



**Annual Report**

**2001**

**WAKE  
COUNTY**  
NORTH CAROLINA

**On the**

**Right  
Track**

**Going the  
extra  
mile  
through:**

**Service**

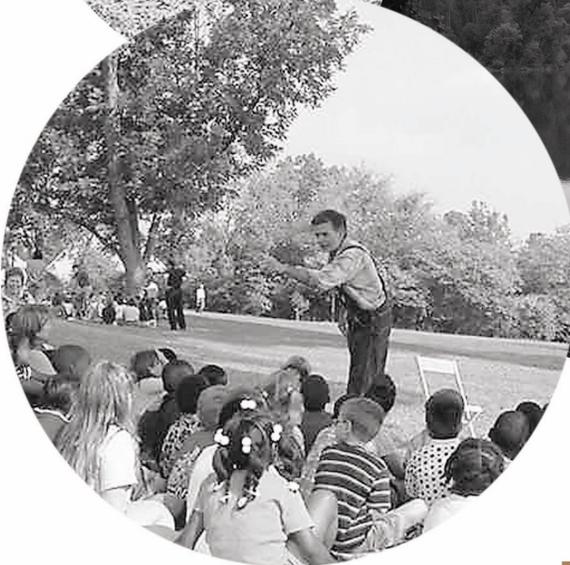
**Facilities**

**Partnerships**

**Growth Management**

**Financial Accountability**

**Environmental Stewardship**



# On the Right Track with Growth and Environmental

## Initiatives



*The Wake County Board of Commissioners believes in taking the long view. Over the past several years, the County has embarked on several long-range planning projects, from the 30-year water and sewer plan recommended by a task force in 1998 to the seven-year capital improvements plan set out in 2000 to build new schools and County facilities.*

*The focus now is on growth management, environmental stewardship and financial accountability. Under the leadership of the current Board, long-term planning is underway that will form the very foundations for a stronger and better Wake County 20 to 30 years from now. Some critical issues being addressed by the Board include:*

- growth management strategies
- watershed protection strategies, including development of a county-wide watershed protection plan and new protection rules for the Neuse River Basin and Cape Fear River Basin that exceed state requirements.
- open space preservation
- transportation planning
- financial stability (AAA bond rating; passage of \$550 million bond referendum in 2000 for schools, jails and open space, with no tax increase needed to repay the bonds; a \$1.3-billion, seven-year capital improvement plan that provides for schools and county facilities with no tax increase).

*Wake County made considerable progress in long-term planning in 2001. The County also has gone the extra mile by forming new partnerships, delivering excellent customer service everyday, and building new facilities that will serve our customers for decades to come.*

*This report provides a rearview mirror glance at some highlights of 2001, as well as a look down the road at challenges and issues facing us. Take a ride along with us, and we expect that you will agree that we are "on the right track!"*

### LITTLE RIVER RESERVOIR:

Another 181 acres were added to the proposed Little River Reservoir Project in 2001, bringing the total land acquired to 1,332 acres. Commissioners have approved purchase of another 78 acres. The project, which is expected to encompass more than 2,000 acres, will provide drinking water for the next generation of Wake County residents, as well as a regional park in the eastern part of the county.

The **Growth Management Task Force**, a countywide committee of elected officials chaired by Commissioner Michael Weeks, continued meeting throughout 2001 to work toward a Growth Management Strategy that will address land use standards, open space, transportation and other issues. The task force is working with a consultant to draft a report for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners and the county's municipalities in summer 2002.

The **Watershed Management Task Force** began meeting in May under the chairmanship of Commissioner Kenn Gardner. It includes representatives from each municipality, the Open Space Advisory Committee, the Human Services Board, the Soil and Water Conservation District Board, and seven at-large representatives. The task force is developing a Watershed Management Plan to recommend to the Board of Commissioners sometime in summer 2002. The task force is working to create a community-based strategy for protecting and restoring the uses and functions of the County's streams.

In the **open space** arena, Wake County has added more than 200 acres of open space in the past year, and also continues to work on a comprehensive open space plan. Commissioners adopted phase I of the Open Space Plan to use as a guide for open space acquisitions. Also, for the first time in the County's history, all 12 municipalities are working on open space preservation plans, which will be incorporated into a Consolidated Open Space Plan for Wake County in summer 2002. In November 2000, voters approved a \$15-million bond referendum for open space acquisition, which will be used primarily for water quality protection and improvements.

