

**MINUTES
BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

The Burke County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at the Burke County Services Building, 110 N. Green Street, Entrance E, in Morganton, N.C. The agenda, in its entirety, was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, several days prior to the meeting as usual. Both Burke County and the state of North Carolina had previously declared a state of emergency which was ongoing as of this date due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Those present were:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Scott Mulwee, Chairman
Johnnie W. Carswell, Vice Chairman
Wayne F. Abele, Sr.
Jeffrey C. Brittain
Maynard M. Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Steen, County Manager
Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director
J.R. Simpson, II, County Attorney
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, Clerk to the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mulwee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Jeff Lovitt, Morganton Church of Christ, delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Attorney, J.R. Simpson, II, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Mulwee called for a moment of silence for John Stroup a retired Burke County EMS employee and a volunteer with Salem Fire and Rescue who recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NONE.

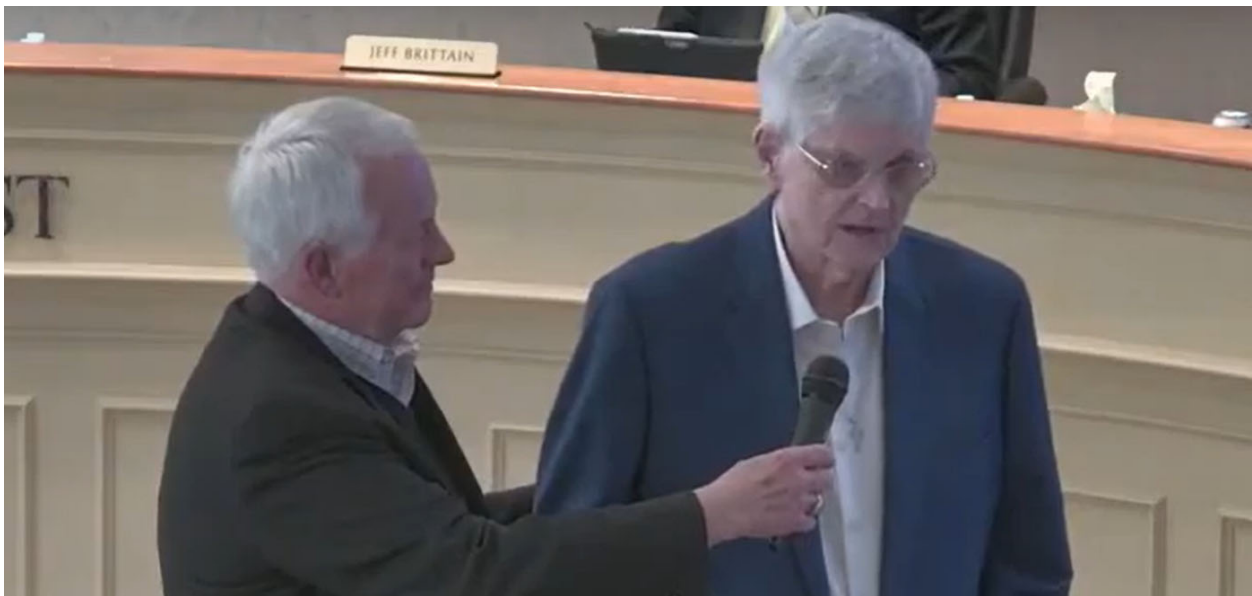
PRESENTATIONS

NCGS - PRESENTATION OF THE ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE AWARD TO BILL ALLMAN

Information from the agenda packet:

William "Bill" Allman was nominated and received the prestigious "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award from the Governor's office. N.C. Representative Hugh Blackwell will officially present the award to Mr. Allman at the regular meeting. Mr. Allman, in addition to his military service in the U.S. Army and champion of local youth sports, he served as Chairman of the Burke County Board of Health for almost two decades and as a trustee of the Western Piedmont Community College for twelve years.

NC Representative Hugh Blackwell reviewed highlights of Mr. Allman's accomplishments and charitable endeavors mentioned in the nomination letters submitted by Chairman Mulwee, Morganton Mayor Ronnie Thompson, David Rust, and Rich DeAugustinis. He then invited the nominators to the podium for comments. After they praised Mr. Allman for his community service and congratulated him on receiving the award, Representative Blackwell officially presented Mr. Allman with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award on behalf of the Governor and the State of North Carolina. Mr. Allman expressed his gratitude to everyone who was present to witness him receiving the award and thanked them for being his friends.



Left to right: NC Representative Hugh Blackwell and Mr. Bill Allman.

Note: Mr. Allman passed away on May 8, 2022.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

ASD - PET OF THE MONTH

Kaitlin Settlemire, Animal Services Director, presented Logan, a dog, and Cassie, a cat, who are in need of their "forever" homes. Ms. Settlemire highlighted the Dog's Day Out program and their National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day event.

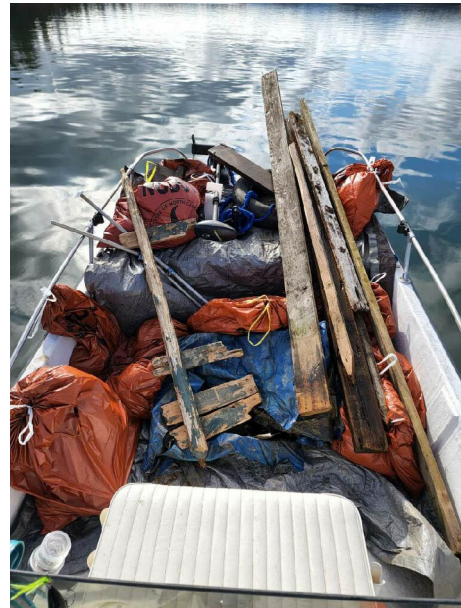
Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked how many dogs and cats are at the Animal Services Center. Ms. Settlemyre said there are approximately 25-30 dogs and 15 cats. Chairman Mulwee encouraged everyone to consider adopting / fostering a pet and to please spay / neuter their pets.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

LJAWNS - LAKE JAMES LITTER CLEAN-UP REPORT

Mr. Howard Morgan with the Lake James Area Wildlife and Nature Society presented a report on the Lake James clean-up effort held on March 19, 2022, and the Society's other activities / initiatives.

Photos from this year's clean up.
Three and a half tons collected.
153 volunteers.
50 students from surrounding counties



Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Vice Chairman Carswell spoke of his longtime love of Lake James, and he commended Mr. Morgan for his

efforts to keep Lake James clean and said everyone should strive to keep the lake clean and pure. Chairman Mulwee presented Mr. Morgan and members of the Lake James Area Wildlife and Nature Society in attendance with a commemorative Fonta Flora State Trail walking stick in recognition of their efforts to keep Lake James clean. They also took a commemorative photo with the Board.



Left to right: Comm. Taylor, Comm. Abele, Howard Morgan, Chairman Mulwee, Bob Hinceman, Cliff Bectel, Rich DeAugustinis, Comm. Brittain and Vice Chair Carswell.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2022-02 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M.

Alan Glines, Deputy County Manager/Planning Director, presented information regarding ZMA 2022-02 as follows:

REQUEST

Burke County has received a rezoning application from Brian Arrowood and Scott Blake of Breckenridge Homes, Inc. to rezone two parcels of land totaling 12.11-acres. The request is to rezone the two properties from its current zoning of Rural Mixed-Use (R-MU) to the Residential Two (R-2) zoning district.

