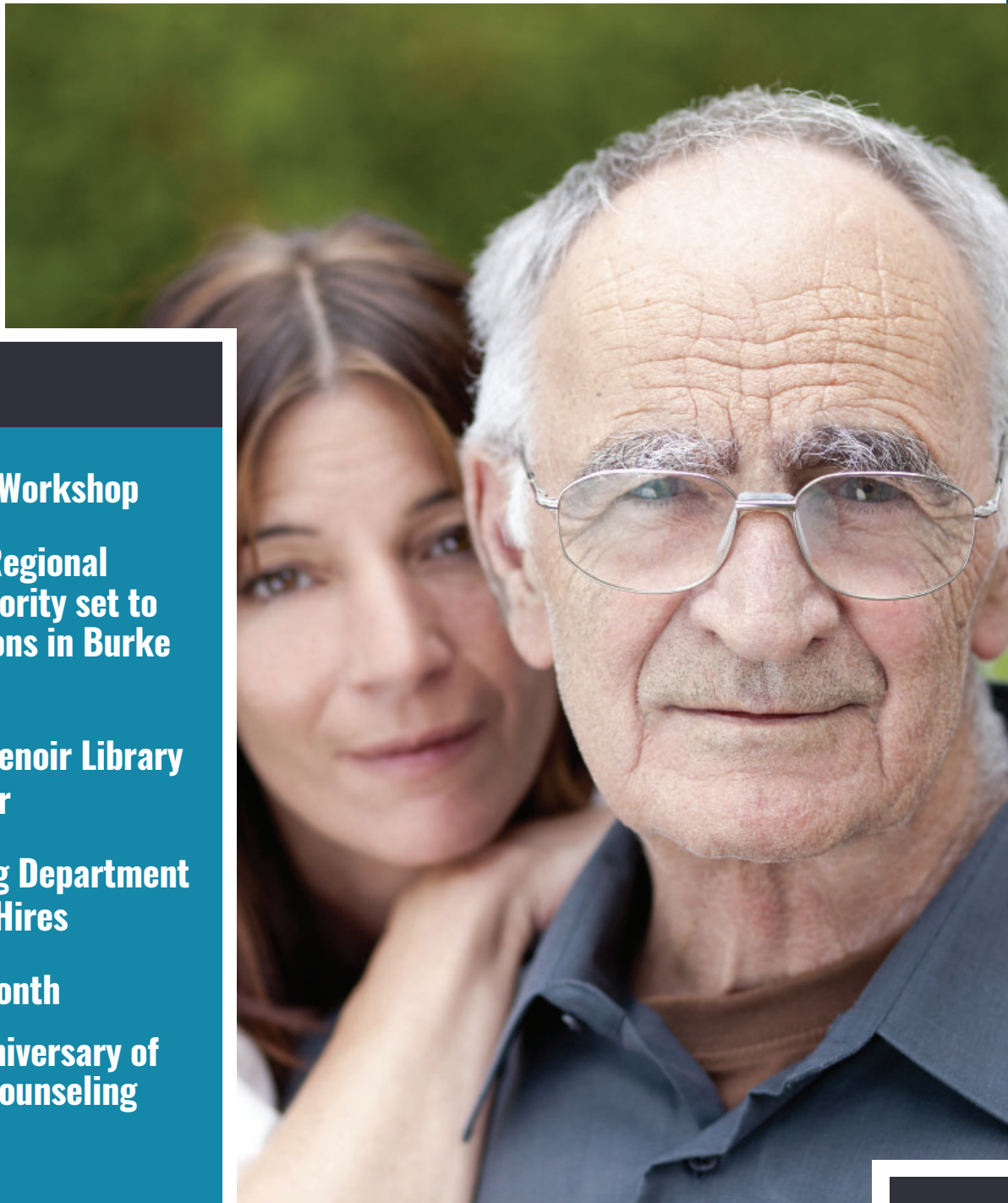


# **WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022**

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# Upcoming Landlord Workshop

Article by Stephanie Godfrey

The Regional Housing Authority will be holding the Annual Landlord Workshop on Thursday, November 17, 2022 @ 9:00 am. Join us for an in person meeting featuring a speaker, breakfast, and a lot of great information. To request additional information or RSVP, please email Stephanie Godfrey at [stephanie.godfrey@wpcog.org](mailto:stephanie.godfrey@wpcog.org).



