



IPDC DEVELOPMENTS

Volume 2, Issue 1
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ISOTHERMAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SERVING THE COUNTIES OF CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL, POLK AND RUTHERFORD FOR OVER 41 YEARS.

Paul D. Hughes Memorial

Paul D. Hughes was the Executive Director of IPDC from January 9, 1969 until June 30, 2006. Paul lost a courageous battle with cancer on October 13, 2007. The IPDC Board of Directors is planning the renovation of the conference room which will be dedicated to Paul later this year. The following commemoration is in loving memory to his leadership, contributions and service to the Commission.

Following completion of graduate and under graduate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Paul embarked upon a teaching career for several years. In January 1969 Governor Robert W. Scott appointed Paul Hughes as Field Coordinator for the Isothermal Economic Development Commission.



Paul's excellent leadership and his collaborative relationships with local and state governments helped expand programs and services at IPDC from the beginning. Between 1975 and 1981 staff grew to over 25 employees. New programs included Section 8 Housing, the Area Agency on Aging, Winterization/Weatherization Assistance, and JTPA job training. In 1992 the housing rehabilitation program and the Western North Carolina Housing Partnership were added. By the time of Paul's retirement in 2006, IPDC had increased to a staff of over 50 and included an extensive range of activities that touched the lives of Region C citizens in all four counties.

A tribute honoring Paul Hughes for thirty-seven years of hard work and passionate public service was held at the Isothermal Planning & Development Commission's Annual Dinner on May 5, 2006. The dinner concluded with the presentation to Paul of the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor that can be granted in the State of North Carolina. As our leader and mentor, Paul Hughes taught us the importance of pooling our experiences, resources and best efforts to maximize the potential that exists in our community for health care, education, job creation and training, housing and community development.

Paul was always proud to be a "Tarheel" and to call North Carolina home. Above all, Paul deeply loved his family. His wife, Charlotte; his son, Greg; daughter, Beth; and his grandchildren were his priority and strength. He is remembered and missed by all who knew and worked with him.

The Paul D. Hughes Scholarship Fund will be used to financially assist students desiring to enter into governmental studies. Send contributions to Office of Gift Planning, ATTN: Candace Clark, UNC at Chapel Hill, P. O. Box 309, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. ❄️

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WNCHP RECEIVES HOUSING NC AWARD



WNCHP AWARDED FUNDING FOR GASTONIA PROJECT



The Western North Carolina Housing Partnership and the CITY OF GASTONIA were awarded approximately \$4 million in funding for Gateway Village, a 40 unit elderly complex which will be located in the downtown area of the City of Gastonia. This complex is being designed by Architect John Burgess who designed the 2007 Housing North Carolina award winning Park at Cline Village in Conover, NC. The construction for this development is scheduled to begin in March 2008. *

The Park at Cline Village in Conover was one of six affordable housing developments that received a Housing North Carolina Award on Nov. 15 at the 18th annual awards luncheon in Raleigh. Sponsored by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, the awards recognize excellent properties that can serve as models for other communities.

The Park at Cline Village in Conover contains 48 apartments for seniors. Developed by Western North Carolina Housing Partnership, Inc., it is part of a 300-acre development that will include single family homes, an elementary school, a fire station, a church, and shopping.

The development was financed with a bank loan, federal HOME funds, federal and state housing credits, and a loan from the City of Conover.

Jeanne Price and the WNCHP are to be commended for this fantastic job and performance. *

REGION C AT A GLANCE

POPULATION
(2006 ESTIMATE): 224,880
AREA: 1,720 SQ. MILES

LARGEST POPULATION
(CITY): SHELBY (21,378)

COUNTY POPULATION
(2006 ESTIMATE):
CLEVELAND: 98,373
MCDOWELL: 43,414
POLK: 19,226
RUTHERFORD: 63,867

HIGHEST ELEVATION:
5665 FT. (HIGH PINNACLE,
MCDOWELL COUNTY)

MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD INCOME
(2000): \$34,662


WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM


The Weatherization Assistance Program crew has been extremely busy making homes warmer since regional temperatures dropped into the teens this winter. Clients who received assistance in October 2007 are noticing significant decreases in their utility bills. Weatherization measures were installed on 39 homes in 2007 and 54 more will be completed by June 30th, 2008.


