

FY 2025 Mid-Year Accomplishments



ADMINISTRATION

CCA&CC

- Total revenue for July-December (\$83,809) is up 6% despite having closed for 2.5 weeks in November/December to install AV upgrades.
- Hosted over 575 events in the past 12 months, 286 of those have been in the last 6 months.
- The mobile announcers stand/office has been put into service and a mobile restroom trailer, funded by an emergency management grant, has been ordered in preparation for spring events.

ADMINISTRATION

MANAGER'S OFFICE

- Introduced the Recite Me toolbar on its website, significantly enhancing digital language access and promoting inclusivity for all residents.
- Formed a task force of Latino leaders has been formed to provide valuable feedback and share their expertise in creating a comprehensive plan of 10 short-term deliverables aimed at improving Chatham County's communications efforts.
- Expanded communications efforts by delivering information in both English and Spanish, ensuring consistency and equity in its news releases and social media posts.

ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Obtained Silver Status from the American Heart Association's Workforce Well-Being Scorecard.
- Hosted first Employee Wellness Day event with various local vendors and County departments.
- Collaborated with various community stakeholders to add or enhance County wellness programs, including:
 - Financial literacy course (Chatham County Partnership for Children)
 - Monthly video series Savoring Healthy and grocery store tours (Cooperative Extension)
 - Chair yoga, circuit training, and strength training (Cooperative Extension)
 - Group nutrition classes (Health Department)
- Chatham County received many Safety Awards from NCDOL for 2024.

ADMINISTRATION

MIS

- Implemented Deep Freeze Software: Secured public PCs in libraries, reducing tampering risks.
- Enhanced Print Management: Standardized printing across Goldston and Wren libraries.
- EPIC Health Management System Rollout: Deployed new health management system for the Health Department.
- Custom Software Solution: Saved \$10,000 by replacing Aging Services' legacy software for managing program referrals with an in-house system.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- Since July 1, 2024, 12,890 direct contacts have been made through agriculture, 4-H youth development, community and rural development, and family and consumer sciences educational programs.
- Staff have worked to create an influx of video and other digital media platforms that have attracted learners from across the country (approximately 419,894 indirect contacts at present time according to ERS federal reports), including podcasts and videos to accompany much of our print-based newsletters and general publications.
- Chatham County 4-H was a recipient of the NC 4-H Apple Community Education Initiative Project, valued at over \$15K, which supports hands-on coding programming for local youth.
- The Chatham County Center was part of a team awarded a **\$30K grant from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)** along with the NC Botanical Garden and NC State University to design ecologically beneficial habitat for diverse farming systems. Data collection has already begun on local farms.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

LIBRARY

- Received LSTA grant funding from the State Library of NC for the purchase of 3 new StoryWalk® stations that were, in conjunction Parks & Recreation, installed in the County's Northeast District Park, Southwest District Park, and in the town of Goldston (pending).
- Over 42,900 library visitors (system wide).
- Answered more than 5,400 reference questions including those related to employment and technology.
- Circulated 135,817 items (print and electronic, system wide).
- Created 8,978 new library card accounts (system wide).

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Summer Camps and Special Events:
 - Offered a specialty Camp for ages 11-14, the first specifically for this age group. Camp activities focused on a variety of visual arts, crafts, and culinary projects.
 - 17 artist vendors participated in the first Holiday Market for the Holiday in the Park event at Northwest District Park.
- Recreation and Athletics:
 - Started the first site of Girls on the Run in Chatham at Chatham Grove Community Center.
 - Offered the first Volleyball league in Chatham County.
 - Collaborated with Journey League to offer an adaptive basketball program for teens and adults with disabilities and special needs.
- Started offering CPR/AED/First Aid Classes- certified 19 people so far.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

- Collaborated with Chatham County Library in Pittsboro to celebrate National Voter Registration Day by providing residents to have the opportunity to register and obtain a voter ID. North Carolina State Board of Elections Karen Brinson Bell made a special appearance.
- Gave a special presentation on the Hart Verity Touch Writer (ADA voting equipment) to a VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) group at Carolina Meadows retirement community.
- Held a Photo ID/Voter Registration session at the Chatham Center for Active Living in Pittsboro.
- Held a voter information session at 79 West Innovation Hub at MOSAIC Chatham Park's monthly Breakfast Club.
- Worked with CBS News 17 to provide a story about Chatham County's consistent high percentage of voter turnout in the state for Early Voting and overall voter turnout for an election. Chatham County has remained at the top for the 2024 General Election with the highest voter turnout in the state, which was 83%

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNING BOARD

- Implemented public records software called NextRequest to help both the public and staff to streamline requests.
- Of the 16 goals submitted to the NCACC during its legislative goals process, 5 Chatham County goals were voted to be included as part of the final legislative goals packet for the next Biennium.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TAX ADMINISTRATION

- Collaborated with DSS and Housing and Community Development to develop the Tax Relief Program.
- Tax Listing Division generated 1,190 discoveries and found \$53,569,483 in value from July – December in vehicle value.
- Tax Listing Division restricted the boat pricing program by utilizing Vessel Valuations.
- Present Use Valuation Specialist has developed a robust compliance program for present use resulting in 465 audits completed with 58 removals and 407 in compliance.