BACKGROUND AND SITE ANALYSIS

The applicant is requesting the rezoning in order to develop a residential subdivision. The parcel is described as follows:

- The parcels are further identified in county records as Parcel 1 (REID# 59896 and Parcel 2 REID# 54460).
- The parcels are vacant; except for an old barn type structure on Parcel 2. That parcel has an address of 4962 Dentons Chapel Road, Morganton, NC.
- The parcels are located within the Silver Creek Township and the Brendletown Fire District of Burke County. The parcels are not located within a WS-IV PA Water Supply Watershed. Records indicate that the properties can be served by public water and private onsite septic.

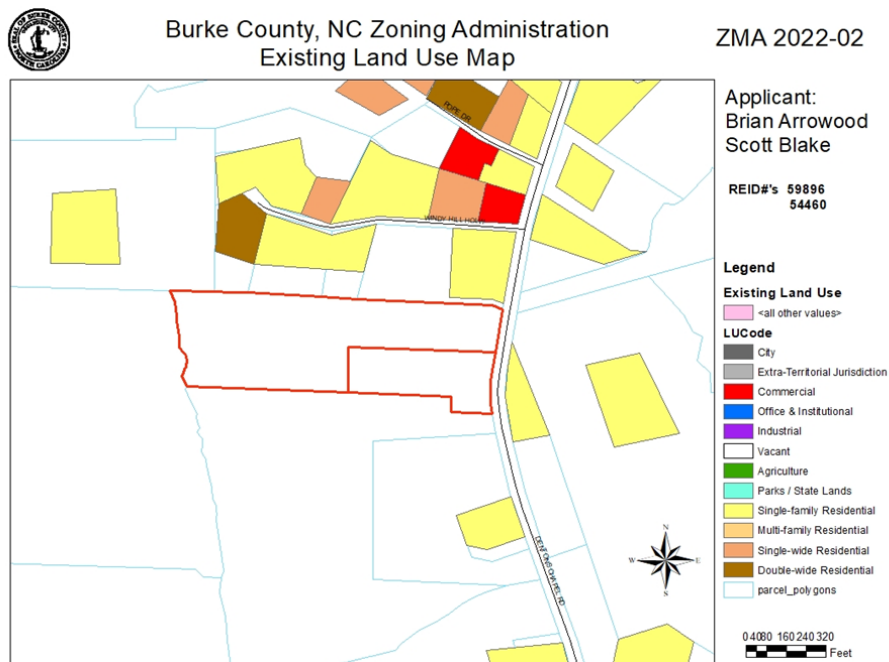
- Both parcels have frontage on Dentons Chapel Rd. (SR# 1115). The rear property lines of Parcel 1 run along Clear Creek. The rear portion of Parcel 1 is also within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on (*see Flood Map*). The parcels are not located within any Overlay District.

SURROUNDING AREA

The subject parcels are located approximately four (4) miles from the Morganton jurisdictional limits. This area transitions from Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3) zoning to the Rural Mixed-Use zoning. Much of the land in the area are large vacant tracts. There are a number of major subdivisions in both the Residential and Rural Mixed-Use districts. The majority of these subdivisions and businesses are located along US 64. Scattered throughout the area as well, are several properties zoned General Business (G-B).

Existing Zoning and Land Uses within the Surrounding Area		
	Current Zoning	Existing Land Uses
North	Rural Mixed-Use	Scattered Residences / Residential Subdivision
South	Rural Mixed-Use	Vacant Land / Scattered Residences
East	R-MU, R-3, R-2	Vacant Land / Scattered Residences / Subdivision
West	Rural Mixed-Use	Vacant Land / Scattered Residences / Subdivision

The Existing Land Use Table (above) and the Existing Land Use Map (Below) provide information concerning the existing land uses within the surrounding area.



The Aerial Land Use Map (below) shows the amount of vacant land in the area, including the subject parcels. Directly to the north is the Hickory-Hill Subdivision. Further to the north is the Pine Ridge Subdivision. Both of these subdivisions are zoned R-MU. To the east is the South Mt. Estates Subdivision within R-3 zoning.

Further to the east is the Crystal Creek Estates subdivision which is zoned R-2. This is the closest R-2 zoning to the subject parcels.



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration
Aerial Land Use Map

ZMA 2022-02

Applicants:
Brian Arrowood
Scott Blake

REID#s 59896
54460



CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

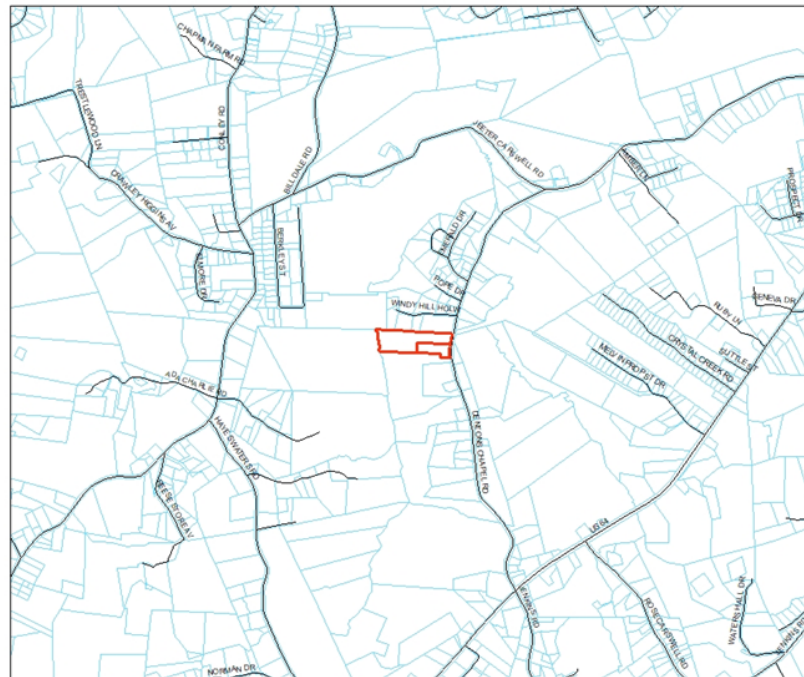
The current land use plan for Burke County is the 2016-2030 Blueprint Burke Strategic Land Use Plan. The subject parcel is located in the Rural/Agricultural Area (see map below). This designation is given to all areas of the county which are not designated as Primary Growth or Secondary Growth Areas. These areas are typically considered rural in nature and may allow a variety of land uses. The focus of this designation is the development of additional needed housing. As mentioned earlier, public water is available to this area. For certain types of development, the land use ordinances require the owner/developer to extend public water to the property. There is no public sewer in this area, therefore many non-residential and multi-family developments would not be feasible. Residential development is one of the more feasible uses for this land.