McDowell County Senior Center invited Weatherization to be a vendor at the Wellness Fair on November 1st. This was a huge success with over 150 people in attendance. Attendees received information regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program and applications for assistance were completed.


Rutherford County Senior Center recently hosted the Weatherization program at a special forum to present "Ways to Save Energy". If you would like to get tips on how to reduce your energy bill costs or want more information on the program, please contact Becky McKelvey @ 828-287-2281 ext. 1238.

SECTION 8 HIGHLIGHTS

 HUD completed the annual Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) whereby housing agencies are rated by comparing actual performance to a total of fourteen indicators. IPDC's Section 8 program received a final SEMAP score of 100 for the fiscal year ending 6/30/07. Kudos to the staff for their commitment, the excellent teamwork and a job well done!!

 IPDC was selected by HUD in December 2007 to receive \$34,723 for renewal grant funding of a Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinator staff position for the 2008 calendar year. A total of 44 families currently participate in the FSS program with five being homeowners through the Homeownership Program.

 In an effort to curtail fraud, HUD compares the income information provided by assisted families to wage data from the state Employment Security Commission and the Social Security Administration. The results of this comparison and subsequent discrepancies are provided by HUD to the housing agencies on a monthly basis. IPDC obtained 15 grand jury indictments in Rutherford and McDowell counties in early January 2008 representing in excess of \$40,000 of housing assistance payments resulting from fraud. Cleveland County fraud cases are pending finalization for criminal prosecution. There have been no reported fraud cases in Polk County to date.

 Additional funding allocated by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) in July 2007 has resulted in issuance of Vouchers for qualifying families on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List:

County	Total No. of Families Receiving a Voucher		Total
	Oct. '07	Jan. '08	
Cleveland	51	59	110
McDowell	34	46	80
Polk	29	28	57
Rutherford	7	-	7
Total	121	133	254

RPO NEWS AND NOTES

At its quarterly meeting held on November 15, 2007, the Isothermal RPO endorsed the following grant applications:

1. The Town of Old Fort's application for Pedestrian Planning Grant funds from NCDOT.
2. The City of Marion's application for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan funds.
3. An application by the Towns of Forest City, Rutherfordton and Spindale for SRTS Action Plan funds.

Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

North Carolina's Board of Transportation approved and released the Draft 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) early in November. Significant projects in Region C include:

- US-74 Bypass around Shelby - construction (of portions) begins in 2012
- US-221 from US-74 to the state line - construction begins in 2009
- US-221 Bypass around Rutherfordton - construction (of portions) begins in 2013
- I-26 / US-74 / NC-108 interchange - future years (not yet funded)



The TIP can be found at www.ncdot.org/planning/development/TIP/TIP/Trans/

Comments may be submitted on-line: <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/ContactUS/PostComment.aspx?Unit=TIP>.

The next quarterly meeting of the Isothermal RPO will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 12 PM. This will be a joint Transportation Advisory and Technical Coordinating Committee meeting. **Contact Greg Christo or Josh King at (828) 287-2281 for more information.**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS SERVICES SPECIALIST

The Region C Workforce Development Board has hired Susan Alcide to be the new Business Services Specialist for Cleveland County. The half-time position is a pro-active approach to serving local business needs, enhancing economic development efforts, strengthening our businesses in their marketplace, and growing/retaining employment opportunities for our workforce. Susan will serve as the lead staff in promoting JobLink Center and workforce development partners services and in training center staff to more effectively serve their business base. Susan can be reached at her Cleveland Community College office, (704) 484-4058. *



REGIONAL STRATEGIC GROWTH

The Economic Development Commission in Rutherford County has voted to help fund a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Isothermal Region. Other local government organizations have been approached to request financial support for producing a new CEDS. Other sources, including IPDC's Workforce Investment Act funds and Duke Energy are also being considered.

