and resiliency. To learn how to better manage disaster recovery in your

community, join us for a virtual meeting on **December 12th at 11 a.m.** where we will preview the training program and answer your questions. All city and county managers, finance officers and county emergency are encouraged to attend and will receive a direct invitation in the coming weeks. For more information, contact Lenessa Hawkins at lhawkins@centralina.org.

EDA Awards Tech Hub Strategy Development Grant

The U.S. Economic Development Administration announced on October 26th their selections for the federal Tech Hub program and identified the Carolina Innovation Center for Optics and Metrology Consortium as a winner of a strategy development grant award of \$500,000. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte was the lead organization on this application to build capacity and strengthen innovation and technology for optics and precision metrology in the region. The [Centralina Economic Development District](#), along with the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, provided technical assistance and support throughout the process. [Read more.](#)

Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity Raise the Roof Honoree



On October 26, Centralina's Community Economic Development (CED) team was presented with the "Raise the Roof" award by Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity for their work supporting affordable housing needs in the region. Centralina assisted the organization in administering Community Development Block Grant funding to carry out critical home repair needs within the community. Congratulations to the Centralina CED team for their efforts to support a prosperous region!

Happy Birthday to These Centralina Communities!

As Centralina continues to celebrate 55 years of leading our region, we want to also recognize the anniversaries of our member communities. Visit each town's website, linked below, and their social media pages to learn more about these milestones and any upcoming celebratory events.

[Town of Mooresville:](#) **150-Year Anniversary**
[Town of Huntersville:](#) **150-Year Anniversary**
[Town of Pineville:](#) **150-Year Anniversary**
[Town of Ranlo:](#) **60-Year Anniversary**
[Town of Harrisburg:](#) **50-Year Anniversary**

Centralina AAA Staff Recognitions

We want to congratulate **Katie Kutcher** and **Hillary Kaylor**, two members of our Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) team, for their accomplishments. Katie was recently appointed as a board member to the North Carolina Coalition on Aging's Board of Directors and Friends of Residents in Long Term Care awarded Hillary the Sharon Wilder Long Term Advocacy Award for her outstanding work as a regional ombudsman. Katie



and Hillary's experience in the aging field and passion for older adults make them valuable members of the Centralina team. We are so proud of these milestones and look forward to celebrating their success in the future!

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the NEW Member Portal](#)



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