

FY 2024 Mid-Year Accomplishments



ADMINISTRATION

MANAGER'S OFFICE

- Successfully administered \$1 million in ARPA funding for non-profit partners.
- Conducted equity training for 13 departments (getting # from Brenda)
- Received the AT&T GREAT Grant - the grant will provide 542 households and 16 businesses with fiber.
- Implemented a new CIP software system with a “digital first” interactive document.

ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Went live with NEOGOV Insight – a new applicant tracking system.
 - Applicants can now create an account and apply for multiple County positions without calling or emailing HR to have their application manually copied and pasted to other “job folders”. In addition, Chatham County is now featured on governmentjobs.com, the largest public sector employment website in the country.
- Received Bronze Level recognition on the American Heart Association Workforce Well-Being Scorecard for our County’s wellness programming and initiatives. This is the first year that Chatham County has been recognized by the American Heart Association.
- Chatham County received many Safety Awards from NCDOL for 2023
- New performance evaluation tool introduced in June – modified to be a self-scoring, fillable PDF document complete with a “playbook” which serves as a resource guide for supervisors.
 - Evaluation now based on four main categories – Professionalism, Quality of Work, Knowledge & Initiative and Teamwork and Cooperation

ADMINISTRATION

MIS

- Implementation of Varonis data security software within county network & Microsoft 365 tenant.
 - Varonis software has been configured to report on & alert MIS staff of anomalies with regards to how staff access & share sensitive data within the organization.
- Signed an MOA with NC Emergency Management to partner and share costs related to LiDAR data acquisition for Chatham County.
 - The partnership will save the county approximately \$80,000 in contracted services for the project.
- Implemented internet service upgrades at different locations across the county network to provide higher bandwidth and more reliable network connectivity at a neutral cost level.
 - Chatham County Detention Center & the New EOC building are the two primary upgrade locations.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- Members of the Chatham County 4-H Horsekateers Club comprised the NC 4-H National Team for horsebowl, horse judging, and hippology contests. The North Carolina 4-H Horse Program made history at the 2023 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, Kentucky, being the first state to ever win all four team contests in the same year: hippology, horsebowl, communications, and horse judging.
- Chatham County Center staff have continued to offer a mix of in-person, virtual, and hybrid-based classes/trainings/workshops for clientele.
 - Since July 1, 2023, 11,714 direct contacts have been made through agriculture, 4-H youth development, community and rural development, and family and consumer sciences educational programs
- Extension is piloting a new “Real Money, Real World” curriculum at Horton Middle School in conjunction with NC A&T State University during the fall semester.
 - This youth-based financial literacy program is currently being offered to 7th-graders with the intent of expanding this pilot program to additional schools in Spring 2024. Students will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of money management tools used in daily spending for important cost-of-living decisions and overall financial security.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Answered more than 5,500 reference questions including those related to employment and technology.
- Circulated more than 112,000 items (print and electronic, system wide).
- Created 6,559 new library card accounts (system wide).
- Chatham Community Library successfully launched its StoryWalk on the CCCC Walking Trail.
- 2023 Youth Summer Reading Program concluded with a total of 204 participants who read 180,494 minutes.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Hosted many special events throughout the year
 - Movies in the Park (186)
 - Sidewalk Chalk Festival (45) -rained out
 - Chatham County Challenge & Kick Off Event (256)
 - Trunk or Treat Fall Festival (645)
 - Holiday in the Park (425)
- Hosted “Read and Play” series in collaboration with Goldston Library
- Started a new Fall Running Club program

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

- Voter I.D. Information Session held on September 6, 2023, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center for Chatham County political parties, and citizens.
 - The Board of Elections staff provided the opportunity for citizens who didn't have photo IDs to obtain one at the information session. Citizens are now able to obtain a photo ID at the Board of Elections office during regular business hours.
- Held two successful elections with the implementation of the new Voter ID law without any complications or issues.
- Implemented use of security cages for each Election Day Polling Place and Early Voting Site to save the county money by not using employees from utilities to deliver and pickup supplies after hours.
- Purchased Articulate 360 and authored training to implement virtual election official training for use for all future training.
 - Allows election officials to access training at their convenience in the event of scheduling conflicts and reduce the number of in person training sessions.
- Collaborated with Emergency Management to implement a Suspicious Letter-Suspicious Package Emergency Plan, and an Inclement Weather Emergency Plan for Early voting and Election Day.
 - Several Elections offices throughout the country received letters that contained fentanyl, which could be a deadly substance. This plan will assist election staff in knowing how to proceed should this happen in Chatham County.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNING BOARD

