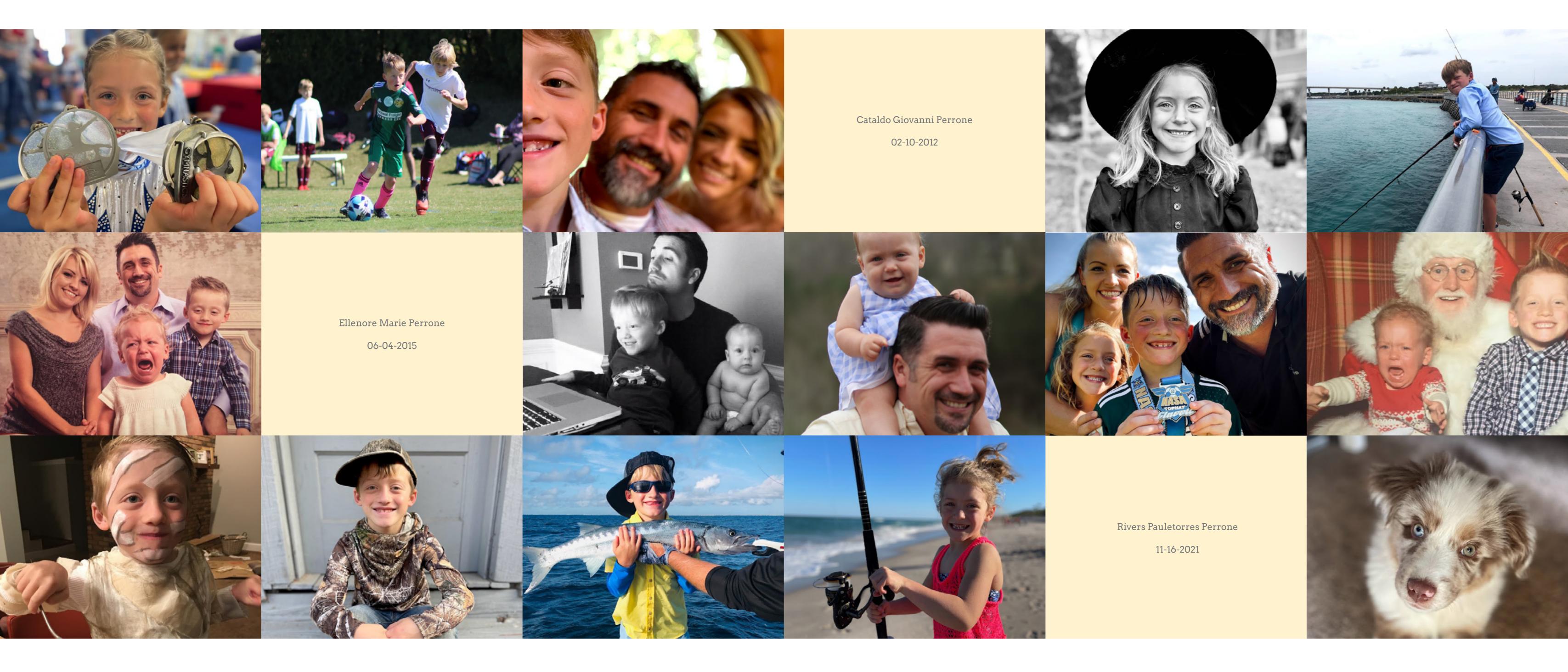


## MY FAMILY



## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**







HUNTING & PROCESSING



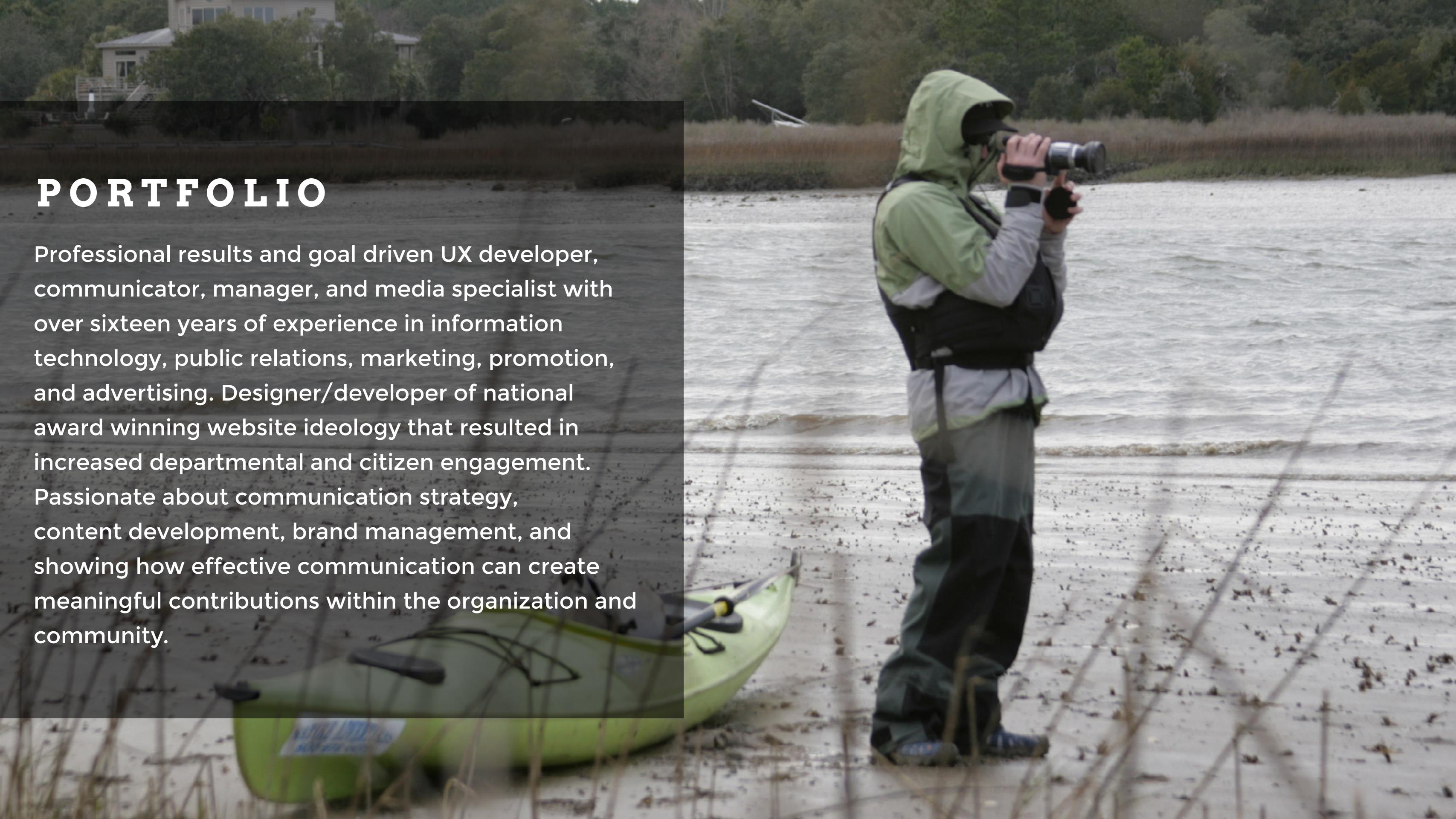
FISHING & STORYTELLING



COOKING & GATHERING



CREATING & ENJOYING



## EXPERIENCE at BUNCOMBE COUNTY









2014 - 2018 2018 - Present

2008 - 2010

## Multimedia Specialist & Brand Manager

- Increased Buncombe Life Magazine print interest by 50% between 2009 and 2010
  - Reduced print costs by switching to 20% post-consumer recycled paper
    - Introduced building window and bus wrap marketing
  - Started email marketing newsletter

## Web & Production Manager

2010 - 2014

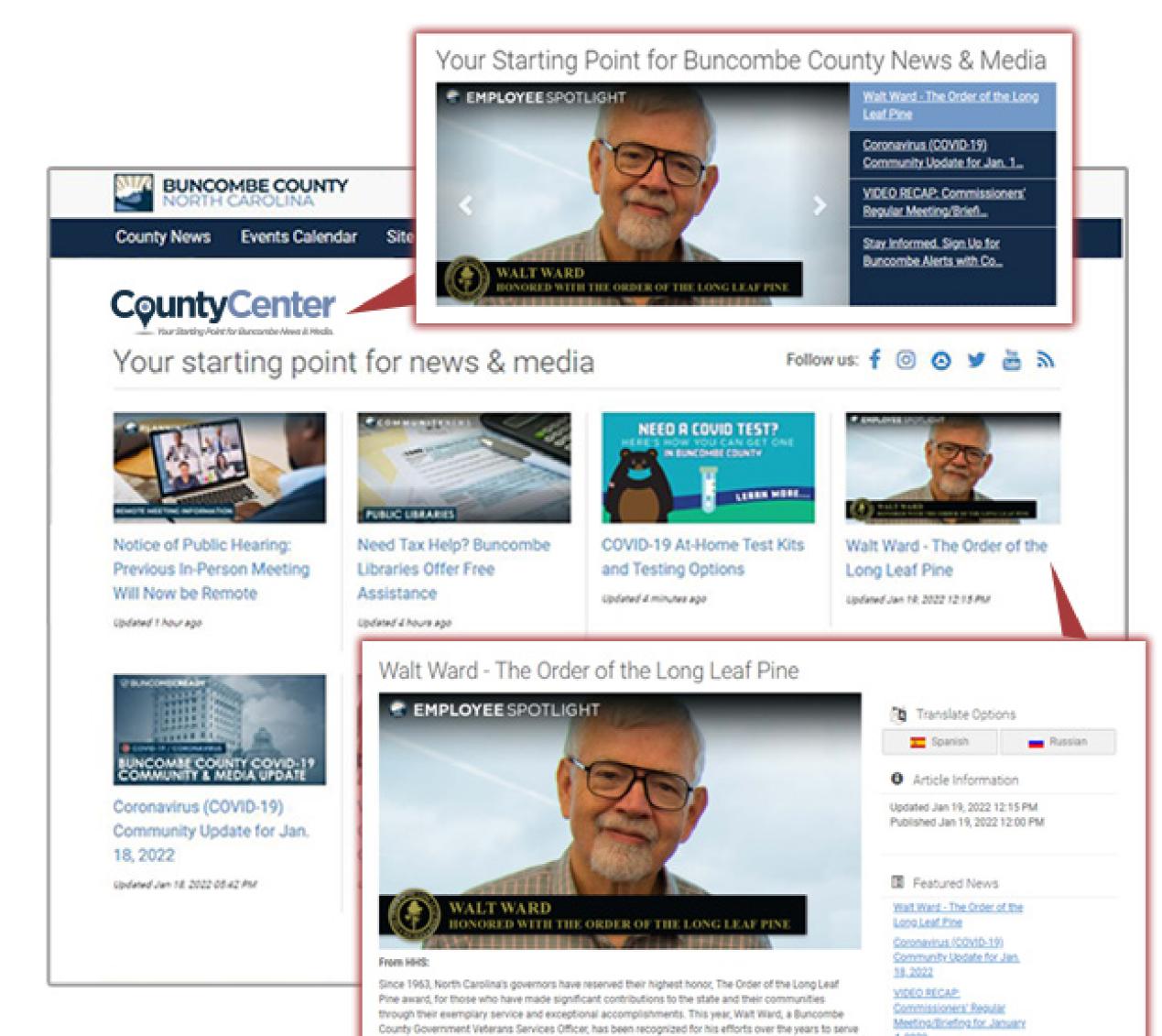
- Increased YouTube video viewership
   500% in first two years
- Designed and developed video based e-marketing newsletter
- Increased views 42% | Increased likes 69% | Increased subscribers 73%
- Reduced website redundancies by 50%
- Developed state and national award winning website model
- Led team to several first and second place communication and marketing awards

# UX/UI Designer & Web Developer

- Worked with PR department to design and develop award winning external news portal for more streamlined approach to improve social engagement.
- Implemented Twitter Bootrap framework across county sites and applications to improve user experience for mobile and tablet users.
  - Led Section 508 accessibility initiative of buncombecounty.org, resulting in an improved accessibility site score of 96.3.

## Web Administrator III & Manager

- Worked with county management and other local businesses to build the One Buncombe website and donation portal onebuncombe. org, which raised over \$1.66 million for local businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- Worked with PR department to design and develop state and national award winning employee intranet to improve internal communication and employee relations.



