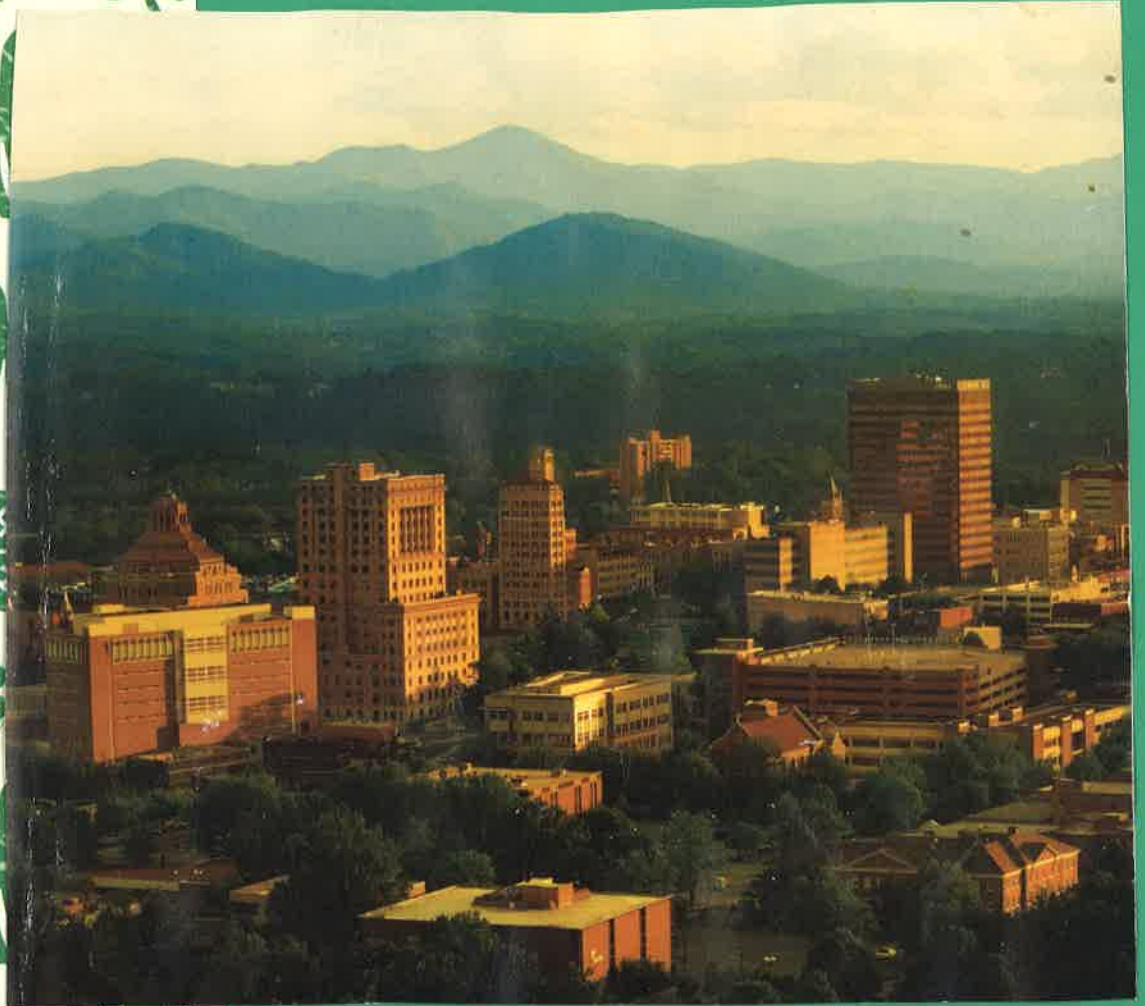


# Buncombe County



**Will  
Baldwin**



**August, 2014**

## **2014 Buncombe County Manager Interview and Commission Meeting**

My name is Will Baldwin and I am a rising sophomore at A.C. Reynolds High School. I live in Buncombe County, the 7<sup>th</sup> largest county in North Carolina. The county seat is in Asheville, NC. The county owns 1.8 million square feet of building space which includes the Cooperative Extension Service and our court systems. The county government has 1,400 employees. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has over 300 children in custody on any given day.

When interviewing the county manager, Dr. Wanda Greene, I asked about her role in county government. She said her role was to put into action the policies of the commissioners. She interacts with commissioners frequently, especially regarding the budget.

I found out how the annual budget process works. First, the heads of each department create a financial needs report for their department. Then this is approved by the county manager; she checks to make sure it is reasonable. A budget is then created during two county commissioner retreats. The budget year runs from July 1 – June 30. The county manager works closely with the department heads during the budget process.