- Former Clerk to the Board Lindsay K. Ray was elected as President of the NC Association of County Clerks for 2023-2024
- Newly appointed Clerk to the Board Jenifer K. Johnson received her Master Municipal Clerk Certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks
- Worked with Finance and MIS to send out an RFP for the Historic Courthouse A/V replacement project which was awarded to Justice A/V Solutions.
 - Installation will happen the week of March 4th and BOC meetings are expected to resume at the Historic Courthouse in April.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TAX ADMINISTRATION

- Completed the transition to the new tax software DevNet.
 - Done in three segments: appraisal, listing and collections (the last segment to go live in November of 2023).
- Launched a new tax website that is based on the new tax software that gives the public an easy-to-understand overview of property information.
- Launched the Community website:
 - Makes accessing information easy – it is a central hub that includes a powerful dashboard of information.
 - Any data, any location, and any context within Chatham County has been connected creating an intelligent, analytical, and dynamic picture.
 - Patterns and trends are apparent, helping and supporting decision-making processes by providing a clear overview of key areas of concern such as property value, census information, building permit information, and geographic information.

HUMAN SERVICES

AGING SERVICES

- The Siler City Center for Active Living was recertified by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services as a “Center of Excellence.” The distinction runs for a five-year period through September 30, 2028. The Pittsboro Center for Active Living completed the process in July 2022.
- Served a total of 31,510 meals in FY 23-24. This includes 27,957 meals to Meals on Wheels recipients and 3,553 frozen meals.
- Released first Directory of Resources, designed to be a single source of key contacts for Chatham County older adults. Compiled by Sigi Markworth, Integrated Services Specialist, the guide lists contact information for key resources including caregiver, respite and dementia resources, disability-related services, financial and food assistance, financial management, health supportive services, housing, insurance information and more.

HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Leveraging opioid settlement funds, CCPHD launched a naloxone education and distribution program to prevent overdose.
 - Several staff have become naloxone trainers to provide this education in both English and Spanish.
- In partnership with Chatham Hospital, CCPHD launched childbirth classes for expecting parents. The first classes were held in fall 2023 and include a tour of Chatham Hospital Maternity Care Center (MCC).
- The EMBRACe initiative, named the 2023 Chatham County Board of Health Partnership of the Year, launched community Gathering our Resources events. To date, EMBRACe has received several grants to improve birth equity in Chatham.
- Environmental Health partnered with the Planning Department and Watershed Department to streamline the application process for single-family homes that will provide greater efficiency for staff and clients.

HUMAN SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Implementing expanded Medicaid eligibility determinations for almost 4,000 uninsured residents in Chatham County.
- Formalizing kinship support program for children in foster care to improve placement stability, behavioral health outcomes, and stronger sibling and family ties.
- Expanding supports and services for individuals experiencing housing instability through the development of a new case management program to serve individuals at risk of eviction and software for interagency coordination.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL PERMITTING & INSPECTIONS

- Created forms and checklists on how to obtain specific building permits and commercial plan submittal requirements with very detailed instructions on what is required.
 - This information is all available on the departmental webpage. This is helpful for Customers, Permit Staff and Plan Reviewers.
- Residential Plan Review has been streamlined and we've created an internal checklist for consistency and to improve quality of the reviews.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CVB

- Launched the Chatham Sports Alliance website:
 - <https://chathamsportsalliance.com/>
- Secured a major amateur sporting event for 2024
- Increased economic impact by 11.3% (2022 figures reflected an increase when compared to 2021).
 - The tourism and hospitality industry directly employs more than 624 in Chatham County.
 - Total payroll generated by the tourism industry in Chatham County was \$23 million.
 - State tax revenue generated in Chatham County totaled \$3.2 million through state sales and excise taxes, and taxes on personal and corporate income. About \$2.8 million in local taxes were generated from sales and property tax revenue from travel-generated and travel-supported businesses.
 - The tourism economic impact reflects a cost savings of \$76.73 per resident.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PLANNING

- Plan Moncure was adopted in October of 2023.
- The Planning Department collaborated with the Health Department on a Health & Equity Assessment as part of the Unified Development Ordinance Project.
- Brandon Dawson worked with NCDOT and the DCHC Metropolitan Planning Organization to have three Bike/Ped Safety Projects constructed in Chatham County using STBG-DA funds.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

