



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: A Conversation with Senator Thom Tillis
- In the News: FEMA Public Awareness Training, Peer-to-Peer Strategic Planning Session, Regional Road Trip Visit Recap to Kannapolis, NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative

Announcements & Featured Articles

- Sights in the Centralina Region
- New Member Spotlight: Town of Stanfield
- Building Resiliency in the Centralina Region: Your Input is Needed
- Centralina's Housing Case Study Recognized by NADO
- Centralina AAA "Shoes & Shots" Events
- Centralina AAA Area Plan Survey
- Behind the Title: A Chat with Ansonville Mayor Angela Caraway
- Service Spotlight: Code Enforcement

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9	Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting
January 10	Centralina Executive Board Meeting
January 16-19	Living Healthy with Chronic Disease Leader Training
January 18	Small Town Peer-to-Peer: Strategic Planning
February 1-2	Living Healthy with Chronic Pain Cross Training
February 8	FEMA Public Assistance Financial Assistance Program
February 13	FEMA Public Assistance Financial Assistance Program
February 15	The Role of Childcare in the North Carolina Economy Forum

CAPITOL CORNER



A Conversation with Senator Thom Tillis

Centralina Regional Council kicked off the start of 2024 by hosting a breakfast on Friday, January 5th for the region's newly elected local officials. The event featured an open, fireside-style conversation with North Carolina's senior U.S. Senator, Thom Tillis, led by Executive Director Geraldine Gardner.

Senator Tillis' opening remarks encouraged local elected officials "to think about regional connectivity" when approaching the federal government for resources and making those approaches creative.

"You have to differentiate yourself," Senator Tillis said, stressing that, "Regionalism matters to the federal government. You will get more if you think regionally."

The Senator also spoke candidly on a number of topics, including transportation, economic development, aging, housing and innovation in government. He mentioned his work to provide the framework that resulted in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is executing real improvements in infrastructure throughout North Carolina.



[Read More](#)

Regional Road Trip

Check out our most recent visits!



Town of Stanfield



Town of Oakboro



City of Bessemer City

Sights in the Centralina Region

Last fall, Centralina kicked off the organization's 55th anniversary through a Regional Road Trip tour to visit each of our 55 member municipalities and we're looking forward to finishing our final round of visits over the next few months. One of the questions we asked community members in these meetings was "If someone has one day to visit your community, what do you suggest that they see/do?" Over the next few months, we'll be highlighting some of the sites our members suggested so you can plan your own road trip to explore the amazing venues and landmarks that our region has to offer!

Stanly County

Town of Badin and City of Albemarle

Get out on the water! The communities of Albemarle and Badin border [Lake Badin](#), a reservoir that covers an area of 5,350 acres with 115 miles of shoreline. Locals can often be found fishing, enjoying shoreside picnics, boating and swimming when the weather is warm and sunny.



City of Locust



This "city with soul" as they call themselves, includes a variety of shops and restaurants to explore. Grab a cup of joe at [Greater Grounds](#), a coffee shop located inside a local church that donates its proceeds to local organizations in need. Residents recommend grabbing a

Village of Misenheimer



Though Misenheimer was incorporated in 2003, the area has a rich history of tourism and education, with some buildings in town that date back to the late 1800's. Make sure to take a stroll

bite to eat at [The Local Room](#) or savoring a kunkel brew at [The Brew Room](#).

o n [Pfeiffer University's](#) campus while you're in town!

[Town of Stanfield](#)



[Pete Henkel Park](#) has something for the whole family, whether it's a playground for the kids to enjoy, walking trails for a nice jog or a group game at the tennis and basketball courts. When you need a rest or change of scenery, head over to [Log Barn Park](#), where you can enjoy lunch at one of the picnic tables or relax in a rocking chair on the barn porch.

[Town of Oakboro](#)



If you visit on a nice day, check out [Oakboro District Park](#) for a walk on the trails or a game of disc golf with friends. Transit enthusiasts will enjoy perusing through the [Oakboro Railroad Museum](#), which showcases dozens of pieces of train memorabilia. The site features a restored caboose right outside the building, so you can't miss it!

FEATURED ARTICLES

New Member Spotlight: Town of Stanfield



Ever wondered what the friendliest town in North Carolina is? It might just be right here in the Centralina region! The Town of Stanfield, located in Stanly County, is described on the community website as a "safe, peaceful town tucked away from the fast-paced hectic world." You won't find any fancy shops or stoplights, but you will encounter buildings with rich history and gracious locals who will be happy to show you around and make you feel right at home.

[Read the Full Community Spotlight](#)

Building Resiliency in the Centralina Region: Your Input is Needed

In January, many people establish goals for the year and according to Forbes, improving health is one of the top resolutions for 2024. This is true for the staff at Centralina who will focus on health by helping to build strong, sustainable communities as part of the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) program. This U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program provides funding for local governments to support plans and programs that reduce the release of greenhouse gasses (GHG) and foster a low carbon economy. These projects will also support infrastructure improvement, energy and waste management systems, transportation

systems and the development of energy efficient buildings.

Our first step is to create a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) that will include a baseline of GHG emissions and short-term reduction strategies. Nine project categories have been proposed as part of the PCAP. By organizing projects that need funding under these categories, staff can build out priorities and strategies in the PCAP to ensure that interested organizations can determine whether projects of local interest may be a good fit for implementation grant funding.