On June 9, Wake County and several public and private partners sponsored the first annual **RiverRevival**, a celebration of the environment that focused on water quality issues. The non-profit, family-oriented event featured cheerful and sporting ways to learn about water quality and what everyone can do to protect the water and other natural resources.

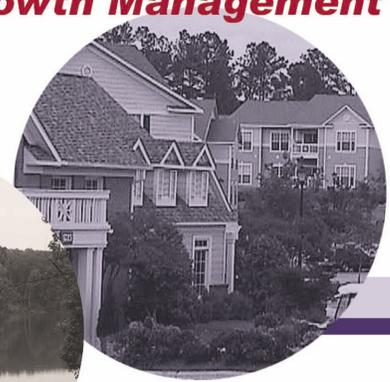
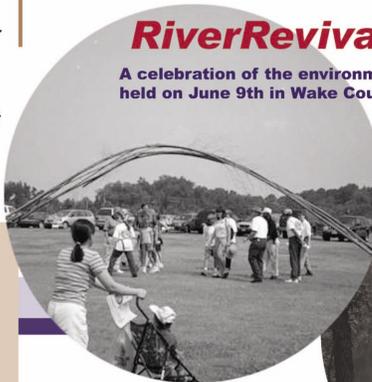
Two transportation-related initiatives are underway: a **thoroughfare plan update**, and a **collector road plan**. The County's thoroughfare plan, last updated in 1994, was based on land use projections that are no longer valid because of the rate and pattern of growth, so it needs to be updated. The revision will include sufficient planned collector roads and minor thoroughfares. Wake County needs to have a collector road plan to ensure that as subdivisions are planned, people and services can travel within residential areas without adversely affecting people's enjoyment of their properties. To address this need, a collector road plan, which will identify general location of roads within residential areas to tie those areas together, also is being developed.

**The work of the Growth Management and Watershed Management task forces, expected to be finished in summer 2002, will be critical to the County's future and will help guide open space preservation efforts.**

## Growth Management

### RiverRevival

A celebration of the environment was held on June 9th in Wake County.



## Watershed Protection



## Going the extra mile

**GREENWAYS & PARKS:**

The County received the Community Millennium Trail Designation for the American Tobacco Trail.

In March, a five-year lease extension was approved with the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority for 148 acres adjacent to Lake Crabtree County Park to be used for bike and hiking trails.

The A.E. Finley Foundation donated \$1-million for the construction of the Park Center at Historic Yates Mill County Park. The center is to be named the "A.E. Finley Park Center for Education and Research," and is expected to be completed in 2003.

**Stormwater Regulations**

The Board adopted Stormwater Control, Management and Watercourse Buffer Regulations for Wake County, which went into effect July 2. These regulations were required by the state as part of the Neuse River Nutrient Sensitive Waters Strategy, the goal of which is to achieve a 30% nitrogen reduction from each controllable source in the Neuse River Basin. The adopted regulations, combined with the County's existing zoning regulations, exceed state requirements.

**Open Space Planning**



**OPEN SPACE:**

Two significant additions to the open space preservation program occurred in 2001, and both will play crucial roles in protecting water quality:

- The County bought 127.5 acres on O'Neal Road in northern Wake County for \$1.07 million in a remainder trust arrangement, which means the landowner will receive proceeds from the sale investments during his and his daughter's lifetimes. After that, the County will receive a portion of the purchase price back. This land will play a significant role in preserving water quality in the Falls Lake Watershed.
- The County bought 90 acres at Mitchell Mill Road and Pulley Town Road (adjacent to Mitchell Mill State Park) from the Trust for Public Lands for \$691,178, using in part a \$350,000 state Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant. The County has agreed to a five-year agricultural lease agreement, and will establish a protected 300-foot riparian buffer along the Cedar Fork Creek Corridor. The preservation of this land will protect water quality in the Little River and Neuse River basins.



