



June 9, 2017

Quote: The only people, scientific or other, who never make mistakes are those who do nothing. *Thomas Huxley*

Saying goodbye to...Saying hello to...

The region is saying goodbye to **Greene County Economic Developer Art Jackson** who is retiring. We wish Art a fond farewell and much happiness on his retirement! And we say hello to the **new Economic Developer for Greene County, Rick Davis, Jr.** Rick came to the area in 2008 to help open the SpiritAero Systems plant at the GTP and retired from that role in 2013. We welcome Rick to his new job and wish him every success.

Promotion

The **Onslow County** Commissioners have selected **David Cotton** as their new County Manager. David had been the Deputy County Manager and Interim Manager after Jeff Hudson left. We congratulate David on his promotion!

2017 NC Statewide Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan

“The Road to Viability” is MUST reading for any county, municipality, or authority responsible for a water and/or sewer system. If you fall in that category, shame on you if you have not read it! Some quotes from this document: “Providing grant funds simply to construct or repair infrastructure—without requiring long-term management plans for infrastructure, organization and finances—does not move a utility toward viability.” “Grant funds will be targeted to projects to help utilities transition to permanent local funding solutions.” “Grants were intended to be for temporary assistance—not to be relied upon for long-term operation of water utilities.” “Utilities need continuity plans to retain decades of system knowledge when staff retire or depart—the cost to start over to fill such gaps is high.” The vision for infrastructure management is that “utilities take proactive approaches to infrastructure master planning and asset management planning, ensuring that the plans are in place and implemented, which enables the right investments to be made in the right projects at the right time.” To read the full report [click here...](#) **Let ECC staff assist you to create a GIS layer of your system and create an asset management plan. Contact ECC Planning Director Patrick Flanagan at pflanagan@eccog.org**

Rural Development Cuts and USDA Reorganization Proposal; Letter Circulating for Organizations to Sign

Recent actions by the Trump administration related to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) have been met with disapproval from congressional members and stakeholder groups. On May 30, Senate Democrats sent a [letter](#) to President Trump stating opposition to severe cuts to Rural Development programs under the Department of Agriculture’s [FY2018 budget proposal](#). Senators also express concern over the department’s recently issued [reorganization plan](#) that calls for eliminating the Undersecretary for Rural Development position. In all, 29 senators signed the letter. More information is available [here](#). Additionally, the [National Rural Housing Coalition](#) (NRHC) is leading a sign-on letter to the Trump administration opposing proposed budget cuts and USDA’s reorganization proposal. NRHC is keeping the letter open through June 9. To view the letter and add your organization’s name, click [here](#).

COPS grants

The Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS) is releasing several grant opportunities for local and state law enforcement agencies. [COPS grants](#) are vital to local law enforcement agencies, and it’s equally vital municipalities are ready to submit applications as soon as grants released. Good grant management starts long before a grant application

is due. While waiting for the COPS grants RFPs to hit, make it your municipality's responsibility to know exactly what agencies' will be asking for under these funding opportunities – and why. The following three COPS grants programs are ripe for action by police grant writers now. Below that is advice for preparing applications and creating project proposals. [Click here to read the article...](#)

SOG Strategic Planning for Government Professionals

How can your public sector organization best benefit from having a strategic plan? What is important for you to understand before you get started? What should you consider as you begin to plan? Who should be involved in helping you plan, and how can that input be helpful? What components are important to include in your plan? This, UNC School of Government, hands-on workshop spurs your ideas and jump-starts your planning. Topics include: Role of Elected and Appointed Officials Assessment and Context; Key Elements of a Strategic Plan; Creating Your Strategic Planning Process; Writing Good Goals and Objectives; and Using The Plan to Allocate Resources and Evaluate Progress. This course will be held on August 17 in Chapel Hill. Please click [here](#) for more details.

