



2019 Student Interns

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2019 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, commonly referred to as the HMGP Buyout program, is used by Pitt County to purchase homes that have repeatedly received damage from flooding events. In June of 2018, Pitt County was awarded an HMGP grant for \$1,044,263 to purchase and demolish 11 residential structures that sustained damage from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. In 2019, the County purchased 7 of the 11 properties, bringing the County's inventory of buyout properties to 117 amounting to 260.9 acres of open space.

Census 2020



Pitt County's Census 2020 Complete Count Committee

According to the Constitution, every ten years it is mandatory to conduct an official count of the United States population. The goal for this decennial Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. In order to achieve this goal, Pitt County began its efforts early to increase the participation rates among citizens throughout the County in many different ways, specifically through the activities of a Complete Count Committee.

The Pitt County Complete Count Committee (CCC), was established by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners in early April, and has taken off from there. Through collaborative partnerships, the U.S. Census Bureau and community leaders can reach the shared goal of counting everyone in 2020. CCC's utilize local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the Census through locally-based, targeted outreach efforts. This committee is composed of over 50 individuals who play various roles throughout the County, from Community and Civic group members, to members from governmental departments; these individuals play a major role by promoting awareness in their communities.

The first Complete Count Committee meeting was held in July, and the group has grown since then. There have been over 25 events around Pitt County where information has been displayed regarding the Census, and the importance behind completing the survey. The County specifically has placed an emphasis on "Hard to Reach Populations", such as people over 65, students, children under 5, the Hispanic population, veterans, and other groups. The CCC members have been creative in reaching groups that have historically had low response rates. Pitt County will continue its efforts through 2020, and hold a County-wide Census Day Kick-off on April 1, 2020.

2019 Pitt County Planning Department Annual Report

Pitt County Planning Staff

James Rhodes, AICP
Planning Director

Tabitha Auten, Office Manager

Jonas Hill
Assistant Planning Director
Environmental Planning
Community Development

Eric Gooby, AICP, CZO
Senior Planner
Zoning Administration
Coordinated Permitting

Eli Johnson, AICP, GISP
Senior Planner
GIS Mapping/E-911
Addressing

Tracy Cash, GISP
Planner III
GIS Mapping/E-911
Addressing

Mark Nottingham, AICP, CFM
Planner III
Development Review
Flood Plain Management

Ben Rogers, CZO
Planner I
Zoning Administration
Development Review

Jeff Coston
Road Sign Coordinator

Deloris Farmer
Housing Coordinator

Alice Keene
Special Projects Coordinator

Linda Mandell
SOAR Caseworker

Lynne James
Housing Coordinator



Pitt County Flood Recovery Home Repair Program

In October 2016, Pitt County was impacted by Hurricane Matthew and later received a Federal Disaster declaration. This declaration made funding available to Pitt County residents whose homes were impacted. In 2017, Pitt County received \$1 million provided by the North Carolina Disaster Recovery Act of 2017 for housing recovery.

Three years later staff continues to assist homeowners whose homes were impacted by the storm. Over the last year, three homes were repaired and two additional homes are under contract to be repaired. Two other homes which received substantial damage have been replaced and the County continues to work towards replacing another four homes.

The process of hurricane recovery is a very slow and tedious process. Staff must ensure that the septic tank is in good working condition in order to replace the home. For example, three of the homes slated to be replaced have compromised septic systems, which requires staff to work closely with the

Environmental Health Division to find a viable repair option. In one case, the homeowner will be required to relocate to a more suitable lot.

Another barrier is ownership of the property. This can occur when someone owns a manufactured home, but not the land it is placed on. Staff has to work with the family to either purchase the property or find another lot for the new home. Grant funds can be used to purchase both the land and the replacement home.

While the recovery process is slow, Pitt County has had a great partnership with the Pitt County Long Term Recovery Committee. This group was created to assist in identifying the unmet needs of those affected by disaster, and to coordinate access to resources. This committee is a collaboration of non-profit, faith-based, local, state and national organizations that work together to share information and resources to address the needs of individuals and families affected by Hurricane Matthew.

Emergency Solutions Grant

Since 2013, 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 provide wrap-around services after the family, or individual obtains housing.

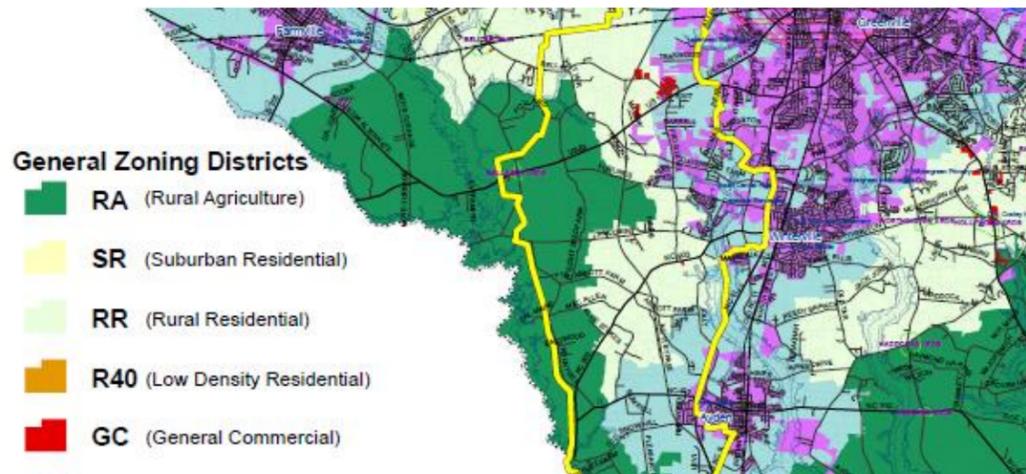
In 2019, Pitt County received \$62,000 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to assist 28 households, as necessary, with short-and/or medium-term rental assistance, to help homeless individuals or families.

