



Need your pet spayed or neutered? The SNAP van is coming on June 30th. Contact Animal Control for more info at 257-6137.



WVC

A newsletter from Warren County government

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Warren County pursues solutions to the broadband issue

Warren County staff have been working to review the competitive broadband Request for Proposals (RFP) responses that were received from broadband/internet providers in early March. Providers submitted their proposals on how to service three areas of need: unserved areas, higher population areas, and government facilities. A team of Warren County staff and community voices has been formed to review the proposals in order to make a recommendation to the Commissioners. The FY 21 proposed budget contains \$175,000 in funding towards year one of the broadband project's implementation phase. The project's goal is to attract a new provider to the county. Residents will still have to develop a business relationship with a new provider. This project does not mean internet will be free for residents. Many residents and businesses are excited to see new solutions to the issue of broadband access in the county. Staff is working to make sure that different options are explored in order to achieve the best solution to the broadband issue in Warren County.



County staff and community stakeholders review the RFP responses.

For more information, contact the County Manager's Office at 252-257-3115.

Census 2020 is in full swing. Have you completed your survey?

The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions.

The results will show where communities need new schools, new clinics, new roads, and more services for families, older adults, and children. The results will also inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to more than 100 programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, block grants for community mental health services, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.



(Wording from census.gov. Call the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for more info at 252-257-3115.)

You can complete your Census online at my2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.

PLEASE SECURE YOUR LOAD

Unintentional litter is still litter



KEEP WARREN COUNTY BEAUTIFUL



County Moves Toward FY 21 Budget

The Warren County Board of Commissioners will meet to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 budget at a special meeting on June 23rd at the Armory at 6 pm. A public hearing was held on June 1st. The FY 21 budget has been determined amidst resources and needs impacted by COVID-19.

The FY 21 proposed budget is \$33,084,903 and includes a \$.02 property tax increase, which will result in approximately \$500,000 in revenue for the County. The County has prioritized those funds for its broadband initiative, education, implementing the first phase of its employee compensation plan, and updating the County comprehensive land use plan.

The public can access the proposed budget at warrencountync.com. A copy of the budget can also be found at the Warren County Memorial Library (call first at 257-4990).

Pictured below: The Commissioners reflect on 2019 and strategize for FY 21 at their February 2020 retreat.





For more information on these positions, visit warrencountync.com/166/Human-Resources

The following positions are open until filled:

Human Resources Manager

Public Health Nurse II (Home Health Nurse)

Public Health Nurse (Family Planning)

Public Health Nurse II

Deputy Sheriff

Telecommunicator E-911

Recreation Worker (Seasonal)

Greetings from Chairman Tare "T" Davis

To the Citizens of Warren County,

The pages of history have recorded the resilience of many different communities throughout the world. Over the past few months we have faced adversities

through COVID-19 and social disparities. Let us remember that what we believe divides us is actually what unites us. We must remember that we are all God's children.

Chairman Tare "T" Davis
Chairman

Warren County Board of Commissioners



County awards \$40,000 to local non-profits

"I am excited that the Board of Commissioners has chosen to fund non-profits in our annual budget," stated Vincent Jones, County Manager. "It allows the County to reach different segments of our community that may not be reached by our government services. That can run the gamut from recreation to arts to social services, and that's a win for the County."

Warren County adopted its current funding for local non-profit agencies policy in 2014. Funded services through this program must be equally available to all residents.

FY 2019-2020 recipients include: Hecks Grove Community Center (\$13,500), Boys & Girls Club (\$11,000), Gladys Rogers Darensburg Foundation (\$5,000), Pier View Community Innovations (\$5,000), Heritage Quilters Giving Circle (\$2,500), Turning Point Community Development (\$2,000), and the Warren County Arts Council (\$1,000).

For more information on FY 21 funding, call the County Manager's Office at 252-257-3115.

Warren County responds to COVID-19

It feels a little cliché to say that Warren County has been going through unprecedented times in regard to COVID-19, but we know that is what is happening. We have not seen anything like this in our lifetime, and first and foremost we want to write that we hope all of our residents are healthy and safe and staying positive as we weather this storm together.

Warren County government has worked hard to respond to community needs since the Governor issued a state of emergency in early March. Our team hit the ground running, issuing our own state of emergency just five days later and spending the next week rallying partners from across the county, compiling information resources, and asking how we could support community needs. While County offices altered their normal operations, we have remained open during our regular hours every day. We want to recognize our staff for keeping our County operations running smoothly and being available to serve the public.

