

My Catawba County

My Catawba County was developed by Jason Eades while interning for Catawba County Government. Jason Eades is a senior at Western Carolina University majoring in Computer Information Systems

<http://m.catawbacountync.gov/mycatawbacounty>

My Catawba County is an all purpose mobile web application developed to provide the citizenry of Catawba County with a greater ability to stay informed about the news and services provided by their county government. Since *My Catawba County* is a mobile web application, it is supported on all major platforms that have internet access and a web browser including, but not limited to: iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets. It uses location based technology so GPS/GPS Satellites/Location Services need to be turned on to get the most benefit from the app.

Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of *My Catawba County* is the Citizen Service Locator. The Citizen Service Locator provides users the ability to find the location, distance, description, address and callable phone number of many services provided by Catawba County and its cities. Currently, these services include: Law Enforcement Offices, EMS Bases, Fire/Rescue Stations, Libraries, Parks and Animal Services adoptable animals listing. Once a user chooses one of the aforementioned categories, they have the option of choosing between a list view and map view. If a user chose the "Parks" service and then chose "Parks List", they would be provided with a list of all parks within the county and the distance from the user's current location sorted closest to farthest. The user then has the ability to choose any park from the list and find out additional information about that park (i.e.: what activities can be done there, contact phone number, address, description and view pictures). If a user had chose the "Parks" service then chose "Parks Map", they would be provided with a Google Map and map markers showing all the park locations within the county along with a blue user marker showing the users current location. The blue user marker will constantly follow the user and this gives them the ability to see what parks they are close to and where they are within the county. If the user is interested in learning more about a location, they can click the map markers and find out more information. Additionally, a complete set of Administrative Tools are available so that an admin can add a new category (i.e: Recreation Centers, Government Buildings, etc.) and add as many points of interest to that category as they wish. In other words, new Citizen Service Locator categories and places can be easily added by an admin without seeing a single line of code.

Another feature of the Citizen Service Locator is the ability to activate Red Cross Emergency Shelter locations throughout Catawba County in case of an emergency. These shelters are controlled and activated dynamically through a set of Administrative Tools on a server that is accessible by Emergency Services. Since it is only typical for a few shelters to be opened in an emergency situation, administrators have the ability to dynamically activate certain shelters throughout Catawba County.

When these shelters are activated, they have the same list and map view functions of the other citizen services and provide citizens with a method of discovering information about particular Red Cross Shelters and finding their location and distance through the map and list view functions.

Other popular features built into *My Catawba County* include a large social networking hub that will allow users to easily discover all of Catawba County's Governments news and activities from one centralized location. These include: Catawba County's five Twitter Feeds, four RSS feeds and an external link to our mobile Facebook, mobile YouTube and "Who's In Jail?" page. Some of the more interesting feeds would be the 911 Traffic Accidents Twitter feed, Emergency Management Twitter feed, Job Openings RSS Feed and the Adoptable Animals RSS Feed.

The *My Catawba County* mobile web application was mentioned in most all local Catawba County newspapers, The Charlotte Observer, and multiple government technology websites.



CATAWBA COUNTY

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“MY CATAWBA COUNTY” BRINGS GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TO MOBILE PHONES

“My Catawba County”, a new service for users of mobile phones, has been launched. Anyone accessing My Catawba County will be able to choose from a selection of informational links and County applications. The service may be reached at <http://m.catawbacountync.gov/mycatawbacounty/>.

The application was developed for mobile devices with a web browser such as iPad, iPhone, Android phones and tablets. Google Chrome is recommended for those wishing to use a desktop browser.

“Catawba County is constantly looking for new ways to interact with and get information to its residents,” said Terry Bledsoe, Catawba County’s Chief Information Officer. “With technology like the Smartphone and location based services, information that was available on our website takes on a new dimension. Users may find information in real time based on their location. With this, finding the nearest park, getting accident information, or finding the nearest fire department or EMS base becomes easy. My Catawba County puts useful information at your finger tips, anywhere, anytime.”