By all accounts, Walt Ward is an exceptional man who has been committed to the service of others since the 1960s. Fresh out of college, Walt entered the workforce as a political advocate working to secure

equitable voting rights for North Carolinians. Seeking additional experience, Walt accepted a two-year

In 1972, Walt began working as a Claims Examiner for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Winston-Salem- the first of many jobs Walt would accept over the course of his career spent advocating for the

his honorable discharge, Walt relocated to North Carolina seeking a return to advocacy work.

assignment in Tanzania with the Peace Corp followed by four years of service for the US Air Force. After

Stav Informed, Sign Up for

Previous Article: Go On A Blind Date

With a Book at the Library This February

Next Article: COVID-19 At Home Test

Buncombe Alerts with

Kits and Testing Options

CodeRED.

our community.

Veterans Service Officer | 2011-2021

Walt Ward

## **BC.org - County Center Homepage**

#### **Project Overview**

Developed and led the Buncombe County home page redesign. Once implemented, this newly designed platform revolutionized how our PR team worked. It integrated social media and web-design to create a modern user experience by turning a stagnant website into a dynamic news forum that was easily shared onto social media.

#### **Awarded**

Award of Excellence – Most Innovative – County Center Homepage North Carolina City and County Communicators (NC3C) | 2016

#### Results

Increased civic engagement, likes, follows, and increased web traffic back to site.





Black Mountain Recreation and Parks is having a holiday parade downtown ending at the Circle of Lights at Lake Tomahawk.... Read More



#### Lake Julian Festival of Lights

Don't miss the Winter Wonderland!... Read More



Stay Safe During the Holidays: Trees, Lights & Candles

## **BC.org - County Center - Newsletter**

#### **Project Overview**

Developed and redesigned the County Newsletter to go along with the home page redesign. The newly developed newsletter matched our web page and other branded materials, unifying the overall brand. Additional promotion of the news letter resulted in far more reach and engagement.

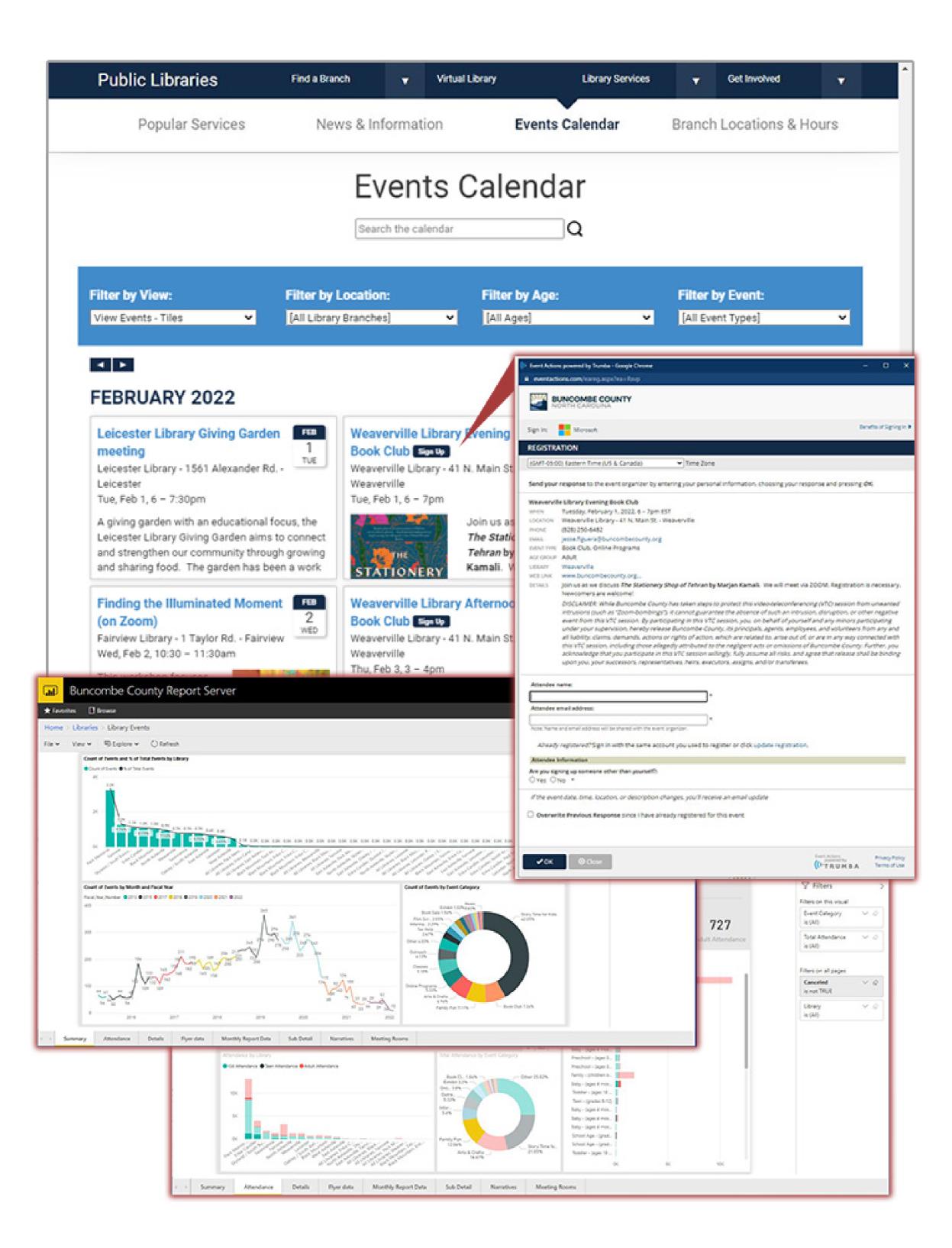
One interesting strategic back-end feature of County Center is the ability to select articles created and have them populate into a Newsletter. The newsletter is sent out to our 22,000+ subscribers and directs users back to our website.

#### **Awarded**

First Place – Savvy Award – County Center Newsletter (National)
City County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) | 2016

#### Results

Increased web traffic back to site, kept residents informed of County news, programs, and events.