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Burke County, NC Zoning Administration Future Land Use Map

ZMA 2022-02



Applicants:
Brian Arrowood
Scott Blake

REID#s 59896
54460

Legend

- Streets
- parcel_polygons
- Industrial Focus Areas
- ED Focus Areas
- Lake James Special Planning Area
- South Mountain Special Planning Area
- Plagah Special Planning Area
- Rural/Agricultural/Home Business Area
- Primary Growth Area
- Secondary Growth Area



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Feet

CONFORMITY WITH THE BURKE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

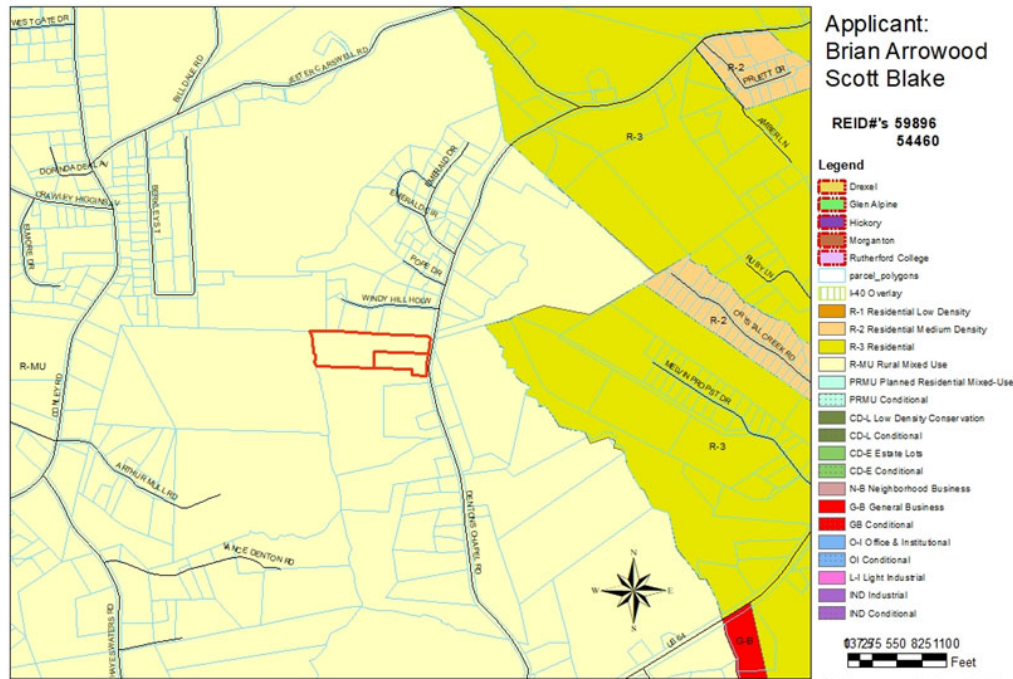
The current Zoning Map (below) shows the current zoning for the subject parcel and surrounding area. As stated earlier, the "current" zoning district for this parcel is Rural Mixed-Use (R-MU) which allows for a wide range of residential and commercial activities. If the parcel was rezoned to the Residential Two (R-2) district, the allowed uses would primarily be single-family detached, modular homes, and Class A manufactured homes. A Class A manufactured home is a multi-section home on a masonry foundation with vinyl siding and a pitched roof with shingles. Multi-family development would be allowed as a Special Use if approved by the Burke County Board of Adjustment, but as mentioned earlier, would require access to public sewer, which is not available in this area.

As mentioned earlier, the subject parcels front on Dentons Chapel Rd. (SR# 1115). Dentons Chapel Road is a two-lane secondary road and has a posted speed limit of 45 MPH. Secondary roads are roads maintained by the Department of Transportation that do not carry 'NC' or 'US' numbers and are outside the boundary of any incorporated municipality. Any proposed development other than one-family or two-family dwelling units would require an NCDOT Driveway Permit.



Burke County, NC Zoning Administration
Current Zoning Map

ZMA 2022-02



STAFF COMMENTS

In staff's opinion, rezoning the two parcels to the Residential-Two zoning district would be zoning to a much more restrictive district. The R-2 district would mainly allow certain types of residential development, whereas the current Rural Mixed-Use district allows all forms of residential uses and many forms of non-residential/ commercial uses as well. Burke County has an urgent need for housing. The R-2 district could enhance the overall character of the area, especially if a new single-family home subdivision were to be developed as the applicant intends. The main benefit to the change to R-2 is the reduced lot size requirement. All development regulations would still apply, including approved septic system requirements.

Currently, the land is undeveloped. The single-family home development would add to the needed housing stock within Burke County and increase the county's tax base. Alternatively, if/when the property is ever developed as a commercial use, it potentially could have a negative impact on the surrounding residential development. The R-MU district allows everything from manufacturing and processing facilities to junk yards and landfills. A list of allowed uses for both districts is provided in the packet.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Board met on February 24, 2022, to hear this request. Staff presented their report and then the applicant gave their presentation. Mr. Blake explained that he is a builder/developer seeking to rezone the property for cost effectiveness. His intention is to build affordable homes starting in the \$300,000.

Mr. Blake intends to use the flood prone area for common open space, walking trails, soccer fields etc.

The Board then opened the floor to public comment. There were eight (8) people who spoke. Each of the speakers were opposed to the rezoning because of the proposed subdivision that was planned. The main concerns expressed were increased traffic on the two-lane road, possible septic contamination of existing wells, and potential water runoff from the development. One person was concerned with crime with more people in the area.

The Chairperson thanked them for their comments and participation and then the Board members asked the applicant and staff several questions. Once the questions were answered, the Chairperson asked for a motion on the rezoning request. A motion to "deny" the rezoning application was made. That motion was seconded. The motion was put to the full board and the motion carried by a vote of 4/2. The Planning Board recommended denial of rezoning request 2022-02.

To assist the Board in their decision, staff has provided the following considerations:

- Is there a public need for additional land to be zoned to the requested classification?
- What is the impact on public services, facilities, infrastructure, fire and safety, and topography?
- What are the nearby development/zoning patterns?
- Consider the full range of uses allowed by the proposed district versus the uses allowed within the current zoning district.
- Is the rezoning request compatible with the character of the surrounding area and suitable with the property for certain use?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please refer to the application, driving directions, photos, and map(s) for more information.

Case photos are on the next page:



Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Glines responded to several questions / comments from Commissioner Taylor before the audio system began to fail. After adjustments were made to the audio system, Mr. Glines commented on the restrictive nature of the R-2 zoning district in comparison to the unrestrictive nature of the R-MU zoning district in response to additional comments / questions from Commissioner Taylor. Chairman Mulwee announced that a 5-minute recess was needed to reset the audio equipment.

RECESS OF MEETING

The Board took a five (5) minute recess at 7:01 p.m. to reset the audio equipment in the Board Room. The meeting resumed at 7:06 p.m.

COMM. DEV. - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT ZMA 2022-02 & PUBLIC HEARING - 6:00 P.M. - CONTINUED

At 7:07 p.m., Chairman Mulwee opened the public hearing. The public hearing notice was published in the NEWS HERALD on April 7, 2022 and April 14, 2022. Further, the notice was posted to the County's website, www.burkenc.org, on April 7, 2022. There were several citizens who signed up to address the Board.

Shelby Kennerly, 2929 Windy Hill Hollow, expressed her concern with the level one (1) floodplain on the property in question and that septic will be an issue because her garden and well are in close proximity to the line. She said the property owner wants to put 15 homes on the property and if there is a problem with the septic, it will run onto her land. Ms. Kennerly stated her concern with the potential number of houses that could be placed on the property if it is rezoned to R-2 and requested the Board to consider denying the request.

Barbara Bumgarner echoed Ms. Kennerly's comments and stated that she does not believe the property can support 15 houses and stated her concern with the septic system, floodplain, natural spring and potential increase in traffic. She said the property owner should be able to sell his land, but they need to take care of what they have at the same time with respect for everyone involved. Ms. Bumgarner expressed her concern with potential future uses / development of the property.

Steve Ledford, 5040 Dentons Chapel Road, expressed his concern with the proposed gravel road, the proposed number of houses, floodplain, and stated the importance of clean water. He was in favor of keeping the area "country".

Ricky Ledford, 4891 Dentons Chapel Road, said he has lived in the area for almost 50 years and gave a brief history of the property in question. Mr. Ledford highlighted points of interest that were shown on the map(s) to the Board and made comments regarding the proposed road, septic tanks, floodplain, topography issues, well water, creeks, and sewer pipes. Mr. Ledford said they have not seen any surveys or drawings that show putting the houses on this property is even possible.