*Regional Housing Authority*



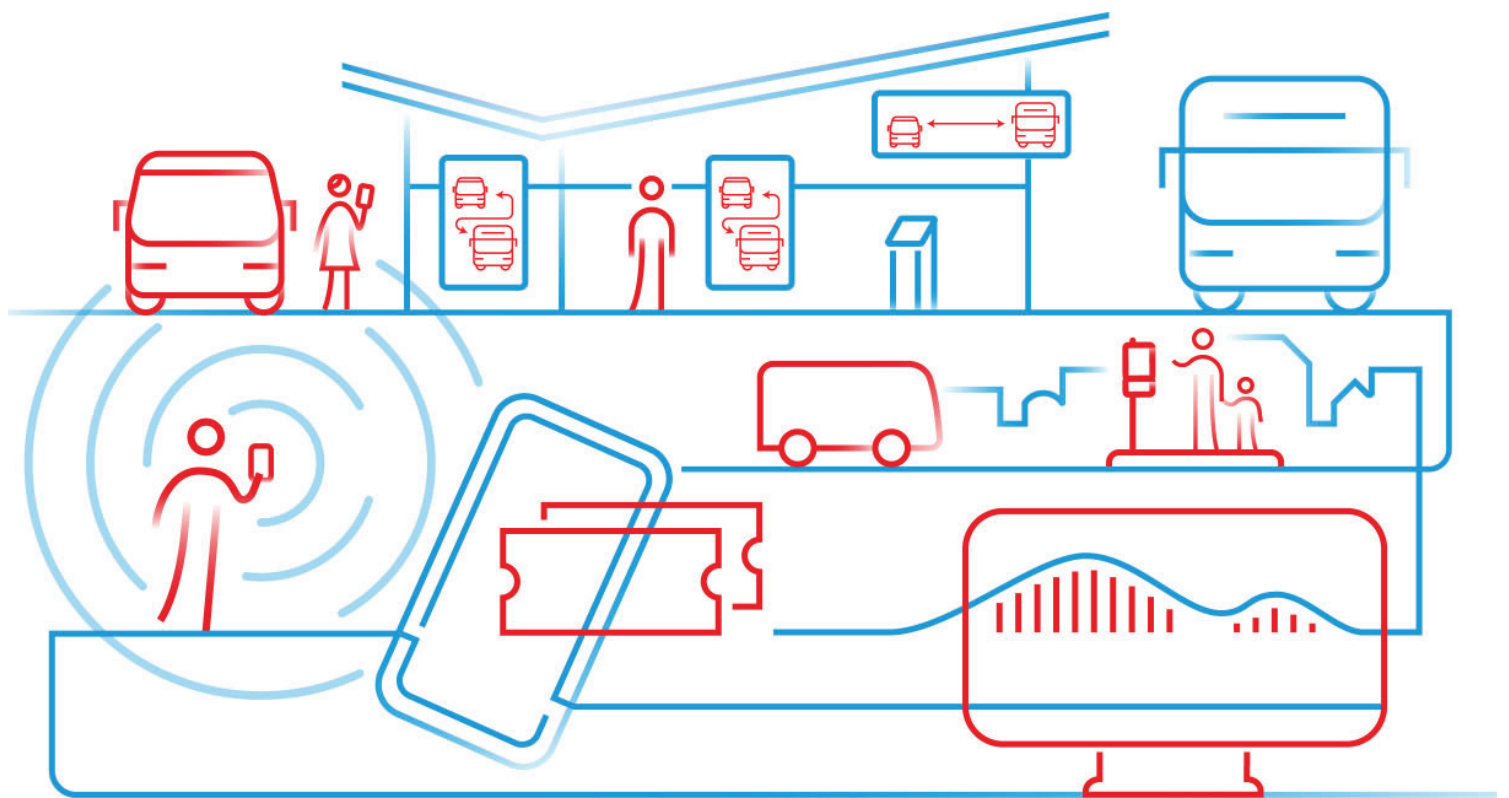
## ANNUAL LANDLORD INFORMATION WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