HUMAN SERVICES

AGING SERVICES

- Held the first Healthy Aging Expo at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. 186 individuals attended sessions centered around four distinct tracks – Healthy Heart & Body, Healthy Finances, Healthy Transitions and Healthy Spiritual & Emotional Health.
- Introduced a respite voucher program that will allow caregivers of loved ones to employ known, trusted community members in the offering of non-medical companionship care.
- Launched a community-wide survey on December 1st to gather feedback from individuals who live and/or work in Chatham County in preparation of the next Aging Plan.
- In July 2024, Aging Services celebrated its one-year anniversary as a Chatham County department. This also marked 50 years of programs, services and advocacy through the former Chatham County Council on Aging for older adults within Chatham County.

HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Opened a 24/7, no-cost kiosk that provides access to naloxone, a lifesaving medication that reverses opioid overdoses.
- Chatham County residents interested in community health are currently being recruited to participate in a new Community Advisory Council (CAC).
- Environmental Health staff were deployed during October to assist with the Hurricane Helene response in Western North Carolina.
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is now offered to the community.

HUMAN SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Implementing the last two pieces of Medicaid transformation, Tailored Plans (for individuals with significant behavioral health, I/DD, or TBI diagnoses) and the Children and Families Specialty Plan (CFSP), for child welfare involved families.
- Partnering with NC Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities to offer a series of in-service opportunities for employees throughout FY 25.
- Finalizing the transition to eCourts, an online access for filings and court documents.
- Continuing work in building community connections by hosting Poverty Simulations, National Adoption Day, Trunk or Treat, and Christmas sponsorships programs.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL PERMITTING & INSPECTIONS

- Implemented the new fee schedule which was adopted for FY25.
- Permit staff has worked with other departments to integrate and improve the OpenGov software by working collaboratively on specific types of approvals.
- Inspectors received a record number of Standard Certificates this past year, 15 were issued and three for the highest level attainable. Total Standard Certificates for the department now exceed 50.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CVB

- Planned and executed Cycle NC Pittsboro. 900+ overnight visitors camped at CCACC and stayed in Chatham County's overnight accommodations.
- Launched Wander Map software for visitors to create digital itineraries.
- Chatham Concierge program launched. Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Pittsboro served as the initial group to receive an in-person training of Module 1. The program goes beyond an ambassador or orientation program and offers information, presented in a way to be retained in modules, to serve as a concierge for guests.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PLANNING

- The Recode Chatham Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) was adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on November 18th
- The Recode Chatham Health & Equity Assessment was finalized by the Board of Commissioners to augment the UDO and increase focus on health and equity issues in Chatham County and enhance the quality of life of Chatham County residents through a regulatory framework.
- E-Recording is now available for surveyors and property owners thanks to a collaborative effort between Planning, the Register of Deeds, GIS, and the Department of the Secretary of State.
- County Planning staff have transitioned planning support for the Town of Goldston to the Central Pines Regional Council.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABILITY

- Filed for over \$218,000 in Inflation Reduction Act credits for the renewable and clean energy projects completed in 2023.
- Working with multiple departments in the Conservation Working Group to select a contractor to develop metrics for the environmental goals in the Comprehensive Plan and create a public facing dashboard to display progress.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SOIL AND WATER

- The first annual “Chatham Farms Forever Day” was a success with good public participation and partnership presentations.
- Two grants were awarded to Chatham SWCD from NCDA&CS Agriculture & Development Trust Fund to support program development (\$7,375) and to dedicate matching funds for locally funded easement acquisitions (\$295,443).
- Two grants were awarded from the local Agricultural Preservation & Development Trust Fund for land easement acquisition and support.
- The updated Farmland Preservation Plan was officially adopted, and the 2025-2028 Farmland Protection Blueprint was approved to prioritize strategies.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING (ENTERPRISE FUND)

- The inaugural Waste and Recycling Enthusiasts Program (WREP) class completed their coursework and graduated.
- Replaced the compactors at two of our collection centers as part of the SW&R continuing capital improvement plan.
- Received a grant from the State of North Carolina that will partially fund a food waste collection pilot at a limited number of collection centers.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

UTILITIES (ENTERPRISE FUND)

- Posted Lead water service line education materials and Water Service Line Inventory Interactive Map on Water webpage
- Posted PFAS Frequently Asked Questions on Water webpage.
- Chatham County – Sanford/TriRiver Water Merger Agreement.

PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVERSION & ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

- Reentry – Served 9 clients – 3 have found transitional housing and employment
- Child Advocacy Program - Reinstated school primary prevention and internet safety lessons for K-2-4-6 and 8th grades
- Pretrial – Screened 395 Individuals; Currently Serving 106 Individuals, 26 currently receiving outpatient MH/SA services
- Family Visitation Services – Received Justice for Families Grant to continue visitation services and civil legal services for Chatham County
- Chatham 360/Diversion – 29 current clients

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Emergency Management staff spent a combined 7 weeks in western North Carolina counties supporting response and recovery to Tropical Storm Helene.

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- On July 8, 2024, Chatham County and FirstHealth EMS assumed responsibility for EMS responses in the Town of Cary within Chatham County.

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE MARSHAL (FIRE INSPECTIONS)

- Hosted multiple classes through the NC Office of the State Fire Marshal, International Code Council, and the NC Fire Marshal's Association. Classes included hazardous materials requirements, Existing Building Code requirements and the pilot class for Fire Marshal 101 State credentials.
- Conducted Fire Prevention Education to Kindergarten students in all public, charter and private schools throughout the county in the month of October for National Fire Prevention Week. The number of students the program was presented to was approximately 1,100.
- Staff is currently working on a fire specific "Site Plan Review" checklist for the submittal process for developers. This will help streamline the process, reduce the number of revisions and help ensure consistency between all jurisdictions in the county.

Questions?

