BURKE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PRE-AGENDA MEETING
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
110 N. GREEN STREET, ENTRANCE E
YOUTUBE: BURKECOUNTYNC
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026
3:00 P.M.

Note: The pre-agenda meeting will serve as a review of items scheduled to be considered during the upcoming regular meeting, with the exception of items listed under "Action Items."

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. PRESENTATIONS

1. BCUW - Burke County Nonprofit Day Proclamation
   Presented by **Abigail Taylor, Burke United Way Marketing & Communications Director**

2. EM - Recognition of Life Savers
   Presented by **James Robinson, Emergency Services Director**

4. SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. TA - Schedule of Values Public Hearing
   Presented by **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

5. CONSENT AGENDA

1. CM - Res No. 2026-26 Appreciation for House Bill 850 (S.L. 2025-74) -Presented by **Hugh Sandoe, Budget Strategy and Performance Analyst**

2. America 250 - Consideration of Resolution 2026-27 Dissolving the Burke County America 250 NC Committee
   Presented by **Ed Phillips, TDA Director & America 250 Committee Chairman**

3. HD - Assessment of Public Health Rules & Board Policies
   Presented by **Dr. Ashley Jarrett, Interim Health Director**

4. OR - Budget Amendment No. 11- Opioid Rural Health Grant (Place Holder) -
   Presented by **Dr. Katie Samuels, Opioid Response Director**

5. Clerk - Reappointments to Blue Ridge Community Action (BRCA) Board -

Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

6. Clerk - Appointment to Board of Adjustment
   Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

7. Clerk - Reappointments and Removal to the Council on Aging (Place Holder) -
   Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

8. Clerk - Appointment to DSS Board
   Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

9. Clerk -Appointment to LEPC Board
   Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

10. Clerk - Appointment to JCPC Board
    Presented by **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

11. Tax - Tax Release and Refund Report for Period Ending October 31, 2026 -
    Presented by **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

12. Tax - Tax Collection Report for Period Ending October 31, 2026
    Presented by **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. Clerk - Appointments/Reappointments to Equalization & Review Board -
   Presented **by Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

8. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. ACTION ITEMS

1. BOC- Designate 2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Voting Delegate -
   Presented by **Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman**

2. DSS - Departmental update for period ending September 30, 2026
   Presented by **Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director**

10. CLOSED SESSION

1. BOC - Closed Session
   Presented by **Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman**

11. ADJOURN

In accordance with ADA regulations, persons in need of an accommodation to participate in the

meeting should notify the County Manager's office at 828-764-9350 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: **BCUW - Burke County Nonprofit Day Proclamation**

Presented by: **Abigail Taylor, Burke United Way Marketing & Communications Director**

Summary of Information: The Burke County United Way is requesting that the Burke County Board of Commissioners proclaim December 1, 2026, as Burke County Nonprofit Day (1BurkeGives). This annual initiative recognizes the significant contributions of local nonprofit organizations and their staff and volunteers in meeting the diverse needs of Burke County residents. The proclamation encourages citizens to celebrate, support, and raise awareness of the vital role nonprofit organizations play in strengthening our community and enhancing the quality of life throughout Burke County.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To approve Proclamation No. 2026-14 designating December 1, 2026, as Burke County Nonprofit Day (1BurkeGives). Take a commemorative picture.

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
BURKE COUNTY NONPROFIT DAY- 1BURKE GIVES
December 1, 2026

WHEREAS, charitable nonprofit organizations throughout Burke County save taxpayers thousands of dollars through their services and contribute significantly to the high quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are committed to serving the educational, cultural, civic, health, religious, human and animal services, recreational, philanthropic, environmental, and other diverse needs of Burke County; and

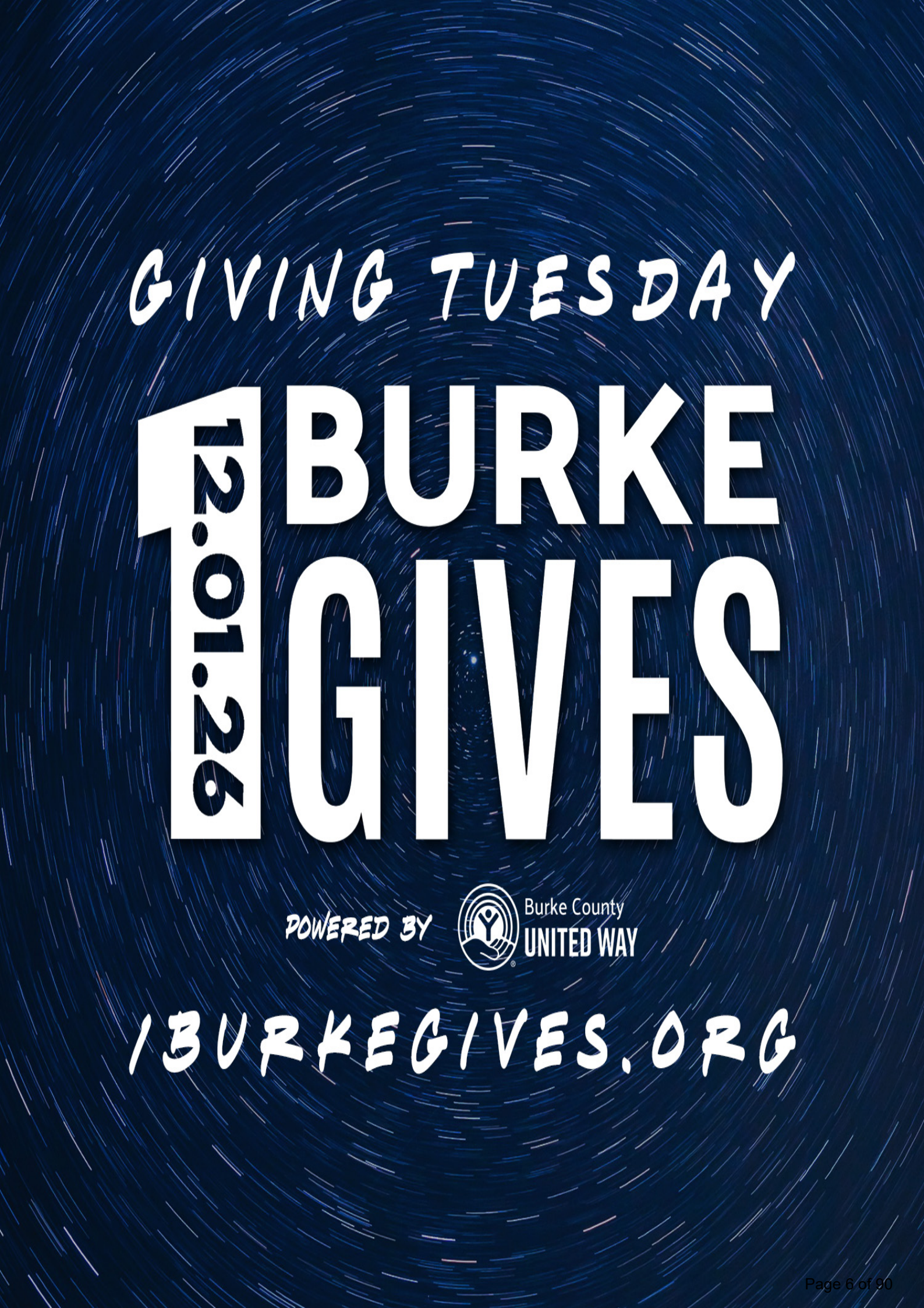
WHEREAS, the staff and volunteers of all Burke County nonprofit organizations are dedicated to upholding the highest standards of community service, donating their time and effort to making a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, observance of "Burke County, NC Nonprofit Day" (aka 1BurkeGives) provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of Burke County to join in appreciation and support of the many contributions made by nonprofit organizations to our continued wellbeing while boosting awareness for continued growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Burke County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, as Burke County, NC Nonprofit Day (aka 1BurkeGives) and encourage all citizens to recognize the positive impact nonprofit organizations have on the quality of life of the citizens of Burke County.

Approved this 16th day of November, 2026.

_____
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners


GIVING TUESDAY
12.01.26
1 BURKE GIVES
POWERED BY
Burke County
UNITED WAY
1BURKEGIVES.ORG

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

PRESENTATIONS

Subject Title: **EM - Recognition of Life Savers**

Presented by: **James Robinson, Emergency Services Director**

Summary of Information: This is a request to recognize several Emergency Services staff members for their outstanding lifesaving efforts during recent emergency incidents. Through their quick response, professionalism, and exceptional medical care, these dedicated individuals made a meaningful difference in the lives of patients facing critical situations. Their actions reflect the highest standards of public service and a steadfast commitment to protecting the citizens of Burke County.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: No formal action is requested. Recognize Emergency Services staff and commend them on their exemplary lifesaving actions.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

Subject Title: **TA - Schedule of Values Public Hearing**

Presented by: **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

Summary of Information: Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 105-317, the Burke County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the proposed 2027 Schedule of Values, Standards, and Rules for the upcoming countywide property tax reappraisal. The Schedule of Values establishes the guidelines and methodology used by the Tax Assessor to determine property values for ad valorem tax purposes.
The proposed Schedule of Values was presented to the Board of Commissioners at its October 19, 2026, regular meeting.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: TBD

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **CM - Res No. 2026-26 Appreciation for House Bill 850 (S.L. 2025-74)**

Presented by: **Hugh Sandoe, Budget Strategy and Performance Analyst**

Summary of Information: The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) has provided a resolution expressing appreciation to the North Carolina General Assembly for the enactment of House Bill 850 (S.L. 2025-74), concerning interbasin water transfers. The legislation establishes a temporary moratorium on significant new or increased water transfers and directs a study of the state's interbasin transfer laws. The resolution recognizes the importance of protecting the Catawba River Basin and supporting the region's long-term water supply, economic development, and future growth.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To adopt Res No. 2026-26 expressing appreciation to the North Carolina General Assembly for the enactment of House Bill 850 (S.L. 2025-74).

