



July 7, 2017

CEDS:

ECC's Planning Director Patrick Flanagan receives award

Patrick received the NCDOT Road Gang Member award for outstanding and continuing contributions to NC transportation this month. Patrick is well known for his RPO leadership. ECC is fortunate to have quality employees such as Patrick. Please join us in congratulating Patrick the next time you see him.

Carteret Community College announces new President

Carteret Community College Board of Trustees has announced the selection of Dr. John Hauser as the fifth president of Carteret Community College (pending state board approval). The announcement came during a recent special meeting following a six-month search effort that attracted 65 candidates. "We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Hauser joining us as the college's new president," said Dr. Matt Zettl, Chairman of the CCC Board of Trustees. "With his experience as a creative leader, the College can look forward to further development of existing programs, and exploration and initiation of new opportunities. We expect he will serve the College and community well." Dr. Hauser comes to CCC from Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina where he is currently Vice President of Applied Career Technologies and Alleghany Center. We welcome Dr. Hauser to our region!

ECC Region entity receives national accreditation

The City of Goldsboro received national Main Street accreditation.

<http://goldsbordailynews.com/blog/2013/05/04/dgdc-receives-2013-national-main-street-accreditation/>

NC Census trends

[The U.S. Census Bureau recently made its 2016 population estimates available, and the topline trends for North Carolina has maintained a nearly identical trajectory as Read more...](#) [NC Municipal Growth, 2016 Annual Update](#)

The Problem With Promoting Startups

Encouraging new, young businesses instead of older ones is considered a more effective path to job creation. A new study suggests that it's not that clear. . . . A [new study](#) published in a recent edition of [Economic Development Quarterly](#) exposes the weak conceptual and empirical foundations of economic development policies that target particular types of firms. On one hand, this stems from an overemphasis on firm characteristics as opposed to other factors that truly do matter to economic development. But on the other, the study echoes Paul Romer's concerns about "mathiness" in economics—how researchers can tweak statistical models to generate just about any finding they want. Ultimately, the study concludes that there is little consistent and reliable evidence on one side or the other when it comes to firm size and age: No model can explain more than 15 percent of the variation in job growth. As they write: "Economic development policies that target firms of any particular size or age are unlikely to have much impact on job growth, if any, given that at least 85 percent of the variation in employment growth is explained by other factors." . . . Clearly, when it comes to economic development, we need better data and better models. And most of all, given the lack of clarity around policies and the drivers of economic development, we need to resist the conventional wisdom and think local—to orient economic development away from "big game" and quick fixes, and focus instead on small-scale assets and investments. [Read more...](#)

N.C. Forest Service Nursery Program accepting seedling orders beginning July 3

The N.C. Forest Service Nursery Program will begin accepting orders for seedlings July 3. The NCFS produces about 16 million quality seedlings for 47 species of both conifer and hardwoods annually, including an expanded selection of control mass pollinated loblolly pine seedlings. These seedlings offer superior growth, form and disease resistance. “Trees are one of North Carolina’s greatest renewable resources and an important economic driver in North Carolina, contributing around \$24 billion annually to the state's economy and providing more than 180,000 jobs for North Carolinians through the forest products industry,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. The NCFS nursery program offers a large, reader-friendly catalog for ordering tree seedlings. Landowners can find information about the types of tree species, quantities and costs on the inside pages of the catalog. Each tree description includes information about ideal planting locations and whether a species is typically used for the benefit of wildlife, to restore habitats or as marketable timber. Hardwoods can be purchased in quantities as small as 10 seedlings, and conifers in quantities as low as 50. For larger orders, the nursery will continue to sell seedlings by the hundreds and thousands. Demand for these seedlings is up, so it is advisable to order early. Distribution of seedlings begins in the fall, depending on weather conditions. Seedling orders are shipped to one of 13 locations statewide for a small fee or via UPS for a charge. For information on planting trees, people may contact a local county ranger, who can be found on the contact page of the NCFS website at <http://ncforestservice.gov>. Catalogs are available at local NCFS offices, which are located in all 100 N.C. counties. The catalog is also available at the “Tree Seedlings & Nursery Program” link located at ncforestservice.gov. You can also visit the online seedling store at www.buynctrees.com. Seedlings can be ordered by mail or by calling 1-888-NCTREES (1-888-628-7337). Visa or Master Card payments accepted. Completed order forms should be mailed to Seedling Coordinator, 762 Claridge Nursery Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

