



# CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

## THE CENTRAL LINES

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**We will be closed tomorrow, June 19th, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.**

July 4                      Our office will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday

July 9                      [Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting](#)

## CAPITOL CORNER



The **Farm Bill** governs federal government programs related to agriculture, nutrition and the environment and is traditionally reauthorized every five years. Due to the Farm Bill's important role in facilitating America's food systems, it is considered "must-pass" legislation. The Farm Bill provides funding in two ways. It authorizes and pays for mandatory spending with multi-

year budget estimates when the law is enacted. It also sets the parameters for discretionary programs and authorizes them to receive future appropriations without providing funding. Mandatory programs consume approximately 82 percent of Farm Bill funding and often dominate Farm Bill policy debates. Those programs include federal crop insurance subsidies, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments and certain child nutrition programs.

Discretionary spending consists of federal expenditures funded by the annual appropriations process. Examples of discretionary funding include most

agricultural research and development initiatives, some humanitarian aid programs, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children and funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and operations. Last authorized for five years in 2018 and extended for one year, the Farm Bill is set to expire on September 30, 2024. After a 12-hour hearing, the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee passed its version of the new, five-year 2024 Farm Bill on May 24, 2024.

## How Negotiations Could Change the Bill



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



The Region of Excellence Awards are our opportunity to recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. Local governments, community stakeholders and individuals in the nine-county Centralina region are encouraged to submit nominations for projects, programs or plans that were initiated or completed in 2023. Entries are due by **August 16th**.

[Nomination Form](#)

[www.RegionofExcellence.com](http://www.RegionofExcellence.com)

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Centralina Celebrates Smaller Communities During Small Cities Month

June is Small Cities Month, an opportunity to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of smaller municipalities. With over 60% of communities in the Centralina region having a population under 10,000, and 55% having a



population under 5,000, we are proud to celebrate the great work of our smaller member governments. Small-town local governments are often faced with limited staff capacity, tight budgets and few resources. We've pulled together four important resources to help your small community thrive.

**Find the Resources on the Member Portal**

## Let's Get Social!

Make sure to connect with us on social media to get the most up to date information on events, grant opportunities and other resources. Attended one of our events? Be sure to tag us @WeAreCentralina.



## The Role of Regionalism in Affordable Housing

As the gap between housing construction and demand continues to widen across the United States, many local communities are faced with housing shortages. In turn, homeowners and renters alike are experiencing significant affordability challenges. The affordable housing crisis impacts everyone by perpetuating inequities, diminishing quality of life of residents and threatening the economy by limiting equal opportunity access. Local officials are motivated to address these shortages to halt these negative outcomes in their communities. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Board of Delegates participated in a housing symposium to discuss affordable housing challenges and solutions across the region. It was made evident that challenges and opportunities differ across landscapes depending on land availability, population density and other unique factors. Delegates ranked their top three priorities for supporting affordable housing needs in their communities:

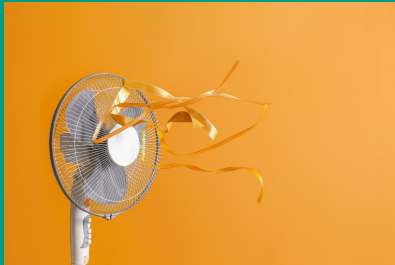
<i>Priority</i>	<i>Priority Item</i>
1	Foster partnerships that enhance grant opportunities and technical assistance
2	Create opportunities to develop strategies and implementation plans
3	Participate in educational housing related learning opportunities
4	Support grant research, writing and administration
5	Enhance local limited resources with capacity building

Fifty percent of delegates in attendance indicated that their community experiences challenges in addressing affordable housing strategies and solutions. Acknowledging the supply gap and recognizing the limitations local

governments have in solving the crisis on their own, the group discussed locally driven solutions that meet unique community needs. Continue reading to learn about urban opportunities, rural solutions and suburban strategies.

### How Our Region is Responding

## Helping Older Adults Stay Safe This Summer: Operation Fan Heat Relief



Since 1986, Operation Fan Heat Relief has purchased fans for older adults and adults with disabilities, providing them with a more comfortable living environment and reducing heat-related illnesses. Centralina Area Agency on Aging partners with the State Division of Aging and Adult Services and utilizes its network of local service providers throughout our nine-county region to administer supplies. More than 1700 fans were distributed to older and disabled adults across the nine-county region in 2021-2022 and the program is expected to resume again in spring 2024.

[Find a Fan Distributor Near You](#)

## Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) Establishes Mary Walls Community Impact Award

Mary Walls recently concluded 30 years of service to Centralina Workforce Development Board. In her honor, an award has been created that honors individuals and organizations committed to serving others and embodying the values of Centralina WDB. Candidates for this award may qualify by:

- Advocating for and effecting change in a specific community or region
- Addressing critical economic, workforce, health, social or environmental needs throughout our society
- Pursuing passion projects that benefit the greater good
- Driving change through action

[Mary Walls's Legacy and Impact](#)

## Regional Road Trip: Cabarrus County

We asked community members on our Regional Road Trip to share what they would recommend someone see or do if they had only one day to spend in the community. Use these sites to launch your own road trip, exploring all the fantastic places, events and scenery our region's communities have to offer!

**City of Concord** – Start your engines!  
Whether you prefer NASCAR or a shopping spree, drop by [Charlotte Motor Speedway](#)

for a race with the family and then head to [Concord Mills](#) for some retail therapy.



**[Town of Harrisburg](#)** – Grab the whole gang and head to [Harrisburg Park](#) for playground fun, sports games or entertainment in the amphitheater. If you're looking to try what the locals call "blue-collar gourmet", head over to [Bubba's Bunkhouse](#) for a pint and a delicious burger.



**[City of Kannapolis](#)** – Downtown Kannapolis is the place to be! The historic [Gem](#) and [Swanee](#) Theaters, [Kannapolis Cannon Ballers](#) and [NC Music Hall of Fame](#) are all within walking distance of each other and make a great itinerary for a day in the city. Once you've worked up an appetite, grab lunch at [Chop House 101](#) and one (or more) of 24 ice cream flavors at [My Sister's Place](#).



[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



[www.centralina.org](http://www.centralina.org) | 704-372-2416



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