New grant funding to train and supply EMS and others to respond to opioid overdose

Under CARA, there is new grant funding local governments can use to train and supply EMS and others in emergency opioid overdose response. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention is accepting applications for more than \$10 million in funding for the 2017 First Responders Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) program to address emergency opioid overdose incidents. Between \$250,000 and \$800 000 per year over four years is available to states, tribes and local governmental entities to train and provide resources to first responders and other key community sectors to administer life saving treatment for known or suspected opioid overdose. Grantees will train and provide resources to carry and administer a drug or device approved or cleared under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for emergency treatment, such as naloxone. Grantees must also establish processes, protocols, and mechanisms for referral to appropriate treatment and recovery communities. Applications are due July 31, 2017. [Learn more about emergency opioid overdose training grants on SAMHSA's website.](#)

NC Rural Center—new tool to assess the health insurance gap

The NC Rural Center has launched a [new county-level database](#) that lets users explore who would benefit from closing the health insurance coverage gap, and the possible economic impact it could have for the state. It is estimated that nearly 500,000 North Carolinians fall into the coverage gap, meaning they are either ineligible for Medicaid or earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to pay their insurance premiums in the marketplace. The Rural Center's database presents Census data on poverty and near-poverty populations and provides estimates on insurance coverage to explore who might benefit from Medicaid expansion. The database also reviews the economic importance of the state's health sector and the economic impact of closing the coverage gap for local economies. The data visualization tool puts into context the economic impact the coverage gap has at the state and county level. By most current estimates for North Carolina, the health-care sector accounts for 590,275 jobs and nearly \$7.6 billion in taxable wages. The [data visualization tool](#) is meant as the start of a public conversation about how the state can assist those individuals who are working and trying to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Congressional Members Hold Panel Discussion on CDBG and HOME Programs

On May 24, U.S. Representatives Maxine Waters (D-CA), Emanuel Clever (D-MO), and Dan Kildee (D-MI) hosted local government and community development leaders for a panel discussion on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships programs. Under the Trump administration's FY2018 budget proposal, both CDBG and HOME programs are slated for elimination. Panelists spoke to the importance of CDBG and HOME funding in their respective communities impacting jobs, safety, housing, and infrastructure. Communities represented at the event included Marion, VA; Orange County, NC; Los Angeles, CA; Allentown, PA; and Shreveport, LA. Click [here](#) for the event recap. The House Financial Services Democratic Staff have created a CDBG and HOME fact sheet which is available [here](#).

Our Town Creative Placemaking grants from NEA

The Our Town grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places – achieving these community goals through strategies that incorporate arts, culture, and/or design. Creative placemaking is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners

deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work - placing arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. This funding supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create or preserve a distinct sense of place. Through Our Town, subject to the availability of funding, the National Endowment for the Arts will provide a limited number of grants for creative placemaking. Our Town requires partnerships between arts organizations and government, other nonprofit organizations, and private entities to achieve livability goals for communities. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas: 1) Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects. These projects represent the distinct character and quality of their communities. These projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. And 2) Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking. These projects are available to arts and design service organizations, and industry, policy, or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. [Click here for details...](#)

Tourism spending in Carteret County--2016

A recent report of the National Park Service found that Cape Lookout National Seashore generated more than \$20 million in tourism spending in the local area in 2016. Cape Lookout's seashore includes a lighthouse, historic dwellings and Shackleford Banks, a popular barrier island that's home to wild horses. Visitors can reach different parts of the park by ferry or boat. The park's 458,000 visitors in 2016 supported more than 300 jobs through their spending. In Carteret County, home to Cape Lookout, in 2015, tourists spent about \$337 million, the state's commerce department found. That same year, visitors to Cape Lookout spent \$17.7 million in the park's gateway areas, about 20 percent of the county's total tourism expenditures. [Click here to read more...](#)

Developing Affordable and Accessible Community-Based Housing for Vulnerable Adults: Proceedings of a Workshop

Summarizes findings from a December 2016 public workshop focused on affordable and accessible housing for older adults and people with disabilities. Discusses barriers to providing this housing and design principles for making housing accessible. Identifies programs and policies to support accessible, community-based housing. Includes some information specific to rural areas. Additional links: [Read Online](#)

Maine city considers work-for-welfare

Westbrook, Maine, city leaders will vote on whether to implement workfare, a program that requires able-bodied people to work for rental assistance and benefits. The program works best in communities with more worksites like a public works department or a community center. [Click here to read more...](#)

