



Welcome to Chatham County! My name is Sarah Thomas where I am 4-H member of my county and this is my journey through local government! In this book, you will discover my encounters and discussions with the county manager and my attendance in a Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Our current commissioners include Walter Petty who serves as a liaison to our local Board of Health and Board of Social Services, Brian Bock who serves to the Transportation Advisory Committee, Allen Michael Cross who serves with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Jim Elza who serves in the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Pam Stewart who serves with the Agricultural Advisory Committee. These are just a few of the many obligations Chatham's county commissioners are committed to.

The county manager's office is often very busy serving Chatham County. The staff are responsible for budget development, human resources, workplace safety, employee development, oversight of construction and renovation projects, risk management, public information and community outreach, human relations, website updates, grant writing, and special projects. Our current county manager is Charlie Horne.

May you enjoy your journey through the local government of Chatham County!



Preparing for an interview with the county manager.



During my interview with Chatham's county manager, Mr. Charlie Horne, we discussed many items about local government.

Q: "What is your role as county manager?"

Mr. Horne says that he, "oversees what goes on in our county's government." He hires about one-third of all department heads as well. In addition, he works closely with all of the departments and their leaders because the county is often responsible for funding some or all of their budgets.

Q: "How do you interact with and report to county commissioners?"

Mr. Horne attends the Board of Commissioners meeting each month to discuss issues and complaints with the public and with officials. He also described how citizens can go through public input at the meetings where they are given up to three minutes to address any issue that is not part of the meeting's agenda or public hearing.

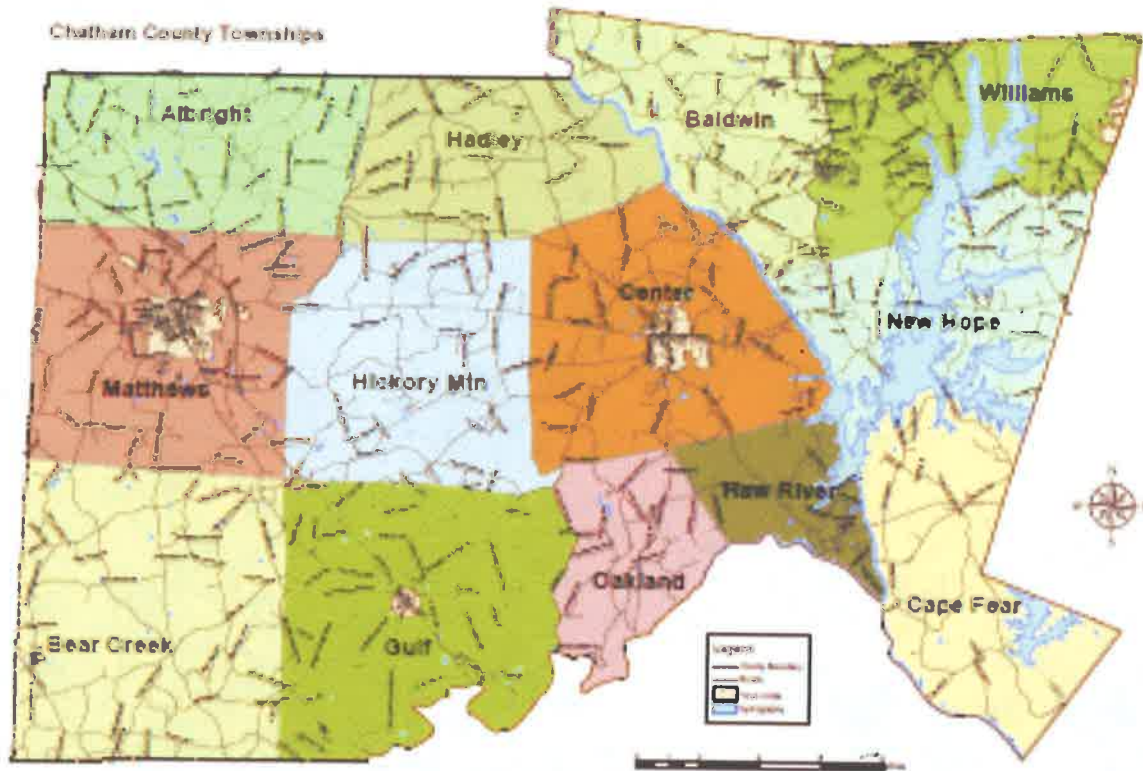
Q: "Can you explain how the annual budget process works?"