Rural Communities Must Empower Youth

The future of rural America depends on attracting younger generations to make a life in smaller communities. That means listening to young people, responding to their interests, and sharing power. [Read the story.](#)

Residents of 10 Counties Needed for Deer Camera Trap Survey Project

Residents of Alamance, Burke, Cleveland, Craven, Dare, Haywood, Hyde, Moore, Pender and Surry counties are needed for Fall Fawn Frenzy, a camera trap survey project focused on deer that begins this fall. The survey, part of the [Candid Critters project](#), will use camera traps to capture and count does and fawns to determine if deer populations in N.C. are growing, declining or staying the same. Learn more at [Fall Fawn Frenzy](#).

Playbook on Employer-Worker Relationship Available from Aspen Institute

[Upskill America](#), an initiative of the [Economic Opportunities Program at the Aspen Institute](#), has released its latest report on employers’ investment in workforce. Upskilling Playbook for Employers offers examples of employers engaging workers on their respective needs and in turn, helping the company prosper. Upskill America compiles and shares information to inform and inspire companies to pursue upskilling strategies within various fields. To read click [here](#).

NFIP Summer Workshops

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Floodplain Management staff will provide training on both the basic roles/duties of a floodplain administrator as well as the regulatory context of the NFIP regulations (to include discussion of the Elevation Certificate), to guide the safe development in floodplains. These workshops will also address Coastal re-mapping processes, the new website Flood Risk Information System (FRIS), information on how Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the Home Owners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 will affect property owners and communities, and include basic information on the Community Rating System (CRS) of the NFIP. The Course is designed to provide in-depth training and generate class discussions on topics in greater detail than a basic course. The specific modules that will be provided for the different workshop locations will be listed under each workshop location. This 2-day workshop will cover the following topics: FRIS; Floodplain Administrator’s Duties and responsibilities; NC Building Code and the NFIP; Compliance with V-Zone’s Standards; Post Disaster Duties and Insurance

Update – BW-12, HFIAA. Central Summer Workshop – August 16th & 17th Fuquay-Varina, NC. [Click here](#). Contact: Milton Carpenter, milton.carpenter@ncdps.gov (919) 825-2302. Eastern Summer Workshop – September 14th & 15th Surf City, NC. [Click here](#). Contact: Heather Keefer, heather.keefer@ncdps.gov (919) 825-2289

2017 NCGFOA Annual Summer Conference

We are pleased to present the 2017 North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association Summer Conference at the Holiday Inn Resort in Wrightsville Beach. The conference program and leisure activities we have planned will afford you an opportunity to complete CPE credit, share valuable information, and enjoy the beach atmosphere. The conference will be July 16-18. For registration information, click [here](#).

Skate parks—they do provide benefits

The numerous benefits of skate parks outweigh their high costs for the growing number of U.S. cities pursuing them. [Read on >](#)

Guide to 2017 School Safety Communications Grants

Our grant editors have compiled the steps you need to take to find—and be awarded—school safety communications grants. [Download your free guide](#)

Incivility is a major problem

The history of the United States can be characterized by the struggles and challenges our nation has endured, including civil war. ...Overcoming these crises has been facilitated by leaders who managed to maintain a degree of civility in their dialogue with the opposition, which lead to dispute resolution. Recent survey results from the National Institute for Civil Discourse points out that 75 percent of Americans believe incivility is a major problem in society today. ...[read more...](#)

SOG class—Social Media for Government Officials

The School of Government is offering a ‘Social Media for Government Officials’ class, taught by Mark Weaver, in Chapel Hill on August 9, 2017. Course details and registration can be found on our website here: <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/social-media-strategies-government-professionals> . In addition to the topics listed, Mark intends to cover aspects of policy development.