Greg Harper, 5062 Dentons Chapel Road, spoke of the rural nature of the neighborhood and the lack of noise. He expressed his concern with the potential increase in traffic if the rezoning request is approved. Mr. Harper said he enjoys the neighborhood because it is quiet, he wants it to stay that way and there is no reason to change it.

Katie Sigmond, 2905 Windy Hill Hollow, said she moved to the area to be closer to her mother and to raise her child in a rural area. She said building the homes behind her house will not allow her to rest because she will worry about her young daughter due to the potential increase in crime and traffic.

William Kenner, 2929 Windy Hill Hollow, said the property owner originally purchased the land for the same reason everyone else did, because it is a rural area, and now he is willing to do anything he can to sell the property. He asked the Board to let their conscience be their guide and asked them if they were in their position, what would they want.

With there being no others, Chairman Mulwee closed the public hearing and called for a motion. Commissioner Brittain said after hearing the speakers tonight and after a phone call he received earlier, he believes that the density and the number of houses is the problem. He suggested and made the motion to send the item back to the Planning Board for consideration of the R-3 zoning designation which would reduce the density.

Motion: To refer ZMA 2022-02 back to the Planning Board for consideration of the R-3 zoning designation.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Note: Later, the applicant withdrew the rezoning application.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for informal public comments and asked the speakers to keep their comments to three (3) minutes. There were several citizens who signed up to address the Board.

Dena Hunt, 1309 Jamestown Road, presented the following statement:

My name is Dena Hunt and I reside at 1309 Jamestown Road. I stand before you this evening because I am in favor of removing the confederate monument located on the historic Burke County courthouse lawn. Contrary to the story that has been told repeatedly that monument represents an ugly history that cannot be changed no matter how one presents it. It honors the fight that was fought for the continuation of slavery. It honors the oppression of Black people, and it honors white supremacy. As a citizen of Morganton, I see it as a symbol of division and defiance. In 2015, shortly after the Charleston church massacre, North Carolina leaders passed a law prohibiting the removal of public confederate monuments. It is based upon this law that, you, our leaders, proclaim that the monument, downtown, cannot be removed. Yet in 2020 alone, five years after the passing of that law, at least 22 confederate monuments, in North Carolina, were successfully removed, including three in our state's capital. Given this information, I believe the matter at hand is one of "will not" rather than "cannot." You see, I cannot change the color of my skin, neither can any of you...nor can I change the identity of my birth parents. I began this evening by stating my place of residence. Even though, I can relocate to another location, I "will not" because I choose to not do so. Board of Commissioners, if other cities in North Carolina can successfully remove confederate monuments despite the law, I believe we can too, if you change your position of "will not" to a position of "will." In closing, I thank you for your time, consideration and service.

Reverend Dr. Kevin Frederick presented the following statement:

Good evening commissioners, I appreciate the privilege to speak with you all tonight. First let me say that I commend you as Commissioners for working with our regional and state politicians to successfully bring the School of Math and

Sciences to Morganton and for promoting Burke County to interested businesses and industries seeking to establish operations here. I have actively served on the Valdese Economic Development Investment Corporation for 9 years with some of you. I believe in, and promote, the economic wellbeing of our community and all our citizens. Several weeks ago, in the News Herald there was a photo of the incoming students of the School of Math and Science who will be on campus this fall. The photo reflected a broad range of White, African American, Latino, and Asian American students from across our great state. That photo served as a visual image of the kind of diversity and talent that is possible and that would greatly enhance our community with the best and brightest of future North Carolina leaders. It is also a vision of a highly skilled workforce that we would want to attract and retain in our own community. On the front end of this great change to our county, I encourage you to have some private conversations with a variety of administrators, and when they arrive, with students and their parents from the NC School of Math and Science, (NCSMS.) I encourage you to ask to identify the individuals who have raised concerns about what the monuments convey to them about Burke County. Whereas publicly made comments by educational leaders might not reveal any concerns, private, off-the-record comments, can reflect the truer reactions to it and the concerns many feel about our county welcoming all as equals. I know from my own inquiries that those concerns have been shared by new staff of the NCSMS, by many of our citizens and by some parents of non-white students. The monument's presence has been perceived by many as a regressive symbol which conveys a distorted perception of the values of our county and its diverse citizenry. The NC School of Math and Sciences presents the dawning of a new day in Burke County. I firmly believe that it will open new possibilities for corporate and industrial growth for decades to come. Within the past decade virtually all medium size and larger corporations have very well-defined Diversity Equity and Inclusion Statements, which serve as a guide in both operations and in helping corporations and industry decide where they will locate their operations of expansion. I encourage you to ask of yourselves and our community if a symbol at the heart of our community that is divisive is a key reflection on how we want to promote our community to the current and future citizens and businesses of Burke County? I encourage you to promote a vision for our growing community that is inclusive for all. Start by doing the hard work of asking these and other questions of all groups in our county as we construct our future?

Caroline Avery, 115 Riverside Court, presented the following statement:

Recently, I ran into four people who were on the courthouse square looking at the Confederate monument. One couple was from Lithuania. They were visiting friends who live at Lake James. They asked me a few questions. Among them - Why was this monument built 50 years after the end of the Civil War? Why have you waited so long to ask for it to be moved to a more appropriate location? Good questions. This monument was part of a movement which became known as the Cult of the Lost Cause. This 'cult' had one goal — through monuments and through other means — to rewrite history to hide the truth, which is that the Confederacy was on the wrong side of humanity. The Confederate soldiers did not fight for the United States of America. They fought against it. These

monuments purposefully celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement, and the terror that it actually stood for. After the Civil War, these statues were a part of that terrorism as much as a burning cross on someone's lawn. Vice President of the Confederacy Alexander Stephens made it clear that the Confederate cause was about maintaining slavery and white supremacy. He said in his now famous 'cornerstone speech' that the Confederacy's "cornerstone rests upon the great truth, that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery — subordination to the superior race — is his natural and normal condition." His words — not mine. That answers their first question, but the 2nd question ...Why ask for this monument to be moved now? We see moving this monument as a 1st step. We — as a county — choose a better future for ourselves making straight what has been crooked and making right what was wrong. Otherwise, we will continue to pay a price with discord, division and yes violence. We saw that violence in June of 2020 ... and we will see it again if we do not take steps to unify this community. To literally put the Confederacy on a pedestal in our most prominent place of honor is an inaccurate recitation of our full past. It is an affront to our present, and it is a bad prescription for our future. We can't wait any longer. We need to change. And we need to change now. This is not just about a monument. This is about our attitudes and behavior. If we move this monument to a more appropriate location and don't change to become a more open and inviting community, this will be in vain. While some drive by this monument every day and either revere its beauty or fail to see it at all, many of our neighbors and visitors — like the ones I saw recently — see it very clearly. Many are painfully aware of the long shadows this monument casts. And they clearly receive the message that the Confederacy and the Cult of the Lost Cause intended to deliver. The Confederacy was on the wrong side of history and humanity. It sought to tear apart our nation and subjugate our fellow Americans to slavery. This is the history we should never forget and one that we should never again put on a pedestal to be revered.

Wanda Burns, 4383 Homer Burns Avenue, said she is here tonight to speak for Melissa Cornett and others on Homer Burns Avenue. Ms. Burns said they have no access to public water; everyone is on wells which all contain iron. She requested the County provide water on Homer Burns Avenue where she has a poultry farm and noted she has had to dig three (3) wells and the third is going bad. She noted she has a petition from the residents of Homer Burns Avenue requesting public water. Ms. Burns made additional comments requesting the County to provide their neighborhood with public water.