The board is asked to critique the budget to address what they liked, didn't like, and how to improve it. Mr. Horne also told me that there is a recommended budget proposed in May and is adopted by June 30th. The budget calendar is prepared for review for August where capital improvements and priorities are made.

Q: "What other county employees do you work closely with when drafting a budget proposal?"

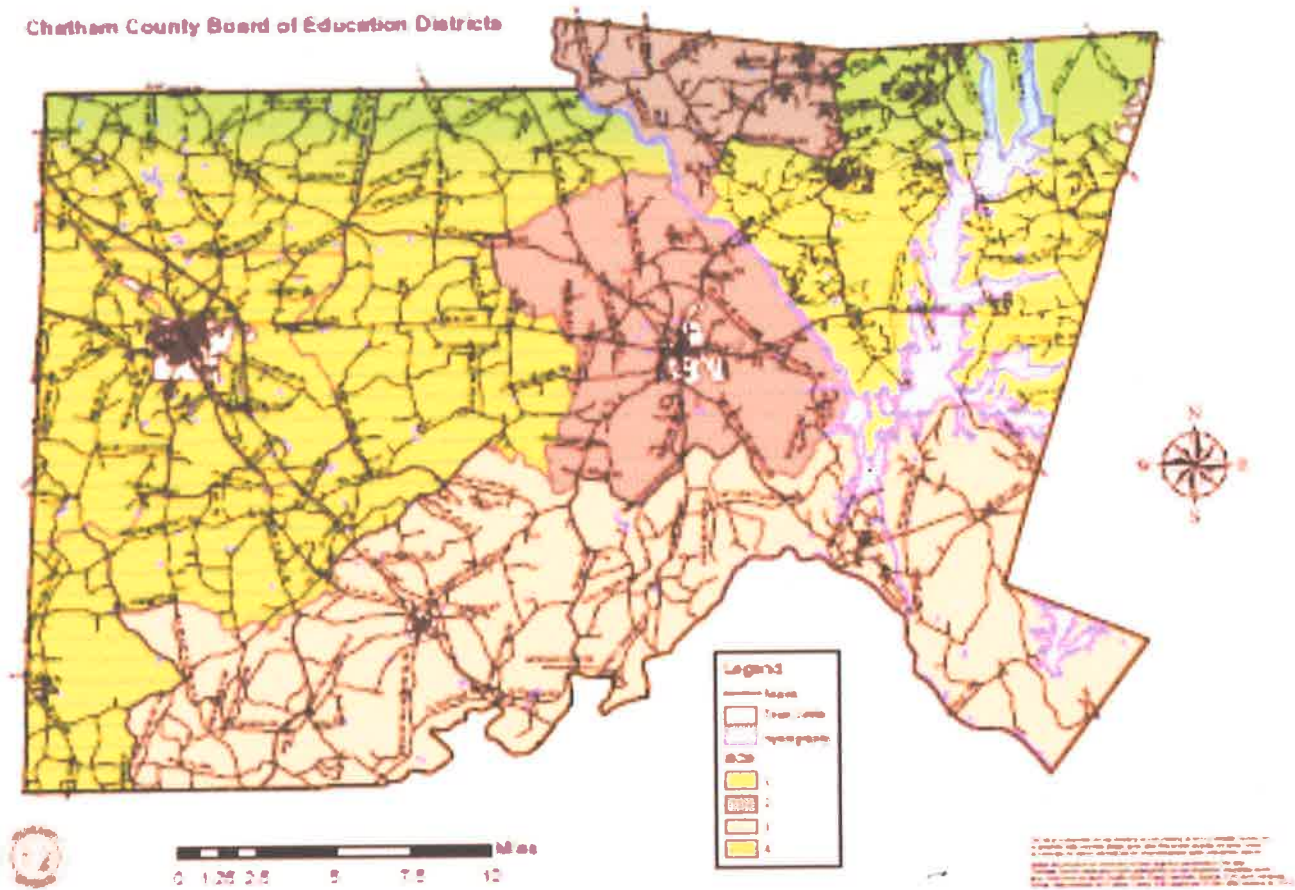
All department leaders work with the county manager to draft a proposal for the budget such as a budget analyst, directors, and even the sheriff's department.

After the interview, Mr. Horne gave me a tour of the county administrative building and introduced me to many people who help Chatham County run effectively and efficiently. We also discussed how diverse the county is in our many districts that are shown on the following pages.



