



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: Congresswoman Adams Attends Centralina's Inaugural Women in Government Event
- In the News: UNC SOG Regional Workshop, AAA Volunteer Spotlight, Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

Announcements & Featured Articles

- "Describe Your Community in One Word" Road Trip Word Cloud
- Sights in the Centralina Region: Gaston & Union Counties
- Expanded Outreach Boosts Public Engagement for Albemarle Strategic Plan
- CONNECT Beyond Annual Report
- Centralina Assists Town of Matthews with Assessment Center for New Battalion Chiefs
- Addressing the Epidemic: Social Isolation & Loneliness Amongst Older Adults
- Centralina Service Spotlight: Family Caregiver Support Program
- NCWorks Career Center Helps Local Veteran Find Employment
- ARPA Reporting & Call for Success Stories

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| April 10 | Centralina Executive Board Meeting |
| April 17 | Regional Managers Meeting |
| April 25 | Centralina Learns: Aging Sensitivity & Building Age-Friendly Communities |
| April 30 | Adult Care Home Regulatory Training: Proper Transfer & Discharge |
| May 7 | Centralina Learns: How to Tell Your SMART Story in Grant Applications |
| May 8 | Centralina Board of Delegates Meeting |
| May 9 | Assistive Technology Training and Demonstration Session |

May 9

Small Town Peer-to-Peer: [Personnel and Operations Policies](#)

May 14

[Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting](#)

CAPITOL CORNER

Congresswoman Adams Attends Centralina's Inaugural Women in Government Event

After lots of planning (plus a three-year delay thanks to the pandemic), Centralina Regional Council eagerly hosted its first Women in Government event on Thursday, March 28th. Motivated by the vision of Centralina staff and members, the "Women in Government: Tools to the Advance to the Next Level" event brought together mayors, council members, city managers and city staff from all over the Centralina region for supportive networking and fellowship.

U.S. Congresswoman Alma Adams, Ph.D. delivered opening remarks to elected officials and city staff about her career in government, encouraging attendees to keep proving that women's insight is needed and that women in government positively impact the bottom line. The group of approximately 40 women, including Congresswoman Adams, also participated in a conversation led by life and career coach and leadership consultant, Monifa Drayton of the Drayton Leadership Group, focused on the impact people can have on your life when leadership is used for the greater good.



[Read More About This Event](#)

Regional Road Trip

Celebrating 55 Years

"Describe Your Community in One Word"



During many of our Regional Road Trip visits, we asked community members we met with to describe their community in one word. We gathered the answers our members gave to create this word cloud. You'll find a variety of words here, but we noticed that a central theme amongst the answers was one of belonging and community. While each of our member governments are unique in their own way, we loved seeing some of the common threads of description that showcase why our region is a great place to live, work and grow.

Sights in the Centralina Region

Another question we asked community members on our Regional Road Trip series is "If someone has one day to visit your community, what do you suggest that they see/do?" As we continue our own road trip and celebrate National County Government Month, we'll share more of the sites our members suggested so you can set out on your own road trip to explore all the fantastic sites, events and scenery our region's communities have to offer!

Gaston County & Union County



Christmas light displays in McAdenville



Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont

City of Mount Holly - On a sunny day, head over [Tuckaseege Park](#) for a walk on the trails, a game with friends or a nice picnic.

Town of McAdenville - It's known as "Christmastown USA" for good reason. Stop by during the holidays for the parade and light displays. No matter the time of year, be sure to stroll through some of the shops downtown or grab a drink at [The River Room](#).

[Town of Stallings](#) - Searching for authentic North Carolina barbeque? Head over to [Rockstore](#), once a small service gas station, for a delicious plate of BBQ heaven and sweet southern fixings!

[Village of Marvin](#) - Outdoor enthusiasts will love [Marvin Efird Park](#), where you can play a game of disc-golf with friends and even contribute to the Marvin Community Garden.

[City of Belmont](#) - Start your morning right with some breakfast at [Honeycomb Cafe](#). Enjoy nature's bounty at the [Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden](#) or take a stroll on campus at [Belmont-Abbey College](#).

[Town of Marshville](#) - If you're looking to fill your belly with some local grub, drop by [Miss Allies Cafe](#) for some pub fare or [Dave's Pizza](#) for a slice of pizza or Italian sub.

[Town of Cramerton](#) - Enjoy some outdoor activities with the whole family at [Goat Island Park](#) (despite the name, there are no goats). After you gotten your energy out, enjoy a scoop of local ice cream at [Floyd and Blackies](#).

[City of Kings Mountain](#) - Enjoy a relaxing boat ride with family or a loved one at [Moss Lake](#) and finish your day with some vino at [Veronet Vineyards & Winery](#).

[Town of Stanley](#) - If you're planning to drop by anytime between May - September, be sure to attend one of the ["Coolin Out Concerts on Main."](#) If you can't make it during the warmer months, head out in October for the annual Country Fest or in December for the town Christmas parade.



Coolin' Out Concerts in Stanley



Barn at Marvin Efird Park in Marvin

FEATURED ARTICLES

Expanded Outreach Boosts Public Engagement for Albemarle Strategic Plan

In 2020, Centralina helped the City of Albemarle administer a community survey to gather public feedback on the current state of the community and a vision for the future to help them development the FY23-26 strategic plan. With year two of Albemarle's strategic plan implementation process under way, city officials were interested in gaining further input from the community to help measure the progress of strategic plan implementation. In need of guidance, city officials again reach out to Centralina to assist with administering a 2023 community survey.