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF HOUSE BILL 850 (S.L. 2025-74) REGARDING INTERBASIN TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Catawba River Basin is a vital resource for the residents and businesses of Burke County and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the recent request by the City of Charlotte to transfer an additional 30 million gallons of water daily from the Catawba River Basin could limit the region's ability to grow economically, agriculturally, and financially; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's interbasin transfer statute, G.S. 143-215.22L, governs the certification of significant transfers of water between river basins, and governments surrounding the Catawba River Basin have a significant interest in how those transfers are evaluated; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 850 was enacted as Session Law 2025-74 with overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers of the North Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025-74 imposes a temporary moratorium on the issuance of certificates for significant new or increased water transfers between river basins; and

WHEREAS, Session Law 2025-74 also directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study the statutory process, including the adequacy of environmental review, incentives for resilience measures that reduce the size of transfers needed, and other matters necessary to increase fairness and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, this approach allows for careful, evidence-based review of North Carolina's interbasin transfer laws before further significant transfers are approved, while protecting the interests of Burke County and other Catawba River Basin communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners expresses its sincere appreciation to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly who supported House Bill 850, and further recognizes Burke County's legislative delegation, Senator Warren Daniel and Representative Hugh Blackwell, for their representation of Burke County. The Board also extends its gratitude for the General Assembly's consideration of the interests of Western Piedmont communities, including future growth, economic development, water treatment, and water supply in the Catawba River Basin.

Adopted the 19th day of October, 2026.

_____
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **America 250 - Consideration of Resolution 2026-27 Dissolving the Burke County America 250 NC Committee**

Presented by: **Ed Phillips, TDA Director & America 250 Committee Chairman**

Summary of Information: On April 16, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2024-06, establishing the Burke County America 250 NC Committee to coordinate and support activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.
The Committee has successfully completed its intended responsibilities, including the July 2026 America 250 celebration and the creation and presentation of a commemorative time capsule to be opened in 50 years.
With its mission accomplished, the Committee is no longer needed. The Board is requested to consider adopting a resolution formally dissolving the Burke County America 250 NC Committee and recognizing its members for their service and contributions.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To adopt Resolution 2026-27 Dissolving the Burke County America 250 NC Committee, effective November 16, 2026, and express its appreciation to the Committee members for their dedication and service.

BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE BURKE COUNTY AMERICA 250 NC COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2024, the Burke County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 2024-06, officially establishing the Burke County America 250 NC Committee to support and coordinate activities commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has successfully fulfilled its intended purpose through the planning, coordination, and participation in activities celebrating America 250, including the County's commemoration held in July 2026; and

WHEREAS, as part of its commemorative efforts, the Committee created and presented a time capsule to preserve a reflection of Burke County's history and community for future generations, with the intention that it be opened in 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the Burke County Board of Commissioners recognizes and appreciates the dedication, volunteer service, and contributions of the Committee members in honoring this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has completed its assigned responsibilities, and the Board of Commissioners has determined that its continued existence is no longer necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Burke County Board of Commissioners that the Burke County America 250 NC Committee is hereby formally dissolved, effective upon adoption of this Resolution, and that Resolution No. 2024-06, adopted April 16, 2024, is hereby rescinded insofar as it established the Committee.

Adopted the 16th day of November, 2026.

_____
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

_____
Morgan Buchanan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **HD - Assessment of Public Health Rules & Board Policies**

Presented by: **Dr. Ashley Jarrett, Interim Health Director**

Summary of Information: As part of its accreditation requirements, Burke County Public Health has completed an assessment of existing Board of Health rules and policies. The assessment confirms that no locally adopted Board of Health rules are currently in effect, existing policies have been reviewed by the Board, and the department operates under applicable federal and state laws and county ordinances. No new local public health rules are recommended at this time. The assessment is being presented for the Board's acknowledgment and Chairman's signature.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:
No. 3- Public Safety & Well Being

To ensure the safety of our residents through efficient and effective public safety agencies.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: Receive and acknowledge the Assessment of Public Health Rules and Board Policies as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign the document.

BURKE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

October 21, 2026

RE: Approval of the Assessment of Public Health Rules and Board Policies

To Whom It May Concern:

At its meeting on July 27, 2026, the Burke County Board of Health reviewed the Assessment of Public Health Rules and Board Policies presented by Burke County Public Health. The assessment addressed the three required areas: existing local Board of Health rules, the potential need for new local public health rules, and population health policies that may warrant Board consideration, approval, or advocacy.

The Board acknowledges that no locally adopted Board of Health rules are currently in effect for Burke County Public Health. The Board further confirms that the potential need for new local public health rules and Board-level population health policies was assessed. Based on the findings presented, no new local rules or Board policies were recommended at this time.

Following review and discussion, the Burke County Board of Health approves the assessment as an accurate record of the evaluation completed for FY 2023 through FY 2026.

This approval documents the Board's review of the assessment and does not constitute the adoption of any new public health rule, or ordinance, or policy. Any future proposals for rules or policies will be considered through the appropriate legal and governing processes.
Please retain this letter with the completed assessment and related Board meeting minutes as documentation of the Board's review and approval.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brittain
Chair, Burke County Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health

700 E Parker Rd
Morganton, NC 28655

Assessment of Public Health Rules and Board Policies

Burke County Public Health

Accreditation Documentation Form

Assessment date	September 15, 2026
Period reviewed	2023 through 2027
Prepared by	Dr. Ashley Jarrett, Interim Health Director
Presented to governing body	Burke County Board of Health

Purpose

This form documents Burke County Public Health's assessment of all local Board of Health rules currently in effect, the potential need for new local public health rules, and population health policies requiring governing body consideration. A finding that no rules or policies are needed is acceptable when the review and its presentation to the governing body are documented.

Section 1 Current Board of Health Rules

Burke County Public Health reviewed available Board of Health meeting records, departmental records, and other applicable documentation to identify local public health rules adopted by the Burke County Board of Health.

☒ Finding confirmed: No locally adopted Board of Health rules are currently in effect for Burke County Public Health.

The department operates under applicable federal and state laws, North Carolina Administrative Code requirements, and Burke County ordinances and policies. These requirements are not considered locally adopted Board of Health rules unless formally adopted by the Board under its public health rulemaking authority.

Records reviewed

☒ Board meeting minutes ☐ Department records ☐ County records

☐ Other records reviewed: Click or tap to enter records

July 27, 2026 Burke County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Burke County Board of Health, Meeting

Section 2 Assessment of Potential Rules

Staff assessed whether new local public health rules may be needed to protect or improve community health. Check each source or topic considered during the assessment.

☒ Community Health Assessment and State of the County Health Report

☒ Communicable disease trends and response activities

☒ Environmental health and animal exposure concerns

☒ Tobacco, vaping, and smoke free protections

☐ Mass gatherings and community events

☒ Emergency preparedness and response activities

☒ Existing state laws, administrative rules, and county ordinances

☒ Whether education, partnership, policy, or enforcement adequately addresses identified concerns

☐ Other topic reviewed: Click or tap to enter a topic

Assessment finding

☒ No new local Board of Health rules are recommended for adoption at this time.

☐ One or more topics warrant additional evaluation before a recommendation is made.

☐ A new or revised local rule is recommended for governing body consideration.

Based on this assessment, no new local Board of Health rules are recommended for adoption at this time. Existing state laws, regulations, and local public health authorities provide an adequate framework for addressing the department's current public health responsibilities. Current practices, established policies, and applicable enforcement mechanisms allow the department to respond to identified public health concerns while maintaining consistency with state requirements. At this time, no specific gaps have been identified that warrant additional local rulemaking. The department will continue to monitor public health needs, changes in state law, and emerging issues and will recommend further review or local rule revisions if a demonstrated need arises.

Date findings were presented to the Board of Health or governing body July 27, 2026

No additional data requested

Section 3 Assessment of Board Policies

Staff reviewed whether any population level public health policies require consideration, approval, or advocacy by the governing body. This section does not include routine internal personnel or operating procedures.

Policy areas reviewed

☒ Community health assessment priorities

☒ Language access and equitable access to services

☒ Mobile health and access for underserved populations

☒ Tobacco and vaping prevention

☒ Rabies and animal event preparedness

☒ Public health emergency response and coordination

☒ Other emerging population health priorities

☐ Other policy area reviewed: Click or tap to enter a policy area

Assessment finding

☒ No new population level public health policies requiring Board consideration were identified.

☒ One or more policy matters were identified for Board discussion, endorsement, advocacy, or approval.

☐ Additional staff analysis is required before a specific policy recommendation is presented.

Policy matter	Reason for consideration	Date presented	Board action or direction
All BCPH Policies were reviewed/approved by the Board	Policies are reviewed/edited on a term basis	July 27, 2026	Approved

Enter any additional findings or supporting information.

Overall Conclusion

Burke County Public Health completed an assessment of all local Board of Health rules currently in effect, the potential need for new local public health rules, and population health policies requiring governing body consideration.

☒ The assessment confirmed that no locally adopted Board of Health rules are currently in effect.

☒ Potential rules and Board policies were evaluated.

☐ The assessment findings were presented to the governing body.

Governing body Burke County Board of County Commissioners, acting as the Burke County Board of Health

Meeting date July 27, 2026

Board response

☒ Assessment received with no additional direction

☐ Follow up requested

☐ Other action taken

Summarize the governing body's response or requested follow up.

Supporting Evidence Checklist

☒ Completed and dated three section assessment

☒ Governing body meeting agenda

☒ Meeting minutes documenting presentation or consideration

☒ Presentation, memorandum, or supporting materials provided to the Board

☒ Documentation of Board direction, approval, or follow up, if applicable

Certification

I certify that this assessment accurately reflects the review completed by Burke County Public Health and the findings presented to the governing body.