Buncombe County has seven commissioners. In 2012 the N.C. General Assembly passed a law changing our commission from 5 at-large seats to 7 seats. Now the commissioners represent 3 districts with two commissioners from each one; candidates run in their individual district. The County Commission Chair must run at-large. There are 4 Democrats and 3 Republicans on the commission. The county manager is hired by the commissioners.

I also learned that the county operates two landfills; one is capped and is used to produce methane gas. It must be monitored regularly. Buncombe County also has a training facility for emergency responders. I toured the Tax Office, the Register of Deeds Office and the Board of Elections. The building they are housed in was used for the Department of Human Services but as

non-profits took over some of their functions, such as the public health clinic, space was freed up for these three departments.

I also attended the July 8, 2014 Buncombe County Commission meeting. It was very interesting and included the budget hearing. The budget passed with a 5-2 vote. Two commissioners objected to the funding of some non-profits. The commissioners unanimously approved a motion to have the county manager conduct an audit of all the properties owned. This truly was a beneficial experience, allowing me to learn more about how our county government works.

What can green do for you?

# Interview with Buncombe County Manager, Dr. Wanda Greene



Best in  
Class

BORN  
LEADER

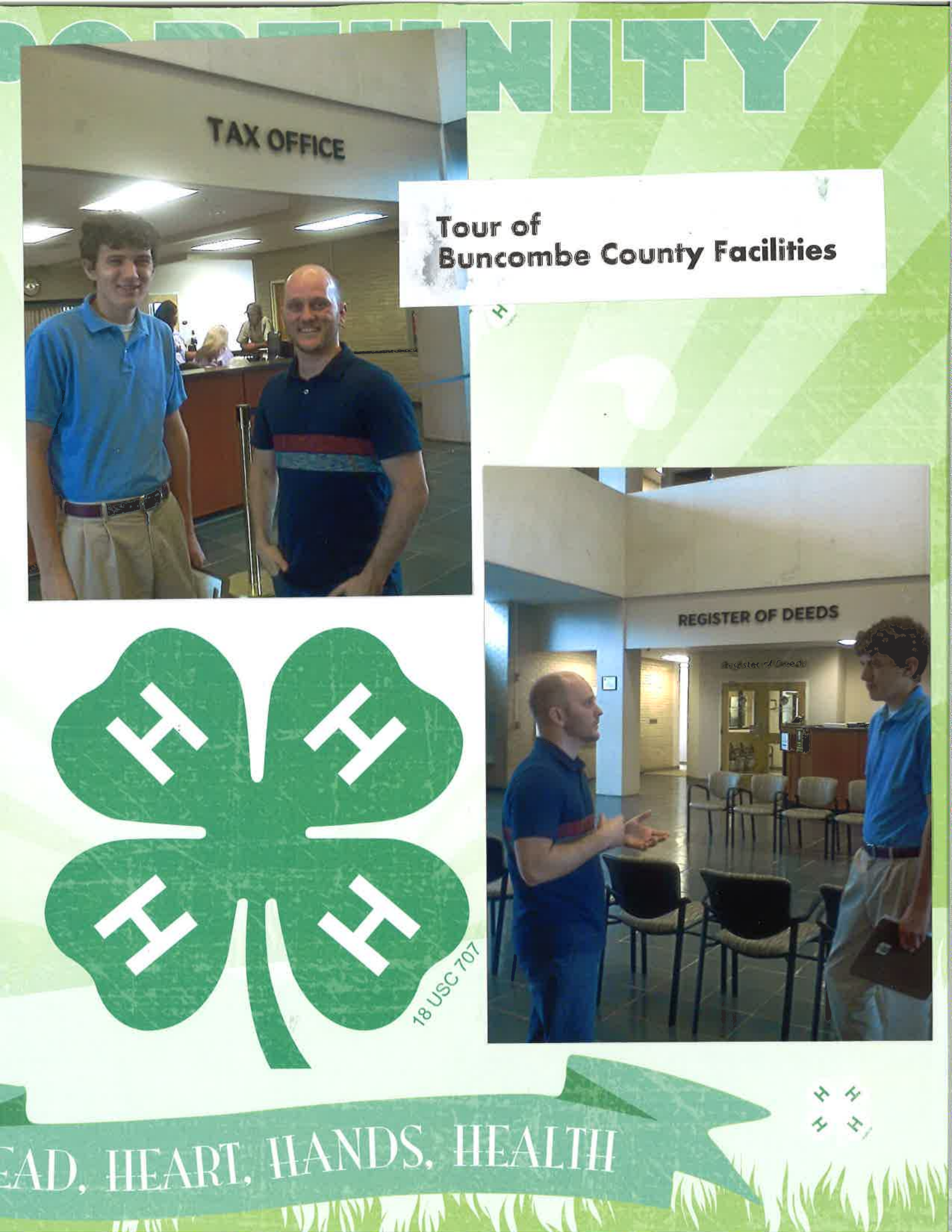


4-H  
Member  
BORN  
LEADER

RESERVE  
CHAMPION

My  
Green  
Award

SUMMER CAMP  
County Fair  
BOB LEAD  
What can green do for you?  
County Fair  
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What can green do for you?  
SUMMER CAMP  
Leaders for the Future  
RESERVE CHAMPION  
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COMMUNITY