- Completed installation of the fourth public electric vehicle charging station at a county office building in Pittsboro (964 East St.).
 - This station installation was partially funded by a grant from the Volkswagen Settlement with the State of North Carolina.
- Charging Station Usage – Over the first half of FY24, there was a steady trend of increased usage at the County’s four public EV charging stations.
 - Nearly every month set a new usage record, culminating with December. The stations dispensed over 2.4 megawatt-hours of electricity in December, which was 40% higher than any previous month.
- Solar System Energy Production – The County’s two solar power systems combined to produce over 111 megawatt-hours of electricity during the first six months of FY24.
 - An average house uses about 1.1 megawatt-hours of electricity per month. Over the lifetime of the two solar systems, nearly 300,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions have been avoided.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WATERSHED PROTECTION

- Nominated for Large Local Program Award for erosion control, competing against Charlotte, Wake County and Fuquay-Varina.
 - This marks recognition by NCDEQ of the programs' growth and transition from a small program to match the size and capability of large municipalities and counties.
- Event planning is complete for Creek Week, March 16-23, 2024 in partnership with CWEP, Chatham Soil & Water, Friends of the Lower Haw, NC State Co-op Extension, Clean Jordan Lake, Chatham Solid Waste, Chatham Parks & Rec, Grand Trees of Chatham, USACE, Rocky River Heritage Foundation, Pittsboro Parks & Rec, Haw River Assembly, Deep River Park, Siler City Parks & Rec, Chatham County Libraries, Loves Creek Watershed Stewards.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING (ENTERPRISE FUND)

- Recycling in Schools - Worked with a senior student at Chatham Central High School to implement a recycling program for the school.
 - Provided signs, some recycling containers, and advice, but the student took the lead on getting the program started. The student reports it is going well.
- Compactor Replacement – As part of our ongoing facility maintenance plan, we replaced the trash compactors at two collection centers this year.
 - The compactors have approximately a 15-year life expectancy and we are planning on replacing two each year until all centers are complete.
- Mulch Giveaway – Due to an abundance of mulch from the previous year, implemented a mulch giveaway during the months of July, October, and November.
 - Mulch is created by grinding up yard waste and woody debris that is dropped off throughout the year at the main facility. Mulch is sold in the spring, but did not sell out, so began the giveaway in July. Over 1,100 cubic yards of mulch was given away to the public and other County departments in those three months.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

UTILITIES (ENTERPRISE FUND)

- Completed Lead and Copper Rule Revision Compliance Strategy Report – Phase I
- Completed Water System Development Fee Analysis – Phase I
- Completed Western Intake Partners Water Flow Growth Projections
- Completed Chatham County Beaver Creek Water Treatment Plant Expansion Report – Phase I
- Completed Highway 902 Chemical Booster Pumpstation Construction Project

PUBLIC SAFETY

COURT SERVICES

- Reentry – convened Reentry Roundtable Discussions to work towards establishing a Reentry Council in Chatham.
- Pretrial – Screened 166 Individuals; 17 Successfully Completed; Currently Serving 114 Individuals (16 Individuals in Residential Treatment; 41 Individuals Receiving Outpatient Mental Health/Substance use Support).
- Family Visitation Services – Increased services for DSS to five days/week. Referrals related to domestic violence increased by 15%. 6 families received legal representation for child custody cases.
- Family Violence Prevention Services – Latinx Support Group held a vigil in October and a Christmas Party for participants in December. Support Groups provide a safe space for 30 Latinx Women.

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

- The new VIPER radio system went live across the county using the new radio towers, and radios distributed to every fire, EMS and law enforcement agency in the county. This provides increased coverage, capacity, and interoperability for our public safety responders.
- The 9-1-1 center went live in the new EOC. The new space provides room for growth, redundancies for critical infrastructure and improved workspaces for employee wellness.

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE MARSHAL (FIRE INSPECTIONS)

- Coordinated with County Businesses and Health Programs offered at County high schools to provide live fire extinguisher training.
- Participated in a joint fire prevention week education by forming a partnership with Chatham County Communications, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Safe Kids North Carolina.
 - The partnership provided fire prevention presentations for all kindergarten students in the county including charter and private schools. These presentations were delivered to approximately 1,100 students in the county.

Questions?