Prepared by	Dr. Ashley Jarrett, Interim Health Director
Date	October 21, 2026

Suggested Meeting Minute Language

Burke County Public Health presented its assessment of current Board of Health rules, the potential need for new local public health rules, and population health policies requiring Board consideration. The assessment confirmed that no locally adopted Board of Health rules are currently in effect. Potential rules and Board policies were evaluated. The Board received the assessment and provided no additional direction / requested the following follow up:

_____

Jeff Brittain, Burke County BOCC Chairman

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **OR - Budget Amendment No. 11- Opioid Rural Health Grant (Place Holder)**

Presented by: **Dr. Katie Samuels, Opioid Response Director**

Summary of Information: Grant is for the Opioid Department to implement and expand Mobile Integrated Health and Community Paramedicine services in Burke County.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: TBD

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To adopt Budget Amendment No. 11- Opioid Rural Health Grant as presented

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk - Reappointments to Blue Ridge Community Action (BRCA) Board**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The terms of three Burke County representatives serving on the Blue Ridge Community Action Board of Directors are expiring. The following members are eligible for reappointment:

- Rickie Cline (pending completed application)
- Barbara Myers
- James Smith

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To reappoint Rickie Cline (pending completed application), Barbara Myers, and James Smith to the Blue Ridge Community Action Board of Directors for an additional 2-year term expiring 12/15/2028.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31372 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Sun 10/25/2026 11:56 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Barbara R
Last Name	Myers
Address	babsgurls@gmail.com
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	(828)433-7404
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	(828)205-7405
Email Address	babsgurls@gmail.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Former Social Work Program Director @ Broughton Hospital
Retired From	Broughton Hospital
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No

If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*
Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Servant leader at church on local, conference and district level whose ministries extend beyond the walls of the church. Support and help other reach their full potential through service and advocacy. Currently serve on BRCA, BCUW, and Brighter House Boards and a Burke Long Term Recovery Committee member.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Blue Ridge Community Action
Second Choice	Partners Health Management
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	My profession as a social worker and servant leader prepares me to work to empower and support individuals and communities by connecting to resources, services and opportunities through volunteerism and direct services geared toward meeting the needs of those with whom I work/support - i.e., mental/behavioral issues, self-sufficiency/awareness and homelessness, education and career development.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	As a lifelong resident of Burke County whose family required support from public services agencies, I want to give back, passing on to help others grow and glow, reaching their goals - thankfulness and gratitude. I believe it is what God requires of us. Master's degree in social work, previously certified as a Mental Health First Aide Trainer and currently licensed as Licensed Clinical Social Worker in NC. Recipient of Order of Long Leaf Pine and Caswell Award for state service.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance,	Yes

of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	Not to my knowledge.
Optional Remarks	I would appreciate reappointment to the BRCA Board of Directors, I have attended meetings, training and provided direct support to programs and activities. This agency is vital to our community.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Outlook

Online Form Submission #31305 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/21/2026 1:49 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	James
Last Name	Smith
Address	349 Causby Rd
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8284439596
Business Phone Number	8284392326
Cell Phone Number	8284439596
Email Address	jasmithbcss@bellsouth.net
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Program Evaluator
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Blue Ridge Community Action

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	I am a Smart Start program evaluator of early childhood education programs for 0-5 children.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Blue Ridge Community Action
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I am a Smart Start program evaluator of early childhood education programs for 0-5 children. And my agency has a vested interest in supporting Blue Ridge Community Action and their efforts in helping families of young children in Burke.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I feel as a board member I can bring my ECE experience to provide expertise to the board.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None

Optional Remarks	I really enjoy serving on this board.
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk - Appointment to Board of Adjustment**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Burke County Board of Adjustment currently has one vacant seat for Seat 1—East Burke. The County has received the following applications from individuals interested in serving on the Board:
Rick McClurd (East Burke)

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To appoint Rick McClurd to the Burke County Board of Adjustment Seat No. 1-East Burke for a 3 year term expiring September 30, 2029.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31447 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/28/2026 8:10 AM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Rick
Last Name	McClurd
Address	813 Rostan St SE
City	Valdese
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28690
Home Phone Number	8283815552
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	828-381-5552
Email Address	wrm408@gmail.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Home Theater System.(A & M Sound Systems)
Retired From	Corning
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Burke Co. Board of Adjustment

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	VEDIC
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Burke Co. Planning Board
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Last 28 years working with house contractors.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I served on the Planing Board before for going on the Board of Adjustment.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk - Reappointments and Removal to the Council on Aging (Place Holder)**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Burke County Council on Aging has the following board members whose term will expire on November 30, 2026. An application for reappointment has been submitted to serve an additional 3-year term:
Hollie Phillips
Joset Taylor (pending completed application)
Heather Ward (pending completed application)

The Burke County Council of Aging has the following board members whose term will expire on November 30, 2026, and does not wish to be reappointed:
Linda Shamblin

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To appoint the following applicants to the Council on Aging Board for a 3-year term expiring November 30, 2029:
Hollie Phillips
Joset Taylor (pending completed application)
Heather Ward (pending completed application)

To remove Linda Shamblin from the Council on Aging Board and thank her for her service.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31294 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/21/2026 11:25 AM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Hollie
Last Name	Phillips
Address	832 Jamestown Rd
City	Morganton
State	North Carolina
Zip Code	28680
Home Phone Number	828-448-7247
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	828-448-7247
Email Address	holliephillips30@gmail.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	HR Manager
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Website
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Council on Aging

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	At this time I help with disaster relief with United Christian Alliance Response. We do community outreach when needed.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Council on Aging
Second Choice	Senior Center (Morg.) Advisory Board
Third Choice	Adult Care & Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I do have experience with the senior community with work and outside of work.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	My objective is to be where I am needed, help where I can help and bring attention to the needs of the seniors in the community.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk - Appointment to DSS Board**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Burke County Board of Social Services (DSS) currently has vacancies for Seat No. 1: At-Large and Seat No. 3: At-Large and has received the following applications from eligible candidates for consideration:
Major Rodney Norman
Faren Tillery

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To appoint Major Rodney Norman to Seat No. 1 and Faren Tillery to Seat No. 3 on the Burke County Board of Social Services to complete the term ending September 30, 2028.

BURKE COUNTY
APPOINTMENT APPLICATION
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Name: Rodney Norman Date: 10/07/2026

Address: 104 Timberline Dr.

City: Morganton State: NC Zip: 28655

Telephone: Home: — Business: 828-439-4065

Cell: — Email: rodney.norman@burkenc.org

Occupation: Law Enforcement

Retired from: —

How did you hear about this opportunity? Amber Conley

Are you currently serving on a county board or committee? ✓ Yes ___ No

If so, please identify the board or committee: APS (MDT), Burke County Rescue Squad

Community interest and activities:

Hunting, fishing, grandbabies and not necessarily in that order!

Do you reside in the extraterritorial area of a municipality? ✓ Yes _____ No

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

1. DSS Advisory Board
2. _____
3. _____

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?

—

Revised: 1-26-18

Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?

Assist Burke County in any way I can professionally.

Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis? ✓ Yes ___ No

Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest, if selected to serve on a board or committee:

Not aware of any.

Remarks: _____
(OPTIONAL)

Signature: Rodney Norman
(ORIGINAL SIGNATURE REQUIRED)
(SIGNING INDICATES AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY THE BURKE COUNTY CODE OF ETHICS.)

Return to:

Burke County
Attn: Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 219
Morganton NC 28680
Email: morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org
Phone: 828-764-9354 Fax: 828-764-9352

Outlook

Online Form Submission #30528 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Thu 9/17/2026 5:39 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Faren
Last Name	Tillery
Address	104 Charles Dr
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655-7016
Home Phone Number	8284931773
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284931773
Email Address	farentillery@gmail.com
	(Section Break)
Occupation	FCT & FCT-Recovery Supervisor
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Website
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	I work in community based mental health for children and families.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Social Services Advisory Board
Second Choice	Opioid Advisory Board
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	I have prior experience with the department of Social Services, and I currently serve the community with Family Centered Treatment-Recovery, a opioid grant funded program.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I am born and raised in Burke County. I believe the community and the families deserve a voice in what services they are provided. My goals would be to work to understand and support the ongoing concerns within the department of social services and to ensure the Communities best interest is at the forefront of decisions.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of	I work for SPARC Services & Programs that is currently funded through the Burke Opioid Grant.

interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	
Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk -Appointment to LEPC Board**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has a vacancy in Seat No 1 — Planning and Zoning. The following application has been received from an eligible candidate for consideration:
Patrick Dickinson

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To appoint Patrick Dickinson to Seat No. 1 – Planning and Zoning on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to complete the term expiring January 31, 2028.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31011 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/7/2026 3:23 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Patrick
Last Name	Dickinson
Address	110 Hoyle Street
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8287649033
Business Phone Number	n/a
Cell Phone Number	8287649033
Email Address	patrick.dickinson@burkenc.org
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Community Planner
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Elected Official or County Staff
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Local Emergency Planning Committee
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	*Field not completed.*
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	*Field not completed.*
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Clerk - Appointment to JCPC Board**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Burke County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) currently has a vacancy for Seat No. 12 Student < 21 and has received the following application from an eligible candidate for consideration:
Julia Roark

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To appoint Julia Roark to Seat No. 12 on the Burke County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) to complete the term expiring June 30, 2027.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31125 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/14/2026 9:55 AM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	Julia
Last Name	Roark
Address	305 N Meadow Drive
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	n/a
Business Phone Number	n/a
Cell Phone Number	8284436977
Email Address	jroark4567@gmail.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	N/A
Retired From	N/A
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Website
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	I volunteer at schools in the summer to help teachers with their classrooms, and I volunteer at a vet's office when I can.
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Not exactly, however I do attend school in McDowell County but live in Burke, which I believe gives me an unique insight into differences I see between the counties.
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I have been looking for a way to give back to my community for some time now, and I believe this will be a great way to do so.I am interested in pursuing a pre-law degree when I go off to college, and this would be a great learning opportunity for me. As for goals and objectives, I am just ready and willing to do anything to help and give back to my community. I have a lot of family members that went down roads very young in life that are hard to go back from, and I firmly believe that if they had had better opporutinites and support systems, they wouldn't be the people they are today.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes

Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	N/A
Optional Remarks	N/A
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Tax - Tax Release and Refund Report for Period Ending October 31, 2026**

Presented by: **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

Summary of Information: Releases in value and/or refunds of taxes typically occur when:

- Taxpayers submit information that creates a reduction in value.
- Situs is corrected between counties and/or municipalities.
- Valuation appeals reduce the value of real or personal property.

The postmark reveals that a payment was submitted timely. The Board of Commissioners will be presented with the following list of releases and refunds for consideration during the regular meeting. The Net Release results from the Report Amount minus the Rebilled Amount.