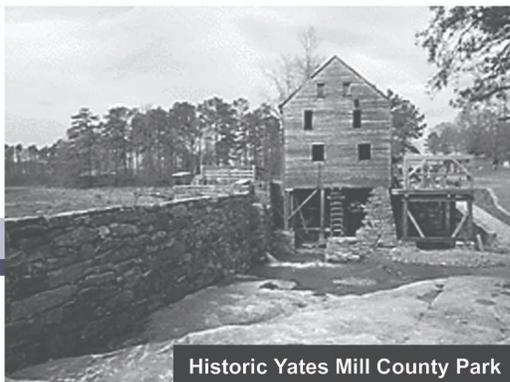
Penny House in southern Wake County

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

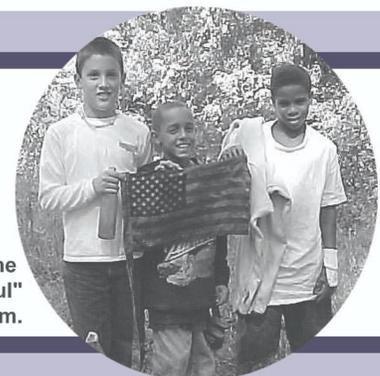
Historic Preservation was busy nominating several properties to the National Register of Historic Places: New Hill Historic District in southwestern Wake County; Cannady-Brogden Farm in Sandy Plain, northern Wake County; the former Panther Branch School on Sauls Road, southern Wake County; the former Riley Hill School on Riley Hill Road, eastern Wake County; the former St. Matthews School, Louisburg Road, Raleigh; and the Jesse Penny house and outbuildings on Penny Road, southern Wake County.

**AWARDS**

Two Sir Walter Raleigh Awards for Community Appearance were given to Wake County: On October 4, Wake County received awards for Historic Yates Mill in the Historic Preservation/Rehabilitation category, and for Lois Nixon, Keep America Beautiful Coordinator, in the Individual category. The awards are made by the Raleigh City Council to those who have made outstanding contributions to the character, environment and appearance of Raleigh.



Historic Yates Mill County Park



Children participate in the "Keep America Beautiful" program.

**for the environment!**

# On the Right Track with Collaboration and

# Partnerships



As part of its regional leadership role, the Board of Commissioners established a Water and Sewer Task Force in 1997. This countywide task force developed a plan to encourage long-term merging of water and sewer systems around the County as a way to provide more efficient service and save money. Continuing its leadership role, the Board in 2001 authorized the use of County Water/Wastewater Reserve Funds for feasibility studies for:

- the potential merger of the Morrisville and Cary water and wastewater systems,
- the potential merger of the Morrisville and Raleigh water and wastewater systems, and
- the potential utility merger between Wake Forest and Raleigh.

## Coffee and Books Go Together to Reach Kids

A record 5,000 new books and cash contributions were collected by the Starbucks/News & Observer "Books for Children" campaign to benefit Human Services' Child Health Clinics and other programs. These books, collected at Starbucks cafes, were distributed at all clinical sites, on home visits, at several Ready-to-Learn Centers, in child nutrition clinics and through the Foster Care teams.

## Partnership For Educational Success is Succeeding

The Partnership for Educational Success, an initiative of Wake County Human Services and the Wake County Public School System, has expanded to involve 50 Wake County families in 10 elementary schools and one middle school. The Partnership engages agencies, community members and families to help meet the educational needs of students performing below grade level or at risk of academic failure. It is based on working with families rather than doing for families.

The County firmly believes in the power of partnerships and collaboration. For many years, the County has partnered with the Wake County Public School System in numerous areas, including:

- School parks
- Human Services programs aimed at educational success
- Community use of schools, including by various groups and agencies such as the Board of Elections, which uses many schools as polling precincts for elections
- Libraries
- Public Safety programs such as the drug awareness program DARE, and school resource officers provided by the Sheriff's Office

## Some other examples of successful partnerships in 2001 are:

### 'New' Homeless Center Offers Hope

On October 5, 2001, Wake County opened the newly renovated South Wilmington Street Center (SWSC) for homeless men. Radically different from its predecessors, the SWSC's goal is to help men achieve greater self-sufficiency and move into permanent, affordable housing. In addition to shelter and food, Human Services and partner Urban Ministries have implemented a series of comprehensive programs, including substance-abuse and mental health treatment, job counseling, employment training and assistance to veterans.

The SWSC accommodates 231 men during normal conditions and an additional 107 during life-threatening weather conditions.



South Wilmington Street Center

### Emergency Communications

Two major projects involving technology will significantly advance emergency communications in Wake County in coming years. They are:

A \$23.2-million contract for an 800-megahertz trunked emergency radio communications system. Also, the County is working with the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety on an agreement for shared use of the State Highway Patrol's 800-MHz trunked radio communications system.

A \$2.4-million agreement for a Computer-Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system for use in emergency service dispatching in Wake County. This CAD system, developed by Wake County and the City of Raleigh, brings state-of-the-art support to fire, emergency medical services and law enforcement emergency response in Wake County, Raleigh and the municipalities served by the Raleigh-Wake County Emergency Communications Center. When in operation, around summer of 2002, this system will result in significantly faster and more accurate emergency response times and should eliminate the jurisdictional boundaries in place today.

