



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12	Centralina Learns: Artificial Intelligence & Ethics for Planners
December 12	NCARCOG Regional Disaster Financial Administration Training Information Session
December 13	Regional Managers Meeting
January 9	Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting
January 10	Centralina Executive Board Meeting

CAPITOL CORNER



Efforts to Streamline the Federal Grants Process

Each year, the federal government provides significant funding to state and local governments. Those funds, usually in the form of federal grants, awards and assistance agreements, provide funding for all types of programs and services, including but not limited to, water and transportation infrastructure, public safety, environmental improvements and energy efficiency. The federal government places conditions on this type of funding with the goal of making sure federal dollars are spent properly. Those conditions, however, can sometimes create burdens without adding value, and those in Washington are taking note.

[Read More](#)

Celebrating 55 Years

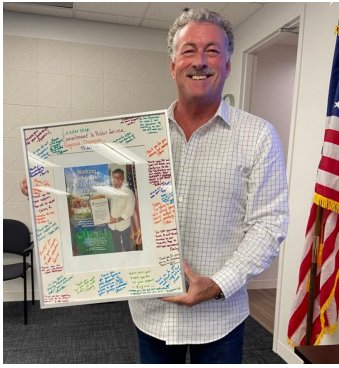
What Makes Centralina Special: A Staff Perspective



2023 marks 55 years since the establishment of Centralina Regional Council. During this time, the organization has seen projects come and go, but one thing that has remained the same is our core group of long-term employees, many of which have been with the organization for decades. So what is it that makes people stay? We sat down with some of our longest-standing staff members to understand why they've continued to work for our organization for so long, what makes Centralina special to them and some of their favorite moments.

[See What Makes Centralina Special](#)

Thank You Bobby Compton!



Former Town of Mooresville Commissioner Bobby Compton served as chairman of the Centralina Executive Board for the last time on November 8th. Bobby served in this position for over five years and was an essential leader and team member who helped Centralina navigate changes during the pandemic, our office move, board policy changes and more. He has been a passionate advocate for regionalism and champion of our team and their work, always coming early before meetings to introduce himself to new staff and catch-up with long-time team members on how they were doing

and the exciting projects they were working on.

"Bobby Compton is a true leader for the Town of Mooresville and for the region," said Centralina Workforce Development Board Director David Hollars. "His genuine caring nature brings people together and makes problem solving much easier."

Linda Miller, Centralina Area Agency on Aging Director, added "Bobby has been a supporter and advocate for the Area Agency on Aging for many years. He has not only recognized the value of our programs and services in the community for older and disabled adults, but also for the hard work and passion exhibited by our staff at Centralina."

Our team was fortunate to have the opportunity to give our thanks to Bobby at our recent all-staff meeting. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and are so thankful for his support and leadership to our organization.



FEATURED ARTICLES

Centralina Assists City of Mount Holly in Hiring New City Manager

When the City of Mount Holly found themselves needing to hire a new city manager, they turned to Centralina Regional Council for assistance in the recruitment process. The city manager has an essential role in local government and finding the right candidate is crucial. Centralina offers many

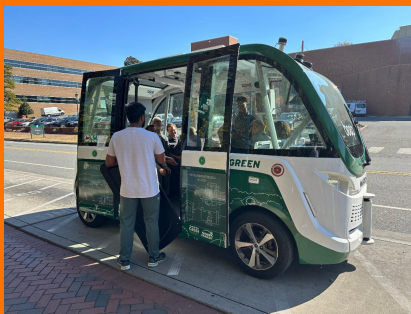


customizable recruitment services and was happy to step in as a trusted partner to navigate the complexities of a city manager search for our member government.

Mount Holly faced the common challenge of finding a candidate with the right mix of skills for effective leadership, adept management and community engagement. In response, Centralina devised a precise recruitment process aimed at ensuring the city's continued administrative success, a smooth transition and overall community well-being.

[Learn More](#)

Centralina Task Force Preparing Region for a Connected & Autonomous Future

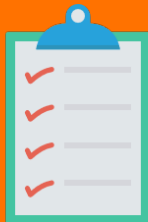


For years, self-driving vehicles have been touted as a potentially revolutionary transportation technology. For most of the general public, however, the concept of self-driving vehicles has either seemed impossible or possible in the far-distant future. Public and private sector agencies have already been investing resources into developing "connected & autonomous vehicles" (CAV), and momentum around

the emerging technology is building rapidly. As research continues and public embrace grows, communities must be prepared to adapt to the changing transportation ecosystem. Through the established CAV Task Force, Centralina is bringing together stakeholders from across the region to best prepare for this wave of change in transportation.

[Learn More about CAVs](#)

Survey: Regional Resilience & Air Quality Project Funding



Centralina is helping local governments 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 implementation grant funding. If your organizational priorities can be supported by these funds, please participate in this

survey.

[Take the Survey](#)

Why Stormwater Pre-Development Approaches Matter

Stormwater management is a top-of-mind topic for many local government stakeholders, and making it a piece of discussion in pre-

development meetings helps to ensure your community and its residents remain safe and healthy. Centralina's Community Economic Development team developed a resource that highlights the importance of addressing stormwater management in pre-development meetings, complete with examples of best practices and linked resources for additional assistance.

The link below redirects to the Centralina Member Portal, as this is a resource exclusive to Centralina members only. If you are a member and need access to the portal, reach out to your member liaison or contact us at info@centralina.org.