A special thanks to County staff on the front line of community healthcare and public safety during this time- the Public Health Department, EMS, the Sheriff's Office, and Emergency Services- as well as our volunteer fire departments.

Warren County partnered with Loaves & Fishes, our local food bank, to provide marketing and volunteer support with deliveries and donation handouts. The County also worked with Loaves & Fishes to secure additional cold storage for food items.

Warren County Emergency Management established a COVID-19 task force of County personnel, including identifying two staff members to act in the Feeding Coordinator capacity for the County. Warren County has operated a COVID-19 information phone line, maintained web pages dedicated to COVID-19 information, issued press releases, made social media updates, and recorded PSAs for the local radio station.



Nurses at the Warren County Health Department encourage residents to remember the 3 W's: WAIT (stay back 6' from people), WEAR (your mask), and WASH (your hands).



Warren County staff and Warren County Schools officials visited WARR 1520 AM several times to discuss COVID-19 on air.

Warren County staff supported Loaves and Fishes weekly with volunteer labor.



Warren Co. Economic Development Frontier Warren Update

In December of 2019, the Warren County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Warrenton and the Research Triangle Partnership (RTP) embarked on a tremendous opportunity with the RTP Foundation's Frontier Center. These organizations are partnering to bring the RTP's first outpost of the Frontier Center to Warren County. The Frontier Center will serve as a co-working space for residents that work or businesses that can operate remotely. The goal of the outpost is to encourage small business growth and entrepreneur development.

The opening of the Frontier Warren co-working space at 140 S. Main St., Warrenton, scheduled to open July 1st. The co-working space, complete with a community conference room, is open to all and will have free wifi.

The Frontier Warren office space is located two doors down at 136 S. Main St. Frontier Warren is looking for landlords and investors throughout the county that are interested in starting entrepreneur offices. If you are interested in hosting a Frontier Warren office space, please contact EDC Director Stacy Woodhouse at the EDC office (252-257-3114). Individuals or companies that are interested in renting office space can contact the EDC office and will be connected with host sites.





Meet the new Tax Administrator: John Preston

At their January 6, 2020 meeting, the Warren County Board of Commissioners voted to appoint John Preston as the Warren County Tax Administrator for a two-year term with a salary of \$70,000. Preston, who has been serving as Interim Tax Administrator since October 2019, previously held the position of Assistant Tax Administrator of Warren County.

Preston, a native of Prince George's County in Maryland, moved to Warrenton in 2015 when he was hired as the County Appraiser. Preston brings with him over twenty years of public service at all levels (federal, state, and local) between his time in Maryland and North Carolina. He has worked primarily in the assessments, billing, and collection of property taxes; also owned his own home inspection business. Preston worked for Warren County from 2015-2017 before taking a role with the NC Department of Revenue-Local Government Division. He returned to Warren County in 2019 to fill the newly created Assistant Tax Administrator Role. Preston has received training from both the NC Department of Revenue as well as the UNC School of Government in tax administration, real property appraisal, personal property appraisal, and property tax listing and assessing.

"The Tax Administrator is responsible for determining the fair and equitable assessed market value of both real and personal property," Preston explains. "The tax dollars this tax value generates is a major portion of Warren County's budget. These tax dollars are used to fund everyday programs and projects. All of these are necessary features to attract new business and new growth for the benefit of our current and future citizens."

Pictured is Preston (3rd from right) with the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

EMS personnel recognized for lifesaving work



At the June 1, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting, Warren County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division Chief, Brandyn Smith, awarded the EMS Lifesaving Award to several EMS staff as well as recognized the efforts of other first responders in cardiac saves. For a save on October 31st, 2019, the following EMS personnel were recognized: Sergeant D'Arcey Wright, Paramedic Robert Hughes, Lieutenant Cameron Newhouse (pictured above), and Captain Tyson Satterwhite (pictured above). Responders from Warrenton Rural Fire Department and Warrenton Police Department were also acknowledged.

For a save on April 20th, 2020, the following were recognized: EMT Melissa Fitts, EMT Jonathan Carroll, Paramedic Travis Faulcon, and Sergeant Aaron Elliott (pictured below). Norlina Vol. Fire Department firefighter Dominique Trotman was also recognized (pictured below). Other Norlina firefighters mentioned were Zachary Short and Joshua Terry.