### Grant to Help Teens Develop Skills

With a grant from the NC Department of Cultural Resources, Wake County Libraries are helping teens develop skills necessary to succeed on the state-mandated 8th grade computer competency exam, and develop practical research and information organization skills. The project is a collaborative effort with the Boys & Girls Club and East Wake Middle School.

### Fuquay-Varina Early Learning Center

Wake County, Fuquay Community Development Corp., the Town of Fuquay-Varina and Wake County Smart Start are partnering to provide daycare options through an Early Learning Center in Fuquay-Varina. Scheduled to open in early 2002, this neighborhood revitalization project involves extensive renovations to a building on the former Fuquay-Varina Consolidated School Campus. The Center will provide high quality childcare and a full array of programs for approximately 140 children, up to age 5, and their families. The Center also will address community needs including child health screenings, immunizations and developmental assessments for school preparation and readiness.



### County, City Partner on Battery Recycling

Wake County and the City of Raleigh formed a partnership to encourage citizens to recycle batteries as part of the County's Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Program. This is a cooperative venture between Solid Waste Management and block captains in the City's recycling program to collect batteries from their neighbors for recycling at the North Wake Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

**Going the extra mile by working Together!**

# On the Right Track with Facilities

## Breaking Ground on the Eastern Regional Center



Eastern Regional Center scheduled to open in fall 2002.

County Commissioners, Human Services Board members and municipal officials broke ground for the Eastern Regional Center in October. The new center is one of the County's strategies to deliver one-stop services in collaboration with community partners, local municipalities, schools, faith groups and civic groups. The ERC is scheduled to open in fall 2002 next to the Wake County Public Library on Dogwood Drive in Zebulon. The center will house staff from Building Inspections, Sheriff, Environmental Services, Revenue, Personnel and Human Services, and also will provide space to outside organizations such as non-profit groups that partner with the County to deliver services. The County's first center, Southern Regional Center (SRC) in Fuquay-Varina, opened in March 1996.

## Willow Springs Fire Station

Construction began in fall 2001 on the Willow Springs Fire Station, a 7,045-square-foot facility with on-site parking for 28 vehicles on Bud Lipscomb Road in southeastern Wake County. It will house living and administrative space for fire rescue staff, and two double length vehicle bays for fire fighting equipment and apparatus. The building is designed for future expansion, if needed. The project cost is estimated at about \$1 million. The County is working with the Town of Fuquay-Varina to provide fire services at the new station, which will bring the entire southeastern portion of the County within a fire district.

## Hammond Road Detention Annex

The Hammond Road Detention Annex added 248 new beds in 2001 to relieve overcrowding in the Public Safety Center jail. The medium-security annex is one phase of a long-term plan to expand the Hammond Road Criminal Justice Facility complex over the next several years. Also in 2001, the County acquired additional land for long-term development of detention facilities, projected to meet needs for 25 years; completed infrastructure improvements, such as site clearing, water, sewer, storm drainage and street improvements; and completed renovations to the Public Safety Center kitchen to support additional inmates. Money for these projects came from \$8 million in bond funds that were issued early in 2001, along with earlier appropriated capital funds. Separately, voters have authorized the County to issue \$20 million in bonds for the longer-term expansion plans. County staff is continuing to monitor the need for expansion, and will make recommendations about moving forward with the project to County Commissioners when needed.



## Convenience Center Improvements

The County made site improvements to Solid Waste Convenience Center #1 near Garner. The improvements included construction of a new convenience center adjacent to the existing site, with separate entry and exit drives to make it more convenient to drop off materials. The County also bought additional land to expand Solid Waste Convenience Center #4 in southern Wake County. Work is scheduled to begin in early 2002 to add a recycling pad, separate entry and exit drives, and a larger service area.

## IMAX Opens

The 271-seat IMAX Theater in downtown Raleigh opened in November, providing viewers with documentaries about Egypt and other wonders around the world displayed on a seven-story high screen with a 12,000-watt surround sound system. The County and City of Raleigh provided \$11.9 million in prepared foods tax and occupancy tax funds for the theater, which is next to the Exploris museum.



Chapel Hill author and chef Mildred "Mama Dip" Council, pictured right, with library commission chair Ruth Holleman.