[Access This Member Resource](#)

Connecting the Matthews Community: A Collaborative Success Story

Centralina Community Economic Development (CED) team recently collaborated with the Town of Matthews on a sidewalk extension project near their popular downtown district. Allocated funding provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program allowed Centralina to work with the town to improve sidewalk infrastructure in order to provide a safe and accessible pathway for residents to access nearby local services. Centralina's CED team was called in to help implement funding for the project and provide support through the construction process.

[Read the Full Success Story](#)

Centralina AAA Demonstrates Commitment to Service Through Continuing Education



Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is comprised of talented and insightful individuals, many of whom have years of higher education, extensive experience in the aging field and a passion for protecting and caring for older adults and people with disabilities. Centralina AAA strongly supports opportunities for professional development and continuing education to help each staff member grow in their roles and

responsibilities and best serve residents and member communities throughout our region. This fall, Centralina AAA staff took part in three training and certification opportunities to help increase knowledge and capacity to fulfill our organization-wide mission to advance opportunity and improve quality of life for our region's residents and communities.

[Read More](#)

Centralina AAA 2024-2028 Area Plan Survey

Centralina Area Agency on Aging is currently undergoing the process to develop a regional area plan for 2024-2028 and has created a survey to collect feedback from the communities we serve. Insights from this public input will help the team shape the area plan so they can continue to best serve older adults and people with disabilities in the coming years. Use the link below to fill out the survey electronically or reach out to aging@centralina.org to request a paper copy.

[Complete the 2024 Area Plan Assessment](#)

'Tis the Season of Giving: The Centralina WDB Day of Giving



The 2023 Centralina Day of Giving kicked off on November 3rd with each of the NCWorks Career Center teams volunteering their time to help non-profit organizations within the Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) region. Staff from each center dedicated one day over the past month to focus on giving back to the community through preparing meals at local soup kitchens, organizing donations at a re-sale store, purchasing gifts for children living at local homeless shelters, etc.

[Read the Full Article](#)

Service Spotlight: Planning Board Training

Knowledgeable appointed boards are essential for effective land use planning and regulatory processes in local government. Centralina's Regional Planning team offers planning board training on planning and development regulation topics so that board members, new and existing, understand their roles and expectations as public officials and perform their duties to the best of their ability. Dedicated Centralina staff can customize training to your community-specific needs and cover topics such as best board operating procedures, decision-making processes, land use policies and plans, state and local regulations and more.

[Learn More on How We Can Help](#)

IN THE NEWS

NCARCOG Regional Disaster Recovery Financial Administration Trainings

In bolstering pre-disaster resiliency, mitigation and post-disaster recovery efforts, local governments must be proficient in effectively managing public assistance dollars. Centralina, in collaboration with NC Association of Regional Councils of Governments, is offering training for local government staff to learn how to secure recovery funding, build and maintain necessary financial

systems, incorporate recovery staffing, utilize best business practices and more. Those interested can register to attend trainings on:

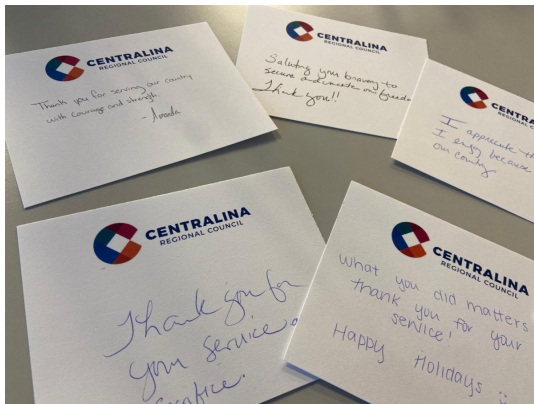
- [Thursday, Feb. 8th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Centralina offices](#)
- [Tuesday, Feb. 13th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Centralina offices](#)

As a reminder, it is **NOT** a requirement to have attended the December 12th informational session in order to attend one of these trainings. Additional training dates will be announced in the coming weeks. Those interested may contact Lenessa Hawkins at lhawkins@centralina.org with any questions, concerns or requests for more information.



Centralina Gives Back to Our Region

It's the season of giving, and the Centralina team have worked on several service projects this past month to support various charities and causes throughout the region. Centralina staff wrote thank you cards to local servicemen and women in observance of Veteran's Day and purchased over 400 pairs of socks as part of a donation drive to benefit Ansonville families in need. Staff will also be participating in a local angel tree drive through the Salvation Army to provide holiday gifts for families in need.



Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant Approved

In October, Centralina was notified that our organization was a recipient of the Regional Infrastructure Accelerator grant from the US Department of Transportation. This grant funding was approved by the Centralina Executive Board at the November 8th meeting. The \$1.75M in funding will go towards CONNECT Beyond implementation, including the establishment of an Integrated Mobility Center and building out project service lines for finance innovation, pipeline project facilitation and transit-orientated development. [Read the full USDOT press release.](#)

UNC School of Government's ncIMPACT Initiative Webinar: Purchasing and Contracting 101

This four-hour virtual program will cover the laws that local governments need to know when procuring and contracting using local, state and federal funds. The topics include legal requirements for public contracts, competitive bidding requirements and exceptions, construction contracting and hiring architects

and engineers. This program is ideal for department heads and departmental employees, managers, attorneys, elected officials and others who want or need to know the basic requirements for local government purchasing and contracting.

The full program will take place over two days:

- Tuesday, Jan. 9th from 9:00 - 11:00am
- Wednesday, Jan. 10th from 9:00 - 11:00am

[Link to Registration](#) - Registration fee: \$55

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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