Carla Kincaid, 1276 NC Highway 126, said she is proud to have the ability to stand up and speak out. She said during slavery, she is sure that not everyone agreed that others should speak up against slavery or try to escape, many lives were being lost. She continued; families were broken up and, in some cases, men were killed in front of their children. Not everyone agreed with going against the slavery system on plantations. Ms. Kincaid said during the era of Jim Crow Laws, not everyone agreed that those involved should speak up against segregation or for integration. She said it was during this time that some African Americans thought some had lost integrity, dignity, their community, businesses, and family morals and values which their ancestors held on to. She continued, during the civil rights movement and today's poor people's campaign, not everyone agrees with the events. Ms. Kincaid then gave local examples

of integration movements. She said not everyone agreed or participated in the George Floyd / Black Lives Matter events and not all will agree that the confederate statue needs to be relocated or removed, as well as other events / holidays. She said if you do not know your history, sometimes it repeats itself. Ms. Kincaid said as a lifelong citizen and taxpayer, she continues her stance for relocation or removal of the confederate soldier at the Historic Courthouse Square.

With there being no others, Chairman Mulwee closed this portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

At the Chairman's request, County Manager Steen reviewed the items on the consent agenda.

BOC - PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 16-30, 2022, AS SPRING LITTER SWEEP

The following proclamation declares April 16 - April 30, 2022, as "Spring Litter Sweep" in Burke County.

Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2022-03.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Proclamation No. 2022-03 reads as follows:

A Proclamation Declaring April 16-30, 2022 as North Carolina Spring Litter Sweep

Whereas, Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed April 16 – April 30, 2022, as "SPRING LITTER SWEEP" in North Carolina; and he encourages citizens in all 100 counties to take an active role in making their communities cleaner; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Department of Transportation organizes an annual spring statewide roadside clean up to ensure clean and beautiful roads in North Carolina; and

Whereas, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Department of Transportation employees, Department of Correction community service workers, local government agencies, community leaders, civic and community organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and environmental concerned citizens conduct annual local cleanups during "LITTER SWEEP"; and

Whereas, the 2022 Spring cleanup will celebrate the 34th Anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway Program and its 5,000 volunteer groups that donate their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean; and

Whereas, the "LITTER SWEEP" cleanup will be a part of educating the children of this great state regarding the importance of a clean environment to the quality of life in North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Commissioners for Burke County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 16-30, 2022, as "SPRING LITTER SWEEP." We urge all our citizens to participate in this event to maintain the great beauty of our state. The cleanup will increase awareness of

the need for cleaner roadsides, emphasize the importance of not littering, and encourage recycling of solid wastes.

Approved this 19th day of April 2022.

/s/: Scott Mulwee

Scott Mulwee, Chairman

Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The appointment of Jonathan Carter to Seat No. 4 (Valdese/Rutherford College) on the Parks & Recreation Commission is requested to replace Doug Knight who retired from the Valdese Recreation Department to complete an unexpired term ending March 31, 2023. The appointment of Tabbatha Hoilman to Seat No. 5 (George Hildebrand) is requested to fill a vacancy with a term ending March 31, 2024. The appointment of Ricky Barnes to Seat No. 6 (Hildebran /Icard) is requested to fill a vacancy with a term ending March 31, 2023.

Motion: To appoint Jonathan Carter (Seat 4) and Ricky Barnes (Seat 6) to the Parks & Recreation Commission to complete the remainder of terms ending March 31, 2023. To appoint Tabbatha Hoilman (Seat 5) to the Parks & Recreation Commission to complete the remainder of a term ending March 31, 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

CLERK - REMOVAL FROM NURSING HOME / ADULT CARE CAC

Due to a resignation, the Regional Ombudsman, Christina Franklin, requests the removal of Deborah Cooper from Adult Care / Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, Seat No. 1.

Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee				
13-Members				
1-Year & 3-Year Terms				
General Statute: GS 131 D				
Seat No.	Position	Name-Address		Term
1	At-Large	Deborah Cooper	A	5/29/2018
		P.O. Box 385	R	11/19/2019
		Morganton NC 28655	TE	5/31/2022

Motion: To remove Deborah Cooper's name from the official roster for the Adult Care / Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee and thank her for her service to the community.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

COUNTY MANAGER - PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 5, 2022, AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidence by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May. Though the National Day of Prayer focuses most of its efforts promoting the annual day of prayer, we realize that true life-altering, world-changing prayer cannot happen in a single day. It must become a discipline. The theme for the 2022 National Day of Prayer is "Exalt the Lord who has Established Us". The Board is requested to adopt a proclamation.

Motion: To adopt Proclamation No. 2022-01.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Proc. No. 2022-01 reads as follows:

PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

WHEREAS, civic prayers and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the Laws of Nature and Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer, and,

WHEREAS, in 1988 legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in Burke County when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the needs for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and,

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Exalt the Lord who has Established Us".

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Commissioners for Burke County, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 5, 2022, to be designated as "A Day of Prayer in Burke County" and

encourage the citizens of Burke County to observe the day in ways appropriate to its importance and significance.

Adopted this 19th day of April 2022.

/s/: Scott Mulwee
 Scott Mulwee, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

CM - TERMINATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH GLAMPING LAKE JAMES, LLC

The Board approved a development and lease agreement with Isaac Hoff of Glamping Lake James, LLC, in May of 2021 to develop "glamping structures" in a portion of the Fonta Flora County Park at Lake James. The project has not proceeded as originally contemplated. Staff believes it is in the County's best interest to terminate the development agreement and Mr. Hoff agrees. He has requested that the County refund his lease payments to date totaling \$3,753 and reimburse him the sum of \$6,545 for the cost of his site plan. Staff is willing to reimburse lease payments to date, but not reimburse any amounts expended in preparation of a site plan. A termination agreement to be signed by both parties will be necessary to protect both parties from future liability. The budgetary effect is a reduction of rental income anticipated under the agreement in the amount of \$5,000 for FY 21-22.

Motion: To terminate the Development Agreement between Burke County and Glamping Lake James, LLC and issue a refund in the amount of \$3,753 for rental fees upon the execution of a termination agreement to be prepared by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

COMM. DEV. - ACCEPT THE JUMPING RUN TRAIL EASEMENT

The Community Development Department has been working with the developers of the Jumping Run subdivision in eastern Burke County on a trail easement for the Burke River Trail. The Burke River Trail is a proposed trail to connect the communities in eastern Burke from Morganton to the Hickory Airport and beyond. This project is in the early planning stages with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments as the point agency for the project. While construction is likely to occur later, there is an opportunity to secure a much-needed trail easement to construct the trail in the future and the County would have the option to transfer the trail easement to another entity to construct/operate the trail in the future.

Motion: To accept the trail easement from Jumping Run, LLC. Further, authorize the County Manager to execute the easements on behalf of the Board, subject to review and/or revision by the County Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

GS - ACCEPTANCE OF RECYCLING GRANT TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY - EAST BURKE CONVENIENCE SITE

General Services was awarded a CWRAR (Community Waste Reduction and Recycling) \$30,000 grant from the NC Department of Environmental Quality for the new East Burke Convenience Site on March 30, 2022. The local match is \$14,230. The grant must be accepted by April 15th. To comply with the grant requirements, the County Manager will officially accept the funding and the Board is asked to ratify the acceptance.

ITEM	State Grant Award	Applicant Cash Match	Project Total
4 Cubic Yard Stationary Compactor			\$22,354
One [1] Forty [40] cubic yard Standard Octagon Receiver Container			\$9,876
Disconnect Boxes for Connection / 3-Phase Electrical hook-up			\$5,000
12' x 50' Concrete Pad Installation			\$4,000
Educational materials such as signs, brochures, and web site data.			\$2,000.00
Total Amount	\$30,000	\$14,230	\$44,230

Budgetary Effect: \$30,000 in new monies. Funding is not included in the FY21-22 budget for required match; therefore, an appropriation of \$14,230 is necessary for this grant to move forward.

