



2016 STATE OF THE COUNTY

A Few Highlights of FY 2015-16

NOTE: See full report at www.chathamnc.org



SENIORS RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX coming to Chatham Park. It will include a live performance theater and classrooms.

MOUNTAIRE FARMS: 700+ JOBS

Mountaire Farms is acquiring the former Townsend poultry processing plant and an adjoining property in Siler City in 2016. Work has begun to renovate and update this facility into a modern state-of-the-art food plant. This expansion will add 700+ jobs and an estimated \$100 million investment.



990 new jobs in FY16 (up 603% from FY15)

CHATHAM PARK GETS UNDERWAY

UNC Health Care recently opened a 25,000-square-foot medical office building and will soon open a hospice facility. A 16,000-square-foot office building is completed. Chatham Park selected The Eco Group to develop a commercial phase in Russet Run, which will include a brewery with distribution center and other tenants. The Eco Group is partnering with EngAGE to build a 125-unit, age-restricted senior complex (see photo top left) that will feature classrooms and a performance theater.

**\$89.57
MILLION**

**New private sector
capital investment
in FY16, up 118%**

MAJOR TRANSITIONS

COUNTY MANAGEMENT: Upon the Oct. 31, 2015 retirement of **Charlie Horne**, who served as county manager for nearly 20 years, the Board of Commissioners promoted **Renee Paschal to county manager**. Paschal had been assistant county manager since 1996 and has 27 years of experience in local government.

When **Richard Webster** retired as sheriff in May 2016, the Board of Commissioners appointed **Mike Roberson** to serve as Sheriff. Roberson is a Chatham County native and previously worked as a paramedic and firefighter before transitioning to law enforcement. Roberson has over 24 years in law enforcement, including 14 years with the Sheriff's Office.



HEALTH DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The NC Association of Local Health Directors honored **Health Director Layton Long** (left) as the 2016 Health Director of the Year at its annual awards event on Jan. 20, 2016. Layton, who joined the county in 2013, has spent 27+ years working to improve public health across the state. In Chatham, he has been instrumental in several key initiatives, including tobacco use reduction, an updated animal services ordinance, and the formation of the Chatham Health Alliance.



FOCUS ON FOSTER FAMILIES

The Department of Social Services launched the **Resource Parenting Curriculum**, a pilot program aimed at helping Chatham's foster families deal with the trauma and violence that many foster children have faced. It is one of several programs focused on mental health needs of foster children. See class photo at left.

Social Services also collaborated with Community Care of NC and the NC Pediatric Society to implement the **Fostering Health Initiative** to give high-risk foster children access to comprehensive health care.

AGRICULTURE & CONFERENCE CENTER

Construction of the new **Agriculture & Conference Center** continued as staff began preparations for opening the new facility in the fall of 2016. The center will fill a major void in the county by providing 10,000 square feet of flexible space suitable for a wide range of events. An event coordinator has been hired and booking policies are in place.

The facility also will contain offices for Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation and other agricultural agencies.

For booking details, call 919-545-8393.



**11,500
HOURS**

**Time that volunteers
gave the Chatham
County Council on
Aging in FY 2016**

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **New High School:** Plans are underway for a high school in the northeast that will hold 1,000 students initially and can be expanded to 1,200 students. The school board is currently looking for land. It is expected to open in 2020-21.
- **New Elementary School:** A new elementary school, also in northeast Chatham, is expected to be ready in FY 2019-20.
- **Health Sciences Education:** A 46,000-square-foot health science education facility for Central Carolina Community College will offer studies to help meet the local demand for medical professionals. Slated to open in FY 2018-19.
- **Joint Bus-County Garage:** This new facility, opened in FY 2015-16, serves as the main garage for both the school system and county vehicles. The school system operates the garage with financial support from the county.

**87,773
CALLS**

**County 911 calls
dispatched to
responders, up 26%
since FY 2011**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: The Next 25 Years

In July 2015, the Board of Commissioners approved the development of a countywide **Comprehensive Plan**, a 25-year vision document for the county. The board appointed a Steering Committee comprised of representation from the towns and other county boards and committees to guide the plan's development. A consultant is leading the process, including ways to best engage the public in shaping the plan. The plan should be completed in the spring of 2017. Visit www.chathamnc.org/comprehensiveplan.

COUNTYWIDE ZONING

On Nov. 16, 2015, the Board of Commissioners asked staff to present plans for extending residential zoning to previously unzoned areas outside the towns. Last month, the commissioners approved applying R1 and R-5 residential zoning to these areas.

FASTEST GROWING COUNTY IN NC

Population Growth 2000-2025