#### Public Libraries - Events Calendar/Dashboard

#### **Project Overview**

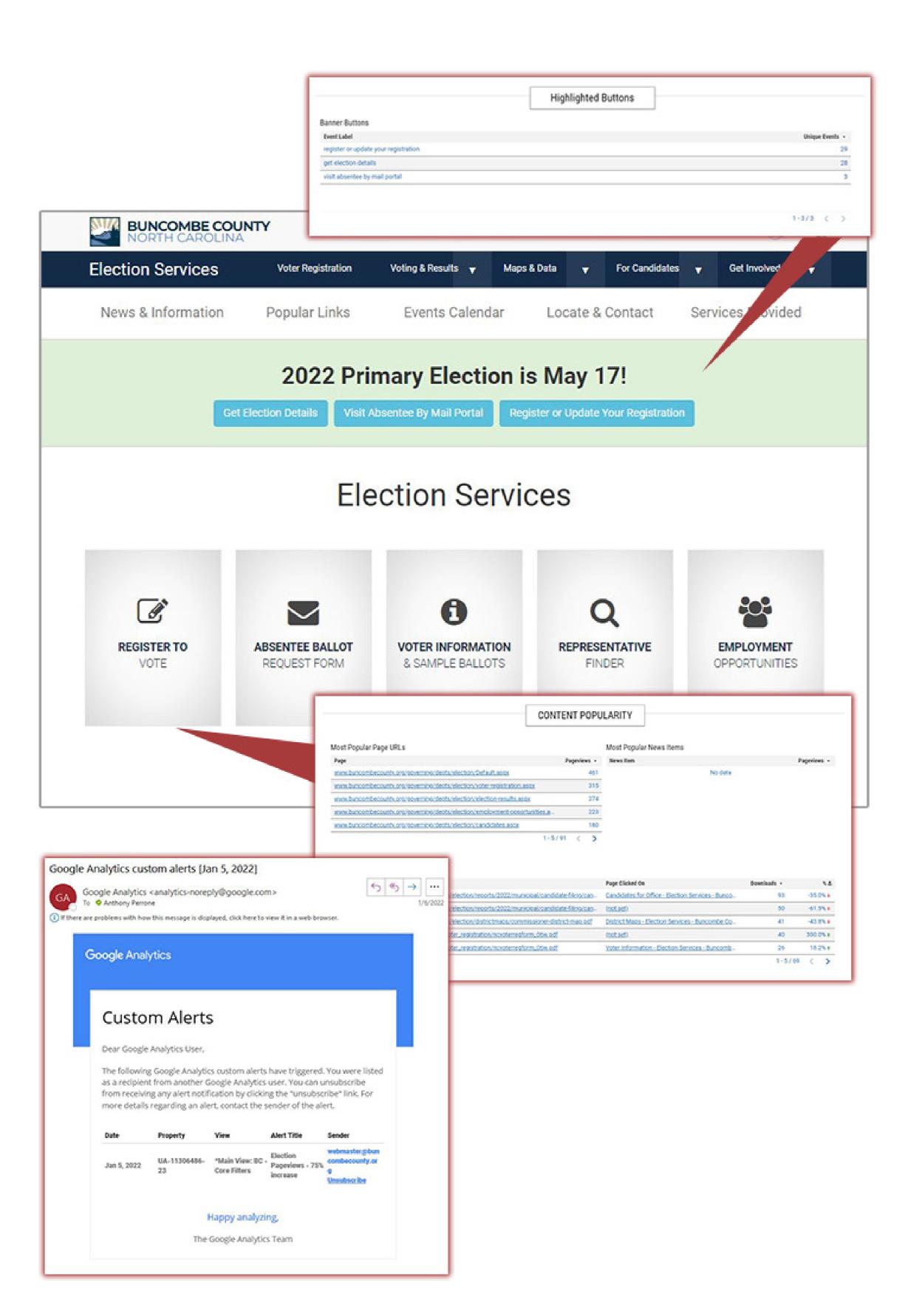
"The Library captures all our program information to include on the Annual Report we send to the State Library of North Carolina. We also use these statistics internally for planning and funding purposes. Currently we have only a limited number of socially distanced and online programs, but prior to COVID it wasn't unusual for the library to have over a hundred programs a month. Tracking the information related to these programs is a big job.

In 2019 County IT built a library dashboard that would capture all the library events and allow us to sort, count and look at events in lots of different ways. For instance, anyone in the library could pull up the dashboard and see how many programs of any type we had in a certain time period, including attendance.

Anthony Perrone set up accounts on the Trumba calendar for every library branch and customized the forms with all the information we needed. Each month, the branch posts their programs so they display on the webpage for the public. After the program is done, the branch adds the attendance data to the program description. The program's information is then collated on a dashboard built by Alexander Nemeth and we pull our statistics down from there." ~ Tammy Silver