9:00 AM- 11:00 AM

All current & interested landlords are invited to  
attend.

**RSVP:** Stephanie Godfrey  
[stephanie.godfrey@wpcog.org](mailto:stephanie.godfrey@wpcog.org) or 828.485.4234





**In partnership with the Caldwell County NCWorks Career Center and the Caldwell County Public Library, NCWorks will be providing career services every Wednesday from 1:30pm-4:30pm at the Lenoir Library beginning October 26, 2022.**

- **Personalized career coaching**
- **Online job search information and updates on hiring events**
- **Personal assistance writing a resume**
- **Career coaching for a better job interview**
- **Eligibility information on scholarships for training (college courses) that can increase your knowledge and skills and potentially lead to wage increases**



**Wednesdays**  
**1:30pm-4:30pm**  
**Lenoir Library**  
**120 Hospital Avenue**  
**Lenoir, NC 28645**



**Need More Information:**  
**(828) 757-1272 - Lenoir Library**  
**(828) 759-4680 - NCWorks**



# Community Planning Department Welcomes Five New Hires

Article by Scott Berson

The Department of Community and Regional Planning is excited to announce the addition of five new staff members to the WPCOG team. These talented professionals have a passion for service and will undoubtedly help build a strong and dynamic region with our clients and stakeholders. Learn more about them below.



**Haleigh Hopkins** is the Natural Resources Manager, part of a team overseeing the WPCOG Stormwater Program. Haleigh is originally from Annapolis, Maryland, and attended Catawba College and Colorado State University, where she studied environmental business and project management. Before coming to the COG, she worked in the Catawba County planning and parks department.



**Rachel Wooster** is a community planner. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in political science with a concentration in public administration. She is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, and worked around that region in the Parks and Recreation and Community and Economic Development fields. She is currently serving the Town of Hildebran and works on regional projects.



**Daniel Odom** is a transportation planner from Taylorsville, NC. He holds a Bachelor's degree in political science and public administration from Lander University, where he was also a member of the varsity rugby program. He is currently working towards a Master of Public Administration at Appalachian State University. He has most recently worked on passenger sampling with Greenway and on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.



**Katerina Pascht** is a GIS specialist. She is a skilled technician currently at work mapping stormwater features for the City of Conover. She lived in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area for more than 25 years and is a recent transplant to the Foothills region. She attended N.C. State, where she studied geology and GIS, and has experience in the environmental remediation industry.



**Robert Block** is a GIS specialist. He has already completed several critical tasks since signing on in July, including: the mapping of Transportation Analysis Zones for all 28 member-governments; updating Manufacturing Solution Center datasets and preparing a 30-map presentation for grants; map updates for the proposed Burke River Trail project. Robert got his start in GIS through an internship at the High Country Council of Governments while in his last semester of undergrad at Appalachian State in 2018. Robert then earned several online GIS certifications from the University of California, Berkeley. Robert previously worked as the City of Hickory's first Utility Department GIS Analyst.

# Resident's Rights Month

Article by Christina Franklin

October is Resident's Rights Month! This year's theme is "Inspiring Unity within Our Community!" Now more than ever our Long Term Care residents need to be connected to the community to have their voices heard. Facilities are currently opening their doors to visitors with some restrictions based on current guidance.

It is important for everyone to be familiar with resident's rights, especially at a time when our Long-Term Care residents are most vulnerable.

