



2017 Student Interns

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Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

A key strategy identified in the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan to reduce hazards due to major flooding events is utilizing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Studies have shown that for every \$1 spent equals \$4 of future damages mitigated. In late 2016, Pitt County was approved for \$867,233 in HMGP funds to assist homeowners impacted by Hurricane Irene. The funds were approved for the purchase of five properties located in Pitt County. To date, Pitt County has purchased three of the approved properties and will begin demolition of the structures in early 2018. Pitt County has also recently submitted an application to North Carolina Emergency Management and FEMA for additional HMGP funds related to Hurricane Matthew. Eleven properties have been pre-approved as part of that grant application. Once properties have been acquired and the land cleared, Pitt County will make them available for lease to the general public.

GIS Day & Geography Awareness Week



Planning Staff presented a mapping lesson to approximately 100 kindergarten students at HB Sugg Elementary School in Farmville. Students learned about the GIS software used by our Department and participated in a hands-on exercise where they produced their own map. Staff also applied for and received a \$100 GIS Day grant to purchase giveaway items for the students.

Flood Recovery Home Repair Programs

During 2017, funding allocated for homeowners in need of repairs following Hurricane Matthew became available from various sources. The first program to accept applications was the NC Essential Single Family Loan Pool Disaster Recovery Program (ESFRLP-DR) administered by NC Housing Finance Agency. Through this program the County submitted 35 applications for repair assistance, 15 of which were approved to move forward to the repair phase. Five of the ESFRLP-DR applicant homes had damage that exceeded the assistance limits available. These homeowners will be considered for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR), a second funding stream with higher assistance limits and a broader range of services. CDBG-DR, administered through NC Dept. of Emergency Management, can potentially reconstruct, replace, and buy-out affected homeowners where damage is more extensive. Homeowners that are not being considered for FEMA buy-out have also been referred to CDBG-DR for buy-out evaluation. Finally, the Disaster Recovery Act (DRA) has funds available for repair assistance. Pitt County will refer homeowners not able to be served by the previous programs to DRA for consideration. As other homeowners are identified, Pitt County Planning will continue to evaluate and direct applicants to the program(s) best suited to their needs.

2017 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

Pitt County Planning Staff

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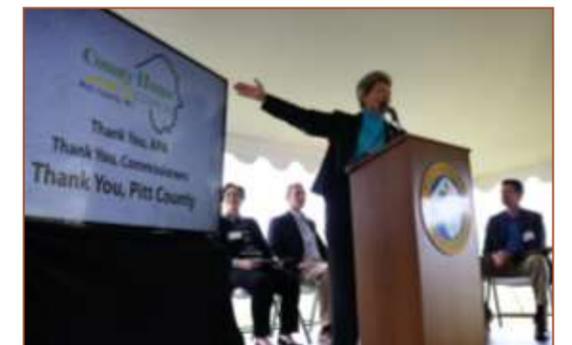
Lynne James
Housing Coordinator



Special Project Coordinator Alice Keene addresses attendees at the natural trail dedication as part of the Great Places celebration.

Pitt County Receives 2017 Great Places in America Designation

The County Home Complex has been designated as one of five Great Public Spaces through the American Planning Association's 2017 Great Places in America program. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, APA's Great Places in America program recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. Having a Great Places designation is a rare, high-profile opportunity to highlight how effective planning has contributed to the vibrancy, success, and distinctiveness of Pitt County. The County Home Complex is the first Public Space in North Carolina to receive a Great Place designation from APA.



A special celebration event marking this occasion was held on Saturday, October 14th at the Alice F. Keene District Park. This event featured activities provided by all community partners located within the County Home Complex, and was attended by APA President, Cynthia Bowen, AICP, along with local, state and federal legislative delegates, as well as Pitt County Commissioners and local municipal leaders.

Emergency Solutions Grant

Over the past four 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 2017, Pitt County received \$52,977 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 30 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.