Motion: To ratify the acceptance of the 2022 CWRAR grant in the amount of \$30,000. Furthermore, to transfer \$14,230 of General Fund, Fund Balance to the Solid Waste Fund for the local required match for this grant.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

HEALTH - 2021 STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT

The Health Department is required to present to stakeholders the progress on the Community Health Needs Assessment and this is noted in the 2021 State of the County Health Report. This report was presented by Chae Moore, Health Education Supervisor at the Board's pre-agenda meeting.

2021 BURKE COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT

The 2021 State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report is a summary of the current health status of Burke County. This report is given in the years between Community Health Assessments (CHA). The Community Health Assessment gives a more in depth analysis of the county's health. The most recent Burke County CHA, identified substance use disorder, heart disease and stroke and COPD as the focal health priorities. This report gives a snapshot of the comprehensive overview on changes in trends related to these health priorities, updates on community initiatives, and any new emerging trends occurring in Burke County.

Demographic Snapshot

**Estimated Total Number Living in
Burke County**

90,485

(County Health Rankings 2019)



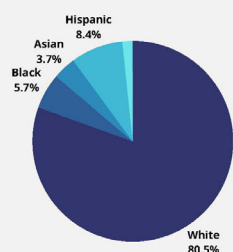
Life Expectancy
76.7 years

Gender Distribution

Men: 50.0% Women: 49.9%



Race/Ethnicity



Population by Age

Under 5 years: **4.7%**
Under 18 years: **18.9%**
18 years and older: **81.1%**
65 years and over: **19.7%**

Households with Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits in the past 12 months

In 2021, there were **14,146** individual recipients receiving Food Stamp/SNAP benefits.



Burke County Median Household Income has increased by \$6,507 since 2017.

\$47,361

NORTH CAROLINA: \$57,341

Poverty in Burke County



- In 2019, an estimated **21%** of people in Burke live in poverty.
- 26.7% are under the age of 18
- 18.3% are 18-64
- 9.2% are 65 years and older

Education Attainment in Burke County



- High School or equivalent : 31.4 %
- Some college, no degree: 22.0%
- Associate's degree: 11.8%
- Bachelor's degree: 10.6%
- Graduate/professional degree: 5.8%

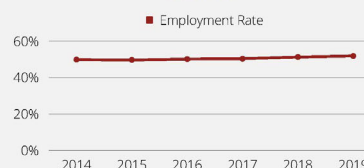
Reference: United States Census Bureau - <https://data.census.gov/>

Population without health insurance



14% under the age 65 are without health insurance. (2019)

Employment Rate in Burke is **53.2%**



Mortality and morbidity in Burke County has not changed much over the years. However, cancer as cause of death has moved into the top leading cause over diseases of heart.

2019 Leading Causes of Death in Burke County

Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Cancer	238	22.2
2	Disease of heart	217	20.3
3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	89	8.3
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	62	5.8
5	All other unintentional injuries	47	4.4
6	Diabetes mellitus	30	2.8
7	Alzheimer's disease	27	2.5
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	21	2.0
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	18	1.7
	Influenza and pneumonia	18	1.7
	Septicemia	18	1.7
	All other causes (residual)	285	26.6
	Total Deaths--All Causes	1070	100.0

Reference: State Center for Health Statistics, NC

Burke County's Fight Against Hepatitis A



From April 2018 to May 2021, 982 hepatitis A cases were confirmed in NC with 72 total cases reported in Burke County. Burke County had the highest rate of person to person transmission in the entire state. Burke County Health Department and Morganton Department of Public Safety developed a partnership to engage the community as a team to prevent further transmission of hep A via person to person. Morganton Department of Public Safety helped assemble hygiene bags in an effort to help tackle the Hepatitis A outbreak in Burke. With help from other local partners such as, Burke County United Way and the Community Foundation of Burke County; hygiene bags and monetary donations were given to aid in this work. The hepatitis A prevention hygiene kits, vaccinations, and education for persons at greatest risk for hepatitis A infection, were the main resources used to help prioritize this outbreak. After community outreach interventions and education, Burke County almost simultaneously began to see a drop in the amount of hepatitis A transmission rates. In September 2021, Burke dropped to a rate 29.7 cases per 100,000 (placing us 6th in the state) and then in January 2022, Burke dropped even further to 2.3 cases per 100,000 (placing us 18th in the state).



Pictured: Staff from United Way, Burke County Health Department, and Morganton Department of Public Safety helped assemble hygiene bags in an effort to help tackle the Hepatitis A outbreak in Burke.

Reference: https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/diseases/hep_a.html

COVID-19 update

Burke County continues the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The county's first noted case occurred on March 22, 2020 and almost two years later the county has seen a cumulative case count of 24,688. As we move forward, this cumulative count will continue to change. As of 2/15/2022, Burke County has conducted 179,745 tests in which 14% have come back positive. This percentage would have been higher had it not been for the release of the COVID-19 vaccine. In Burke, the percent fully vaccinated (5 years and older) stands at 48%. While this percentage is lower than some surrounding counties, our message still stands: vaccinations save lives. Between vaccination clinics being held at the health department and throughout the county, as well as going to the residences of homebound individuals, we have made receiving a COVID vaccine as accessible as possible to the residents of Burke.

Deaths by Gender

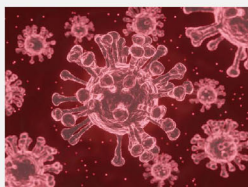
Male 54.2%
Female 45.8%

Hospitalizations by Gender

Male 47.6%
Female 51.9%

Cases by Gender

Male 46.9%
Female 53.1%



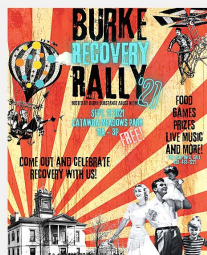
People vaccinated with at Least One Booster/Additional Dose
19,084

Percent of population vaccinated with Two Doses or One Dose J&J
48%

Resource: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations>

Progress Since the 2019 CHA

Substance Use Disorder



Since the 2020 SOTCH, Burke County has continued to see a large increase in the number of overdoses and overdose deaths. In 2021, overdoses (fatal and non-fatal) were 18% higher than in 2020. Fentanyl overdoses increased by 313% and heroin overdoses increased by 23% in 2021. Onsite use of Narcan increased by 84% and calls made to 911 for an overdose increased by 34.5% in 2021.

While these numbers are staggering, Burke County continues to stay in the fight. Even with a few setbacks due to COVID, our Adult Drug Court program was able to graduate 6 individuals in 2021 and sign on 21 new individuals to be a part of the program.

In September 2021, in honor of National Recovery month, our drug-free coalition, Burke Substance Abuse Network (BSAN), partnered with 32 local agencies to create a Recovery Rally event that brought over 500+ individuals together to learn and continue the conversation of substance use disorder in Burke.

Heart Disease and Stroke



At the start of the pandemic, Carolinas Health System-Blue Ridge, now UNC-Health Blue Ridge, saw the need for the development of a Virtual Hospital to help manage the influx of COVID patients they were seeing.

The original design was to assist COVID-positive patients by supporting them while they recovered at home. In 2021, this unit has now expanded to better serve patients as they transition from solely based COVID care to other health diagnosis care such as asthma, COPD, and pneumonia.

