



Every day Wake County grows by 106 people! Under the leadership of the Board of Commissioners, the County works to accommodate growth and the challenges it brings. The County has a three-fold duty to its citizens: Planning, Leading and Achieving. Together in a careful balance, these duties allow Wake County to prosper and continue to lead the nation as a great place to live, work, learn and play.

To keep Wake County at the top, the Board of Commissioners identifies priority goals at the beginning of each year. With six months left to achieve the Board's 2008 goals, here is a look at what has been accomplished so far.



Building Human Capital

Goal: Develop and implement a plan to deliver human services that will enable citizens to achieve and/or maintain middle class status and reduce dependence on governmental support. This includes life coaching, connection to opportunities and specific economic goals for individuals.

Status and Accomplishments:

The number one priority of Wake County Commissioners, Human Capital Development, opened to clients on May 15, 2008. Over five years, 1,000 individuals or families will move from 200 percent below the federal poverty level to a middle class lifestyle.

These citizens will receive support from a life coach and access to educational support systems, benefits and new opportunities for family members. More than 65 life coaches have been recruited, and the program requires 35-45 hours per week in sweat equity by clients. For more information on Human Capital Development, visit www.wakegov.com/humanservices.



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Mental Health Reform

Goal: Continue collaboration with state and local partners to implement a successful mental health continuum of care for the citizens of Wake County.

Status and Accomplishments: Wake County Human Services has three strategies to address Mental Health reform: increased partnerships, space for patients, and collaborations to address special needs.

A mental health forum and consumer fair was held to bring providers and stakeholders together to build a continuum of community-based care and alternatives to hospitalization.

Wake County has contracted with Holly Hill Hospital to build an inpatient psychiatric unit to be used when Dorothea Dix Hospital closes. The County reached a special agreement with the State to operate a small unit at Dorothea Dix, as a satellite of Central Regional Hospital for short-term patients, until the new facility is ready. Plans are also underway for a new crisis and assessment center, including acute medical detox and crisis residential beds, and an inpatient alcohol treatment center.

Wake County is aggressively looking for partners to help fund a substance abuse initiative for the mentally ill, because over half of the patients at Dorothea Dix are also being treated for substance abuse.



Holly Hill Psychiatric Unit Groundbreaking

Enhanced Delivery Systems for Fire/Rescue and EMS

Goal: Initiate discussions with contracted service providers to identify consolidation opportunities in fire/rescue service and emergency medical services delivery, and identify other strategies that will yield more effective and efficient fire/rescue and emergency medical services.

Status and Accomplishments: Wake County is assisting in the merging of Eastern Wake EMS and Rolesville EMS. A two-year service maintenance and service improvement plan has been developed. The plans drew unanimous support from all EMS delivery agencies and the Wake EMS System Peer Review Committee.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners approved a recommendation by the Wake County Fire Commission to close Western Wake Fire Station No. 2, and contract with the Cary Fire Department to provide service in the newly created Cary Suburban Fire District. The move is part of a long-range plan approved by the Board to evaluate the cost efficiency of five fire stations. Western Wake No. 2 is the first station to be evaluated using this criteria.



Gang Prevention

Goal: Continue implementation of strategies recommended by the Wake County Community Assessment's Gang Prevention Task Force to bolster prevention efforts and reduce the prevalence of gang activity in the county.

Status and Accomplishments: The Wake County Gang Prevention Partnership hired a Coordinator to implement its Gang Prevention Plan.

The Partnership has developed a strategic relationship with Durham's gang initiative, and together received a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Justice Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative grant. Wake County will get \$1.25 million to decrease gang activity and improve living conditions in targeted areas. The Wake County-Durham County partnership will allow both groups to work together to develop new strategies to combat gangs.



Planning, Leading, Achieving

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Preparing for Election Day 2008

- September 15** First day to request an absentee ballot by mail.
October 10 Last day to register, change your name, address or party affiliation. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by/or hand delivered by 5:00 p.m. Forms are available at www.wakegov.com/elections or by calling (919) 857-9345. One-Stop Early Voting begins at the Board of Elections office.
October 16* One-Stop Early Voting ends.
October 28 Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail.
November 1 One-Stop Early Voting ends.
November 3 All voted absentee ballots must be in the Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m.
November 4 Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

*Dates, locations and times of additional early voting sites will be announced soon.

Moved Recently? Be sure to update your voter registration.

Get Involved! If you are interested in being a poll worker for the 2008 Presidential Election, e-mail elections@co.wake.nc.us or call (919) 857-9345.

For more information about voting and elections, visit www.wakegov.com/elections.