## LIBRARIES

Wake County Public Libraries turned 100 in 2001! The libraries planned several gala events with local authors to mark their anniversary on January 24, and produced a written history of the libraries called "A Souvenir Centennial History." The County's 17 libraries include five regional facilities, the Olivia Raney Local History Library in the Wake County Office Park, and the Electronic Information Center in downtown Raleigh.

# On the Right Track with Services



**Wake County expanded recycling services at the North Wake County Multi-Material Facility to include pilot recycling programs for computer monitors and wood pallets, beginning in September. The fees for pallets are \$25 per ton or \$2 per individual pallet, and \$5 per computer monitor from businesses and commercial haulers. Wake County residents are not charged for computer monitor recycling.**



### Western Wake Mental Health Center and Cary Satellite House Expand

Cary Satellite House and Western Wake Mental Health Center moved to a new, larger location at 232 High House Road in Cary, expanding the mental health and psychosocial rehabilitation program that provides structure and support for adults with mental illness to live successfully in their communities. The program enables members to carry on everyday tasks themselves, including cooking, clerical, reception and maintenance. Some members also are employed part-time on a mobile work crew that cleans County parks in Cary and Apex. For some, this is the steppingstone to additional employment and greater independence.

### e-GOVERNMENT

The County has stepped up its focus on the use of technology to provide better customer service by expanding our e-Government efforts. In the private sector, this generally is known as e-commerce, or e-business. We believe that e-Government will make it easier for citizens to do business with us, using computers or telephones to receive services outside of traditional business hours. While we know that technology can never replace face-to-face customer services, we are hoping to provide more access to services electronically, so citizens can do business with us "at your place, on your time."

### Family to Family: It Takes A Community

Human Services, supported by a multi-year grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is working with Wake County communities to develop a network of family foster care that is more neighborhood-based, culturally sensitive and located primarily in the communities in which the children live. The outcomes expected are being guided by the principles that children do best with strong families, that families can become strong when they have the support of their communities, and that child welfare agencies can do their jobs better when they partner with communities in support of families. Human Services workers are engaging birth families, recruiting foster families and collaborating with neighboring families to get the best results for children.

### Leading the State in Adoptions a Repeat

For the second year in a row, Human Services and its Adoption Resource Team helped the county lead the state in the number of adoptions completed, all the more significant because every one involved special needs foster children. In fiscal 2000-2001, 107 children were adopted. The approach integrates many staff and programs to ease the adoption process and ensure that children, parents and adoptive families have the supports they need. Wake County exceeded the goal set by the state and decreased by 16% the number of children in Human Services' custody.

### Wake County Animal Shelter

The Wake County Animal Shelter housed 7,336 animals in 2001, including about 4,000 dogs and 3,300 cats. Of these, 456 were reclaimed and 1,724 were adopted.

Animal Control, part of the Environmental Services Department, partners with N.C. State University in a program called "Planned Pethood." The school's veterinary students (shown in photo) gain experience in spaying and neutering animals, which makes the pets adoption-ready at no cost to the County.



### Voter Update

The Board of Elections buzzed with activity during the year, creating 12 new precincts, adding more than 40,000 new voters and processing close to 60,000 name, address and/or other changes to registered voters' information.

In other activities:

- In April, the Board of Elections hosted a meeting with U.S. Rep. David Price to discuss election reform and to provide input on conducting elections.
- In August, the Board hosted a group from Africa, through the International Visitors Council, to share information on preventing election fraud, training precinct officials and ballot security.

### Food safety

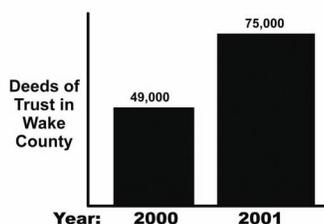
Environmental health inspectors made more than 8,400 inspections in 2001, which included restaurants, swimming pools, and special events such as the State Fair and the First Night New Year's Eve event in downtown Raleigh. The Environmental Services division also provides information about food safety and food service sanitation through Serve-Safe Food Service Managers Courses.

### Some notes about your libraries:

- Wake County Public Libraries provide free Internet access from 570 computers, and has the first highest circulation in the state at 9.2 items per person.
- Each November, library volunteers stage a very popular book sale, and all net profits are used to buy new materials for libraries. The 2001 sale brought record proceeds of more than \$72,000.
- With a \$24,455 grant from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the Public Libraries implemented a program designed to increase library contact with Hispanic/Latino populations.