In 2021, there were over 4,500 patients enrolled into the Virtual Health Unit. The convenience of the Virtual Care Unit has allowed patients to avoid travel time, busy waiting rooms, while also providing more access for residents of our community who live in more rural settings. Virtual care allows a patient to access their provider and the virtual health team in a variety of ways: online using video chat, by telephone or in-app messaging. A satisfactory survey has been sent out to staff and patients who have worked with or received care through the Virtual Hospital. Results are to be collected Spring 2022.

The Burke Wellness Initiative is the community collaboration responsible for working together to conduct the CHA process along with implementing the priorities that are selected. Additional community members who are passionate about developing positive changes within the county are always welcome to join. If you are interested in being a part of the Burke Wellness Initiative, please contact Chae Moore at 828.764.9220 or chae.moore@burkenc.org.

Motion: To accept the 2021 State of the County Health Report as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

PHM - PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Partners Health Management requests the approval of a proclamation declaring May as National Mental Health Month for 2022 and urges all citizens and businesses to commit themselves to increasing their awareness and understanding of mental health and the need for accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

Motion: To adopt Proclamation No. 2022-02.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Proclamation No. 2022-02 reads as follows:

Proclamation
Proclaiming May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Burke County

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Americans face challenges in life that can impact their mental health, especially during a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there are practical tools that all people can use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are real and prevalent in our nation; and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen share the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention and treatment efforts.

THEREFORE, on behalf of the Burke County Board of Commissioners, I, Scott Mulwee, Chairman, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as Mental Health Month in Burke County, North Carolina and call upon citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Burke County to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

Adopted this 19th day of April 2022.

/s/: Scott Mulwee
 Scott Mulwee, Chairman
 Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

TAX DEPT. - TAX COLLECTION REPORT FOR MARCH 2022

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022. This reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff. This information is a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report.

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,000,000.00	\$45,117,241.80	100.26%	\$ (117,241.80)
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$5,200,000.00	\$4,137,799.84	79.57%	\$1,062,200.16
Current Year Taxes	\$50,200,000.00	\$49,255,041.64	98.12%	\$944,958.36
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$659,695.91	94.24%	\$40,304.09
Late List Penalty	\$315,000.00	\$306,962.77	97.45%	\$8,037.23

The Tax Levy is the total property tax value not including motor vehicles times the tax rate. This amount changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes, or corrections, and when Public Utility Values are added, typically during September.

Category	Tax Levy	Amount Collected YTD	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$46,298,015.68	\$45,117,241.80	97.45%	\$1,180,773.88

Motion: To accept the Tax Collection Report for March 2022 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

TAX DEPT. - RELEASE REFUND REPORT FOR MARCH 2022

Releases in value and/or refunds of taxes typically occur when:

- Taxpayers submit information that creates a reduction in value.
- Situs is corrected between counties and/or municipalities.
- Valuation appeals reduce the value for real or personal property.
- The postmark reveals a payment was timely sent.

The Board of Commissioners is presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration. The Net Release is a result of the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

Tax System Refunds and Releases				
	Report Amount	Rebilled Amount	Net Release	Refund Amount
Releases (TR-304)	\$1,349.01	\$503.27	\$845.74	\$290.87

VTS Refunds Over \$100

	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	\$111.39

*Note: The net loss amount is a result of the report amount minus the rebilled amount.

Motion: To approve the Tax Releases and Refunds for March 2022 as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT MARCH 2022

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and rebilled amount
0024060300-2022-2021-0000-00-REG	TADLOCK, MATTHEW KEITH	2/17/2022	LINDA WILBUR	3/4/2022	192.86	192.86	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						192.86		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Amended Listing								
0024036161-2019-2018-0000-00-REG	SMITH, ANNETTE BIGGERS	8/9/2019	LINDA WILBUR	3/24/2022	240.89	240.89	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						240.89		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Business Closed								
0000082034-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	GARCIA AUTO CENTER	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	3/7/2022	154.81	154.81	0.00	0.00
0024025722-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	FRANKY T'S PIZZERIA OF HILDEBRAN LLC	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	3/8/2022	97.06	97.06	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						251.87		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing								
0000002021-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	BARHAM, CARL E	3/9/2022	AMANDA CONLEY	3/9/2022	427.27	427.27	0.00	503.27
Subtotal						427.27		503.27
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Process Correction								
0024021551-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	NELSON, DUSTIN WAYNE	7/1/2021	LINDA WILBUR	3/7/2022	2.49	2.49	0.00	0.00
0024060258-2022-2021-0000-01-REG	TADLOCK, MATTHEW KEITH	3/4/2022	LINDA WILBUR	3/8/2022	212.15	212.15	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						214.64		0.00
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded								

TR-304 BILL RELEASE REPORT MARCH 2022

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount(\$)	Release Amount(\$)	Bill Amount after Release(\$)	Notes and rebilled amount
0000086627-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	SMITH, ROBERT BRENT	7/1/2021	CONNIE HOLDER	3/28/2022	21.48	21.48	0.00	0.00
Subtotal						21.48		0.00
Total						1,349.01		503.27
							845.74	

NCVTS Report

Payee Name	Primary Owner	Address 1	Address 3	Refund Type	Trans. #	Refund Description	Tax Jurisd.	Levy Type	Change	Interest Change	Total Change
HAWKINS, BRUCE ATWOOD SR	HAWKINS, BRUCE ATWOOD SR	PO BOX 754	VALDESE, NC 28690	Adjustment >= \$100	161132588	Refund Generated due to adjustment on Bill #0065133991-2021-2021-0000-00	01	Tax	(\$100.15)	\$0.00	(\$100.15)
							27	Tax	(\$11.24)	\$0.00	(\$11.24)
										Refund Refund Total	\$111.39

TAX DEPT. - ORDER TO ADVERTISE 2021 DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-369, the Tax Collector shall report to the governing board the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current fiscal year that are liens on real property.

Category	Annual Budget	Amount Collected	% Collected	Balance to Collect
Property Tax	\$45,000,000.00	\$43,575,745.24	96.83%	\$1,424,254.76
Motor Vehicle Tax	\$5,200,000.00	\$3,204,482.57	61.62%	\$1,995,517.43
Current Year	\$50,200,000.00	\$46,780,227.81	93.19%	\$3,419,772.19
Delinquent Taxes	\$700,000.00	\$520,888.70	74.41%	\$179,111.30
Penalty & Interest	\$315,000.00	\$199,856.38	63.45%	\$115,143.65

Under this statute, the Board orders the Tax Collector to advertise these tax liens on all unpaid real property. Also, a notice must be sent to the owner of record. This notice shall be sent at least 30 days before the advertisement is to be published, to the last known address. These notices state that the owner's name will be advertised if taxes are not paid in full by Friday, February 28, 2022. The Tax Office mailed these notices during January 2022 (see sample).

Notices warning of the lien advertisement was published in the *News Herald* on Sunday February 13, February 20, February 27 and March 6, 2022. Those who have not paid real estate property taxes in full by Friday, February 28, 2022, were advertised. The lien advertisement was published in the *News Herald* on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

BURKE COUNTY NOTICE 2021 UNPAID REAL PROPERTY TAXES Notice is hereby given that the Burke County Tax Collector will publish the annual Tax Lien Advertisement of Real Property for 2021 County Taxes, during the month of March. To avoid advertisement of your real property and avoid additional cost, you are requested to pay these 2021 taxes and interest no later than Friday, February 28, 2022.

This Delinquent Tax Notice, that is required to be sent before advertising in the newspaper, also serves as the Debt Setoff (DSO) Notice for Burke County. The Debt Setoff Notice is noted on the front of the delinquent notice. The actual Debt Setoff notice is on the back. This notice gives taxpayers 30 days to pay their delinquent taxes and avoid Burke County intercepting their North Carolina Income Tax refund.

