



# CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

## THE CENTRAL LINES

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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 24	Centralina Learns: <a href="#">Developing a Winning Federal Transportation Grant Application</a>
October 29	<a href="#">Regional Brownfields Summit: Eyesores to Assets</a>
November 12	<a href="#">Workforce Development Board Meeting</a>
November 12-13	<a href="#">Association for Commuter Transportation - Annual Transportation Demand Management Forum</a>
November 13	<a href="#">Centralina Executive Board Meeting</a>

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY SURVEY

Centralina is seeking input on the development of its 2025-2026 Federal Action Plan and Raleigh Relations Agenda. We invite you to take the brief survey below to share what policy issues, legislative proposals and engagement options matter to your local government.

Input will be used by the Centralina Executive Board and Leadership Team to

identify state and federal engagement priorities for the NC General Assembly's 2025 Long Session and 119th US Congress. For more information, please contact Centralina's Executive Director, [Geraldine Gardner](#).

[Share Your Priorities](#)

## CAPITOL CORNER

### Looking Towards the Lame Duck Session

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on Wednesday, September 25, extending funding of the federal government for an additional 12 weeks through December 20. The CR is considered mostly clean, meaning it included very few policy riders and little additional funding. When Congress returns for the lame-duck session on November 12, the top priority will be to address funding for the federal government for the next fiscal year. If both political parties and both chambers of Congress do not reach an agreement on fiscal year 2025 funding before the December 20 deadline, they could look to pass another short-term CR, which would further delay the process.



[Learn More](#)

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Centralina Releases FY24 Annual Report

Each year, Centralina Regional Council works to advance its mission of leading regional collaboration, sparking local action, expanding opportunity and improving quality of life. Fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) was no different.

Take a look at our achievements throughout the year and how we've worked to fulfill our commitment to collaboration, connection, service and innovation. For more information, [view the accompanying flyer](#).



## Meet Regional Planning's Leadership Duo



Centralina Regional Council is pleased to highlight the Regional Planning Department's leadership duo of Jason Wager (pictured), Director of Regional Planning, and Lynne Hair, Centralina's recently appointed Assistant Director of Planning!

Jason and Lynne bring over 45 years of combined expertise in urban and regional planning to Centralina. In their roles, Jason and Lynne focus on advancing Centralina's strategic initiatives, fostering collaboration among local governments and promoting growth principles that support and augment the quality of life available in our diverse region.

Jason has held multiple roles at Centralina since joining the organization in 1996.

### Their Goals for Planning

## 2025 CLT Aviation Academy

Each year, the CLT Aviation Academy gives participants a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the inner workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT). Through a series of weekly interactive sessions, the Academy takes participants on a behind-the-scenes journey of various aspects of CLT's operations and planning efforts.

The CLT Aviation Academy is open to leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as community members from across the Centralina region. The class is limited to 35 participants who will be selected through a competitive application process. To learn more, [view this short video](#) about the Academy or the



[proposed schedule and syllabus.](#)

[Apply Today](#)

## Residents' Rights Month

October is Residents' Rights Month, an annual celebration of residents living in long-term care facilities. This opportunity focuses on enhancing awareness around the dignity and rights of individuals receiving long-term services and support.



Residents have the right to make informed choices for themselves, air grievances and find resolutions to issues with care. This year's Residents' Rights theme, *The Power of My Voice*, emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents to vocalize their preferences, goals and needs in order to live full, enriching lives.

[How We Support Residents' Rights](#)

## Now Hiring: Regional Mobility Program Planner

Centralina Regional Council seeks an energetic, self-directed individual for the position of Regional Mobility Program Planner. The individual in this role will assist in managing strategic initiatives for Centralina's Integrated Mobility Center which is aimed at providing region-wide coordination and capacity building to accelerate priority mobility projects from the [CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Initiative](#).



[Learn More & Apply](#)

Additional openings include Workforce Development Board Engagement Coordinator, Planner II and Senior Planner. [Visit Insights](#) to see all open positions.