### Alcoholism Treatment Center Selected for Training on New Drug

Wake County's Alcoholism Treatment Center (ATC) has been selected as a Center of Excellence by the State. This year, it also became one of the select sites to receive staff training from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism about how to use ReVia for alcoholics, a drug that greatly reduces the craving for up to 40% of those taking it.



### REGISTER OF DEEDS

With favorable interest rates spurring home buying and selling, the Register of Deeds Office saw a substantial increase in business over the year.

### "Real Life" TV Takes Human Services into Homes

Taking its communication to the air waves, Human Services premiered its government channel public affairs show, "Real Life," featuring Human Services Director Maria Spaulding as host to provide a closer look at programs that help families live better lives. Raleigh Cable Channels 10 & 11 and Cary TV Channel 11 give citizens a chance to see Real Life with real people at their local schools, churches, workplaces and playgrounds. Citizens can hear chats with community partners, leaders and citizens about growth and new direction.

"Real Life" is shown on Cable Channel 10 in Raleigh and 11 in Cary.



**Going the extra mile through services!**

**The City-County Bureau of Identification works with all law enforcement agencies in the County to investigate crime scenes, gather evidence and maintain criminal records and fingerprint files in all Wake County arrests. In 2001, CCBI reported this activity:**



- Crime scenes investigated: 9,184 (includes 17 homicides, 147 sexual assaults, 372 robberies, and 3,733 burglaries)
- Suspects identified by Latent Fingerprint Examiners: 439
- Drug cases analyzed: 1,254
- Drug samples analyzed: 1,613
- Intoxilyzer tests administered: 4,025 (for driving-while-intoxicated arrestees)
- Arrestees processed: 27,318
- Photo line-ups: 1,048
- Civilian fingerprints: 13,229 (examples include adoption cases, law enforcement applicants, teachers and others working with children, attorneys and stockbrokers seeking licensure)

#### Wide-A-Wake Forum

In March, the 4th Annual Wide-A-Wake Community Forum reached more than 350 participants who came to network and create new partnerships concerning men's issues. By partnering with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program, two pre-forum events for parents and those interested in the future of young males were held, reaching another 1,500 people. Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies and the Men's Center were granted an award at the Forum to design a fatherhood initiative for Wake County.

#### Public Safety, Health Deals with Bioterrorism

Public safety and public health experts from Wake County took a leading role during the anthrax and other bioterrorism threats, coordinating with local, state and federal authorities to handle suspicious packages. They fielded hundreds of calls from concerned Wake County citizens, and provided information to the medical community, municipal leaders and the local news media.

#### Syphilis Elimination Project Cutting Disease More than Half

Human Services' National Demonstration Project for Syphilis Elimination, one of only three sites in the "National Campaign To Eliminate Syphilis by 2005," is achieving great success through expanded surveillance and clinical services, more community involvement and social marketing, and community-based interventions. The rate of primary and secondary syphilis has decreased by 60% from the project's inception in November 1998 through the end of 2000. Projections based on current statistics indicate that, for calendar year 2001, a further reduction of 25% to 30% is anticipated.

#### Rubella Outreach Leads to No Cases in 2001

The Human Services' Rubella Education and Outreach Project is working to reduce the number of rubella cases here. Nearly 1,200 immunizations have been provided, and no cases of rubella were reported in Wake County or North Carolina in 2001. North Carolina led the nation in rubella during the year 2000, reporting 95 cases. Wake County ranked third in the state that year, reporting 10 cases. The Wake County project focused on the Latino community because that group was, statewide, most affected by rubella. Information and immunizations were provided at grocery stores, flea markets, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, businesses, migrant clinics, community events and a Lay Health Advisors group.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Commissioners advanced affordable housing on several fronts throughout the year. They approved the 2001 Housing Action Plan, which allocates \$3,757,500 (including \$1 million in County funds) to the housing program to provide housing rehabilitation, first-time homebuyer's assistance and housing development for low-income families or those who are homeless or have other special needs.

Some of the projects, overseen by the Housing and Community Revitalization Division, include:



Funding for two Cary projects, Highland Village and Summer Ridge, including \$100,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and loans of \$211,000 to DHIC for the Highland Village project and \$189,000 to Pendersmith for Summer Ridge; the Town of Cary matched the County's commitment for these developments, which will provide housing for at least 61 low-income families.

Loans from the Affordable Housing Loan Fund for \$482,148 to DHIC, a non-profit affordable housing developer, to build 37 efficiency/studio apartments in south Raleigh for low-income individuals, and \$131,500 to Glory to Glory House of Refuge, a non-profit that offers housing and support services to single homeless women, to purchase and renovate a building in Raleigh.