Ga. city hopes recreation opportunities can reduce youth violence

A plan to share community and school facilities for youth activities in Rome, Ga., has been proposed by the Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation advisory board as a way to curb youth violence. [Rome News-Tribune \(Ga.\)](#)

Tearing Down Homes, Building a Workforce

After Portland banned demolition of its oldest homes, it forged a path for women and people of color to find higher-paying work in the trades. When Portland officials debated banning demolition for old homes in 2016, opponents shared one concern: There might not be enough people trained in deconstruction to keep up with demand. Compared to demolition, deconstruction is tough, hands-on, time-consuming work. But the city opted to [require it for homes built before 1916](#), citing it as a more sustainable alternative that would allow for quality building materials to be salvaged and reused. Now, the city sees another benefit to its decision: job opportunities. Working with the Building Materials and Reuse Association, a Chicago-based national nonprofit with a mission to “advance the recovery, reuse, and recycling of building materials,” city officials put together a free workforce training program targeting women, people of color, and others who may face higher barriers to entering work in the trades. With higher-paying job opportunities in the construction and carpentry industries, the city hopes the deconstruction skills taught in the program can serve as stepping stones to career advancement for [trainees](#) . . . <https://www.citylab.com/life/2017/06/portland-deconstruction-demolition-workforce-training/529902/>

Conveyance of property in a public-private partnership for a “downtown development project”

Downtowns across America are experiencing a renaissance. Population growth in downtowns has outpaced growth in the broader regions in which those downtowns are located. North Carolina downtowns are likewise experiencing record growth. To capitalize on this renewed interest in downtowns, private developers and local governments are increasingly

seeking to partner on relatively larger, coordinated development projects that involve construction of both public and private facilities....[Read More](#)

[NCLM Annual Conference CityVision 2017](#)

Online registration is now open for the CityVision 2017 Annual Conference in Greenville, September 20-23. This year, we are doing things a bit differently – the conference begins on Wednesday, with sessions and social events running through Saturday morning. We made the scheduling shift to accommodate the majority of cities' and towns' council meeting schedules, and we hope it will allow even more members to attend the conference. The CityVision annual conference balances educational sessions with ample networking and social events so that municipal officials can learn from both experts and colleagues who may be facing similar issues back at home. This year's annual conference will connect attendees to the latest trends and best practices for incorporating technology, regional partnerships and projects, pathways for economic development, and leadership skills training into how municipalities operate and provide services to their communities. Early Bird registration rates end July 5 at midnight – taking advantage of the Early Bird rates will save you \$50! Click [here](#) to register online and view the preliminary agenda and conference highlights.

[Fargo, N.D., firefighters train to use drone](#)

The Fargo, N.D., Fire Department has added a drone with a thermal-imaging camera to and is teaching two firefighters from each shift to operate it. "It's a lot easier to put this thing up than to put somebody else's life at risk," said Cass County Sheriff's Deputy Mathew King. [The Bismarck Tribune \(N.D.\)](#)

[Social worker, police address opioid addiction in Griswold, Conn.](#)

Local officials and police in Griswold, Conn., are launching a program to steer opioid users toward treatment, using a mobile outreach team and a full-time clinical social worker. The social worker is also helping to train state troopers and police dispatchers to de-escalate drug abuse situations. [The Hartford Courant \(Conn.\)](#)

[Detroit seeks to revive CTE high school](#)

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and the city's Workforce Development Board are working to make improvements and investments in a career and technical high school. Efforts include a plan to transform the school into a facility where high-school students can receive career training during the day and adults can attend classes at night.