Tax System Refunds and Releases			
Report Amount	**Rebilled Amount**	**Net Release**	**Refund Amount**
$27,555.65	$8,162.82	$19,387.83	$0.00

VTS Refunds Over $100	
	Refund Amount
VTS Adjustments	0.00

*Note: The net release amount results from the reported amount minus the rebilled amount.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review:

Suggested Motion: To accept the October 2026 Tax Release and Refund Report as presented.

Date run: 10/30/2026 9:14:46 AM

TR-304 Bill Release Report

NCPTS V4

Data as of: 10/29/2026 7:58:54 PM

Report Parameters:

Release Date Start: **10/1/2026**

Release Date End: **10/30/2026**

Tax District: **BURKE COUNTY**

Default Sort-By: **Bill #,Taxpayer Name,Release Date,Billing Date,Operator ID, Release Amount**

Grouping: **Tax District,Release Reason**

Bill #	Taxpayer Name	Bill Date	Operator ID (Name)	Release Date	Orig Bill Amount($)	Release Amount($)	Bill Amount after Release($)
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Adjustment**						
0000055603-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	POWELL, LARRY WAYNE	7/1/2026	AMANDA	10/15/2026	541.62	423.28	118.34
0000074643-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	STUBBS, DARRELL JR	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/28/2026	17.40	17.40	0.00
0024009500-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	FG COMMUNITIES 7 NC AND 1 SC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/8/2026	1,373.33	1,373.33	0.00
0024088212-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SAINZ, JOSHUA DANIEL	8/29/2025	KAYLA	10/16/2026	91.89	81.96	9.93
0024095066-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	STUBBS, DARRELL	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/28/2026	26.68	26.68	0.00
Subtotal					**2,050.92**	**1,922.65**	**128.27**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Deceased**						
0000089553-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2016	KAYLA	10/2/2026	119.77	19.60	100.17
0000089553-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2016	KAYLA	10/2/2026	100.17	100.17	0.00
0000089553-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2017	KAYLA	10/2/2026	122.41	20.03	102.38
0000089553-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2017	KAYLA	10/2/2026	102.38	102.38	0.00
0000089553-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2018	KAYLA	10/2/2026	122.41	20.03	102.38
0000089553-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2018	KAYLA	10/2/2026	102.38	102.38	0.00
0000089553-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2019	KAYLA	10/2/2026	116.43	20.88	95.55
0000089553-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2019	KAYLA	10/2/2026	95.55	95.55	0.00
0000089553-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2020	KAYLA	10/2/2026	95.26	9.64	85.62
0000089553-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2020	KAYLA	10/2/2026	85.62	85.62	0.00
0000089553-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2021	KAYLA	10/2/2026	95.26	9.64	85.62
0000089553-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2021	KAYLA	10/2/2026	85.62	85.62	0.00
0000089553-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2022	KAYLA	10/2/2026	95.26	9.64	85.62
0000089553-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2022	KAYLA	10/2/2026	85.62	85.62	0.00
0000089553-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/3/2023	KAYLA	10/2/2026	25.75	6.16	19.59
0000089553-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/3/2023	KAYLA	10/2/2026	19.59	19.59	0.00
0024060213-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/15/2024	KAYLA	10/16/2026	7.70	1.85	5.85
0024060213-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/15/2024	KAYLA	10/16/2026	5.85	5.85	0.00
0024060213-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/1/2025	KAYLA	10/16/2026	11.90	5.79	6.11
0024060213-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/1/2025	KAYLA	10/16/2026	6.11	6.11	0.00
0024060213-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/16/2026	11.90	5.79	6.11
0024060213-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	SCHWIND, JOSEPH A	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/16/2026	6.11	6.11	0.00
0024084093-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	TURNMIRE, WALTER JOSEPH	7/1/2025	LOENDORF	10/5/2026	5.80	5.80	0.00
0024084093-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	TURNMIRE, WALTER JOSEPH	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/5/2026	5.80	5.80	0.00
Subtotal					**1,530.65**	**835.65**	**695.00**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Discovery Billing**						
0024095102-2026-2023-0000-00-REG	HINESLEY, CATHY S	10/2/2026	LOENDORF	10/2/2026	23.41	12.21	11.20
0024095102-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	HINESLEY, CATHY S	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/2/2026	219.52	207.31	12.21
Subtotal					**242.93**	**219.52**	**23.41**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Not in Burke County**						
0024060015-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	GURLEY, GLEN D SR	7/1/2022	KAYLA	10/16/2026	8.34	8.34	0.00
0024060015-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	GURLEY, GLEN D SR	7/3/2023	KAYLA	10/16/2026	7.39	7.39	0.00
0024095902-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	SAWYER, BRIAN H	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/28/2026	25.20	19.65	5.55
0024103975-2026-2026-0000-02-REG	TONEY, DAVID ALLEN	10/14/2026	KAYLA	10/28/2026	158.48	158.48	0.00
Subtotal					**199.41**	**193.86**	**5.55**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Ownership Correction**						
0000035286-2024-2024-0000-00-REG	SMITH, KATHY	7/15/2024	LOENDORF	10/8/2026	44.00	44.00	0.00
0000035286-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	SMITH, KATHY	7/1/2025	LOENDORF	10/8/2026	44.00	44.00	0.00
0000044829-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	MCLEAN, SHIRLEY BAKER	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/5/2026	108.66	108.66	0.00
0000070944-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	STROTHER, CARRIE LYNN	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/14/2026	119.59	119.59	0.00
0000071967-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	ZARAGOZA, ALFREDO	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/20/2026	103.11	103.11	0.00

0000073100-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	WOODIE, LISA GAYLE	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	115.19	115.19	0.00
0000075538-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	SD TIMERILL ESTATES LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/12/2026	2,967.92	2,967.92	0.00
0000079611-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	HOLMES, BRENDA H	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/29/2026	108.66	108.66	0.00
0000082047-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	ADAMS, RICKY LEE	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/23/2026	106.55	106.55	0.00
0000082560-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	HALL, MICHAEL J	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	19.11	19.11	0.00
0000085171-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	TABLE ROCK ESTATES LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/8/2026	4,851.76	4,851.76	0.00
0000088474-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	JOHNSON, KIMBERLY W	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	112.94	112.94	0.00
0000092752-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	LOPEZ, CARMEN	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	103.11	103.11	0.00
0024008333-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	MAZARIEGOS, ABIGAIL VELASQUEZ	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/8/2026	414.68	414.68	0.00
0024009500-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	ORANGE MORGANTON 2 LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/8/2026	1,373.33	1,373.33	0.00
0024009826-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	MENDOZA, LUIS EDGARDO	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/14/2026	130.58	130.58	0.00
0024020539-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	RITCHIE, QUINCY KURT	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/15/2026	121.97	121.97	0.00
0024024669-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	HAWKINS, TINA NICOLE	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/5/2026	106.28	106.28	0.00
0024024679-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	POTEAT, ROBERT MICHAEL	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	123.36	123.36	0.00
0024026026-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	JOHNSON, ELIJAH	7/1/2026	LOENDORF	10/2/2026	109.14	109.14	0.00
0024050128-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	DIEGO, MIGUEL	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/14/2026	131.25	131.25	0.00
0024095464-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	ADAMS, JUDITH	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/12/2026	17.25	17.25	0.00
0024101548-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	CARRICK, SUZANNE	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/26/2026	114.77	114.77	0.00
0024102001-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	BREWER, NANCY KINCAID	8/31/2026	LOENDORF	10/5/2026	178.80	178.80	0.00
Subtotal					**11,626.01**	**11,626.01**	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Release LFUF**						
0000000162-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	GUFFEY, TIMOTHY GENE II	7/1/2026	KENDRA MCGEE	10/7/2026	288.79	97.00	191.79
0000075538-2026-2026-0000-02-REG	SD TIMERILL ESTATES LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/14/2026	2,947.16	97.00	2,850.16
0000089553-2016-2016-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2016	KAYLA	10/2/2026	249.77	130.00	119.77
0000089553-2017-2017-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2017	KAYLA	10/2/2026	262.41	140.00	122.41
0000089553-2018-2018-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2018	KAYLA	10/2/2026	266.41	144.00	122.41
0000089553-2019-2019-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2019	KAYLA	10/2/2026	260.43	144.00	116.43
0000089553-2020-2020-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2020	KAYLA	10/2/2026	239.26	144.00	95.26
0000089553-2021-2021-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2021	KAYLA	10/2/2026	247.26	152.00	95.26
0000089553-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/1/2022	KAYLA	10/2/2026	259.26	164.00	95.26
0000089553-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	HUDSON, BARBARA	7/3/2023	KAYLA	10/2/2026	201.75	176.00	25.75
0024072674-2025-2025-0000-00-REG	HIGHWAY 70 LAND TRUST	7/1/2025	KAYLA	10/13/2026	472.21	276.00	196.21
0024072674-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	HIGHWAY 70 LAND TRUST	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/13/2026	497.21	291.00	206.21
0024097778-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	BUCHANAN, CONNIE	7/1/2026	AMANDA	10/26/2026	223.51	97.00	126.51
Subtotal					**6,415.43**	**2,052.00**	**4,363.43**
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Situs Correction**						
0024008349-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	WILLIAMS, JOHN R JR	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/12/2026	335.99	335.99	0.00
0024009822-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	BURKEMONT STATION LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/12/2026	425.82	425.82	0.00
0024093783-2026-2026-0001-00-REG	REECE, JIMMIE M	10/15/2026	LOENDORF	10/15/2026	753.53	753.53	0.00
0024102041-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	FLEMING, BELINDA MAE	8/31/2026	LOENDORF	10/5/2026	29.19	29.19	0.00
0024103970-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	WRIGHT, JESSICA R	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	144.86	144.86	0.00
0024103971-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	VELASQUEZ ORTIZ, JACQUELIN	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	107.92	107.92	0.00
0024103972-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	VAZQUEZ CHAVEZ, VICTOR MANUEL	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	114.58	114.58	0.00
0024103975-2026-2026-0000-01-REG	TONEY, DAVID ALLEN	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	158.48	158.48	0.00
0024103976-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	STYLES, DALE RAY	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	255.12	255.12	0.00
0024103977-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	SLUTSKY, AARON W	10/14/2026	LOENDORF	10/14/2026	137.48	137.48	0.00
Subtotal					**2,462.97**	**2,462.97**	
TAX DISTRICT: BURKE COUNTY	**RELEASE REASON: Sold/Traded**						
0000072759-2022-2022-0000-00-REG	BISHOP, ROBERT S	7/1/2022	KAYLA	10/1/2026	20.57	20.57	0.00
0000072759-2023-2023-0000-00-REG	BISHOP, ROBERT S	7/3/2023	KAYLA	10/1/2026	14.91	14.91	0.00
0000075538-2026-2026-0000-02-REG	SD TIMERILL ESTATES LLC	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/14/2026	2,967.92	20.76	2,947.16
0024007680-2026-2026-0000-00-REG	KISTLER, CHARLES VERLE JR	7/1/2026	KAYLA	10/2/2026	18.93	18.93	0.00
Subtotal					**3,022.33**	**75.17**	**2,947.16**
Total					**27,555.65**	**19,387.83**	**8,162.82**

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Subject Title: **Tax - Tax Collection Report for Period Ending October 31, 2026**

Presented by: **Travis Isaacs, Tax Administrator**

Summary of Information: The Board of Commissioners will be presented with the Tax Collection Report for the period between July 1, 2026, and October 30, 2026. This reflects the status of collections by the Burke County Tax Collection's Staff and serves as a supplement to the Annual Settlement Report. The Tax Levy is the total property tax value, not including motor vehicles, times the tax rate. This amount changes monthly with the addition of discoveries, other changes, or corrections, and when Public Utility Values are added, typically during September.