Citizen engagement—social media

Citizen engagement officer and social media expert Timothy Martin is on a mission to engage with as many Roanoke, Virginia, residents as he can. And with 60 social media pages that equal to more than 190,000 followers, he must be doing something right considering that the community has just a little under 100,000 residents. The success of Martin's efforts haven't gone unnoticed. [Governing](#), [GovTech](#), and [ELGL](#) are just a few organizations that have recognized the great efforts of citizen engagement in Roanoke. So what's the big deal? According to the June 2017 special section of [Local Government Review](#), the benefits of engaging residents and other stakeholders in community building are significant: engagement can increase understanding, create better and more sustainable decisions, and build trust. It can also build better, more cohesive communities and improve resident satisfaction. The [ICMA Innovations and Emerging Practices in Local Government Survey 2016](#), conducted in collaboration with Arizona State University and the [Alliance for Innovation](#) in April 2016, asked CAO respondents to rate the extent to which they use 16 different engagement tools in their jurisdiction, on a five-point Likert scale with these response options: never [1], rarely, moderately [3], regularly, frequently [5], and don't know. Findings found that social media is the third most frequently used citizen engagement tool by local governments. Needless to say, Martin knows the social media channels that work for his community engagement efforts. We caught up with him to get some tips and advice for how to use social media for your community engagement. [Click here to read...](#)

[Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in Rural Communities](#)

Webinar recording discusses the challenges and strategies in stemming the rate of substance abuse in rural communities. Introduces the Rural Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Toolkit, designed to help communities implement substance abuse programs. Presents several examples of state level programs focused on increasing access to naloxone and training for first responders to recognize and prevent overdoses. [Click here to read...](#) Additional links: [Audio Recording](#), [PowerPoint Handout](#), [Webinar Transcript](#)

ECC offers a number of services at reduced cost for member governments. Contact ECC if you need a price for these services. pflanagan@eccog.org

- Highest & Best Use Studies
- Retail leakage studies
- Posting of county and municipal jobs on the ECC website (free to member governments)
- Asset mapping and management plans to meet grantor requirements for infrastructure funding
- Maps (all sizes);
- Digitizing of existing paper maps;
- Special studies (e.g., pay classification);
- Staffing for planning and zoning boards;
- GPS services;
- GIS mapping services;
- Mapping water, sewer and stormwater systems
- Map scanning (will make that ratty looking map look almost new and give you a digital copy);
- Surveys (citizen, special issue, employee, P&R);
- Various types of plans (P&R, revitalization, redevelopment, business development, etc.);
- Interim help (finance, planning);
- Staff training (communication, customer service, team building, managing employees, grant writing, grant management, etc.)
- Executive Searches (managers, executive directors, police chiefs, etc.)
- Assistance in determining eligibility for Economic Development Administration (EDA) infrastructure grants

Workshops/Meetings/Events/Webinars/Deadlines coming up soon

6/14 Financial Fiduciary responsibilities of elected officials in Carthage 9 to noon Click [here](#) to Register

6/26 Matt Livingston's first day as ECC Executive Director

6/30 NC DCM Planning and Management grant applications due from CAMA counties [online](#)

7/18 DERPO TCC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

7/20 ECRPO TCC and TAC meeting—LaGrange Community Center 9:30 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

7/24 SOG Basic Economic Development Course in Chapel Hill [here](#).

7/25 DERPO TAC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

8/10 Active Listening Skills for Local Elected Officials. Durham. [here](#)

8/17 SOG Strategic Planning for government professionals. Chapel Hill. Please click [here](#) for more details

9/4 ECC closed for Labor Day Holiday

9/14 ECC Executive Committee Meeting—ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 6:00 PM eccadmin@eccog.org

9/19 DERPO TCC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

9/21 ECRPO TCC and TAC meeting—LaGrange Community Center 9:30 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

9/26 DERPO TAC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

11/3-4 NC Bike Summit in Wilmington <http://www.bikewalknc.org/nc-bicycle-summit/>

11/9 ECC Executive Committee Meeting—ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 6:00 PM eccadmin@eccog.org

11/10 ECC closed for Veterans Day Holiday

11/15-17 American Association of Retirement Communities Annual conference in Wilmington, NC [click here for info](#)

11/16 ECRPO TCC and TAC meeting—LaGrange Community Center 9:30 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

11/21 DERPO TCC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

11/23-24 ECC closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28 DERPO TAC meeting at ECC 2nd Floor Conf. Room 10:00 AM pflanagan@eccog.org

Note: The material contained in this bulletin is a compilation from a number of electronic and print sources.

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