A \$300,000 loan to CASA to develop a 31-unit efficiency apartment complex on South Wilmington Street in Raleigh to house low-income individuals.

A \$250,000 HOME fund loan to Regency Development to rehabilitate an abandoned school building on West Jones Street in Fuquay-Varina for low-income senior citizen apartments.

Rehabilitation of 14 homes owned by low-income families with \$500,972 in CDBG funds.

43 down payment assistance loans totaling \$150,500 in federal HOME funds to low-income families to help purchase their first homes.

Assistance with the issuance of multifamily revenue bonds (the County incurs no liability for these bonds) for developments on Melvid Court in Raleigh, in the Cary Glen and Cary Park subdivisions in Cary, and at Longbourn and Pembroly Drives in Wake Forest.

#### Court Services' Counselors Succeed

Wake County Court Services' counselors guided nearly 100% of their Intensive Outpatient clients to successfully complete treatment, the program's best record ever, and a very rare achievement in the chemical dependency field. Court Services continues to provide the only Spanish-speaking substance-abuse assessments, education and treatment services offered by Wake County, including bilingual counselors and health educators. Hispanic clients account for 20-25% of clients.

#### Community Voices for Children

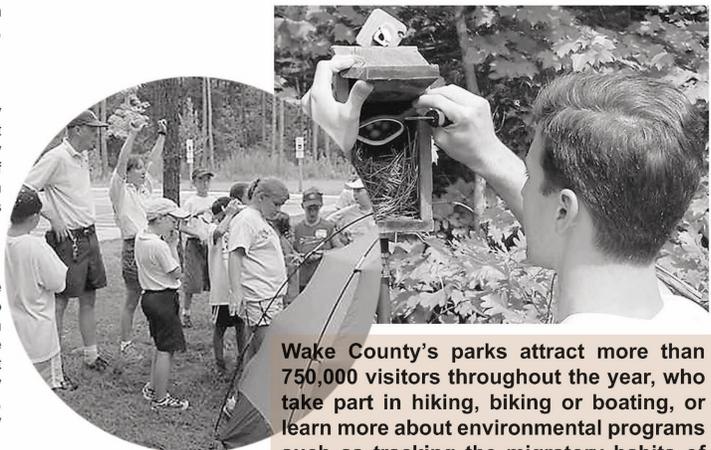
Community Voices continues to reach out to Wake County's Hispanic community by providing leadership and community decision-making training to parents of children under 5 years of age to help their children become prepared for school. As a Smart Start partner, the program encourages the parents to use their new skills to identify and address assets and needs of families and children within their communities. During the last year, the project coordinator has provided training and follow-up support to 35 parents in two limited-resource communities.

#### East Wake Youth Initiative

Wake County Cooperative Extension's 4-H Youth Development staff conducted the second annual Leadership Summit in March 2001, co-facilitated by emerging youth leaders who participated the previous year. As a part of the East Wake Youth Initiative, 40 youth from community and school-based organizations attended and later participated in community service based on an assessment of the needs in their community.

#### Growing New Capacity for Early Intervention

In spring 2001, Human Services' Early Intervention program assisted in "growing" a new nonprofit agency to help meet the desperate need for early intervention services for young children in the community. Play and Grow Pediatrics opened its doors in the fall, providing a full range of interventions including speech, occupational and physical therapy, as well as early childhood education in a small group format or in the families' homes. This prevention and education measure helps children prepare to enter and do well in school and at home.



Wake County's parks attract more than 750,000 visitors throughout the year, who take part in hiking, biking or boating, or learn more about environmental programs such as tracking the migratory habits of bluebirds or how to build tents. Historic Oak View County Park holds a major exhibit each year; in 2001, it celebrated the County's agricultural roots with exhibits about commodities and old-time farming equipment, plus a Culinary Arts Festival.

## On the Right Track with Financial Stewardship

Commissioners adopted a \$619.9-million budget for fiscal 2001-2002 that did not raise taxes; increased public school funding by \$20 million over the previous year, maintained the \$3-million school health nurse program, and added 50 County positions in areas such as Sheriff's deputies, environmental health inspectors, paramedics, parks, technology and Board of Elections.

As part of budget negotiations on school funding in 2001, the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education established a 16-member citizen advisory committee to examine the Wake County Public School System's operational needs and determine appropriate levels of local funding for the school system.