Year-to-Date Revenue Collections				
	Budget	**Actuals to Date**	**% Collected**	**$ Remaining**
Current Year Taxes	$62,587,042	$35,913,979	58%	$26,673,062
Discounts	$350,000	$344,008	98%	$5,991
Delinquent Taxes	700,000	$377,695	54%	$322,304
Interest and Fees	$329,000	$54,793	17%	$274,206
Total	$63,266,042	$36,690,475		$27,275,563

Total Levy For 2026-2027 Tax Year

		Current Year Collected	**% Collected**	**$ Remaining**
Property Taxes	$57,321,693	$36,998,024	65%	$20,043,160
Motor Vehicle Taxes	$5,456,857	$2,223,476	40%	$3,233,381
Fire Tax	$7,143,600	4,590,249	64%	$2,524,640

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 4- Fiscal Stewardship

Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To accept the October 2026 Tax Collection Report as presented.

Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Subject Title: **Clerk - Appointments/Reappointments to Equalization & Review Board**

Presented by: **Morgan Buchanan, Clerk to the Board**

Summary of Information: The Burke County Board of Equalization and Review has member terms requiring appointment or reappointment. The Board of Commissioners is requested to consider the appointment and/or reappointment of eligible individuals to fill Seat No. 3 and Seat No. 5. for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2029.
The following individuals are presented for consideration:
Reappointments:

- Kevin Farris
- Mary Louise Hatley

New Appointments:

- John Bridgers
- Dawn Hutchins

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Not Applicable

Legal Review:

Suggested Motion: To appoint or reappoint _____ to Seat No. 3 and _____ to Seat No. 5 for the Burke County Board of Equalization and Review for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2029.

Outlook

Online Form Submission #31299 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Wed 10/21/2026 1:01 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

CAUTION: Don't be quick to click! We're counting on you! This email is from an external sender! **Don't click** on links or open attachments from unknown sources. If you know this is spam delete the message. If you believe this message is a phish attack, Click the Phish Alert button above. If you are unsure what to do, contact the helpdesk at 9410.

Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	John
Last Name	Bridgers
Address	110 Hunting Ln
City	Morganton
State	NC
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	336-749-8517
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	336-749-8517
Email Address	jrow28383@gmail.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Retired
Retired From	Burke County Tax Administration
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Board of Equalization and Review
Second Choice	Burke Co. Board of Adjustment
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	Thirty plus years experience in property taxes
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	I have intimate knowledge of property tax assessment both real and personal that can be beneficial to the county and the citizens of the county to bring a fair and equitable application of the county taxex.
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	None

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Outlook

Online Form Submission #30680 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Fri 9/25/2026 1:19 PM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	kevin
Last Name	farris
Address	1161 malcolm blvd
City	rutherford college
State	nc
Zip Code	28671
Home Phone Number	828 2387193
Business Phone Number	8288743250
Cell Phone Number	8282387193
Email Address	mkfarris@farrisins.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	Insurance Agent
Retired From	*Field not completed.*
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Board / Committee Member
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	Yes
If so, please identify the board or committee.	Board of Equalization and Review

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	Currently serving on board 10+ years
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	Yes

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Board of Equalization and Review
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	past experience
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	provide imput into the citizen's concerns about their tax values
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	none

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Outlook

Online Form Submission #31393 for Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Date Mon 10/26/2026 11:24 AM
To Morgan Buchanan <morgan.buchanan@burkenc.org>; Kat Wright <kat.wright@burkenc.org>

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Burke County Appointment Application for Boards and Committees

First Name	DAWN
Last Name	HUTCHINS
Address	207 GLENDALE STREET
City	MORGANTON
State	NORTH CAROLINA
Zip Code	28655
Home Phone Number	8284432402
Business Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Cell Phone Number	8284432402
Email Address	redheadhutchins@yahoo.com
(Section Break)	
Occupation	REVENUE COLLECTIONS SUPERVIOSOR
Retired From	BURKE COUNTY EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1 2026
How did you hear about this opportunity?	Friend
Are you currently serving on a county board or committee?	No
If so, please identify the board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Please indicate any community interests and activities that you are involved in.	*Field not completed.*
Do you reside in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, which is generally a 1 to 3-mile perimeter outside the city limits?	No

(Section Break)

List in order of preference the board and/or committee(s) on which you would like to serve.

First Choice	Board of Equalization and Review
Second Choice	*Field not completed.*
Third Choice	*Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Most board or committee seats have no special requirement other than being a citizen of Burke County. Do you have special criteria that you would like to be considered for this appointment?	WORKED AT THE BURKE COUNTY TAX OFFICE FOR 25 YEARS
Describe why you are interested in serving on a board or committee. What goals and objectives do you have?	HELD CERTIFIED REAL PROPERTY APPRAISER CERTIFICATION FOR DOR WHILE WORKING AS A APPRAISER AND CERTIFIED DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR
Are you willing to attend board or committee meetings on a regular basis and comply with Article IV, Section 2-92 - Attendance, of the Burke County Code of Ordinances?	Yes
Please disclose any business or personal relationships that may be considered a conflict of interest if selected to serve on a board or committee.	*Field not completed.*

Optional Remarks	*Field not completed.*
Optional - Click here to upload supporting documentation that you wish to be reviewed alongside your application.	*Field not completed.*

Burke County is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

ACTION ITEMS

Subject Title: **BOC- Designate 2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference Voting Delegate**

Presented by: **Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman**

Summary of Information: The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) will hold its 2026 Legislative Goals Conference November 19–20, 2026, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Each county is entitled to designate one voting delegate and may also designate an alternate to participate in voting on the Association's legislative goals.
The Board of Commissioners is requested to designate a voting delegate and, if desired, an alternate to represent Burke County at the conference.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To designate Commissioner _____ as Burke County's voting delegate and Commissioner _____ as the alternate voting delegate for the 2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference.

Legislative Goals Conference

Register Today! — 2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference +

Before each legislative biennium, NCACC brings counties together at the Legislative Goals Conference to finalize the legislative goals that guide its advocacy efforts and shape its legislative agenda.



Every two years, NCACC members engage in a comprehensive, five-stage process to determine the legislative goals the Association should pursue in the best interest of North Carolina counties. Beginning in August of each even-numbered year with the solicitation of proposals from counties, the process is thoughtful, deliberative, inclusive, and fair, giving all counties and county officials an opportunity to participate, share their perspectives, and help shape NCACC's legislative agenda. The process culminates in the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference, where counties from across the state come together to participate in voting sessions and finalize the legislative goals that will guide NCACC's advocacy efforts during the upcoming legislative biennium. By fostering informed grassroots participation and building a shared sense of purpose, the process strengthens the Association and the collective voice of North Carolina counties.

View the Legislative Goals Handbook (https://www.ncacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05-12-NCACC-LGC-Legislative-Goals-Process-Handbook-FINAL.pdf)

View the 2025-2026 NCACC Legislative Goals Package (https://www.ncacc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2025-26_NCACC-Legislative-Goals-Package-final.pdf)

Voting Procedures for Legislative Goals Conference

Every member county appoints a voting delegate to the conference. Every county in attendance has 1 vote. The voting delegate can be any county official, including non-elected officials, and a county may choose an alternate. No proxies are allowed. Goals are presented by subject category. Upon motion of any voting delegate, a proposal can be set aside for detailed discussion. Two-thirds majority votes are required to approve or alter the proposed goals.

The Legislative Goals handbook provides detailed procedural information for the Legislative Goals Conference and goals development process.

2026-2027 NCACC Legislative Goals Committee +

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
323 West Jones Street, Suite 500, Raleigh, NC 27603
Mailing: PO Box 27288, Raleigh, NC 27611
Phone: 919-715-2893

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Burke County, North Carolina

Agenda Abstract
Meeting Date: November 2, 2026

ACTION ITEMS

Subject Title: **DSS - Departmental update for period ending September 30, 2026**

Presented by: **Korey Fisher-Wellman, DSS Director**

Summary of Information: The monthly DSS report will be given at the pre-agenda meeting.

Strategic Plan Focus Area Alignment:

No. 1- Community Advancement

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play-while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.

Budgetary Effect: Not Applicable

County Manager's Recommendation: Approval is recommended.

Legal Review: Not Applicable

Suggested Motion: To accept the September 2026 DSS report as presented.