Users who first access My Catawba County will be able to choose from nine links. These include Citizen Services, NCDOT Alerts, Traffic Accidents, Job Openings, Who’s In Jail, and connections to Catawba County’s social media outlets through Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds, and YouTube.

The Citizens Services link will take users to another menu of choices for information about parks, libraries, law enforcement, fire and rescue services and Animal Services. It will also allow users to find Red Cross emergency shelters should they be opened in an emergency situation. The NCDOT alerts will point users to a feed maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation that lists traffic alerts/congestion reported across Catawba County, while the Traffic Accidents link takes users to the County’s Twitter feed on accidents and roads conditions in Catawba County.

Selecting the Job Openings button will redirect a user to the page listing job openings with Catawba County and the process that an interested person should use to apply for a job with the County. The Who’s In Jail link provides a connection to one of the most visited sites by those entering the County’s internet “front door”. It gives information on persons who have recently been arrested and the charges filed against them.

A majority of the information about Catawba County that is released to traditional media outlets and on www.catawbacountync.gov is also distributed on the County’s Facebook and Twitter feed. My Catawba County users may find it more convenient to get to those pages via the new mobile app.

“I hope the new app enables citizens to become more informed about the many services offered in Catawba County,” said Jason Eades, the principle designer of My Catawba County. “Whether it’s finding a new park in the area for children to enjoy or helping citizens find a Red Cross Shelter in case of a disaster, I hope My Catawba County does something to help the people here.”

“Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!”

...sion of Carolina Distillery.
 Carolina Distillery began operation in 2010 in the basement of the former W.E. Shaw building on Mulberry Street. Carolina Distillery, one of only two legal distilleries in the state, produces Carriage House apple brandy made from apples grown in North Carolina.

CATAWBA COUNTY

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GASTON COUNTY

A new exhibit, "Mistress Mary A Garden Party: Artwork by Brenda Beard-Bostian," runs through Sept. 10 at the Gaston County Museum of Art and History, 131 W. Main St., Dallas.

This is the fourth show of the 2011 Gaston College Solo Show Series, which features eight artists throughout the year.

Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For details, visit www.gastoncountymuseum.org. — COMPILED BY GINA SMITH

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Neighbors publishes every Sunday.
 Delivery problem: 800-532-5350.
 News or story ideas: Email westneighbors@charlotteobserver.com.
 Deadline to submit news is 10 days

Real to Reel is a challenge to see little-known film

The annual movie festival rolls into Kings Mountain this week.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



JOE DEPRIEST

you make?

Dreaming large – with \$80 million in my pocket – I'd produce and direct an epic of Spanish explorer Hernando Desoto marching up the Catawba River valley in the 17 century. I'd spice it up with his encounter with the female chief at the Indian town of Cofitachiqui.

So far, nobody's volunteered to bankroll the project.

Meanwhile, scores of sharp, aggressive young folks are actually making movies – the independent kind.

One of the best places to see what they're doing is the annual Real to Reel International Film & Video Festival in Kings Mountain. The event runs Wednesday to Saturday at the Joy Performance Center, a renovated movie house from the 1940s.

The idea for the festival, sponsored by the Cleveland County

If you had the money, what kind of movie would



Real to Reel will be at Joy Performance Center in Kings Mountain.

Arts Council, came from Will Eskridge. Noel Manning II helped out and has continued to do so after Eskridge moved on.

Filmmakers who win awards at the festival take home some cash (the Best of Show gets \$1,000), but the real benefit is kicking their resumes up a notch. Shearra Miller, executive director of the Arts Council, said film websites prominently display the list of festivals where the product has won awards.

Miller said she doesn't know if

any have made several documentaries. Real to Reel has been on public television.

One outstanding film is the 55-minute 'Hermit: The Life of Robert E. Harlan,' a Harlan-based group.

That was a great film of mine because it was from Cleveland County. He's the guy who

There's lots to do this summer

Music fest and nature display; local folks take to the road.

GASTON COUNTY LEIGH PRESSLEY



There's more to add to your summer activity list, thanks to new events planned at Gaston College and

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

Here's the latest news on what's going on around town.