[Read the Full Success Story](#)

CONNECT Beyond Annual Report



Centralina Regional Council is pleased to announce the release of the inaugural CONNECT Beyond Annual Report. This comprehensive report captures milestones and highlights accomplished over the last year for CONNECT Beyond implementation. Our team is grateful for our partners and stakeholders for maintaining a strong momentum and making 2023 a great year for our region's first-of-its-kind mobility plan. Here's to more exciting work in 2024!

[View the Report](#)

Centralina Assists Town of Matthews with Assessment Center for New Battalion Chiefs

In March of 2024, Centralina administered an assessment center for the Town of Matthews Fire Department for their recruitment process for three open battalion chief positions. This process began with a nationwide search that attracted 45 applicants. Following this, Centralina conducted a preliminary interview with 17 candidates, using questions provided by the town. A total of 11 final candidates were chosen to participate in the assessment center process, with eight ultimately attending.

[Read More](#)

Addressing the Epidemic: Social Isolation & Loneliness Amongst Older Adults

For older adults living in a home by themselves, limited ability to engage in activities they enjoy or socialize in their community can put them at higher risk for being affected by social isolation. Social isolation among aging adults is a pressing issue with significant implications for one's well-being, including putting a person at higher risk for developing heart disease, dementia or other life-altering conditions. Centralina Area Agency on Aging is actively working to reduce social isolation and loneliness in regional communities through educating residents and stakeholders about the public health concern, what it entails and what people can do to address it in their own community.

[Read the Full Article](#)

Centralina Service Spotlight: Family Caregiver Support Program

During our March 13th Centralina Executive Board Meeting, attendees were shown a

March Spotlight



Family Caregiver Support Program



"Centralina Service Spotlight" video focused on Centralina Area Agency on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP).

This short overview provides viewers with essential information on what the program entails, eligibility requirements, educational opportunities offered for caregivers

and a recent success story from a regional caregiver that worked with the FCSP team.

[Learn More About FCSP](#)

NCWorks Career Center Helps Local Veteran Find Employment



One of the unique offerings at some of the NCWorks Career Centers around our region is specialized assistance for our region's veterans. When local veteran Michael McCaleb struggled finding a job due to previous incarceration, he turned to the Statesville NCWorks team for help. Veteran Services Representative James Barnes worked with Michael through personal coaching, resume assistance and referrals to recruitment events to help him secure a stable job at a local tire service shop.

[Read the Full Success Story](#)

ARPA Reporting & Call for Success Stories

All local governments that received State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), must submit reports to the U.S. Treasury by **April 30, 2024**. For many local governments, this ARPA reporting period will cover activity from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Here are a few tips and reminders to consider as you prepare to submit this report:

- Local governments must file a report even if they did not expend ARPA funds during the reporting period or have no further expenditures to report.
- All ARPA funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and fully expended by December 31, 2026.
- Ensure you have an active SAM.gov registration by logging in to your [SAM.gov](#) account. If your registration needs updating, begin the process as early as possible, as this update can take several weeks to complete.
- If you have experienced staff turnover, make sure you have retained your local government's U.S. Treasury portal login credentials and take a moment to log into the portal. Retain a hard copy of the login credentials in your records.
- Retain hard copies of your previously submitted ARPA reports for your records.

Highlighting Your Successes

This reporting milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on ARPA in action. We want to highlight how the communities in our region are using these funds to make investments that are having an impact and invite you to tell us how you have been able to put ARPA to use in your community through specific projects, services or programs you have implemented. We will feature your community's ARPA success story in an upcoming Centralina communication. To share details about your ARPA success or for questions about the report to US Treasury, please reach out to info@centralina.org.

IN THE NEWS

UNCSOG Regional Board Workshop

The University of North Carolina School of Government (UNCSOG) will be hosting a Regional Board Workshop on Wednesday, April 24th from 1 - 4:30 p.m. at the Centralina Regional Council offices. This is one of several workshops UNCSOG is conducting around the state that focuses on legislative zoning decisions and the procedures and considerations behind them. Planning boards, governing boards and the staff that serve them are encouraged to attend. [Learn more and register to attend a workshop.](#)

AAA Volunteer Spotlight: Jerry Shelby

In honor of National Volunteer Month, we want to thank Jerry Shelby of Rowan County for being a faithful volunteer and advocate for top-of-mind issues for older adults and people with disabilities. Centralina Area Agency on Aging has worked with Jerry for over 20 years and is proud to say he is the organization's longest-serving volunteer. In addition to his anniversary with Centralina's team, he was also recently recognized for serving 25 years as an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) volunteer, serving 20 years as a Rowan delegate for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and 15 years as a volunteer with the North Carolina Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (NCSHIIP), where he's helped more than 2,000 clients with Medicare and Social Security benefits. The Centralina AAA team are so thankful for passionate volunteers like Jerry who help carry out the department's mission to promote independence, preserve dignity and advocate for the rights of older and disabled adults and their families.



Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

The Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, offered through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is a competitive grant program that focuses on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including providing better trail networks between communities. As part of the program, FHWA will award grant funding to help communities plan, design or construct safe and connected active transportation networks, such as sidewalks, bikeways and trails. These essential networks help connect residents to popular destinations, such as schools, workplaces, residences, businesses, recreation areas and medical facilities within a community or metropolitan region.

Final Application Deadline: June 17, 2024

Visit [this webpage](#) to learn more about the program and see how your community may be able to apply for funding.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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