Social Services

Director's Monthly Report
November 2, 2026

BURKECOUNTY

1

PERSONNEL



BURKECOUNTY

2

Hiring and Separation Report

September 2026

Current Openings:

Position Title	Position #:	Status
IMC III Leadworker	51769	
IMC II	51375	
IMC III Leadworker	51367	
IMC II	51381	
IMC II	51380	
IMC II	51363	
IMC II	51767	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51775	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51905	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51906	
SOCIAL WORKER III	51904	
SOCAL WORK SUPV III	51876	

Separations:

Total = 2

Number of Hirings:

Total = 2

After Hours Placement Support Specialist = 1

Social Worker IAT = 1

BURKECOUNTY

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OPERATIONS



BURKECOUNTY

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Economic Services MOU Data

METRICS PER MOU						
	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES					
		MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APP TIMELINESS RATE- REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
9,691	5,076	Achieved	Achieved	Acheived		
WORK FIRST FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES						
ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	MOU MEASURE	95%	95%		
			APPLICATION TIMELINESS	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE		
85	51		Achieved	Achieved		
MEDICAID		MOU MEASURE	90	90	95	
TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES		REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	Straight Through Processing	
28,304	23,011		Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE			85%	85%	
SA ACTIVE CASES				SAA TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	SAD TIMELINESS APPLICATIONS	
262				Achieved	Achieved	
ENERGY PROGRAMS						
	MOU PERFORMANCE MEASURE				95%	95%
	CIP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	LIEAP APPLICATIONS PROCESSED			% PROCESSED TIMELY -NO SOURCE 1 DAY	% PROCESSED TIMELY -WITH SOURCE 2 DAY
	230	0			Achieved	Achieved
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY						
		PERFORMANCE MEASURE		95%		
	ACTIVE CASES			APPLICATION TIMELINESS		
	381			Achieved		

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Economic Services Update

MEDICAID

	AGED OR DISABLED ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS Does not include MXP or FP cases	ADULT ACTIVE CASES *Does not include MXP or FP cases	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS TAKEN	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS WITHOUT WAIVERS	CAP REFERRALS	LTC REFERRALS	TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	TOTAL NEMT TRIPS	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	RECERT COMPLETION TIMELINESS RATE	Straight Through Processing	Total
										MOU MEASURE	90	90	95			
SEP	5289	7,744	23471	15,459	378	1586		2	16	28,740	756	100%	94%		100%	94%
OCT	5311	7,747	23422	16,290	398	1606		1	16	28,733	638	100%	98%		100%	98%
NOV	5342	7,755	23,381	15,465	472	1825		2	12	28,723	624	100%	96%		100%	97%
DEC	5313	7,761	23,324	15,542	560	1890		3	15	28,637	832	100%	95%		100%	96%
JAN	5319	7,748	23194	15,527	531	503		2	19	28,513	606	100%	93%		100%	93%
FEB	5318	7,781	23123	15,439	405	1893		2	10	28,441	809	100%	87%		100%	88%wa
MAR	*	7,826	*	15,420	504	1767		3	11	28,446	933	90%	94%	*	100%	94%
APR	5368	7,836	22876	15,301	413	1651		5	20	28,246	849	92%	95%	*	100%	94%
MAY	5369	7,791	22750	15,224	456	1423		2	15	28,121	910	100%	94%	*	100%	94%
JUN	5389	7,770	22532	15,170	461	1337		2	10	27,925	986	100%	95%	*	100%	95%
JUL	5387	7,798	22,596	15,136	467	1239		0	20	27,923	975	100%	95%	*	100%	95%
AUG	5387	7,793	22,596	15,146	442	1217		1	15	27,984	877	87%	96%	*	100%	96%
SEP	5387	7,837	22,596	15,174	424	1305		1	20	28,304	871	90%	93%		100%	93%

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Economic Services Update

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

			MOU MEASURE	95%	95%	95%		
	ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATIONS TAKEN	APP TIMELINESS RATE-REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE	RECERTS COMPLETED	FNS EBT BENEFITS
SEP	10,794	5605	580	99.13%	97.98%	99.41%	509	1,752,253.00
OCT	10,695	5568	512	99..07%	99.02%	98.65%	445	1,797,705.00
NOV	10,418	5445	417	99.15%	98.81%	99.70%	336	1,759,731.00
DEC	10,269	5389	479	100.00%	100%	99.36%	336	1,721,688.20
JAN	10,112	5307	505	96%	99.09%	97.51%	482	1,662,857.00
FEB	9,992	5228	542	100.00%	98.15%	98.15%	432	1,645,153.00
MAR	9,889	5197	543	98.45%	99.28%	99.21%	505	1,647,954.00
APR	9,805	5142	500	99.45%	97.98%	99.49%	587	1,618,144.00
MAY	9,754	5091	540	100.00%	100.00%	99.00%	564	1,645,145.00
JUN	9,735	5,082	572	98.59%	98.98%	98.01%	569	1,635,049.00
JUL	9,792	5,131	524	99.14%	99.07%	99.36%	467	1,651,828.00
AUG	9,719	5103	530	98.75%	97.39%	99.36%	468	1,654,188.00
SEP	9,691	5076	551	98.34%	100.00%	98.21%	504	1,620,102.00

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ADULT SERVICES UPDATE

Guardianship
- Total Wards: 86
- Contracted Wards: 17

SAIH (Special Assistance In-Home)
- Active Cases: 79
- State Average Caseload: 25-30

CAP (Community Alternatives Program)
- Current Enrollment: 121
- Waiting list for CAP: 40

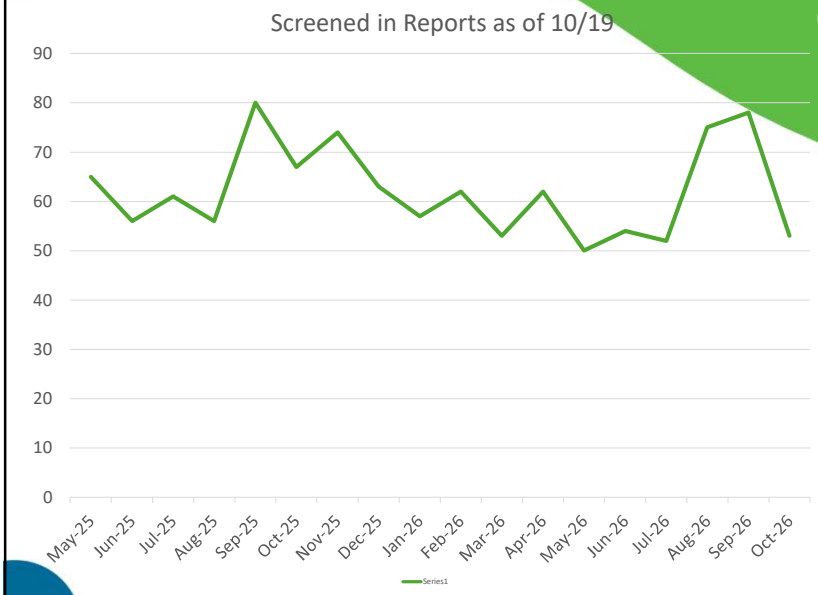
September APS Data

Category	Number	Notes
Total APS Reports Received	39	
APS Reports Screened In	20	Reports meeting criteria for an investigation
Substantiated Cases	3	
Confirmed Cases	9	Includes substantiations and other confirmations
Cases Opened for Services	4	Ongoing support and case management
Outreach Cases Assigned	6	Proactive engagement with at-risk adults
Service Referrals	17	Referrals for supportive community services
Guardianship Referrals	6	Referrals for potential legal guardianship

BURKECOUNTY

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CPS REPORTS

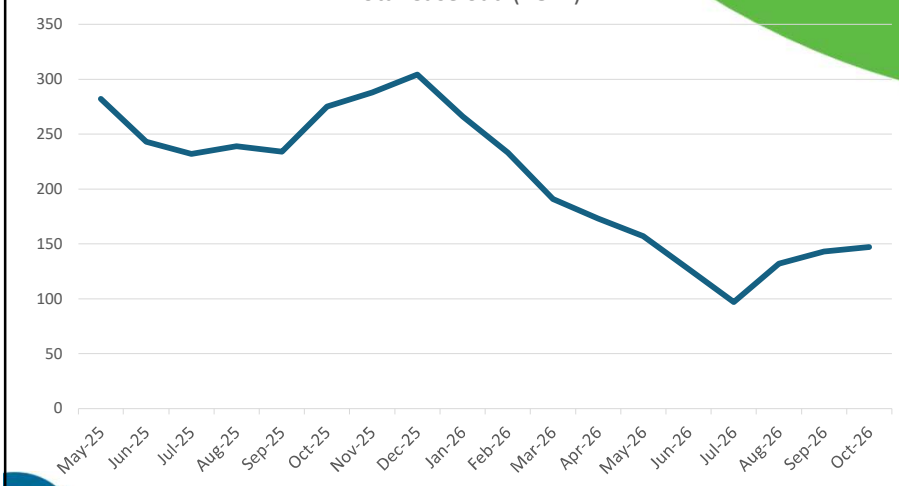


- October projected to end with 75+ reports if volume remains
- August and September reports eclipsed previous three months showing the result of busy season

BURKECOUNTY

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CPS CASELOADS



- Caseload currently at 147 as of 10/19/2026

BURKECOUNTY

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FOSTER CARE UPDATE



Foster Care Snapshot – Burke County

- Total children in foster care: 221
- New entries into care this period: 2
- Exits from care this period: 3

BURKECOUNTY

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Every Child Matters Project

BLACK MOUNTAIN HOME

Foster Home Licensing

- First MAPP class completed with 2 Burke families
- 5 additional families have reached out

Recruitment

- Events including twelve churches and all school principals

Services

- 5 parents currently in parenting, with an additional 13 referred for November's cohort
- Youth entering FC receiving timely assessment to assist in placement location
- Hiring process ongoing for in-house positions

BURKECOUNTY

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Merry Christmas
Burke County DSS is asking for your help. Our APS unit is asking for financial contributions to help make sure all 70-80 wards get something special for the Christmas season.
If you wish to donate, you can make your check out to: Burke County Dept. of Social Services (with "APS Guardianship Fund" in the memo section).
Attn: Adult Services - Guardianship
PO Drawer 549, Morganton, NC 28680
A staff member can also stop by your organization to pick up cash/check. Please call Sydney Triplett (828-764-7525), Christie Carroll (828-544-2031), or Rosalyn Wilkinson (828-764-5584) to schedule pick up.
SANTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!
THE GOAL:
Ensure that every child experiencing foster care through Burke County has a magical Christmas. (That's over 200 kids!!)
HOW IT WORKS:
Each child is matched with two sponsors to provide gifts and joy this holiday season. Sponsors will get a tag for a child, spend $30-$50 per tag.
OTHER WAYS TO HELP:
Donate new toys or art supplies
Provide NEW clothing of all sizes, tags attached
Donate gift cards to popular places. Walmart, Target, Kohl's, etc.
Make a monetary donation to Burke County Foster Care Christmas
Interested in sponsoring or donating?
Contact Chazlyn Thomas
Chazlyn.thomas@burkenc.org
828-764-9625
Gift Drop Off: Return with Child Tag
Nov. 9 - Nov 25
Burke County DSS 700 E. Parker Rd. Morganton
Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm
THE ELVES ARE WORKING OVERTIME THIS YEAR!!
JOIN THE TEAM AND SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY!!
BURKECOUNTY

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BURKECOUNTY
THANK YOU
Questions?

