

Buncombe County Government *takes seriously our responsibility to provide leadership in our community. And it is important that our values reflect our commitment to S.E.R.V.E.*

Therefore, we pledge to:

Show pride in our work

Exhibit caring in all we do

Respect others

Value and practice honesty

Exercise responsibility

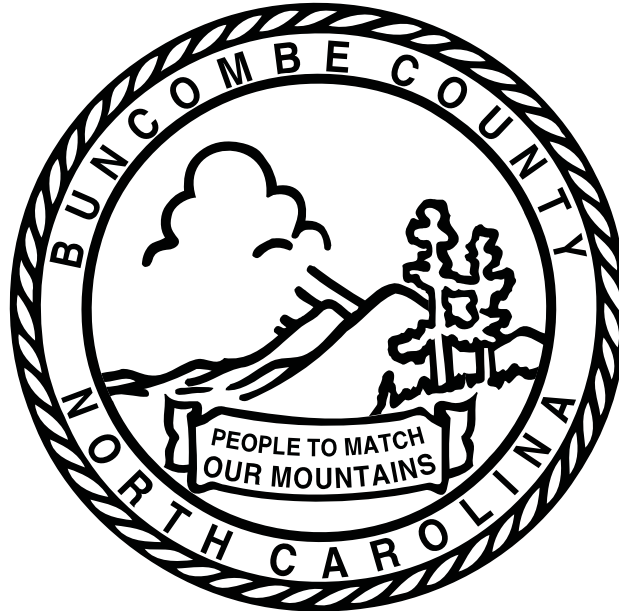
OUR MISSION:

We promote a healthy, safe, well-educated, and thriving community with a sustainable quality of life.

We provide effective and efficient government our citizens can trust.

We deliver needed service through a responsive work force committed to excellence, integrity, and teamwork.

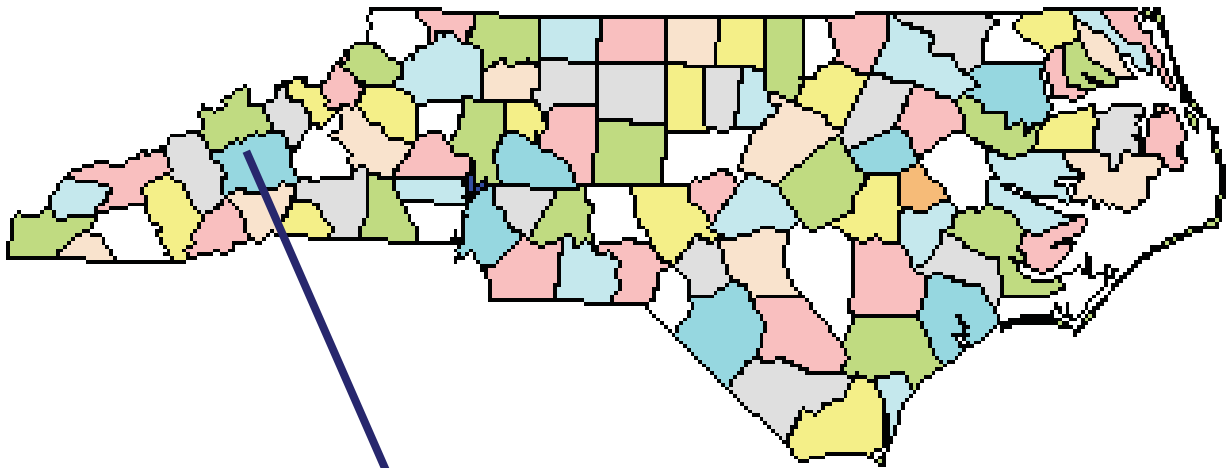
~Buncombe County



The Buncombe County Seal

Buncombe County's Seal was designed and drawn in 1927 by the late Roy Fox, with help from his classmates. He was a sixth grade student at Woodfin School who entered a contest hoping that his design would become the Official County Seal. County officials selected his design, which featured mountains, trees and billowy clouds as most reflective of Buncombe County's beauty. The original motto, "Men to Match Our Mountains," came from a poem titled "The Country's Call." "Men" was later changed to "People" to acknowledge the contributions of all of Buncombe County's citizens.

North Carolina



Buncombe County

Population	214,572
Area	656.55 sq. miles
Date Est.	12/5/1791
County Seat	Asheville

Buncombe County

Board of County Commissioners

Nathan Ramsey - Chairman



Nathan Ramsey is in his second term as Chairman of the Board. He is a thirty year resident of the Fairview Community in Buncombe County. He has a BS degree in accounting from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. Nathan and his wife, Robin, live in Fairview. Chairman Ramsey currently serves on the Buncombe County Health Board, Buncombe County Audit Committee, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, Buncombe County Farm Bureau Board, French Broad MPO and the NC Health Insurance Innovations Commission.

Bill Stanley

A retired high school coach and principal, Bill Stanley is serving his fifth term. In addition to his local involvement in civic affairs, he is a former President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and is currently serving as a member of the MPO, RPO, Land of Sky Regional Council and Civic Center Task Force. Commissioner Stanley was recently appointed to the NC Advisory Commission on Military Affairs.



David Gantt



David Gantt, an attorney, is in his third term on the Board. He is currently an active member of the Metropolitan Sewage District Board, Asheville Regional Airport Authority, Eblen Charities, United Way, Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council, Land of Sky Regional Council, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee. Commissioner Gantt is an advocate for education and the working people of Buncombe County.