#### **Product Details**

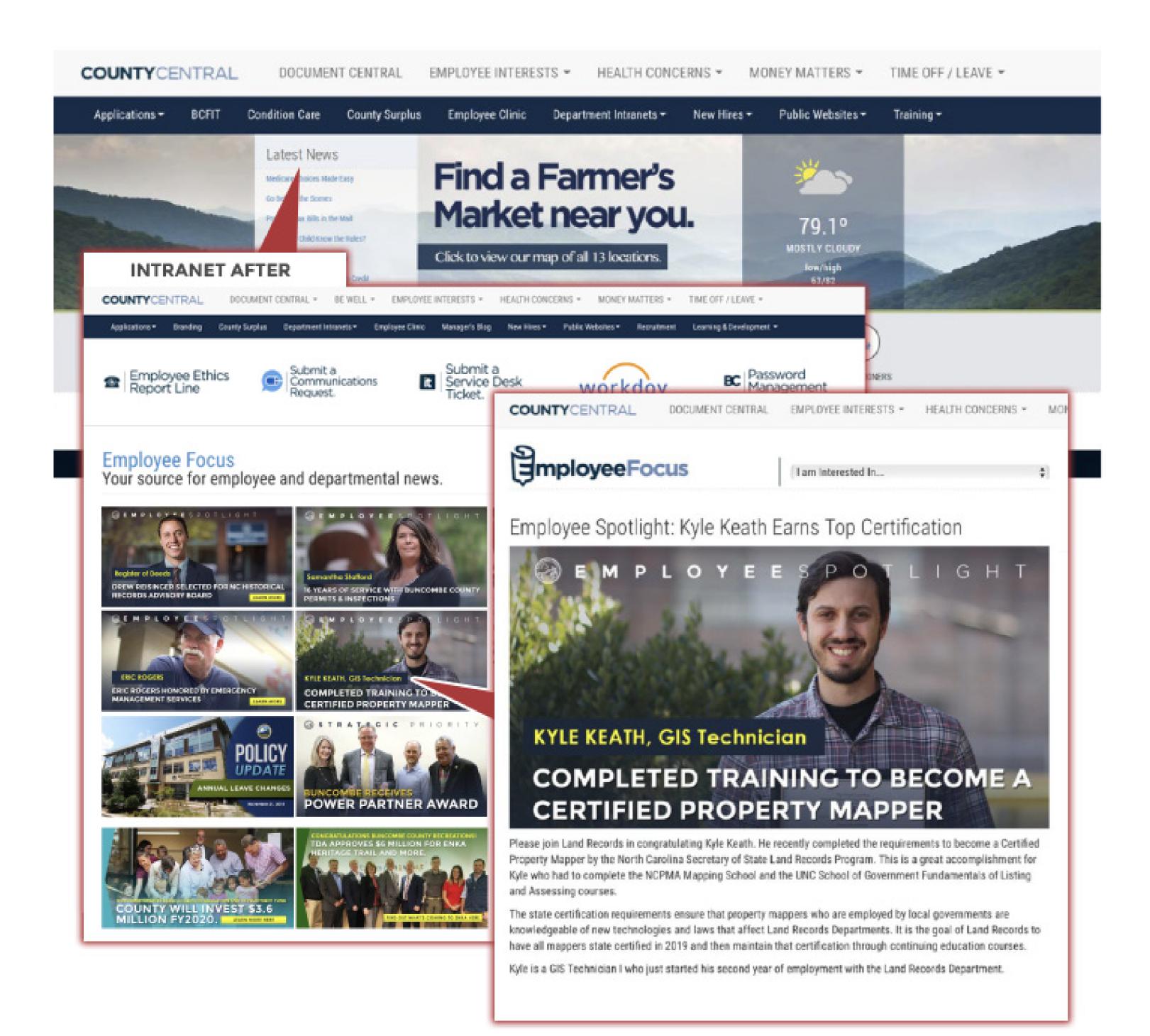
- Advanced Filtering Options
- Event Registration, Room Rentals, Payment Gateways
- Power BI Data Monitoring Dashboards for Grant Application Process



## Election Services - Strategic Placement

#### **Project Overview**

- Optimized User Experience
- Data Monitoring Dashboards
- Custom Alert Notifications
- Scheduled Banners



## Intranet - Employee Focus

#### **Project Overview**

Employee Focus Intranet was a state and national award winning direction and communication model that improved employee engagement and helped keep our employees informed of important County news and events. Before the redesign our intranet was old and displayed news as lines of text that linked to the rest of the article with no photos, headlines, or subheading. It was simply text-based, uninspired, and lacked intentional mission. We needed a system to display internal news in a modern way that really showcased our employees great work. Employee Focus was not just going to be news, it was a new direction. I worked with our Communications Team and we collaborated with departments to create content specific to the needs of our staff and would showcase our core mission, vision, and values.

#### Awarded

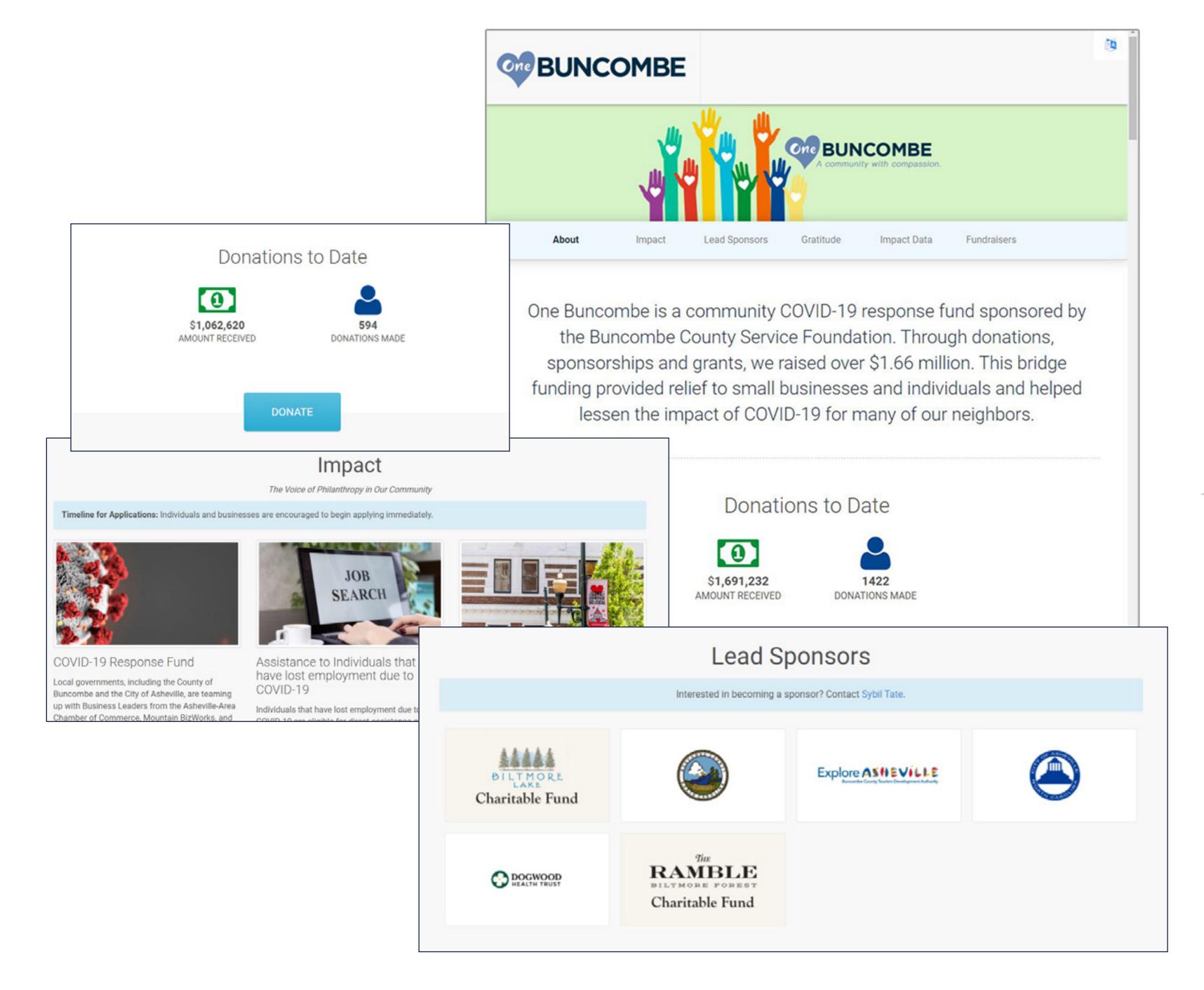
First Place Savvy Award – Employee Focus Intranet – (National Award)
City County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) | 2019

First Place – Communication Technology – Employee Focus Intranet North Carolina City and County Communicators (NC3C) | 2019

#### Results

Increased increased web traffic back to site, kept residents informed of County news, programs, and events.