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JEFFREY C. BRITTAIN, CHAIR
PHIL SMITH, VICE CHAIR
RANDY BURNS, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN BARRIER, COMMISSIONER
MIKE STROUD, COMMISSIONER

BURKE COUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING

BRIAN EPLEY, COUNTY MANAGER
KAY H. DRAUGHN, CLERK TO THE BOARD
DESTIN HALL, COUNTY ATTORNEY
KANIA LAW FIRM, P.A., TAX ATTORNEY

Monthly Directors Report

Department of Social Services
700 E Parker Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655

November 2, 2026
Board of Commissioners
110 N. Green St.
Morganton, NC 28655

Subject: Monthly Update for the Department of Social Services

Dear Board of Commissioners,

Please see below for an executive update on key policies and administrative metrics impacting the Burke County Department of Social Services. This report will be presented to you monthly and will track key performance indicators, policy progression, and identify potential emerging issues.

Thank you for your leadership and support. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

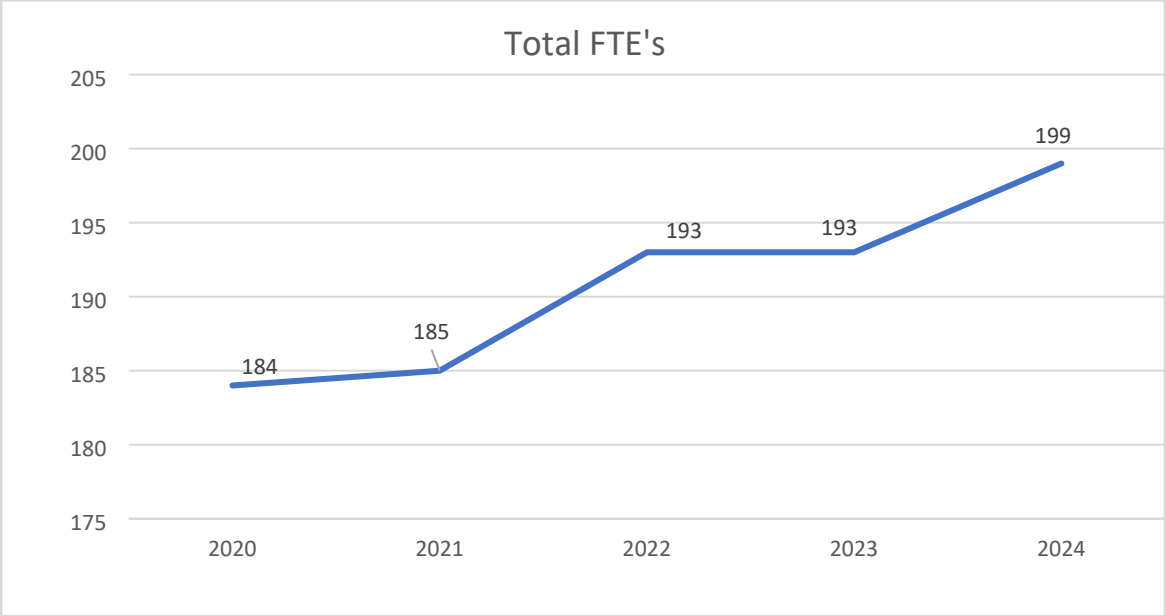
Regards,

Korey Fisher-Wellman
Director of Social Services, Burke County

CC: Brian Epley
County Manager

Personnel Analysis:

The Burke County Department of Social Services has an FTE allocation of 199 positions. This has grown over the past several years, specifically following a staffing analysis completed in 2019 that recommended 44 additional positions. The agency added 6 FTEs in December of 2023 following the passing of Medicaid Expansion. The county employs 22 part time employees, including 3 Income Maintenance Caseworker, 3 foster care workers who help with home studies and out of county visits, 2 CPS social worker who provides support with out-of-county requests, 1 part time finance staff member who helps support the finance team, 2 cps clerical staff, and 11 after hours placement support specialist who help to provide support when children are in the building overnight.



Of the 199 active FTEs in the department, currently, we have 12 full-time vacancies – which represents 6% vacancy rate. During the month of September DSS experienced 2 separations, and had a total of 2 new hires, 1 of which was for a full-time position.

Burke County DSS continues to strengthen its workforce through strategic recruitment, employee development, and retention initiatives designed to ensure high-quality services for the citizens of Burke County. The department remains focused on recruiting qualified employees while developing strategies to better support existing staff, particularly in areas experiencing persistent recruitment and retention challenges.

The Training and Onboarding Supervisor and Quality Assurance Supervisor continue to play important roles in strengthening workforce development across the agency. Through structured onboarding, ongoing training, coaching, and practice oversight, these positions help improve employee readiness, promote consistency in service delivery, and provide supervisors with additional resources to support staff performance and professional development.

Burke County DSS continues to engage local colleges and universities as part of its long-term workforce pipeline strategy. Through student internships, career fairs, classroom presentations,

and other outreach activities, the department is working to increase awareness of careers in public service and social work while building relationships with potential future employees. These efforts remain an important component of the agency's strategy to recruit qualified professionals and address ongoing vacancies in hard-to-fill positions.

Recruitment within Child Welfare remains a priority, with continued recruitment efforts and sign-on incentives for experienced candidates filling Child Protective Services and Foster Care Social Worker positions. The department continues to emphasize employee development, structured onboarding, and supervisory support to promote workforce stability and continuity of services.

A significant focus during September has been the restructuring of the Income Maintenance Caseworker (IMC) training team within Economic Services. In response to ongoing challenges recruiting and retaining employees in IMC and other Economic Services positions, the department is evaluating how training resources and staff responsibilities can be better aligned with frontline operational needs. The goal is to strengthen the support available to new employees, improve the training experience, and provide existing staff with more consistent access to policy guidance, coaching, technical assistance, and ongoing professional development.

In addition to restructuring the IMC training team, the department is exploring other strategies to improve Economic Services recruitment and retention. These efforts include evaluating onboarding practices, identifying opportunities to improve the transition from training to independent casework, strengthening communication between trainers and supervisors, and identifying ways to provide more timely support when employees encounter complex eligibility or policy questions. The department is also examining how quality assurance activities can be used more proactively to identify training needs, reinforce policy application, and address practice concerns before they become larger operational challenges.

These initiatives are particularly important as Economic Services staff navigate increasingly complex Medicaid and Food and Nutrition Services requirements, including changes associated with HR 1. Expanded verification requirements, additional documentation standards, and evolving eligibility policies have increased the demands placed on frontline employees. Strengthening the training and quality assurance structure is intended to help staff manage these responsibilities more effectively while improving confidence, consistency, and overall job readiness.

Burke County DSS recognizes that addressing workforce challenges requires more than filling vacant positions; it also requires creating an environment in which employees receive the training, guidance, and support necessary to succeed. The department will continue evaluating recruitment, onboarding, training, and retention strategies to strengthen workforce capacity, support existing employees, and ensure Burke County residents receive timely, accurate, and responsive services.

Open Positions:

Position Title	Position #:	Status
IMC III Leadworker	51769	
IMC II	51375	
IMC III Leadworker	51367	
IMC II	51381	
IMC II	51380	
IMC II	51363	
IMC II	51767	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51775	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51905	
SOCIAL WORKER IA&T	51906	
SOCIAL WORKER III	51904	
SOCAL WORK SUPV III	51876	

Economic Services Updates

Federal Policy Update: Medicaid and SNAP (HR 1) Implementation

Burke County DSS continues to prepare for and implement significant federal changes to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enacted through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR 1). As several key provisions take effect beginning October 1, 2026, and additional changes approach in January 2027, Economic Services staff are balancing implementation planning, policy updates, training, and increased communication with applicants and recipients. The department continues to work with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to prepare for these changes while maintaining timely and accurate service delivery.

Medicaid

Preparation continues for significant Medicaid changes that will increase eligibility administration and case management responsibilities. Key developments include:

- **October 1, 2026, eligibility changes:** New federal requirements will affect Medicaid eligibility for certain non-U.S. citizens. NCDHHS has issued guidance and public outreach materials to help counties and beneficiaries understand the changes.
- **January 1, 2027, work and community engagement requirements:** Certain adults ages 19–64 enrolled in Medicaid expansion will generally need to demonstrate qualifying work, education, community engagement, or other approved activities, unless an exemption applies.
- **More frequent eligibility renewals:** Most adults in the Medicaid expansion population will move from annual to six-month renewals beginning January 2027, increasing the frequency of eligibility reviews, client contacts, and case actions.
- **System and operational readiness:** Continued NC FAST updates, policy clarification, staff training, and preparation for increased verification and documentation requirements remain priorities.

These changes are expected to increase the volume and complexity of eligibility work. The department is focused on preparing staff to apply new requirements consistently, identify applicable exemptions, and communicate effectively with individuals who may be affected.

SNAP / Food and Nutrition Services

Economic Services continues to implement changes to the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS/SNAP) program resulting from HR 1. Expanded work requirements and revised non-citizen eligibility rules are already affecting program administration, requiring staff to evaluate eligibility, screen for applicable exemptions, and provide guidance to applicants and recipients.

Beginning October 1, 2026, the federal share of SNAP administrative costs decreases from 50% to 25%, increasing the financial responsibility for program administration at the state and county levels. Additional state cost-sharing for SNAP benefits is scheduled to begin in federal fiscal year 2028, with the amount tied to payment error rates.