Candlewick Sanitary Sewer Project

In 2009, the Candlewick neighborhood formed the Candlewick Sanitary Sewer District to address issues with failing septic systems in the area. In working with Pitt County, a \$3 million Community Development Block Grant from the state's Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure was received, to build a system which will connect homes to the Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) sewer system. GUC recognized the area around Stantonsburg Road is primed to experience additional growth because of the U.S. 264 Southwest Bypass project which is currently under construction, and agreed to contribute an additional \$700,000 towards the project to upsize the pump station and force main line along Stantonsburg Road.

The project was delayed in January 2017, when only three construction bids were submitted and the lowest received was \$3.4 million, which was almost double the budgeted construction amount. The project engineer, McDavid Associates, worked with county staff to reduce the project area and rebid the project. Despite revisions, the bids still came in higher than bids for the original design. T.A. Loving Company was the low bidder with a bid of \$3.9 million, which is approximately \$500,000 more than the original low bid. Through additional negotiations and a reduction of the number of homes receiving sewer service, the project was brought within the \$2.6 million construction budget.

As a result, the project's scope was reduced from serving approximately 68 homes to 25 homes. The reduced area was selected because a higher percentage of homes were identified as having failed septic systems and because the homes left out of the project would have better potential to receive future grants for sewer expansion. On June 19, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to award T.A. Loving Company a \$2.6 million contract to install the sanitary sewer system. Construction began in October and is anticipated to be completed in June, 2018. The County, on behalf of the Candlewick Sanitary Sewer District, has applied for a second Community Development Block Grant to serve additional homes within the sanitary district. Awards should be announced in February, 2018.



Installation of the force main along Stantonsburg Road began in late 2017.

Southwest Bypass Land Use Plan

The Southwest Bypass has long been Pitt County's highest priority transportation project in the North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Bypass is a four-lane, 12.6 mile freeway that will begin at the US 264 Bypass west of Greenville, extend around the western side of Winterville, and will end approximately two miles south of Ayden on NC 11. The Bypass will relieve congestion and improve traffic safety in Greenville, particularly along NC 11 (Memorial Drive) and Stantonsburg Road, will provide improved access to Vidant Medical Center, and will help improve regional travel time along the US 264/NC 11 corridor. Construction of the Bypass began in September 2016 and is expected to be complete in November 2019.



In order to appropriately manage growth and development along the corridor, Pitt County Planning has begun drafting a land use plan in cooperation with the City of Greenville, the Towns of Winterville and Ayden, the Greenville Urban Area MPO, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Following a detailed evaluation period, Stewart, Inc. of Raleigh, NC was selected to serve as the consulting firm on the project. Development of the plan began in October, and the planning process is expected to last approximately 10-12 months.

Amendments to Pitt County's Subdivision Ordinance

During the 2017 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted Session Law 2017-10. This law altered the definition of subdivision in several ways. First, it exempts subdivisions that are created in accordance with the terms of a probated will or intestate succession. Second, it allows for subdivisions meeting certain criteria to bypass preliminary plat review. Qualifying subdivisions would only require final plat submittal. Amendments to Section 102, Section 124, and Section 129 brought the Pitt County Subdivision Ordinance into compliance with Session Law 2017-10. Language from Section 153 which allowed for the digital submittal of a final plat via a floppy disk was also removed. Final plats are still required to be digitally submitted via CD or by email. The amended language was approved by the Commissioners on December 18th.

Pitt County Hosts 2017 APA-NC Annual Conference



The Pitt County Planning Department, serving as lead host, along with the City of Greenville, East Carolina University and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association hosted the 2017 Annual Conference at the Greenville Convention Center on September 26- 29th. The theme for this conference was: Rural, Urban, Points in Between. This was the first time the conference was hosted in Greenville and was considered a success with over 400 attendees from across the state.

E-911 Addressing by the Numbers

- Four County ESAVE areas were inspected
- 1,135 structures were brought into compliance
- nearly 3000 County street signs were maintained, 20 new signs installed
- 396 new addresses were assigned