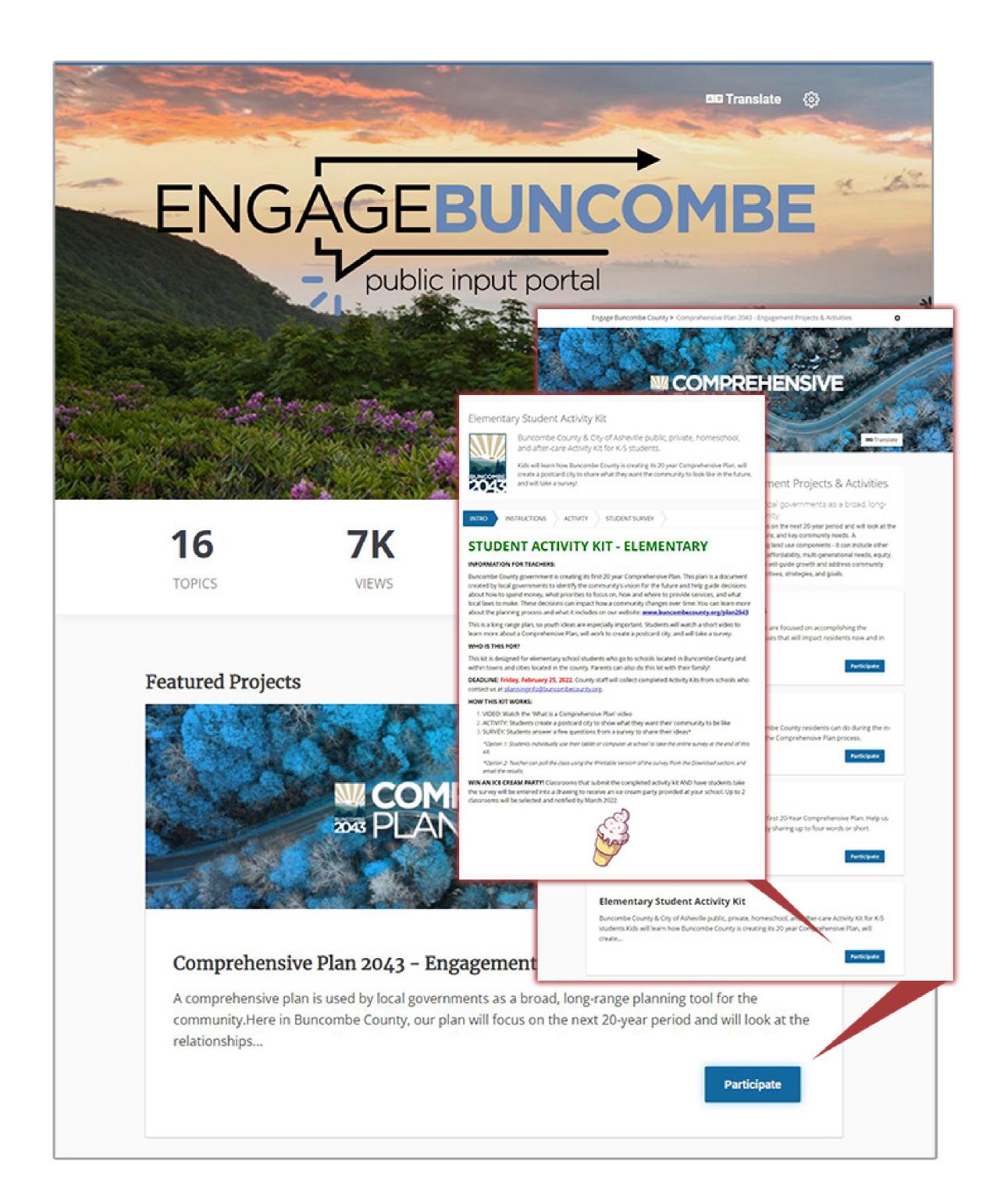
## ONE Buncombe - COVID-19 Recovery

#### **Project Overview**

Worked with other local businesses to promote the One Buncombe Fund. My responsibility was to design and develop the site, optimize content for SEO, and work with county communications to create a marketing and promotions plan.

#### Results

Through donations, sponsorships and grants, One Buncombe raised over \$1.66 million for local businesses impacted by COVID-19.



## Engage Buncombe - Public Input Portal

#### **Project Overview**

- CRM Setup
- User Management & Training
- Brand and Layout Design
- Project Lead