In January, the County sold bonds for school construction and criminal justice facility construction. The County's AAA bond rating (the highest granted by the major rating agencies) saved about \$7.5 million in interest payments. On January 30, the County sold \$150 million of school general obligation bonds, which voters approved as part of the \$500 million bond referendum in November 2000, and \$8 million of criminal justice facility general obligation bonds. Because the County has an excellent bond rating, the net interest cost was lower and represented significant savings. No tax increase is required to repay these bonds.

#### AWARDS

For the 17th consecutive year, the County's Finance Department was recognized for excellence in financial reporting, with the Government Finance Officers' Association Award for the fiscal 1999 - 2000 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The budget document for the 2000-01 (July 1-June 30) fiscal year earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation award.

## Wake County Board of Commissioners

## Board Committees



**Michael Weeks**  
*Chairman*



**Linda Coleman**  
*Vice Chair*



**Herb Council**



**Kenn Gardner**



**Vernon Malone**



**Betty Mangum**



**Betty Lou Ward**

**David Cooke**  
*County Manager*

**Gwen Reynolds**  
*Clerk to the Board*

**Michael R. Ferrell**  
*County Attorney*

	2001	2002
<b>Growth, Land Use and Environment</b>	Herb Council, Chair Kenn Gardner, Vice Chair Linda Coleman	Herb Council, Chair Betty Mangum, Vice Chair Kenn Gardner
<b>Public Safety and Criminal Justice</b>	Linda Coleman, Chair Betty Mangum, Vice Chair Herb Council	Michael Weeks, Chair Kenn Gardner, Vice Chair Betty Mangum
<b>Budget, Finance, and Education</b>	Vernon Malone, Chair Kenn Gardner, Vice Chair Betty Lou Ward	Vernon Malone, Chair Betty Lou Ward, Vice Chair Michael Weeks
<b>Human and Community Services</b>	Betty Lou Ward, Chair Betty Mangum, Vice Chair Vernon Malone	Betty Lou Ward, Chair Herb Council, Vice Chair Vernon Malone

## Looking Down the Road

- In 2002, Linda Coleman will serve as Chair of the Board of Commissioners, and Herb Council will serve as Vice Chair. Both were elected for one-year terms beginning in December 2001.
- In late spring, the Citizens Advisory Committee on School Operations will report the results of their study and possible recommendations for school operating funds.
- In summer, three important long-term plans should be completed and presented as recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. They are the Growth Management Plan, the Watershed Management Plan, and the Comprehensive Open Space Plan.
- By fall, the new Eastern Regional Center should be open for business in Zebulon, providing public health care, social services, mental health care, and a variety of other County services to residents in the eastern part of the County.

### Major issues before the County, from 2002 and beyond

#### Growth and the Environment

- Continued emphasis on growth and environmental initiatives
- Open space acquisition
- Continued land acquisition for Little River Reservoir Project
- Transportation planning (thoroughfare and collector road plans)
- Groundwater sustainability
- Transitional Urban Development Standards (TUDs)
- Unified Development Ordinance (collect all relevant ordinances in one place and help ensure that new development is done in accordance with modern standards)
- Water and sewer mergers

#### Education

- Funding Public Schools
- Bond issue for next phase of school building program and other projects (2003)

#### Community Services

- Updated long-term plans for parks, public libraries
- Continued development of Historic Yates Mill County Park, with education center to be built in 2003.

#### Public Safety

- Domestic security issues
- Implementation of computer-assisted dispatch and 800 megahertz technology

#### Services

- Latino/Hispanic/multi-cultural awareness, access to services, language barriers
- Providing continued service delivery as growth expands
- Citizen access to information and services

#### Human Services

- Community-based mental health
- Educational success for children
- Alcohol, drug treatment
- Senior care
- Affordable housing
- Homeless population services
- Continued regionalization of services
- Bioterrorism and public health readiness
- Communicable diseases
- Child welfare

#### e-Government/Technology

- Redesign web site, using citizen-based decision making to make it more user-friendly
- e-Government strategies (put more forms on-line, create more opportunities for citizen interaction and to allow people to use the Internet to do more business with the County)

#### Facilities

- Planning for new emergency medical services and fire stations
- Convenience Center upgrades
- Emergence of next regional center (in northern or western part of County)
- Increased security at facilities

#### Solid Waste

- Landfill litigation
- Identify options/alternatives to South Wake Landfill
- Construction & demolition debris landfill locations and permits
- Partner with municipalities and private sector to encourage more residential curbside and commercial recycling