These changes reinforce the importance of accurate eligibility determinations, effective quality assurance, and meeting federal timeliness requirements. They also create additional operational and budgetary considerations as the department works to maintain program performance with available staffing and resources.

Local Operational Impact

The cumulative impact of HR 1 continues to place significant demands on Economic Services staff. Employees are managing evolving eligibility requirements, increased verification and documentation, system changes, training needs, and client communication while continuing to meet federally mandated timeliness and accuracy standards.

In response, Burke County DSS is evaluating and restructuring its Economic Services training and quality assurance functions, including the Income Maintenance Caseworker (IMC) training team. These efforts are intended to provide stronger support for new employees, improve the transition from training to independent casework, and give existing staff more timely access to policy guidance, coaching, technical assistance, and quality feedback. The department is also exploring additional strategies to improve recruitment and retention in hard-to-fill Economic Services positions.

Strengthening these functions is particularly important as employees navigate increasingly complex program requirements. Improved training, more consistent policy guidance, and proactive identification of learning needs are expected to help staff build confidence and competency, improve consistency in eligibility decisions, and support employee retention.

Agency leadership continues to collaborate with NCDHHS, the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services, and county partners to monitor implementation guidance, assess operational and fiscal impacts, and identify opportunities to improve efficiency. Burke County DSS will continue adjusting its training, quality assurance, and operational strategies as additional guidance becomes available, with the goal of supporting staff and maintaining timely, accurate, and customer-focused services for Burke County residents.

MEDICAID

MOU MEASURE												90	90		95		
	AGED OR DISABLED ADULT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS Does not include MXP or FP cases	ADULT ACTIVE CASES *Does not include MXP or FP cases	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS	FAMILY AND CHILDREN ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL MEDICAID APPLICATIONS TAKEN	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS	TOTAL MEDICAID REVIEWS WITHOUT WAIVERS	CAP REFERRALS	LTC REFERRALS	TOTAL MEDICAID RECIPIENTS	TOTAL NEMT TRIPS	REPORT CARD MAD	REPORT CARD OTHER	RECERT COMPLETION TIMELINESS RATE	Straight Through Processing	Total
SEP	5289	7,744	23471	15,459	378	1586		2	16	28,740	756	100%	94%		100%	94%
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	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES							
			MOU MEASURE	95%	95%	95%		
	ACTIVE RECIPIENTS	ACTIVE CASES	APPLICATIONS TAKEN	APP TIMELINESS RATE-REGULAR	APP TIMELINESS RATE-EXPEDITE	RECERT TIMELINESS RATE	RECERTS COMPLETED	FNS EBT BENEFITS
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APR	9,805	5142	500	99.45%	97.98%	99.49%	587	1,618,144.00
MAY	9,754	5091	540	100.00%	100.00%	99.00%	564	1,645,145.00
JUN	9,735	5,082	572	98.59%	98.98%	98.01%	569	1,635,049.00
JUL	9,792	5,131	524	99.14%	99.07%	99.36%	467	1,651,828.00
AUG	9,719	5103	530	98.75%	97.39%	99.36%	468	1,654,188.00
SEP	9,691	5076	551	98.34%	100.00%	98.21%	504	1,620,102.00

Social Work Updates

Child Welfare

147 active cases in CPS
221 Children experiencing foster care

- 2 entries into foster care during July
- 3 exits

25 young adults in our 18 to 21 program

Child Welfare Update

September was an active month for Child Welfare, with continued emphasis on workforce stability, placement capacity, implementation of PATH NC, and strengthening community partnerships to improve outcomes for children and families.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Burke County DSS continues to prioritize recruitment and retention of qualified Child Welfare staff. The agency is pursuing multiple strategies to strengthen the workforce, including recruitment partnerships with colleges and universities, participation in job fairs and school presentations, and targeted sign-on incentives for experienced CPS and Foster Care social workers. These incentives are intended to attract applicants with at least one year of directly related DSS experience who can contribute to the workforce without completing the standard pre-service training process.

The agency continues to focus on strengthening onboarding, staff development, and quality assurance to support employee success, improve consistency in practice, and prepare staff to meet evolving program requirements.

Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services continues to manage complex cases while maintaining a focus on child safety, permanency, and well-being. Staff have worked diligently to respond to reports of suspected abuse, neglect, and dependency while balancing increasing demands and the challenges associated with identifying appropriate services and resources for children and families.

The agency continues to monitor caseloads, provide support to frontline staff, and coordinate with community partners to address emerging needs and ensure children receive appropriate interventions.

Foster Care Placement Capacity

The ongoing shortage of appropriate foster homes and residential placements remains a significant challenge for Child Welfare. Identifying safe, appropriate placements for children with complex behavioral, developmental, and emotional needs continues to require substantial staff time and coordination with providers and community partners.

Burke County DSS remains committed to identifying additional placement resources and strengthening partnerships to support children in agency custody. Expanding local capacity and ensuring access to appropriate services remain important priorities.

Every Child Matters Initiative

Burke County DSS continues to advance the Every Child Matter**s** initiative in partnership with Black Mountain Children's Home and Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center. This collaborative effort is designed to strengthen the local continuum of care for children and families by expanding foster parent recruitment and support, providing parenting education, connecting families with behavioral health and substance use services, and developing additional community-based resources.

During September, the initiative continued to make progress in several key areas:

- **Foster parent recruitment and support:** The first MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) class was completed, with two Burke County families participating. Recruitment efforts included outreach at 12 local churches and engagement with all Burke County school principals to increase community awareness and identify potential foster families.
- **Parenting education:** Five parents are currently participating in parenting classes, and 13 additional parents have been referred for the November cohort.

- **Child and Family Assessments:** The team has completed numerous Child and Family Assessments (CCAs) to help identify appropriate placements, services, and supports for children with complex needs.
- **Hiring of in-house resources:** Black Mountain and Anuvia are actively working to recruit and hire staff for in-house positions associated with the initiative.

The Every Child Matters initiative represents an important investment in building community capacity, supporting families, improving placement options, and helping children achieve safety and permanency. Continued collaboration among DSS, provider agencies, schools, faith communities, and other local partners will be essential to the initiative's long-term success.

PATH NC Implementation

Burke County DSS went live with PATH NC for Child Welfare on September 8, 2026. The transition required staff preparation, training, and coordination to support implementation while maintaining ongoing service delivery.

Following go-live, the agency has continued working through system and workflow issues in coordination with NCDHHS. Staff are adapting to the new system while managing daily responsibilities and ensuring that child safety, permanency, and well-being remain the primary focus.

Implementation of PATH NC remains an ongoing process, and the agency will continue to communicate concerns, seek guidance, and support staff as system functionality and workflows are refined.

Priorities Moving Forward

Moving forward, Burke County DSS will continue to focus on workforce recruitment and retention, strengthening placement capacity, advancing the Every Child Matters initiative, and supporting staff through the PATH NC transition. The agency remains committed to building effective community partnerships and developing sustainable resources that improve outcomes for children and families throughout Burke County.

Adult Services Update

The Adult Services Division continues to respond to a high volume of complex and sensitive cases that safeguard the safety, dignity, and well-being of older and disabled adults in our community.

Guardianship

We are currently serving 86 adult wards through public guardianship services. An additional 17 are managed by contracted providers, allowing us to extend our capacity and ensure proper oversight for individuals who have been deemed legally incompetent and require court-appointed

protection. In September, we received 6 new guardianship referrals, reflecting sustained demand in this area.

Special Assistance In-Home (SAIH)
We are serving 79 clients through the SAIH program, significantly exceeding the state-recommended caseload of 25 to 30 per social worker. This caseload is currently being managed by one SAIH social worker, highlighting the program's high demand and the strain on available staffing resources. SAIH remains essential in helping individuals with limited income remain safely in their homes and avoid institutionalization.

Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA)
As of the end of September 121 individuals are actively enrolled in CAP/DA services, with capacity to serve up to 188 or more, depending on the speed of state-level referral processing. CAP/DA plays a vital role in supporting individuals who might otherwise require nursing home placement, enabling them to remain safe in their homes while receiving necessary care and support.

Adult Protective Services (APS)
In September we received 39 new APS reports, of which 20 were screened in for formal investigation. In addition to investigations, APS staff also conducted 6 outreach assessments, made 17 service referrals, and handled 6 guardianship referrals connected to adult protection concerns. These figures highlight both the vulnerability of adults in our county and the essential work our team does daily to assess risk, coordinate services, and intervene when necessary.

Conclusion
This month's data underscores the growing demand and complexity across all areas of adult services. Continued pressure on programs like SAIH, guardianship, and APS reinforces the importance of sustained investment in staffing, training, and infrastructure to ensure that we can effectively protect and support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Merry Christmas

Burke County DSS is asking for your help. Our APS unit is asking for financial contributions to help make sure all 70-80 wards get something special for the Christmas season.

If you wish to donate, you can make your check out to: Burke County Dept. of Social Services (with “APS Guardianship Fund” in the memo section).

Attn: Adult Services - Guardianship
PO Drawer 549, Morganton, NC 28680

A staff member can also stop by your organization to pick up cash/check. Please call Sydney Triplett (828-764-7525), Christie Carroll (828-544-2031), or Rosalyn Wilkinson (828-764-5584) to schedule pick up.

SANTA NEEDS YOUR HELP!





THE GOAL:

Ensure that every child experiencing foster care through Burke County has a magical Christmas. (That's over 200 kids!!)



HOW IT WORKS:

Each child is matched with two sponsors to provide gifts and joy this holiday season. Sponsors will get a tag for a child, spend $30-$50 per tag.



OTHER WAYS TO HELP:

- Donate new toys or art supplies
- Provide NEW clothing of all sizes, tags attached
- Donate gift cards to popular places. Walmart, Target, Kohl's, etc.
- Make a monetary donation to *Burke County Foster Care Christmas*

Interested in sponsoring or donating?
Contact Chazlyn Thomas
Chazlyn.thomas@burkenc.org
828-764-9625

Gift Drop Off: Return with Child Tag
Nov. 9 - Nov 25
Burke County DSS 700 E. Parker Rd. Morganton
Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm

THE ELVES ARE WORKING OVERTIME THIS YEAR!!

JOIN THE TEAM AND SPREAD CHRISTMAS JOY!!