### BUNCOMBE COUNTY CAMPAIGN DESIGNS

2008 - 2022



**BUNCOMBE GREEN** 



GROWBC



BCTV



\*Closer - Opioid Addiction



\*Still Standing - Break the Silence



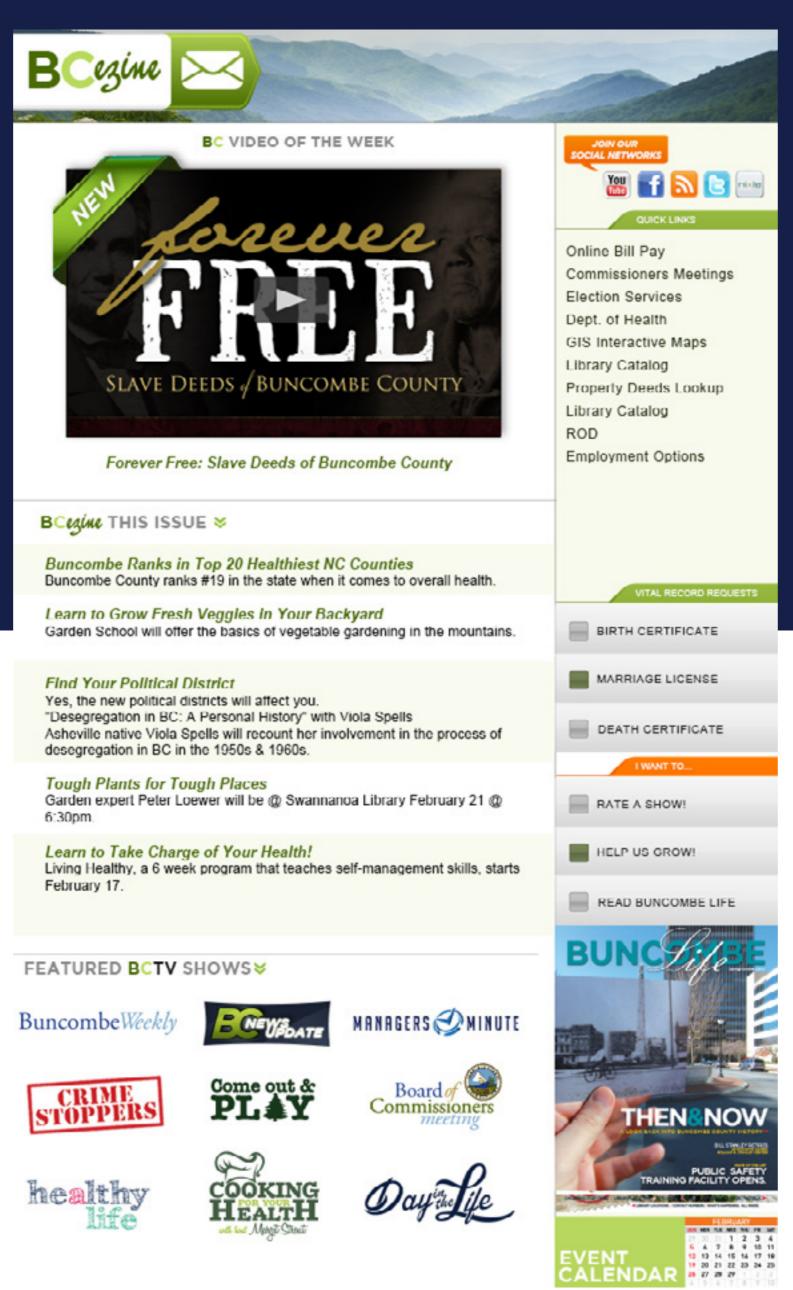
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2043

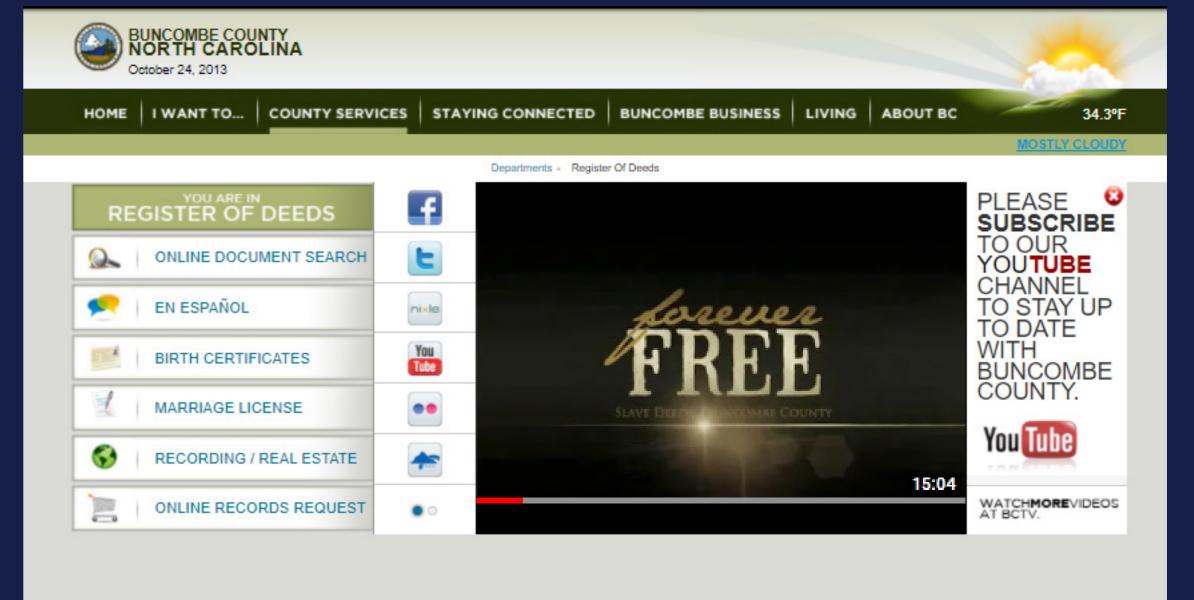
\*Not responsible for brand identity or concepts, only web marketing, development and SEO.