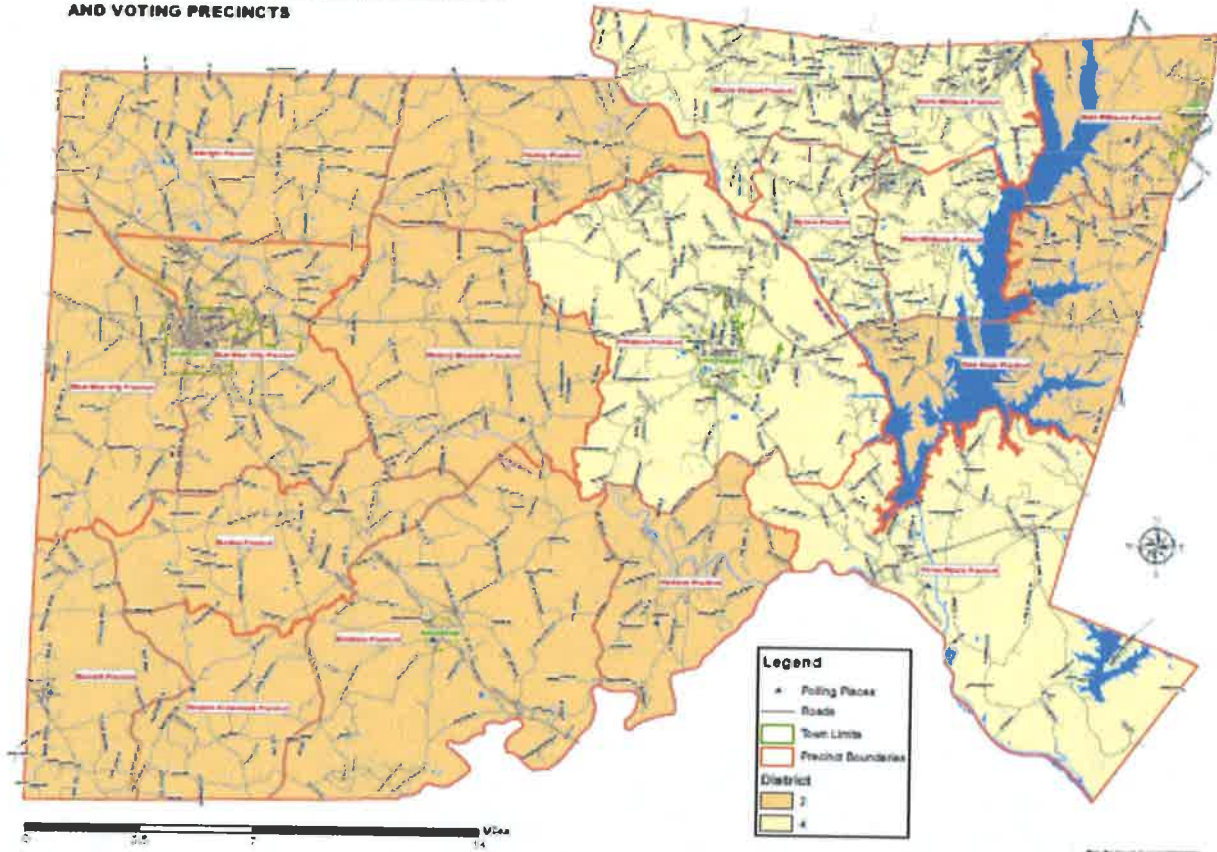
This shows the Chatham County Townships.