TAX OFFICE



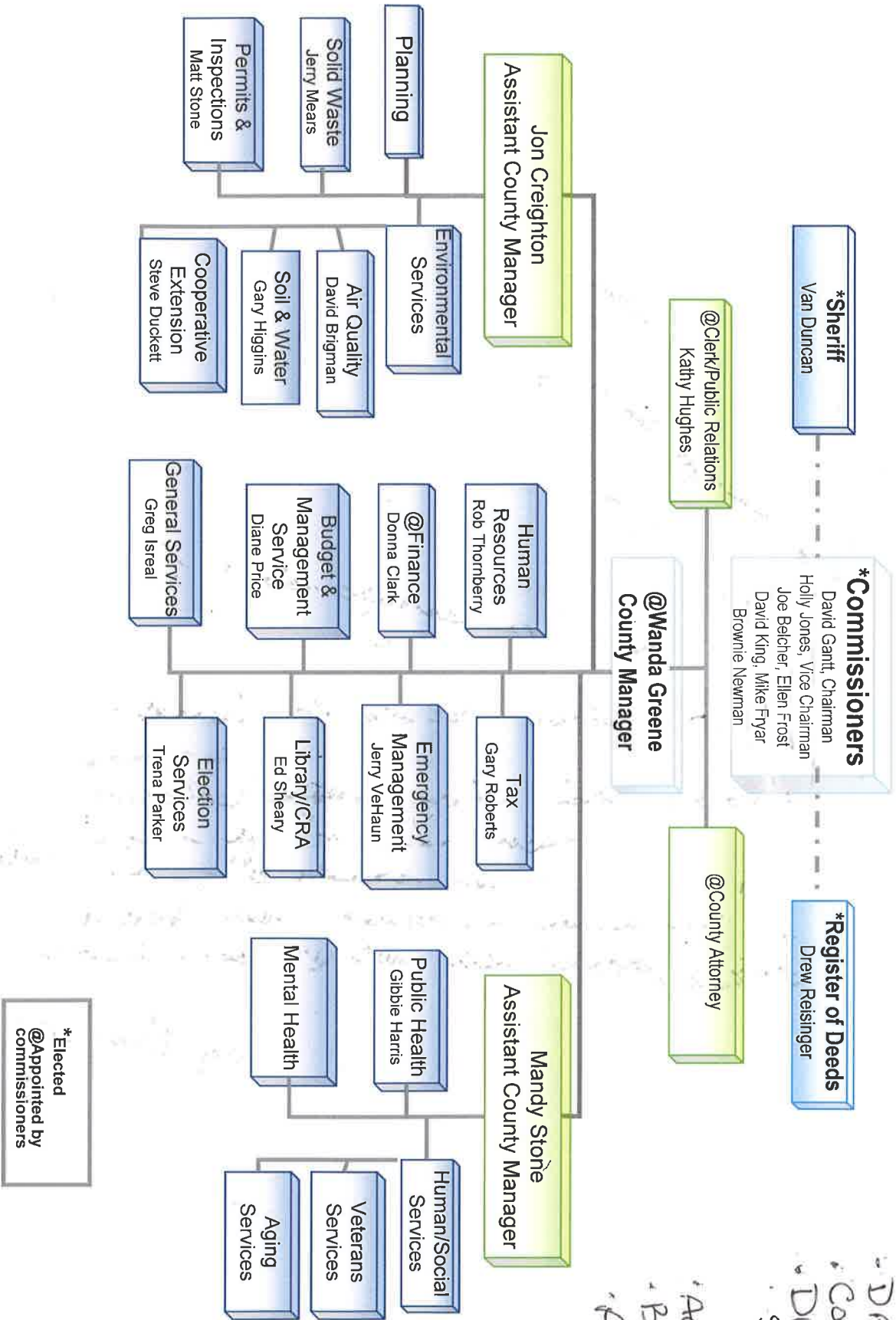
**Tour of  
Buncombe County Facilities**



HEAD, HEART, HANDS, HEALTH



# Buncombe County Government



DA  
 CoC  
 DISTRICT  
 SUPERVISOR  
 COUNCIL  
 ACS  
 BCS  
 ARSTCC

\*Elected  
 @Appointed by  
 Commissioners