Households receiving these funds must have an income level at or below 50% of the 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.

North Carolina Marvin Collins Award



James Rhodes was presented with the Robert Reiman Award at the 2019 APA-NC Planning Conference. This award is presented to an APA-NC member who has contributed significantly to the planning profession through practice, teaching, or writing over a sustained time period. James was recognized for a 30 plus year career of contributions to local government and East Carolina University. James was recognized for being ahead of his time in the inclusion of health factors in planning programs. He has been a crusader in securing grants for health and wellness programs in the county. He also was presented his concepts on health planning at national conferences. James was praised for his collaborative partnerships and was recognized for his mentoring of young planning students at East Carolina University. Through his strong philosophy of collaborative and visionary thinking, James has enhanced the understanding of the planning profession across disciplines and county departments, brought benchmark practices to Pitt County, and influenced the next generation of planning professionals.



Amendments to the Pitt County Zoning Ordinance

Immediately following adoption of the Southwest Bypass Land Use Plan, Pitt County Planning staff began developing several amendments to the Pitt County Zoning Ordinance to implement the plan's goals and recommendations. The proposed amendments included 1) cluster development regulations; 2) creation of an overlay district for the Renston Rural Historic District, including a list of specific permitted uses within the district; 3) creation of a Southwest Bypass Highway Corridor Overlay district; and 4) enhanced lighting standards for non-residential uses.

After several meetings with stakeholders from the Renston area, a consensus could not be reached on the proposed minimum lot size and list of permitted uses within the overlay district. As a result, it was determined that the Renston overlay would not be pursued any further. The remaining amendments were approved by the Board of Commissioners on November 18, 2019, and became effective on January 1, 2020.

Woodmoor Farms Subdivision Street Improvements Project

Pitt County has a policy to assist citizens with the repair of publicly dedicated subdivision streets for acceptance by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. NCGS 153 A Article 9 authorizes counties to finance such projects and then recoup the costs by levying special assessments on the landowners benefiting from the improvements.

In 2018, petitions from property owners with frontage along the streets in Woodmoor Farms Subdivision (portions of Trails End and Wesley Lane, as well as Mares Way, Saddle Way and Trotters Way) were submitted to the Planning Department. The project was approved by the Board of Commissioners to improve streets to meet North Carolina Department of Transportation standards. Carolina Earth Movers, Inc, was selected to perform the work and the improvements were completed on July 3, 2019. The North Carolina Board of Transportation accepted the improved roads to the secondary roadway system on December 5th.

Homelessness in Pitt County

Pitt County Planning continues to play a pivotal role in providing housing resources to help end homelessness in the Inner Banks Region of Pitt, Martin, Beaufort, Bertie and Washington Counties. Multiple grants are making this work possible.

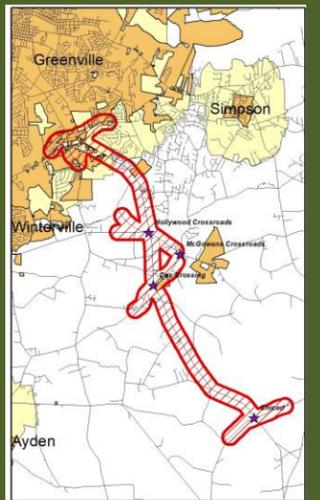
While Pitt County completed a 7th year of housing placement with Rapid Rehousing (RRH) funds from the Emergency Solutions Grant, the Department was awarded a second RRH Grant from the US Department of Housing & Urban Development to provide housing assistance across the Region. Case management will be a critical part of this new grant that is rolling out as the year closes.

Vidant Medical Center Foundation continues to fund Project Safe Shelter, a grant that provides temporary lodging to unsheltered homeless unable to secure a bed at the homeless shelter due to lack of availability. Efforts are underway to request grants from other Vidant Hospital Foundations in the Region to expand this initiative.

To end homelessness, matching those experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing options is essential. For this reason, the Department is completing its 2nd year of leading Coordinated Entry (CE) for the Region. CE is the process of prioritizing a list of households in need of housing in Region 12. Referrals are assessed for housing type and support needs. Referrals are then prioritized and ranked accordingly. Pitt County maintains the list and coordinates weekly housing placement meetings. The County was selected to participate in a CE grant awarded to the NC Balance of State Continuum of Care. This grant assists the County, and its Regional partners, in strategic decision making about the most beneficial use of available housing resources.

NC 43 South Land Use Plan

Planning staff has begun work to develop a land use plan for the NC 43 South Corridor. The plan will be a cooperative effort between Pitt County, the City of Greenville, the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT). Stewart, Inc. has been selected to serve as the consultant on the project. The planning process is expected to begin in February 2020 and last approximately 10-12 months.



E-911 Addressing by the Numbers

- Two County ESAVE areas were inspected and 989 structures were brought into compliance
- Nearly 3,000 County street signs were maintained and 38 new signs were installed
- 346 new addresses were assigned