Chatham County Board of Education Districts

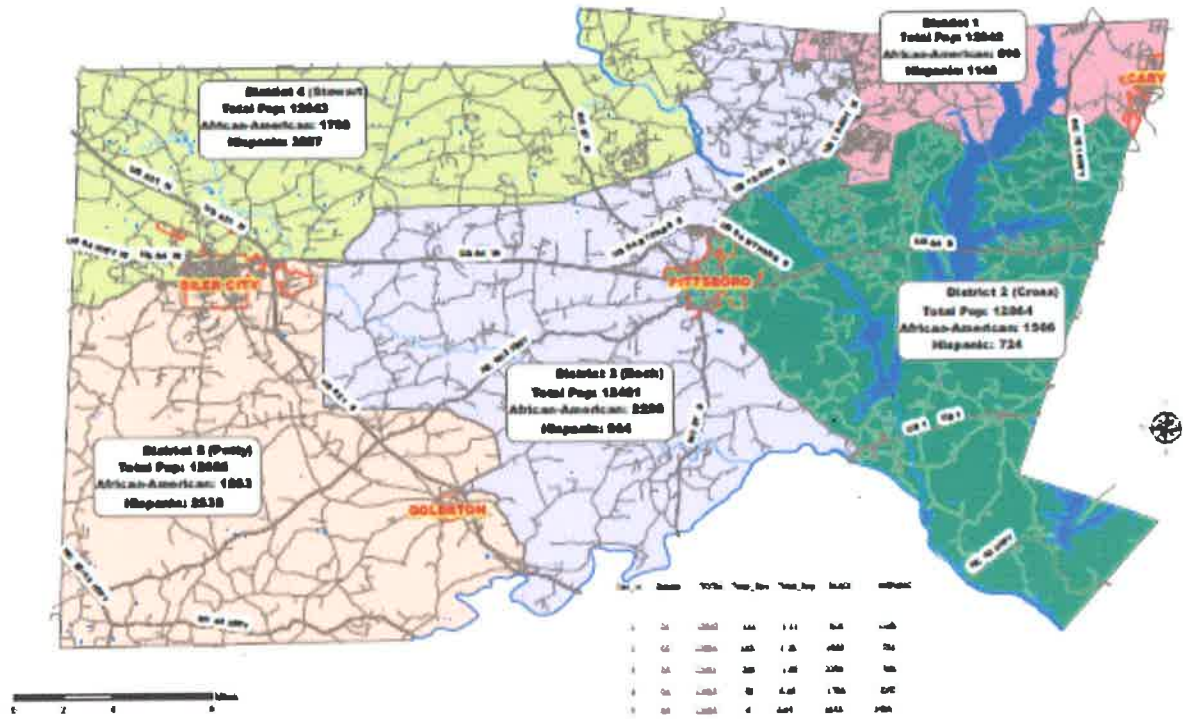


This shows the Chatham County Board of Education Districts.

**CHATHAM COUNTY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
AND VOTING PRECINCTS**



Here is shown the Chatham County Congressional Districts.

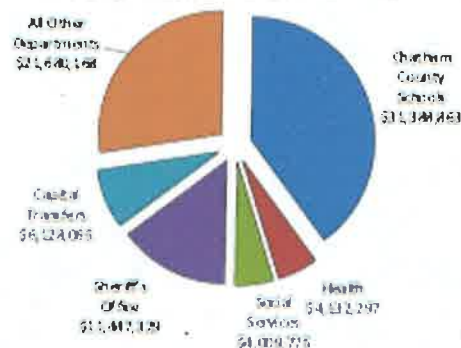


Shown here is the Chatham County Commissioners Districts.

Budget at a Glance

- ▶ Total Property Valuation: \$9.3 Billion
- ▶ One Penny Generates: \$908,664
- ▶ Tax Rate: 62.19 cents (no change)
- ▶ Total Property Tax Revenue: \$57,562,000
- ▶ General Fund Fund Balances Appropriated: \$2,968,706

Net Cost of County Functions



Budget Summary

General Fund	
Administration	\$13,600,465
Culture/Education/Recreation	\$19,424,934
General Government	\$2,604,124
Human Services	\$14,008,844
Natural Resource Management	\$3,179,328
Public Safety	\$17,008,533
Total General Fund	\$94,032,260
Solid Waste and Recycling Fund	\$1,201,945
Southeast Water District	\$400,700
Water Fund	\$5,435,493

This shows where part of the budget will be spent for the 2014-2015 year.



On Monday, July 21st, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Historic Courthouse Courtroom, a Board of Commissioners Meeting was held. During public input, there was one main issue that was addressed, which is a 2A shooting range in the county. One citizen told how the range was near many homes of senior citizens and how much it can damage their hearing. Another citizen discussed the issue of noise and safety of the range although deputies have been responsive in noise ordinances. Lastly, another individual addressed that the noise from the range had been recorded to have higher levels of noise than supposed to. He believes that it can affect even more citizens in the future as this range is only in phase one of three, which only means the noise will only increase. He also told that some members of the range were shooting unsupervised as they have a key card to enter.

During the scheduled agenda for the meeting, there was one main idea discussed. Chatham County has the possible change to create a mega-site for potential employees in the area. It was announced that it would provide a minimum of one thousand jobs with five hundred million dollars of investment. A potential idea brought up discussed how it could make six to eight thousand jobs and payroll one million dollars per day.

The last item discussed at this meeting was the budget. There was discussion if there was a desire to change the planning on the goal setting. After this was addressed, the closed session began shortly after. The following pages show the agenda of the meeting.





innovate

Many proud 4-Hers in Chatham County gathered last year to re-dedicate the restored courthouse in Pittsboro. We gave out light refreshments and beverages to those who came to the ceremony.

INSPIRE