County continues with I-85 waste water improvement project

Warren County has received funding for a waste water improvement project at the Wise I-85 interchange at the US Highway 1 intersection. The purpose of the project is to provide a County-owned waste water system that will serve the south side of I-85 and offer potential growth and economic development at the interchange.

The planning and design portion of this project has been completed, and the project has been released for formal bidding. A project pre-bid conference for interested contractors was held May 14, 2020 and the formal bid opening was scheduled for June 2, 2020 at the Warren County Armory and Civic Center.

Construction will be completed this summer.

Text-to-911 is now available

Warren County E-911 is pleased to announce that Text-to-911 capabilities are now in place. However, residents should choose calling 911 over texting whenever possible. Text-to-911 should only be used in extreme emergencies. When using Text-to-911, texters must include their location/address and name. Telecommunicators cannot assist a texter if they do not have a location. No photos or videos should be sent via Text-to-911. With Text-to-911 the caller has the ability to send a text message to reach 911 emergency call takers from their mobile phones. Those using Text-to-911 should not text and drive. If the person in need attempts to send a text to 911 where mobile service is not available, providers will send an automatic "bounce-back" message that will advise you to contact emergency services by another means.

Changes in DMV office operations

You may have noticed that DMV offices in our neighboring counties are not open due to COVID-19 precautions. Governor Roy Cooper signed into law a bill that adds five months to the expiration date of any license, permit, registration or other credential issued by DMV and waives all fees, fines or penalties for not complying with the old date. Motor vehicle tax payments and inspection deadlines are also delayed to match the new expiration dates. The extension only applies to any DMV credential that expires on or after March 1st and before August 1st.

Library now available for no-contact pickup

Warren County Memorial Library resumed limited public operations on June 17th with the introduction of "No Contact Pickup." Library patrons are now able to place books and audiovisual materials on hold via the library catalog at any time, or by calling 252-257-4990 between 9:00am and 4:30pm (Monday through Friday). Library staff will pull the requested items and give the patron a call when the items are checked out and ready for pickup.

The Library lobby will be open for book pickups on Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 4:30pm. Your items will be placed in a bag with your name on it for you to grab and go. There will be no access to the main building, community room, or restrooms at this time. Further steps for re-opening will be announced as details become available. All efforts are being made to fully return to serving patrons in person while mitigating any potential spread of the coronavirus.

During the pandemic, Warren County Memorial Library staff have worked to greatly expand the range of resources and services that are available online. If you need a library card, or need to update an existing one, all of that can now be handled at the library website, www.wcmlibrary.org. You may also give the Library staff a call at 252-257-4990, and they will be happy to assist you.



Animal Control
252.257.6137

Board of Elections
252.257.2114

Buildings & Grounds
252.257.5555

Code Enforcement
252.257.1305

Cooperative Extension
252.257.3640

County Commissioners
252.257.3116

County Manager
252.257.3115

Economic Development
252.257.3114

Emergency Medical Services & Emergency Services
252.257.1191

Finance
252.257.1778

Health Department
252.257.6000

Human Resources
252.257.3574

Landfill
252.257.3795

Library
252.257.4990

Planning/Zoning
252.257.7027

Public Utilities
252.257.3645

Public Works
252.257.1948

Recreation
252.257.2272

Register of Deeds
252.257.3265

Senior Center
252.257.3111

Sheriff
252.257.3364

Telecommunications
252.257.3456

Detention Center
252.257.3314

Social Services
252.257.2202

Child Support
252.257.1165

Soil & Water
252.257.3836

Tax Administration
252.257.4158

Veterans Services
252.257.3385

2019 Warren County Progress Review

Warren County has been working diligently this past year to progress in areas of organizational development, connectivity and access, community growth, and outreach. Plans for the upcoming year include even more strategic growth in all areas.

Organizational Development

In 2019, Warren County filled its new position of Senior Assistant to the County Manager. This role will act as a deputy to the County Manager, assisting in organization administration and special projects management. The County also filled its Tax Administrator role.