Pay in Person

The Wake County Revenue Department has moved. If you wish to pay your tax bills in person go to Suite 200 of the Bank of America Building in downtown Raleigh, at 421 Fayetteville Street. Tax bills may be paid between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information on other payment locations, or to make a payment directly from a checking account, visit www.wakegov.com/tax. To pay with a MasterCard or Visa, call (919) 856-5400.

Display Your Address Properly

Every home should display its address both at the street and on the building. A clear and easily visible house number allows better protection in emergencies, easier identification for utility services and prompt delivery of mail services. Street numbers should be posted on both sides of mailboxes. All addresses should be illuminated at night. For more information, call (919) 856-6210.

Don't Stand In Line, Get Online!

Check out these Wake County services at www.wakegov.com:

- ▶ View restaurant inspection reports
- ▶ Search property information
- ▶ Pay your tax bill
- ▶ Renew your library books
- ▶ Watch Board of Commissioners meetings and other videos
- ▶ Find voting locations
- ▶ And much more!



Watch WakeGOV TV

Keep up with the latest county news by watching WakeGOV TV. The program includes stories about county services and tips for using WakeGOV.com. WakeGOV TV airs on Raleigh cable channel 11, Cary cable channel 11 and Knightdale cable channel 22, several times a week. Be sure to check your local listings. WakeGOV TV is available online anytime by visiting www.wakegov.com and clicking on the "My WGTV" icon.



Wake County Board of Commissioners



Clockwise from top left:
Harold Webb; Paul Coble; Kenn Gardner;
Tony Gurley; Betty Lou Ward, Vice Chair;
Joe Bryan, Chair; Lindy Brown

Environmental Stewardship

Goal:

Update and sustain the Environmental Stewardship Agenda that was adopted by the Wake County Board of Commissioners. This policy is a commitment to citizens that addresses Water Quality, Solid Waste Management, Air Quality, Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Education and Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

Status and Accomplishments:

Solid Waste Management is evaluating site opportunities for Super-Center Recycling and Disposal Facilities in Eastern and Western Wake County, and has also implemented a three-part enforcement, education and clean-up anti-litter campaign.

Environmental Services will launch a targeted and focused series of education and outreach programs through Cooperative Extension, focused on animal care and welfare, food safety, water quality, waste reduction and recycling.

Water saving devices are being installed at County facilities including office buildings, parks and the jail. The County is also considering a reclaimed water system for the WakeMed/Human Services/Wake Tech Sunnybrook Campus.

Wake County offers bus passes and Triangle Transit Vanpool co-payments to employees, and 25 percent of Wake County's vehicles are alternative fuel capable.

Wake is continuing its open space land acquisition program using voter-approved bond funds. The County has acquired nearly 4,300 acres of Open Space to date.

Transportation Strategies

Goal:

Work collaboratively with stakeholders, including the Wake County legislative delegation, regional transportation organizations, municipalities and others, to identify strategies that ensure the County's transportation needs are addressed.

Status and Accomplishments:

Wake County has partnered with Apex, Cary, Raleigh, Pittsboro, Chatham County and the N.C. Department of Transportation to fund the U.S. 64 Corridor Planning Study. The County serves on various Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization committees, among them the U.S. 1 Corridor Planning Council and the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Advisory Committee.



Wake County is a member of Triangle J Council of Governments' Center of the Region Enterprise which is focused on infrastructure needs – including regional transit and the I-540 toll road.

The County has coordinated with Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) and the Town of Wake Forest to develop a new system that connects with TTA regional express bus service on U.S. 1. Plans are underway to replicate this partnership in other parts of Wake County.

Wake County continues to follow the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee, including working with state representatives to find funding for the Triangle Expressway from Durham County to Holly Springs. The County is part of the 21st Century Transportation Committee, working with leaders from across North Carolina to improve major highways and reduce congestion.

Collaborative Water Resources Management

Goal:

Ensure that municipalities have a voice in the development of regional solutions for water resource management in Wake County.

Status and Accomplishments:

Wake County is making sure that future generations have enough safe water. The County facilitated the development of the Little River Reservoir Interlocal Agreement for a new water supply basin, and is working to improve water resource management by following the recommendations of the Stormwater and Onsite Wastewater Task Forces. Wake is also taking the lead in the Falls Lake Groundwater Study.



Erosion and Sedimentation Control ordinances for Wake County and seven municipalities have been updated to reduce pollution in rivers and streams. More frequent inspections for erosion and sediment control devices are planned to help enforce these rules in the future. The County will produce the first "State of Wake County Water Resources" report by May 2009.