Carol Peterson- Vice Chair



A fifth generation native of Buncombe County and a retired Director of Vocation for the Asheville City Schools, Carol Peterson is serving her first term of office. She also serves as the Vice Chair for Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College Board of Trustees, and on Boards for Children First, College for Seniors, UNC-A, Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee, Pack Place and Smart Start.

David Young

In his fourth term as Commissioner, David Young is very involved in local and regional economic development serving as the past Chairman and current member of the Economic Development Coalition., Blue Ridge Film Advisory Board, Tourism & Development Authority, and was the past chair of the Asheville Regional Airport Authority. He is currently serving on the UNC Board of Governors and is 2nd Vice President of the NC Association of County Commissioners. He is also part owner of Fugazy Travel.



County Officials

Wanda S. Greene, PhD, CPA	County Manager
Jon Creighton, MBA	Asst. County Manager/Planning Director
Amanda Stone, MSW	Asst. County Manager/Social Services Director
Kathy Hughes	Clerk to the Board
Joseph A. Connolly, JD	County Attorney
Donna B. Clark	Finance Director
Otto DeBruhl	Register of Deeds
Van Duncan	Sheriff
Fran Thigpen	Child Care Services Director
Pat Freeman	City/County Bureau of Identification Director
Trena Parker, MPA	Elections Supervisor
Vicki Ittel, PhD, MBA	Health Director
Ed Sheary, MSLS	Library Director
Jerry VeHaun	Emergency Services Director
Matt Stone	Permits & Inspections Director
Robert Thornberry, Jr., MA	Personnel Director
Glen Hughes	Information Technology Co-Director
Kim Pruett	Information Technology Co-Director
Gary Roberts	Tax Director
Gary Higgins	Soil & Water Conservation Director
Kenneth Reeves	Cooperative Extension Director
Greg Israel	General Services

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

In 1791, David Vance and William Davidson presented to the North Carolina House of Commons a "petition of the inhabitants of that part of Burke County lying west of the Appalachian Mountains praying that a part of said county, and part of Rutherford County, be made into a separate and distinct county." The original bill to create the county gave as its name "Union." The name was changed, however, to Buncombe in honor of Col. Edward Buncombe, a Revolutionary War hero from Tyrrell County.

The Buncombe bill was ratified on January 14, 1792. The new county included most of Western North Carolina and was so large it was commonly referred to it as the "State of Buncombe." Approximately 1,000 people lived in the county.

The Buncombe Turnpike was completed in 1827 connecting Tennessee and Kentucky to South Carolina. The turnpike ran along the French Broad River in the northern part of the county and through the heart of the county in the south. The turnpike caused an economic revolution to the region. By 1840, the first public schools had opened and by 1850 there were 57 schools enrolling more than 4,500 students.

Economic prosperity in 1850 was based on the drover trade; driving hogs, cattle, sheep and turkeys from the West to markets in South Carolina. Corn, used to feed the animals being driven to market, was the key money crop. However, new railroads running into Tennessee and Kentucky greatly diminished the drover trade, as did the Civil War.

Zebulon Vance, Buncombe native and Governor of North Carolina, reflected the views of most citizens regarding the issues that resulted in the Civil War. He was opposed to secession, nevertheless he said, "If war must come, I prefer to be with my own people." Support for the Confederacy, however, formed quickly after the fall of Fort Sumter. The Buncombe Riflemen were the first to ride out. The war left Buncombe County's economy drained.

Economic salvation for Buncombe County arrived on October 3, 1880 when the first train pulled into Asheville. Building the railroad across the Blue Ridge Mountains was an engineering feat only equaled by the strength of the men who built it.

During the next ten years, the County's population increased by more than 13,000 people-- 61 percent. The most important agricultural commodity was tobacco. It replaced corn as the county's key money crop. Fruit and dairy products continued to grow in importance as well.

In 1890, George Vanderbilt began building Biltmore House, the largest private home in America. The artisans and others he brought to build his estate brought changes in views about forestry, agriculture and handicrafts. During this era, 1890-1910, Buncombe County's cool, crisp mountain air made the area a popular location for tuberculosis sanatorium. The area also became one of America's best-known tourist centers.

By 1920, Buncombe County was firmly established as a transportation, manufacturing, forestry, agricultural, educational, medical and tourist center. Thomas Wolfe put Asheville on the literary map as well.

Despite the profound impact of the "great depression" that began in 1929, those same industries exist today in a vibrant metropolitan area surrounded by unsurpassed natural beauty. Our population has grown to more than 200,000. Yet, the qualities of intelligence, hard work, faith, honesty and "people to match our mountains" are prevalent today, as they have been throughout Buncombe County's extraordinary history.

A five-member Board of County Commissioners governs Buncombe County today, and they appoint a County Manager. The Board of Commissioners is chosen every four years in partisan elections. The Commissioners set policy, determine budgets for several agencies and set property tax rates for the entire county. The County Manager is the chief administrative officer, and prepares and recommends the annual budget. Also, the County Manager is responsible for program development and personnel management.

The FY2008 budget reflects the Commissioners' continuing commitment to education, economic development and public safety.

The goal of this Board is to continue to provide the citizens of Buncombe County quality services and first-rate government. They will accomplish this goal through motivated professionals who are dedicated to serving all of our people. The foundation has been laid that will ensure a bright and prosperous future for our citizens and for generations yet to come.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

Buncombe County

North Carolina

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2006

President

Executive Director