

FY 2026 MID-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Budget Retreat, January 2026



ADMIN

CCA&CC

Total revenue for July-December (\$115,710) is up 38% from 2024 (\$83,809)

Hosted 248 events July 1-December 3

Additional **256 events currently scheduled** January 1-June 30

The mobile restroom trailer was received and is used for events at the arena. The trailer was also used for early voting.

Phase 2 A/V Equipment upgrades were successfully completed in July. Phase 3 streaming equipment, CES Conference Room & Teaching Kitchen to follow.

ADMIN

FINANCE

Moody's upgraded Chatham County's issuer rating from Aa1 to Aaa.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 6/30/2024 ACFR awarded on 6/26/2025, the 35th year receiving the award.

Staff completed the 2025 Refunding of the County's 2014 and 2015 Limited Obligation Bonds for net present value **savings in excess of \$1.5 million.**

ADMIN

HUMAN RESOURCES & RISK MANAGEMENT

Collaboration with Regions Bank for Financial Wellness

Quarterly Live **Healthy Cooking Classes**

1566.67% increase in participation in Wellness programming, or 7% total employee participation

Redesign of the Leadership Academy and Advanced Leadership Academy to launch in January 2026

ADMIN

Implemented a new control system for access to county buildings.

Tested security monitoring and response systems using an ethical hacking process.

IT

Participated in a disaster recovery tabletop session with security vendor, Emergency Management, and Emergency Communications.

Deployed a contract routing application that will streamline contract approvals as they move through legal, risk management, and finance, as necessary to reach the county manager's approval.

ADMIN

MANAGER'S OFFICE

Policy Analyst, Brenton Hart, received the Chatham County 2025 Employee of Year Award.

Released the new Chatham County Information Hub.

Communications staff worked with IT, GIS, and HR to develop a new **streamlined online form departmental communications and marketing requests.**

The Public Information Office hosted monthly meetings to collaborate and coordinate communications efforts across the county with municipalities, Chatham County Schools, the Sheriff's Office, CCCC, and the EDC.

Kicked off the **American 250 Celebration** and the **Pittsboro Redevelopment Project.**

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Extension **piloted a new 4-H Young Entrepreneurs Holiday Market in December 2025 based on the Real Money, Real World financial literacy curriculum**. This youth program served participants ages 10-18 and provided hands-on experience in budgeting, pricing products, and developing simple business plans, with plans to expand in December 2026.

Introduced new Estate Planning and Emergency Preparedness classes to support proactive planning and community resilience.

Expanded community education and environmental stewardship through horticulture, livestock and poultry, pesticide safety, and conservation programming, supported by 80 Extension Master Gardener Volunteers who contributed 2,281 volunteer hours valued at \$79,356.

Earned statewide recognition with a First Place Communications Award from the NC Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

CULTURE, EDUCATION, & RECREATION

PARKS, RECREATION, & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Summer Camps and Special Events

- Summer Camp - **Served 238 unique campers**, filling 828 total spots (averaging 104 campers per week).
- Events - Trunk or Treat Fall Festival at SW District Park (**520**), Holiday in the Park at NW District Park (**350**)

Art Programs collaborated with Solid Waste & Recycling, Extension Master Gardeners, Aging Services, Libraries, and other departments.

Awarded two Great Trails State Program grant for Haw River State Trail Pegg Tract Improvements (\$251,294) and a Deep River State Trail Feasibility Study (\$75,000) .

Awarded a PARTF grant for \$500,000 to partially fund Phase One development of Parkers Ridge Park.

Park staff completed systemwide repairs to park roads, trails, and facilities following the July 7 storm and historic flooding.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

Implemented new Election Official training material to include new provisional voting processes due to the Voter Registration Repair Project and other processes based on law changes.

Implemented new software (Tenex) to manage Election Official scheduling for training and Early Voting.

Collaborated with GIS to obtain drone footage of all voting sites to distinguish 50 ft buffer zone and curbside voting.

Upgraded all Hart Voting Equipment to 2.7 to comply with new federal election standards

Held Voter Registration Outreach at the Siler City Center for Active Living in Siler City.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNING BOARD

Updated the Advisory Committee Policy and developed a new application.

Facilitated joint meetings with the Town of Siler City, the Town of Pittsboro, and Chatham County Schools.

Board of Adjustments held first meeting in 3 years in October and implemented a quarterly meeting schedule.

Held the county's first Climate Change Retreat.

HUMAN SERVICES

AGING SERVICES

In preparation for the next edition of the Chatham County Aging Plan, Aging Services staff finalized key strategy recommendations based on goals identified by stakeholders, based on AARP's 8 Domains of Livability. The Aging Plan is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2026.

Renovations to the Siler City Center for Active Living Center began in November 2025. The two-phase plan will allow staff to reimagine the building's layout and increase efficiencies for participants.

Completed the 6th year of participation in the "Helping Homebound Heroes" program, made possible through grant funding from Meals on Wheels America and The Home Depot Foundation.

Hosted the 2nd annual Healthy Aging Expo at Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center with 141 individuals in attendance.

As of December 23, 2025, **208 new members have signed up** to use our facilities in FY 25-26, representing a 20% increase from the midpoint of FY 24-25. **Over 1,400 unique individuals have visited** an Aging Services center thus far in FY 25-26, roughly a 22% increase from the midpoint of FY 24-25.

HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Received special recognition from NC DHHS for excellence for the 2024 Community Health Assessment.

Over 330 Chatham residents participated in the fall 2025 Chatham County Community cohort survey. Results will be published in early 2026.

The Health Department **Clinic launched three new services** for HIV prevention, Hepatitis C treatment, and Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

Serving as the lead health department for a novel regional academic health department initiative in partnership with eight other local health departments and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Environmental Health (EH) partnered with Preserving Home, a local nonprofit organization, to assist county well owners with the often-costly burden of well repair and water treatment.