### **BCTV CONNECTIVITY**

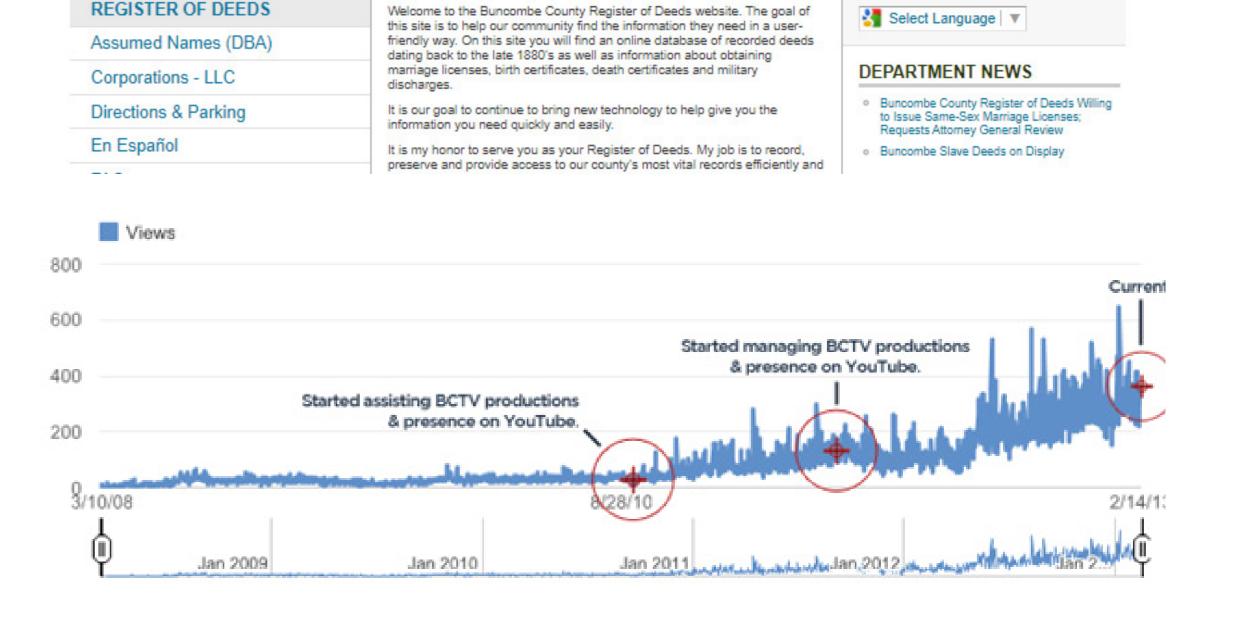




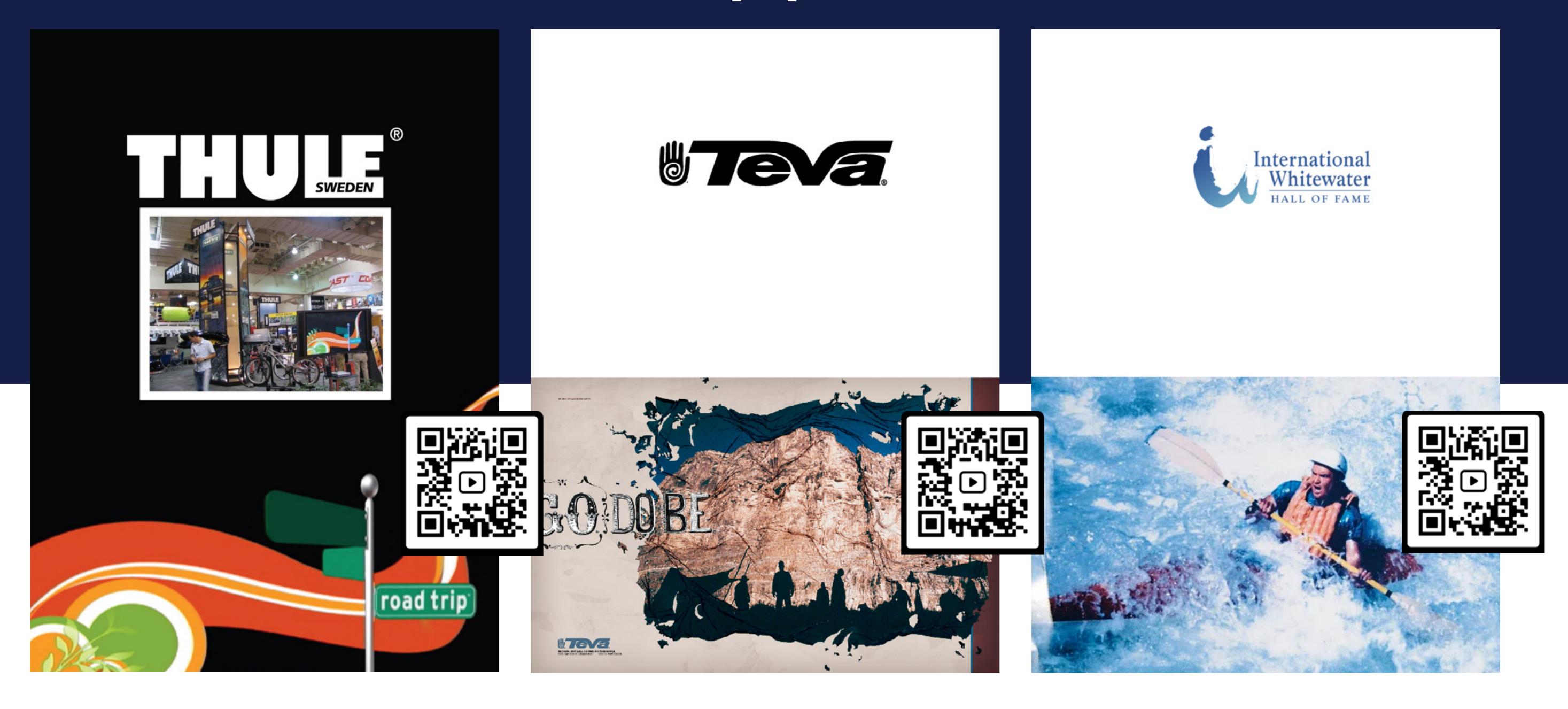




REGISTER OF DEEDS



## Company Videos



THULE Road Trip

TEVA - GO.DO.BE

**IWHOF** 

THULE product video on display at the 2006 Outdoor Retailer in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Documenting the ultimate river trip down the Grand Canyon with TEVA Footwear.

Inductee video for the 2006 & 2007 International Whitewater Hall of Fame.

### FREELANCE DESIGNS



Amici's - Hazelwood, NC



Beer City Cup - Asheville, NC



Santé - Asheville, NC





Green River Games - Saluda, NC



## AWARDS

1st Place - Strive Not To Drive Film Festival

2006

Outstanding Technician, Assistant or Aide

Excellence in Public Service Award

**First Place** 

Pinnacle Award
Members' Choice Award

National Association of Government Webmasters (NAGW)

2011

2nd Place - Interview/Talk Show

North Carolina City & County Communicators (NC3C)

2012

First Place

Digital Marketing - Video Ezine Magazine - Buncombe Life

North Carolina City & County Communicators (NC3C)

First Place - Telly Award - Video Documentary

Annual Telly Awards

2014

Award of Excellence - Most Innovative - County Center First Place - Savvy Award - County Center Newsletter

City County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA)

2016

**First Place** 

Savvy Award - Employee Focus Intranet

City County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA)

Communication Technology - Employee Focus Intranet

North Carolina City and County Communicators (NC3C)

2019