For the first time in its 30-year history, Gaston College radio station WJCE 91.7 FM will host the



COURTESY BELMONT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.

On June 21, Belmont Parks and Recreation Dept. Kid's program Triple T (Taking Trips on Tuesday) at Nicholas Park in Rowan County, where they had live animals, went mining, rode a carousel, saw bears, wolves, groundhogs, hawks, owls,

CATAWBA COUNTY

County launches new mobile service

SPECIAL TO THE O-N-E

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Papa John

FROM O-N-E REPORTS

Young adults ages 18-29 are the most arrested age group in North Carolina for driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and possession of other dangerous drugs.

"Drug-Free NC has been telling parents for years 'Talk to your kids about drugs,' and now we see why. We, as parents and as communities, need to arm our youth with powerful information on the risks of drug and alcohol abuse before they hit those later teen and college years. Young adulthood is when many bad decisions are made,

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see page 6

45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving this notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days' written notice to the landlord. Upon termination of

such rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS, WHERE IS". Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of

the Promissory Note secured by the deed of trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representatives of either the Substitute Trustee or the holder of the Promissory Note make any representation of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions

existing in, on, at or relating to the property being offered for sale, and any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law. This the 30th day

of June, 2011.

MARK T. ADERHOLD, Substitute Trustee
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BIG W

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My Catawba County – <http://www.govtech.com/e-government/Catawba-County-NC-Website-Phone-Friendly.html>

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July 25, 2011

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» **Catawba County, N.C., Website Goes Phone Friendly**

July 1, 2011 By News Staff

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Catawba County, N.C., relaunched its official website <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/> in late June, and like many recently redesigned government websites the county is catering to the modern Web user by providing a mobile version.

The new version of Catawba County's site, called "My Catawba County," is now accessible on multiple mobile devices such as iPads, iPhones, Androids and tablets.

"With technology like the smartphone and location-based services, information that was available on our website takes on a new dimension," said county CIO Terry Bledsoe in a statement. "Users may find information in real time based on their location."







Through the mobile version, users can locate places in the county such as parks, libraries and animal services. In addition, the site provides alerts from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, alerts on traffic accidents, job openings and through the "Who's in Jail" feature, can access a list of county inmates recently incarcerated. The listing shows the inmate's name, the date he or she was confined, the charge, bond amount, court date and other details about the inmate.

The county also made social media sites accessible through the mobile version so users can reach the county's Twitter, Facebook and YouTube pages.

Catawba County's [announcement](#) comes at the heels of some state governments making similar changes..

In May, Arkansas [announced](#) the relaunch of its official website Arkansas.gov to include mobile access and on June 23, Virginia made a similar move and launched a revamped version of its website Virginia.gov to include more social media features as well as a mobile site.

You may use or reference this story with attribution and a link to <http://www.govtech.com/e-government/Catawba-County-NC-Website-Phone-Friendly.html>

      [More](#)

INNOVATION NATION RESOURCES

- Building the Innovation Nation**
An interactive tool of State and Local e-Government performance measures, assessments and research
- This Old Portal**
All advanced Web sites rely on a solid foundation on which ever greater volumes of traffic and higher expectations are assigned to the online channel. The campaign to renovate, restore, and renew public sector portals begins here.
- Issue Brief: The Self-Funded Model**
This brief on the self-funded model tells how states can eliminate financial risks, enhance constituent services and generate revenue through a self-funded portal.
- Issue Brief: Mobile-Enabled Services**
Find out how states are beginning to provide constituents anytime, anywhere access to services via smartphones – improving the experience for constituents and cutting costs at the same time
- The Paradigm Shift**
In the Information Age, eGovernment is helping the public sector redefine itself.
- Ahead of Schedule**
Next-generation state Web portals are here now, bringing people closer to government with more services, new designs and Web 2.0 social media capabilities.
- ENGAGE**
Creating e-Government that Supports Commerce, Collaboration, Community and Commonwealth
- Your Journey, Your Way**
In a four-part series of e-government map guides, the Center for Digital Government uses a subway map metaphor to define the starting and ending point for modern portal improvement services, along with the major stops along the way.

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