The CEDS report paints a realistic picture of the current condition of the region that includes the economy, population, geography, workforce development and use, transportation access, resources, and environment. The CEDS will help the region set goals and objectives necessary to solve economic problems and capitalize on the resources of the region.

The CEDS process is tentatively scheduled to begin in early March. *

GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

THE FOLLOWING GRANTS, BASED ON APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY IPDC GRANT SERVICES STAFF, WERE FUNDED DURING THE PAST QUARTER:

- **Town of Lawndale** -- \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded in October through the Community Revitalization program. Grant will provide funds to upgrade the Town's sewer system, expanding the sewer lines to more houses, clear several, vacant dilapidated properties, and rehabilitate 7 houses.
- **City of Kings Mountain** -- \$131,600 Community Development Block Grant awarded to the City of Kings Mountain to fund a sewer line to serve the new Ingles Supermarket to be built on Business 74 at the County Industrial Park. Ingles has committed to the creation of 14 new jobs as a result of this assistance.
- **Town of Kingstown** -- \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to the Town of Kingstown to connect low and moderate income residents to the new sewer system.
- **McDowell County** -- \$36,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to McDowell County to connect 10 low and moderate income residents to the new water system in Nebo.
- **City of Marion** -- \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to the City of Marion to connect low and moderate income residents to water.
- **Rutherford County** -- \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant awarded to Rutherford County to connect low and moderate income residents to water.
- **McDowell County** -- \$304,048 Single Family Rehabilitation Grant awarded by the Housing Finance Agency to rehabilitate 7 homes in McDowell County. Homeowners must be low and moderate income to qualify. Rutherford County received a similar grant last year.
- **Cleveland County** -- \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing project funds awarded to Cleveland County to rehabilitate approximately 7 homes.

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS WERE PREPARED ON BEHALF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PAST QUARTER:

- **McDowell County** -- \$200,000 to Appalachian Regional Commission for a water line to serve residents on Sherwood Forest Drive and its adjacent streets. Several homes on Sherwood Forest Drive have wells contaminated by petroleum from an underground tank at a gas station. Approximately 50 homes will have access to public water as a result of this project. Total project costs is expected to be about \$400,000.
- **McDowell County** -- \$248,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and \$257,000 NC Rural Center application for the construction of approximately 6,000 linear feet of water line on Watson Road in the Nebo area. This line will provide public water to about 23 homes. About 60% of these residents have poor water quality or quantity or no available water at all.
- **Polk County** -- \$500,000 NC Rural Center application for the acquisition of a site for the intake on the Green River and the Water Treatment Plant to serve the new Polk County water system. The total project cost is expected to be over \$15,000,000.
- **City of Saluda** -- \$417,200 NC Rural Center application for the repair and upgrade of the City's Wastewater Treatment plant that was severely damaged in the Tropical Storms and Flooding of 2004. FEMA is paying the remaining \$930,600 of the cost of this project.

Contact Teresa Spires or Paula Kempton at (828) 287-2281

for more information about grant services.

We hope this issue was informative.
Please share with others in your organization.



Isothermal Planning and
Development Commission

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Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

IPDC Developments is a quarterly publication. Newsletter contributions are encouraged from local government members. Material selected for publication may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Contributions or suggestions for the newsletter should be directed to us by mail, fax or Email. If you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format (Email link, Email attachment, U.S. Mail), please contact us at: **IPDC Newsletter, 111 West Court Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139**
Phone: 828-287-2281 Fax: 828-287-3735 Email: jedwards@regionc.org

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Board of Directors Meeting Schedule Fiscal Year 2008

March 11, 2008
May 2, 2008 Annual Meeting and Dinner
June 10, 2008