[Review the Proposed PCAP Categories](#)

Get Involved: PCAP Survey + Focus Groups

Could your community be supported by an investment in a targeted project or initiative? To be considered for inclusion in an implementation grant proposal, we ask that you complete [this form](#) by January 26.

We will also be conducting focus groups for each county to gather input and feedback on ready-to-implement greenhouse gas reduction measures for inclusion in the PCAP. If you are interested in participating in a focus group or have additional questions about this initiative, contact Megan Upchurch at mupchurch@centralina.org.

Centralina's Housing Case Study Recognized by NADO

The National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) Research Foundation's Economic Development District (EDD) Community of Practice recently launched an online resource called "Solving the Housing Puzzle: EDDs as Regional Housing Changemakers." The report, which outlines the critical housing work carried out by development organizations to best meet various community needs across the country, includes various best practice case studies, and we're honored to say that Centralina's work was highlighted. The report, which outlines the critical housing work carried out by development organizations to meet various community needs across the country, includes best practice case studies like one by Centralina titled "Turning Voices into Action in the Centralina Region."

[Learn More & Read the Study](#)

Centralina AAA "Shoes & Shots" Clinics

Last spring, Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) received USAging grant funding to support its work in connecting older adults and people with disabilities with information and resources on the importance of vaccination and options to stay healthy and protected. This past fall, Centralina AAA partnered with Samaritan's Feet and various local providers to put on a "Shoes & Shots" event in Anson County and Mecklenburg County. The events



helped supply more than 250 pairs of shoes to people in need, along with the administration of more than 40 shots. The Centralina team is planning for more clinics in the region this spring to help support those in need and to continue educational efforts.

Centralina AAA 2024-2028 Area Plan Survey

A four-year plan for services in the state of North Carolina is required by the Older Americans Act. Each of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) must develop a corresponding strategic four-year area plan that describes how their work will align with the six goals of the [State Plan on Aging](#).

Centralina AAA prepared a short survey to gather feedback from the communities we serve. The insights will help us to shape our area plan so we can continue to best support and advocate for older adults and people with disabilities in our region in the coming years.

Use the link below to fill out the survey electronically. Please contact aging@centralina.org to request a paper copy.

[Complete the Survey](#)

Behind the Title: A Chat with Ansonville Mayor Angela Caraway



Anson County native Angela Caraway wears many hats, working as Founder and Executive Director of The Caraway Management Group, Inc. and Founder and Executive Director of [The Caraway Foundation](#). In addition, she represents Anson County and various community organizations as a member on the Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB). She is also the newly elected Mayor of Ansonville.

Centralina WDB Communications Coordinator, Queen Lundy, recently sat down with Caraway to learn more about her passion for community service and how she plans to use her skills and experience in her new role as mayor. [Click here](#) to view the full interview.



Other members of Centralina's staff had the chance to meet Mayor Caraway during our Regional Road Trip visit in December, where we also dropped off more than 400 pairs of socks as part of a donation drive to help families in need stay warm during the holidays.

Service Spotlight: Code Enforcement

Centralina's Community Economic Development team offers on-call code enforcement services to support housing preservation and ensure that

properties meet minimum standards for safety, health and aesthetics. These services protect property values, preserve community character and are vital to improving and preserving quality of life for residents and businesses.

Our staff can provide local governments with customized, on-call code enforcement services that include reviewing local ordinances and procedures, addressing absentee ownership, investigating or inspecting substandard building and housing complaints and more.

[More on our Code Enforcement Services](#)

IN THE NEWS

FEMA Public Assistance Awareness Training

As we face both natural and manmade disruptions, our communities' health, safety and economic stability are at risk. 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. It can be readily incorporated into your hazard mitigation plans to address gaps in the financial administration of disaster recovery. 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 office s**

To learn more and view the December 12th information session, [click here](#). Contact Lenessa Hawkins at lhawkins@centralina.org with any questions.

Small Town Peer-To-Peer: Strategic Planning

Strategic planning, linked to the locality's budget process, allows facts to be known and shared, goals to be established and priorities to be set. While many small towns have voiced a need and desire for strategic plans, it can be challenging to do so when the budget and staff capacity can't be allocated for dedicated sessions. Join us on **Thursday, January 18th from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** for our next **Small Town Thrives** peer-to-peer session where we'll discuss best practices and principles for creating a strategic plan for a small municipality.

The **Small Town Thrives** program is targeted to communities under 10,000 but is open to all that would like to participate. [Click here to register to attend.](#)

Regional Road Trip: City of Kannapolis Recap

Curious to see what one of our Centralina "Regional Road Trip" visits looks like? Anna Lu Wilson, Community Economic Development Coordinator, recently wrote an article for the Centralina Economic Development District website detailing her visit this fall to the City of Kannapolis, including how the community has grown



and thrived over the years and some "must-sees" for visitors and residents alike to check out. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

NCDOT Providing Free Bicycle Helmets

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is now accepting applications for organizations to receive free bicycle helmets. This annual giveaway, offered through NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division, is designed to encourage more children to wear helmets to ensure safety and reduce risk of head injuries. Approved organizations will receive the requested amount of helmets from their application to distribute to local children in need. [Read more and apply here.](#)

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



www.centralina.org | 704-372-2416



Centralina Regional Council | 10735 David Taylor Drive Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262

[Unsubscribe info@centralina.org](mailto:info@centralina.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@centralina.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!