



2016 Student Interns

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Objective Standards for Street Interconnectivity Pitt County Subdivision Ordinance

A 2016 ruling by the Court of Appeals (Butterworth v. City of Asheville) states that land use decisions based on ordinances with subjective standards require that the decision-maker follow quasi-judicial proceedings. In order to comply with this court decision without changing the review process by the Planning Board, staff recommended several changes to the Subdivision Ordinance. The amendments placed objective standards on the design of road networks within proposed subdivisions. Proposed subdivisions are required to place up to two stub roads, unless adjacent parcels meet at least one of the five exemptions. These amendments, as well as other minor clarifications to the language of the ordinance, were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on October 17, 2016.



Recreational Vehicle Standards and Tiny House Amendments Pitt County Zoning Ordinance

Due to recent guidelines from the NC Department of Insurance and from the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Planning staff proposed some amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to make it more consistent with State regulations. An outline of the proposed amendments includes; an RV Park would be classified as 3 or more RV sites on a tract of land instead of 15; RV's would be issued a zoning permit stating that they cannot be accepted as a permanent dwelling and are limited to use as temporary living quarters; RV's cannot have any permanent plumbing or mechanical connections; and a definition of a tiny house, which outlines how they can be classified and permitted, is also included. The Planning Department initiated these amendments to help citizens understand and become aware of the State regulations which may affect them and their housing choice.



2016 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

Pitt County Planning Staff

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Hurricane Matthew Takes a Hit at Pitt County

Hurricane Matthew passed through Pitt County on the night of October 8, 2016, causing flash flooding that necessitated the rescue of nearly 100 people in approximately 40 incidents. Several days later on October 14th, the Tar River crested at 24.5' (third highest on record) causing flooding to the Pitt-Greenville Airport and several roads throughout the County. Pitt County Planning and Inspections Departments' damage assessment deemed 55 structures as having sustained significant damage and 160 structures had minor damage. Two deaths in the County were attributed to the storm. As the County continues the recovery phase, the Planning Department is working to secure Hazard Mitigation funding for acquisition (buyout) of those flooded structures which sustained major flooding.



Hurricane Matthew by the Numbers

- o Tar River Crest Height – 24.5'
- o Pitt County Total Rainfall – 10.7"
- o Total Damage Assessments – 650
- o Significantly Damaged Structures – 55
- o Minor Damaged Structures – 160
- o Pitt County Roads Closed - 70

Emergency Solutions Grant

Over the past three years, Pitt County has successfully administered the Rapid Re-Housing program which is funded through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). This program is designed to help those who are homeless transition into permanent housing.

The primary goal is to stabilize a program participant in permanent housing as quickly as possible and to provide wrap-around services after the family or individual obtains housing.

In 2016, Pitt County received \$64,242 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 35 households with short-and/or medium-term rental assistance, as necessary, to help homeless individuals or families.

Households receiving these funds must have an income level at or below 50% annual median income. Enrollment in the Rapid Re-Housing program relies heavily on a case management plan to ensure long-term stability for program participants. Staff has implemented a case management plan that will increase household incomes and/or increase access to mainstream benefits for program participants.

Urgent Repair Program: A Personal Story

Ms. Brown applied for rehabilitation assistance in 2015. Pitt County Staff visited her home and observed several items in need of repair. The main concerns rehabilitation specialists observed were that Ms. Brown was in desperate need of a new roof. Ms. Brown had two leaks in her ceiling that were allowing water to enter the interior of the house. This problem had been ongoing for a while as the floor below these areas was soft and starting to rot despite her efforts to place bowls and buckets to collect the water. One of these leaks was located directly over the lavatory. It was determined that these factors presented a safety and health issue, and needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

Ms. Brown informed Pitt County Staff that she was tired of relying on friends to climb up on her roof to replace tarps. She was also tired of emptying bowls and buckets during rain events. She never wanted to leave her house for extended periods of time for fear that a thunderstorm would occur and no one would be home to empty the water. Ms. Brown now has a safe and leak-proof roof for her home. She now enjoys listening to the rain without fear of leaks or the burden of dumping water. These repairs would not have been possible without funding from NCHFA's Urgent Repair Program.



Mail Notices and Permit Expiration Pitt County Zoning Ordinance

In 2016, Planning staff amended the Pitt County Zoning Ordinance to increase the minimum distance required for mailing public hearing notices from 100 feet to 500 feet. The increased distance is intended to increase public participation in zoning-related public hearings, such as rezonings, conditional/special use permits, and variances. Additionally, staff amended the ordinance to increase the amount of time before zoning permits automatically expire from six (6) months to one year. The additional six (6) months will provide more time for developers to obtain other regulatory approvals that may be required for a project, and will reduce the number of permit extension requests.

Pitt County-People's Choice: Great Place for Healthy Living Award Winner

Pitt County was recognized as a People's Choice: Great Place for Healthy Living award winner as part of the 2016 Great Places in North Carolina awards program. The awards program was sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC). Communities that provide opportunities for a healthy living lifestyle have become much desired. Citizens in Pitt County appreciate the County Home Complex because it encompasses an active walking trail, planned activities for social interaction, access to locally-sourced foods, county heritage, pet adoption, recycling and programs to keep our citizens involved and engaged. "Through this program, we celebrate great places in our state and the local partnerships that have worked collaboratively to make these places great," said John Morck, President of APA-NC.

The people's choice categories were nominated by and voted on by North Carolina residents. Pitt County was selected as one of six finalists after being narrowed down by a panel of experts. The six finalists were then placed on the GreatPlacesNC.org website for voting. The County Home Complex for Pitt County was the top vote getter!

Great Places Signage

Upon official recognition for the award by APA-NC, Pitt County Planning staff designed and installed signage reflecting the designation at all of the major routes into Pitt County. The sign blades were located below the existing 22 "Welcome to Pitt County" signs. Jeff Coston & Sylvester Savage completed installing the signs prior to 2017. Staff was able to recycle existing signage from the previous Fit Community designation award where North Carolina provided the sign blades to the County at no cost. Recently acquired sign fabrication equipment and software enabled staff the capabilities to perform the signage retrofit at a minimal cost and time.



E-911 Addressing

Planning Staff continues to enforce the County's Addressing Ordinance through the ESAVE (E-911 System Address Verification & Enforcement) project. Address numbers are required to be posted on every addressable structure. In 2016, two County ESAVE areas were inspected and a total of 1,065 structures were brought into compliance with the Addressing Ordinance. As part of the addressing program, staff maintain nearly 3000 County street signs. In 2016, 341 new addresses were assigned.



GIS Day & Geography Awareness Week

Planning Staff presented GIS information to students at Wintergreen Afterschool Program, and Farmville H.S. and Sugg Elementary. Students learned the major components of a map such as a map key/legend and compass/north arrow. The students participated in projects to illustrate how GIS software is used to make maps.