[Crain's Detroit Business \(tiered subscription model\)](#)

[How to re-envision your public library](#)

Forward-thinking communities are retooling their public libraries to become innovative spaces for community engagement. Learn how to work with community stakeholders to define a vision for your library that aligns with your vision of the community in a July 12 webinar. [Read more.](#)

[The Rural Wisdom of Doing It Yourself](#)

There's a time to let others take the lead, and there's a time to roll up your sleeves and break a sweat. DIY creates solutions for local problems and builds community confidence in the future. [Read the story.](#)

[Stats: Age-Adjusted Rate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths, by Urbanization of County of Residence — 2005 and 2015](#)

Bar chart showing motor vehicle traffic deaths in 2005 and 2015 by level of urbanization for metropolitan and nonmetro counties. [Click here to read more...](#)

[High Line Network](#)

The following links are to the High Line and the High Line Network--the latest stories on infrastructure reuse projects, public space, and more. The first link is to the newly launched webpage for the HLN. The second is an article about the motivations behind founding the HLN which may be appropriate for communities to keep in mind as they enhance their public infrastructure. <http://network.thehighline.org/> <https://www.fastcodesign.com/90130219/exclusive-the-high-line-looks-beyond-new-york-city>

[#NCBigIdea Submissions](#)

The Institute for Emerging Issues is looking for the topic of its 2019 Emerging Issues Forum and is inviting you to submit ideas. The effort is called the “#NCBigIdea Challenge.” For the first time in IEI’s history, the institute is seeking to “crowdsource” the topic and is seeking feedback from a wide variety of entities, including local government officials, to help determine what they can most usefully work on next. The #NCBigIdea Challenge kicks off a 5-week open submission process, where big ideas can be submitted via Twitter using #NCBigIdea, or the online submission form available at www.NCBigIdea.org. The deadline for submissions is July 31.

Eastern NC volunteers needed for weather observations

A citizen science program called the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network ([CoCoRaHS](#)) is seeking new volunteer weather observers across Eastern North Carolina. North Carolina became the 21st state to establish the CoCoRaHS program in 2007, and by 2010, the CoCoRaHS network had reached all 50 states with nearly ten thousand observations being reported daily. Volunteers help obtain a better understanding of local weather and climate patterns by taking weather observations using a simple, low-cost rain gauge. [David Glenn](#) (meteorologist with the [NWS in Newport/MoreheadCity, NC](#)) is the state Co-Coordinator for CoCoRaHS and says that the data collected is used every day and during big weather events across NC. Volunteers in this program become a part of the official weather history for events like Hurricane Matthew, winter storms, and flood events. By providing high quality, accurate measurements, the volunteers are able to supplement existing networks and provide useful data to scientists, resource managers, decision makers and other users. A unique user of the CoCoRaHS data is the Shellfish Sanitation and Water Quality division in NCDEQ, which uses the data to assist with temporary shellfish closures. Volunteers may obtain an official 4" plastic rain gauge through the CoCoRaHS website for about \$30 plus shipping. Volunteers complete a simple online training module and use the CoCoRaHS website to submit their reports. The data collection process is easy and observations are immediately available on maps and reports for the public to view. If you would like to sign-up as a volunteer observer and become part of the expanding CoCoRaHS network, please click here: [Join the CoCoRaHS Network](#).

Is a public investment in a sports complex justified?

Any of you who make decisions on public funds should subscribe to economist Dr. Mike Walden’s “You Decide” column (NCSU). The most recent topic of his column was pro sports facilities, but the arguments for and against could be applied to any major investment in a sports complex. Here is a snippet of the discussion: The net result – argues those backing public help for pro teams – is that a professional sports team and its associated facility create new jobs, incomes and tax revenues that more than compensate for any public investment. Moreover – backers continue – a pro sports team and modern venue are exactly the kind of entertainment amenity needed to attract and keep successful residents. Opponents make several counterpoints. Due to the special skills needed to build sports facilities, they say many of the construction jobs will likely come from outside the region, and the permanent jobs in food and facility services are generally low-paying. Unless the players live in the local area, much of their salary will leave the region. Critics also say “multipliers” used to generate supply chain impacts are often inflated. To read... <https://cals.ncsu.edu/news/tag/you-decide/>