## Fall Celebration & Awards Ceremony

Last week, we celebrated the incredible work of our Board, government members and regional partners at the Cannon Ballers Stadium in Kannapolis, NC!

During the event, the Board reviewed Centralina's annual report video, received a forecast for 2025 and congratulated our 10 Region of Excellence award winners.

We'll be highlighting the efforts of our winners in upcoming newsletters and on our social media. Stay tuned to learn more.



[See All Winners](#)

## Funding Opportunity: USDA

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program to help develop essential facilities and services in communities with populations under 20,000. The funds can be used to purchase, construct or improve essential facilities, purchase equipment and pay for project expenses. Eligible projects include facilities such as town halls, police stations, fire departments, libraries and community centers, as well as equipment such as police vehicles, fire trucks and public works vehicles and equipment.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis year-round.

[Learn More](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Support for Communities Impacted by Hurricane Helene

The scale of destruction in western North Carolina is devastating. Our colleagues from western NC - [Southwestern Commission](#), [Land of Sky](#), [High Country](#), [Western Piedmont](#), [Foothills](#) and their local governments - have Centralina's full support as their communities recover. We will be working as a council of governments association to identify and deploy actions to support these agencies wherever our skills and expertise can be of service.



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## Four Centralina Municipalities Receive Grant Awards through EPA Region 4

Congratulations to Town of Spencer, City of Albemarle, City of Kannapolis and City of Mount Holly for receiving grant awards through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be put toward brownfield revitalization projects within their communities!

Special guests from EPA's Region 4 office visited Centralina to present these communities with their awards and celebrate the work they've done to turn former development sites into local resources.



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## ARPA/SLFRF Obligation Deadline Notice

The deadline for local governments to obligate funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA or SLFRF if State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds ) is **December 31, 2024**. Local governments may not have completely spent their allotment; however, all units of government must obligate their entire allotment by the deadline through their grant project ordinance (GPO).

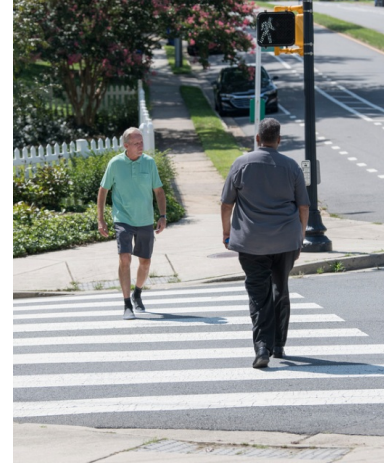
If your unit has not fully obligated all funds by having projects approved by the governing body, please make plans to have the GPO on the agenda as early as possible for approval prior to 12/31/2024. You will have until December 31, 2026, to complete projects and fully expend funding. Local governments may also want to review all ARPA/SLFRF records, policies and reports for completeness (keeping these until 12/31/2031). If you need assistance with spending plans or have questions regarding your ARPA/SLFRF program, reach out to Lenessa Hawkins at [lhawkins@centralina.org](mailto:lhawkins@centralina.org).

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## October is Pedestrian Safety Month

Roads should get you where you need to go safely. Let's prioritize responsible behaviors to ensure pedestrians reach their destination unharmed.

**CONNECT Beyond**, Centralina's regional transit plan, has several recommendations for making our communities more mobility-friendly for all. One way we're helping to do this is by encouraging communities to explore, evaluate and implement bike and pedestrian strategies, such as complete street concepts and Vision Zero plans that foster safe access and improve mobility.



Additional resources are available through the US Department of Transportation.

[View Resources](#)

### Centralina Staff Celebrates the End of Summer

Happy fall, Centralina! Our staff celebrated the end of summer with a barbecue social on September 20th. In addition to sharing a great meal, staff won big prizes in bingo and dominated at Connect Four. It was great to see so many smiling faces as we prepared to head into autumn!

Thank you to Centralina's culture & development team for pulling this event together. Recently, the team also organized a swap meet that resulted in dozens of items being donated to a local Goodwill.



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