Supported by a \$13,000 National Environmental Health Association and US Food and Drug Administration grant, the EH Food, Lodging, and Institution (FLI) Program **implemented targeted intervention strategies for Chatham County foodservice establishments.**

Talking part in the first wave of implementation for the **Thriving Hearts grant initiative**, co-led by by Orange County Health Department and UNC Health. Over the next four years, **the Public Health Department will receive around \$300,000 total to support the initiative, as well as a full-time community health worker.**

HUMAN SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES

The last phase of Medicaid Transformation, went live on December 1, 2025 (Child and Families Specialty Plan)

PATH NC will go live in the spring of 2025 - the new version of a statewide child welfare technology system

Worked to get the county approved as a "Developing" Child Advocacy Center by Child Advocacy Centers of NC (CACNC).

Collaborated with CORA to share information, monitor increased needs for food, and plan for potential longer-term impacts of delays, during the federal government shutdown when SNAP benefits were delayed,

Implemented new policy requirements expanding work requirements and limiting exemptions for Food and Nutrition Services (SNAP) beneficiaries, in response to federal legislation.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL PERMITTING & INSPECTIONS

Obtained 20 standard-level certificates, including 10 at Levels 2 and 3, bringing the division's total to 55 standard certificates.

Established quarterly training seminars featuring external instructors and vendors to deliver comprehensive and consistent training opportunities.

Piloted a program designed to improve new employee training while increasing inspection consistency and overall quality

Improved processing times and communication for applicants and staff through the Town of Siler City's participation in the OpenGov software platform.

Integrated Food & Lodging permits into the building permit workflow, making the application process more streamlined for applicants and staff.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EDC

Chatham EDC President Michael Smith was the keynote speaker at the United Way of Chatham County's 2025-2026 Campaign Kickoff, sharing insights on the future growth and economic development in Chatham County.

Chatham EDC President Michael Smith was recognized as "one of the best recruiters the South has currently" in Southern Business & Development (SBD) Magazine and was named a member of the SBD Hall of Fame, Volume 2.

Joined New Kids in the Core, a newly formed suborganization within the Carolina Core, designed to connect emerging economic developers and regional partners.

Strengthened regional relationships and expanded strategic connections through attendance and speaking engagements at CCCC Manufacturing Day Career Fair in Sanford, legislative events, North Carolina Economic Development Association's fall conference, Chamber of Commerce events (West Chatham, Chatham, & Asheboro/Randolph Chambers), and local universities (UNC Chapel Hill & Greensboro).

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

PLANNING

Co-presented with Public Health on the Recode Chatham Health & Equity Project at the 2025 NC APA Conference.

In partnership with the NC Natural Heritage Program and Triangle Land Conservancy, the Planning Department **completed a two-year ecological inventory**, the first county-wide update of significant habitats and rare species in over 30 years.

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) **secured a \$350,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant** to fund energy audits and upgrades in high-use County buildings.

Hosted a youth-focused bike safety event at Northwest District Park. Ninety children ages 5-12 learned traffic rules, hand signals, and safe riding skills on a mock roadway course. Fifty-six participants received free helmets through NCDOT's Bicycle Helmet Initiative. The event was a collaboration between Planning, Parks & Recreation, the Sheriff's Office, Central Pines Regional Council, and Safe Kids Chatham County.

Started MoveChatham, a multimodal transportation study by hosting pop-ups, listening sessions, and stakeholder meetings to engage community members.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SOIL & WATER

Farmland Preservation **workshops and events reached over 250 participants.**

The Agricultural Preservation & Development Trust Fund program successfully awarded 5 more projects, adding **\$650,400 towards prospective working lands easements.**

232 acres of permanent working land easements were closed in 2025.

The first **58-acre perpetual farmland preservation easement** was successfully closed.

Over 60 children and adults attended Creek Geeks Field Day.

Education programming reached over 550 students, providing information related to water quality and natural resources conservation.

Allocated \$85,914 under the NCDA&CS Cost Share programs for FY2026 to address the natural resource concerns in the county.

No-till drill rentals totaled 183 acres planted so far this calendar year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Established data sharing with the Town of Cary's 911 center to improve efficiencies and operations between our communities.

Updated the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan with municipal partners, North Carolina Emergency Management, and community stakeholders to better identify countywide risks, guide mitigation priorities, and maintain grant eligibility.

Strengthened emergency preparedness through multi-agency exercises and planning efforts addressing

- **Dam Failure** (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- **Radiological Incidents** (Duke Energy, NC Emergency Management – Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program)
- **Winter Weather Response** (Piedmont Health Senior Care Services)
- **Hazardous Materials** (Local Emergency Planning Committee and coordination with private-sector partners including Arclin and Mountaire).

PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVERSION & ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Facilitated multiple community-focused events, including the Chatham Connects Job & Resource Fair, Overdose Awareness Event, Computer Skills Course, and a Reentry Simulation for County Department Heads.

Developed a new Adult Recovery Court launching in January 2026.

Began **developing a Child Advocacy Center** for Chatham County in collaboration with DSS, and three branches of Law Enforcement.

Program Activity

- Chatham 360/Diversion - **36** active clients
- Recovery Courts - **22** families served, **13** received case management to prevent CPS or criminal justice involvement
- Parenting Program - **24** families served, **15** Active Families
- Reentry Program - **93** active Reentry clients
- Visitation Center - **25** Visiting Families served (47 children served)
- Pretrial Release Program - **113** active clients, **321** pretrial screenings conducted, 42 active clients receiving MH/SA services
- School-Based Services - **15** active students



THANK YOU

Questions