The State Of The Nation’s Housing 2017

. . . But even after seven consecutive years of growth, new residential construction in 2016 was well below the 1.4–1.5 million unit annual rates averaged in the 1980s and 1990s. In fact, coming on the heels of the most prolonged and pronounced downturn since the Great Depression, housing completions in the past 10 years totaled just 9.0 million units—more than 4.0 million units less than in the next-worst 10-year period going back to the late 1970s. Together with steady increases in demand, the low rate of new construction has kept the overall market tight, leaving the gross vacancy rate at its lowest point since 2000 . . . Conditions are particularly tight at the lower end of the market, likely reflecting both the slower price recovery in this segment and the fact that fewer entry-level homes are being built. Between 2004 and 2015, completions of smaller single-family homes (under 1,800 square feet) fell from nearly 500,000 units to only 136,000. Similarly, the number of townhouses started in 2016 (98,000) was less than half the number started in 2005. Meanwhile, rental markets are extremely tight despite the relatively strong pickup in multifamily construction. According to the Housing Vacancy Survey, the rental vacancy rate fell for the seventh straight year in 2016, dipping to 6.9 percent—its lowest level in more than three decades . . . Indeed, rent gains across the country continue to far outpace inflation. The Consumer Price Index for rent on primary residences was up 3.8 percent last year, while MPF

Research estimates that rents for professionally managed apartments rose by a similar amount. With most new supply coming at the upper end of the market and strong demand pushing up rents across the board, the number of modestly priced units available for under \$800 declined by 261,000 between 2005 and 2015, while the number renting for \$2,000 or more jumped by 1.5 million . . . http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/state_nations_housing

US Water Alliance Releases New National Paper on Equitable Water Management

The Most Comprehensive Compendium to Date on Water Challenges Facing Vulnerable Communities and Promising Solutions to Forge Progress. June 6, 2017, the US Water Alliance released the most comprehensive briefing paper to date on the connections between water management and vulnerable communities living in America. Americans often assume that only developing regions in countries like Africa or Asia, struggle with providing clean, reliable drinking water. The high-quality water systems built for most communities in America--which was a monumental engineering and public health achievement--obscures that fact that people in America still face water challenges daily. Water challenges are often considered in the context of failing infrastructure or environmental pollution. [An Equitable Water Future](#) offers a robust analysis of the often-overlooked human dimension of water management, with a focus on how water can expand opportunity for our nation's most vulnerable people. The report demonstrates how water challenges affect affordability, environmental and social justice, economic development, health, safety, and more. These challenges are often felt more acutely by disadvantaged communities, whether by geographic, economic, or racial status. The paper presents a framework that can move the nation forward, focused on three pillars of equitable water management: 1. Ensure all people have access to clean, safe, affordable water service; 2. Maximize the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investment; and, 3. Foster community resilience in the face of a changing climate. Kevin Shafer, Board Chair of the US Water Alliance and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District said, "The tragedy in Flint, Michigan showed the nation the devastating impact on public health and community well-being when we don't manage our water systems in a responsible and equitable way. We cannot rely on the old ways of doing things, especially when these approaches have left disadvantaged populations behind. An Equitable Water Future is a blueprint for water leaders across the country to advance inclusion and equity through water management.

2016 Economic Impacts of Airports in NC—a report

This NC DOT Division of Aviation report provides a snapshot of the airports in NC and the critical role that they play in our transportation system. Because we are so focused on what we use most—our roads—we forget that the other modes of transportation are an integral part of moving people and goods. There are eight regional airports in North Carolina and two of the eight are in the ECC region: Albert J. Ellis in Jacksonville (Onslow County) and Coastal Carolina in New Bern (Craven County). It is estimated that the output for these two facilities is \$416,230,000. Additionally there are six general aviation airports: Duplin County Field (Kenansville/Duplin County), Henderson Field (Wallace/Duplin County), Kinston Regional Jetport (Kinston/Lenoir County), Michael J. Smith Field (Beaufort/Carteret County), Mount Olive Municipal Field (Mount Olive/Wayne County), and Wayne Executive Jetport (Goldsboro/Wayne County). Together their output is \$578,880,000. The combined output of all the airports in our region is \$995,110,000, almost \$1 billion.https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/State-Airport-Aid/Documents/2016_NCAirportEconImpact.pdf

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

- 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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