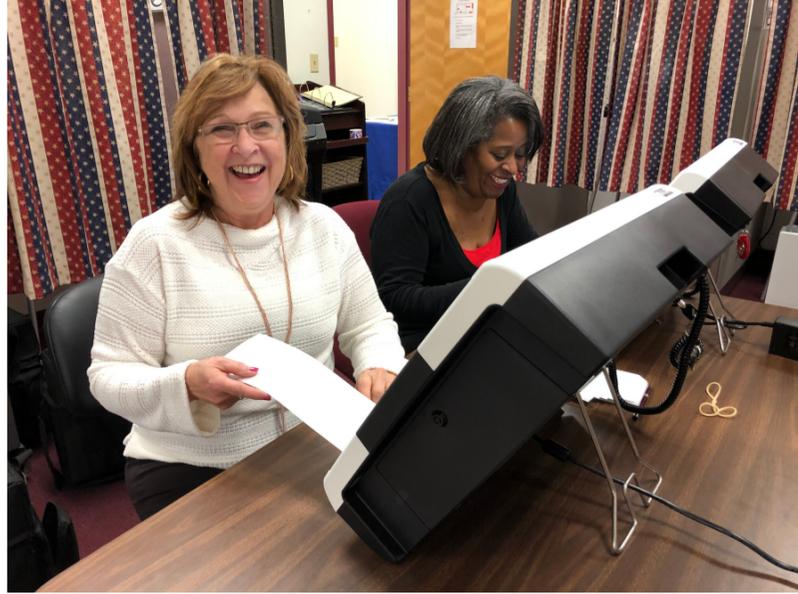
The Warren County Health Department (WCHD) was re-accredited with honors in the fall of 2019 by the NC Local Health Department Accreditation program. WCHD offers health services such as: Adult Health; Child Health; Communicable Diseases; Environmental Health; Family Planning; Health Education; Home Health; Immunizations; Maternal Health; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Warren County was named one of only fourteen local NC governments to receive funding from the legislature for the 2019 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant. The county will receive \$148,770 toward improvements at the Magnolia Ernest Recreation Park in the Soul City community of Warren County.

Connectivity and Access

Cooperative Extension now offers beginning and established farmers opportunities to lease a no till drill and BCS tractor. Gardeners and farmers that span a range of production sizes no longer have to travel outside of the county to lease this equipment. Cooperative Extension agents will also do demonstrations with the equipment and provide education for users.

The Warren County Memorial Library continues to be an anchor in our community. Sixty percent of residents are active library users; 854 people visit the library every week. Residents borrowed 59,133 items from the library last year.



Board of Elections staff tests new voting equipment prior to the March primaries in 2020.

That's an increase of over 6% from previous years. Library staff assisted with 44,000 information requests last year. We are ranked 5th in NC regarding time spent answering questions and assisting patrons. The Community Room continues to offer residents a place for meetings and other activities that is free of charge. There were 544 meetings scheduled with 9,298 attendees in this busy community space last year.

Looking at ways to celebrate and evolve our agricultural economy continues to be a priority of the county. Photo courtesy of Caitlyn Stegall.



Pictured here is (L to R): Cheryl Reddish (Library Director), Chairman Tare Davis, and Emma Perry (Interim DSS Director)

In 2019 the Warren County Board of Commissioners established a new citizen group, the Keep Warren County Beautiful committee, to work in concert with the national organization Keep America Beautiful. This committee will work on litter prevention efforts and mitigation in the county. The Board of Commissioners also established a Facilities Review Committee to look at the maintenance, sustainability, and use of county buildings. In 2020, the Board of Commissioners voted to transfer the responsibilities of the Facilities Review Committee to the Planning Board.



In Warren County we are so fortunate to have an amazing and dedicated staff at our Public Health Department. We wanted to save some space in this newsletter to give an acknowledgement specifically to our Epidemiological Team; this team investigates individual cases and outbreaks of reported communicable diseases. They have been working very hard in their response efforts to COVID-19 in our community.



Dr. Margaret Brake (L) & Kay Hall (R)

Heather Endecott (below)



We want to make sure you know who has been on the frontlines of public health in our county.

2ND WEDNESDAY OF A FULL WEEK (9 AM-4 PM); EVERY OTHER MONTH

2020 SCHEDULE
JULY 15
SEPTEMBER 16
DECEMBER 16

WARREN COUNTY ARMORY CIVIC CENTER
 501 US HWY 158 BUS E
 WARRENTON, NC 27589

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT THE COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE:
 252-257-3115

DMV MOBI UNIT IN WARREN COUNTY

Check in with us before July to make sure event is still happening.



Wenona Mills

ADOPT FROM WARREN COUNTY ANIMAL ARK

Come meet your new family member today! Call the Warren County Animal Shelter at 252-257-6137. Check out their Facebook account @WarrenCountyAnimalArk.