The following are the rights established by the Residents' Bill of Rights:

- To be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of personal dignity and individuality.
- To receive adequate care, treatment, and services that are adequate and appropriate, and in compliance with relevant federal and state rules.
- To receive at the time of admission and during stay, a written statement of services provided by the facility and of related charges. Charges for services not covered under Medicare and Medicaid shall be specified.
- To have on file a physician's orders with proposed schedule of medical treatment. Written, signed evidence of prior informed consent to participation in experimental research shall be in patient's file.
- To receive respect and privacy in his medical care program. All personal and medical records are confidential.
- To be free of physical and mental abuse. To be free of chemical and physical restraint unless authorized for a specific period of time by a physician according to clear and indicated medical records.
- To receive from the administrator or staff of the facility a reasonable response to all requests.
- To receive visitors or have access to privacy in phone use at any reasonable hour. To send and receive mail promptly and unopened, with access to writing materials.
- To manage his/her own financial affairs unless other legal arrangements have been so ordered.
- To have privacy in visits by the patient's spouse.
- To enjoy privacy in his/her own room.
- To present grievances and recommend changes in policies and services without fear of reprisal, restraint, interference, coercion, or discrimination.
- To not be required to perform services for the facility without resident's consent and written approval of the attending physician.
- To retain, to secure storage for, and to use his personal clothing and possessions, where reasonable.
- To not be transferred or discharged from a facility except for medical, financial, or their own or other patient's welfare. Any such transfer shall require at least five days' notice, unless the attending physician orders immediate transfer, which shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
- To be notified when the facility's license is revoked or made provisional. The responsible party or guardian must be notified also.

If you have questions or concerns about facility visitation or the rights of residents in Long Term Care contact your local Ombudsman at 828-485-4213 or 828-485 4265.



Inspiring **Unity** within  
**Our Community**

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care



# HUD marks 10th anniversary of Office of Housing Counseling

Article by Paul Teague

On Oct. 3, 2022, HUD Office of Housing Counseling marked its 10th anniversary since being created as a distinct office reporting to HUD's Assistant Secretary for Housing. Throughout October, the Office will celebrate the many contributions of HUD's housing counseling program in helping individuals and families obtain and maintain safe, sustainable, and affordable homeownership and rental housing.

- HUD created the Office of Housing Counseling as a new office reporting directly to the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner. Previously, the Office was part of the Office of Single-Family Housing. From 2012 to present, the Office of Housing Counseling:
- Supported 12.2 million households who sought housing counseling assistance through a HUD-approved housing counseling agency.
- Provided more than \$450 million in grant funding to HUD-approved housing counseling agencies and intermediary organizations.
- Developed and implemented an intensive certification process for housing counselors, resulting in 4,000 counselors currently certified by HUD.
- Implemented new online and telephonic search tools used by more than 4,800 consumers each day to easily connect with local housing counseling agencies.
- Launched an innovative new partnership and grant funding program to match HUD-approved housing counseling agencies with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions. Within one year, this program has generated 50 participants partnering with 16 housing counseling intermediary organizations, Housing Finance Agencies, and local housing counseling organizations.

The WPCOG is an approved HUD counseling agency and has been providing counseling services since 2004. There are three HUD-certified housing counselors on the WPCOG staff and five housing counselors overall.

The programs include pre-purchase/first-time home buyers and foreclosure/mortgage delinquency services.

The WPCOG provides one-on-one housing counseling for families. The WPCOG follows through all steps involved in purchasing a home, including pre-purchase counseling, post-purchase counseling, fair housing, predatory lending, and mortgage delinquency counseling. The services are provided by phone, in person, or over the internet.

For more information about first-time homebuyer services contact Rick Oxford at 828-485-4245 or at [rick.oxford@wpcog.org](mailto:rick.oxford@wpcog.org). For foreclosure prevention/mortgage delinquency assistance, contact Helen Whisnant at 828-485-4220 or at [helen.whisnant@wpcog.org](mailto:helen.whisnant@wpcog.org).





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