

## Retiring Chatham County Manager Wins NC's top honor



Chatham County Manager Renee Paschal, who retired on October 1, 2018 with 30 years of public service, received several unexpected honors at her last meeting with the Board of Commissioners on September 24. Among them was earning the state's top honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

"I was overwhelmed with Monday night's presentations," said Paschal. "In truth, my career here has been successful because of amazing partners like the school system, amazing mentors and leaders, and, most of all, because of our incredible employees who everyday provide great service to our residents. I appreciate the faith the Board of Commissioners put in me by appointing me manager three years ago. It has been very rewarding to be able to finish my career by leading this great organization."

State Senator Valerie Foushee announced that Governor Roy Cooper had selected Paschal for the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian award. Since 1963, this honor has been reserved for "persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through their exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments."

Persons named to The Order of the Long Leaf Pine become North Carolina "Ambassadors" with their names and award dates recorded on a roster.

The Chatham County Board of Education and Superintendent presented a resolution recognizing Paschal's vital role in the strong relationship between leadership of the county and the school system. They applauded her role in securing funds for school facilities and priority school programs. They also presented artwork created from letters in the signage titles of all the school facilities.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution, "The Pursuit of Excellence," to express the county's appreciation of Paschal's many contributions to Chatham County. Much of her time in public service has been in various Chatham County management and budget positions.

Several of Paschal's family members were able to attend, including her husband Warren, daughter Slone, father Kyle Fuller and mother-in-law Rebecca Cogan.

At a separate event on September 25 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, current and former county commissioners, department heads and many others announced that a stone bench and an engraved boulder honoring Paschal will be placed at the front of that facility in Pittsboro. Hurricane Florence delayed the production of these items.

The bench and stone acknowledge Paschal's vital role in the construction of so many county facilities, from schools to parks to judicial facilities ... and the Agriculture & Conference Center itself. The county's office of Cooperative Extension will be landscaping around the bench area with flowers and shrubs, including pollinator plants.