Motion: To approve the Order to Advertise Tax Liens.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

The order reads as follows:

ORDER OF THE BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 105-369

State of North Carolina
County of Burke

To: John Bridgers, Tax Administrator of Burke County

You are hereby authorized, empowered and commanded to advertise tax liens on real property for failure to pay 2021 property taxes. You shall advertise said liens by publishing each lien in the local newspaper having general circulation in Burke County. Advertisement of the liens shall be made on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

This order shall be full and sufficient authority to direct, require, and enable you to advertise said tax liens in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 105-369.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 19th day of April 2022.

/s/: Scott Mulwee
Scott Mulwee, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

/s/: Kay Honeycutt Draughn
Kay Honeycutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

WPCC - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPROVAL - REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER

WPCC plans to construct a new \$15 million-dollar state-of-the-art fire emergency services training center on the Catawba River using monies appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly, Current Appropriations Act of 2021 (SL 2021-180) as modified by SL 2021-189. The project will be constructed on college owned property. Authorization for the County Manager or Finance Director to execute Section VI, Certification No. 2 (Availability of Local Support and Funds) is requested. There is no impact on the FY 21-22 budget. The estimated future impact to WPCC's annual operating budget is \$65,802.79. However, the County is only asked to certify that the document has been reviewed and that the information will be shared with the proper county officials to seek an appropriate adjustment to the College's budget as the new facility is brought online.

Motion: To authorize the County Manager or Finance Director to execute Section VI, Certification 2 as to Availability of Local Support and Funds, NC Community College System, Capital Improvement Project Approval for the new Emergency Services

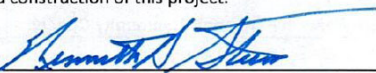
Training Center as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

The certification reads as follows:

VI. CERTIFICATION AS TO AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL SUPPORT AND FUNDSCertification 1.

I certify that I have examined this application for the project no: 2616
from Western Piedmont Community College and if shown, county funds in the
amount of \$0.00 are available for the planning and construction of this project.

County Manager/Finance Officer Signature 
Print Name Kenneth B. Steen, County Manager
Date April 19, 2022

(The following certification must be completed for New Facility Projects Only)

Certification 2.

Based on an analysis of the colleges annual operating and utility costs, (as per the NCCCS 3-1 Section VIII) it is estimated that the college will expend an additional \$65,802.79 per year in support of this new construction. I certify that this document has been reviewed, and that the information stated herein will be shared with the proper county officials to seek an appropriate adjustment to the college's budget as the new facility is brought online.

County Manager/Finance Officer Signature 
Print Name Kenneth B. Steen, County Manager
Date April 19, 2022

ITEMS FOR DECISION**GENERAL SERVICES - FUNDING FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR OF INTERIOR WATER DAMAGE**

Mark Delehant, General Services Director, presented the following request:

Burke County owns property located at 302 Center Street in Hildebran. The Burke County Water Sewer Office is in the building at this location and despite numerous patches, the roof still leaks and needs replacement. In addition to the roof replacement, funds for minor water damage repair are included in this request. General Services has received one quote and will solicit additional quotes should funds be approved. Funding for this expenditure was not included in the FY 21-22 budget and will require an appropriation of \$90,000 from the General Fund, Fund Balance to the General Services M & R Buildings account.

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for questions and comments from the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked if Mr. Delehant was able to get any additional quotes. Mr. Delehant said he will get additional quotes if the funding for this project is approved. Commissioner Taylor asked how old the current roof is. Mr. Delehant said he is not positive, but most likely over 20 years old. Commissioner Taylor asked how long a new roof will last. Mr. Delehant said approximately 15-

20 years.

Vice Chairman Carswell questioned if routine maintenance was being done to the building and he also asked if the water damage was due to recent storms. Mr. Delehant said the damage was most likely done during the most recent heavy rainstorm. During discussion, Vice Chairman Carswell asked if the County plans to occupy the building for a while. County Manager Steen answered in the affirmative and noted the Water & Sewer Department will most likely stay in that building for 24 months at a minimum before a new office is constructed at the property the County purchased for the East Burke convenience site. Further, he noted the building will continue to deteriorate if they do not address the roofing problem. County Manager Steen responded to additional questions from Vice Chairman Carswell and Chairman Mulwee.

Motion: To appropriate \$90,000 for roof replacement and repair of water damage for the County building located at 302 Center Street in Hildebran from General Fund, Fund Balance.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeffrey C. Brittain, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

BOC - REPORTS & COMMENTS

Chairman Mulwee opened the floor for reports and comments from the Board and staff.

Margaret Pierce, Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, asked everyone to please keep the family of John Stroup in their thoughts.

County Attorney Simpson provided an update on the projects he has worked on since the Board's last meeting.

Clerk Draughn thanked the Board for their thoughts and prayers regarding her mother's recent medical event. She also reported that there are 26 attendees registered for the upcoming NCACC district meeting.

County Manager Steen reported that they are reviewing applications for the HR Director position and working to submit the final recommended budget for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Taylor identified the various events he and other county personnel attended since the March regular meeting.

Vice Chairman Carswell thanked the Board for their thoughts and prayers during his recent illness. He thanked the Board for attending the recent NCACC opioid summit and American Rescue Plan (ARP) presentation in Greensboro.

Chairman Mulwee reminded everyone of the following dates:

- April 20th – BOC recessed meeting. (The recessed meeting was not held. The Clerk mistakenly asked the Chairman to adjourn the meeting instead of recessing it. A special meeting was held on April 26, 2022.)
- April 28th – NCACC District meeting at the Morganton Community House at 5:30 p.m.

- May 3rd – BOC pre-agenda meeting.
- May 6th – Ribbon cutting for the Historic Courthouse Square renovations.
- May 17th – BOC regular meeting.
- May 20th – Recessed budget meeting.
- May 26th – Recessed budget meeting.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERK- BOARDS AND COMMITTEES VACANCY REPORT

Clerk Draughn announced the following vacancies on county boards or committees:

- Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee
- Burke County Parks & Recreation Commission
- City of Morganton - Board of Adjustment (ETJ)
- City of Morganton - Planning Board (ETJ)
- Burke Senior Center Advisory Council
- Child Protection & Child Fatality Prevention Team
- East Burke Senior Center Advisory Board
- Burke County Board of Adjustment
- Council on Aging
- Burke County Board of Health
- Partner's CFAC (Consumer and Family Advisory Committee) – traumatic Brain Injury

Chairman Mulwee encouraged interested citizens to get involved with a board or committee.

RESULT: NO ACTION TAKEN.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mulwee said a closed session was needed to discuss threatened or pending litigation, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3), (4), (5) and (6).

Motion: To go into closed session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, to discuss threatened or pending litigation to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss contractual matters (land acquisition) and to discuss personnel matters as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3),(4),(5) and (6).

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner

AYES: Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

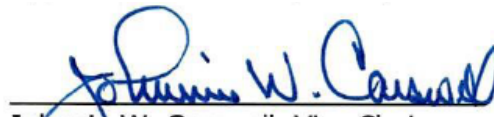
Chairman Mulwee announced that no action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURN

Motion: To adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Maynard M. Taylor, Commissioner
AYES:	Scott Mulwee, Johnnie W. Carswell, Wayne F. Abele, Sr., Jeffrey C. Brittain and Maynard M. Taylor

Approved this 20th day of September 2022.


Johnnie W. Carswell, Vice Chairman
Burke Co. Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Kay Honeysutt Draughn, CMC, NCMCC
Clerk to the Board