



## NC State Graduate Students Present a Novel Vision for a Health-Focused Community Center in Pamlico County

**Raleigh, NC (Bayboro)**...Over 15 graduate students from North Carolina State's School of Architecture gathered on campus Friday, April 26th to present The Villages at Pamlico, a multi-use, health-related community development concept that was a culmination of their 2024 Spring semester graduation coursework.

Student presenter Lizandro Marcial-Armas introduced a comprehensive overview of their project, "We did some research in terms of Pamlico County... the demographics, employment as well as age just to see the population that is within the county itself" He added that the students considered Pamlico County's unique features such as its flood-prone areas and longleaf pine conservancies in their design. The students also visited Pamlico County in person in February of 2024 to obtain more knowledge about the specific needs of the area.

Dr. George Elvin, PhD, from the School of Architecture, reinforced Marcial-Armas comments about the project. "This (project) is addressing a major need in the community," said Elvin; included in the

plan is "health care, (and) community services." Elvin noted that this project incorporated resilience and regenerative design strategies from prior students' work with the Pamlico County Office of Economic Development.

In the Fall of 2023, Elvin, in collaboration with Pamlico County resident Bob Fuller, created a new, customized curriculum for the Spring 2024 semester to execute a unique, health care-focused "community hub" plan, subsequently named The Villages at Pamlico. At Friday's presentation, Elvin recognized Fuller as the "co-creator from Imagine Pamlico, the President of the Pamlico (County) Chamber of Commerce and the (Pamlico County) Disaster Recovery Coalition Director." Elvin emphasized the significance of this undertaking, "This is the most REAL, real-world project that I have worked on in 30 years of teaching."

Attendees from Pamlico County included Pamlico County's Planning and Economic Development Department Director Beth Bucksot, Phil Prescott, Assistant Director of the Eastern

Carolina Workforce Development Board, Vandemere Mayor Sandra Snipes, and five representatives from Imagine Pamlico, a new and growing nonprofit in Pamlico County. Also in attendance were mentor architecture firms and other partners interested in touring the students' various building plan stations that complimented the core health services designs.

"Seeing the students' concepts come alive in detailed design was a necessary first step in having inspiring conversations around one of the top concerns in Pamlico County – our health," Pamlico County resident Tim Taylor said, who attended in his capacity as Imagine Pamlico's president. "Imagine Pamlico's next step in the process is to begin looking for funding from foundations, private donations, and state/federal funding in an effort to – in partnership with the Department of Economic Planning and Development and the Department of Health – turn a beautiful concept into a practical reality," he added.

For more information, email [info@imaginepamlico.org](mailto:info@imaginepamlico.org).



Imagine Pamlico's Bob Fuller and Dr. George Elvin from NCSU celebrate the completion of the students' project, "The Villages at Pamlico"

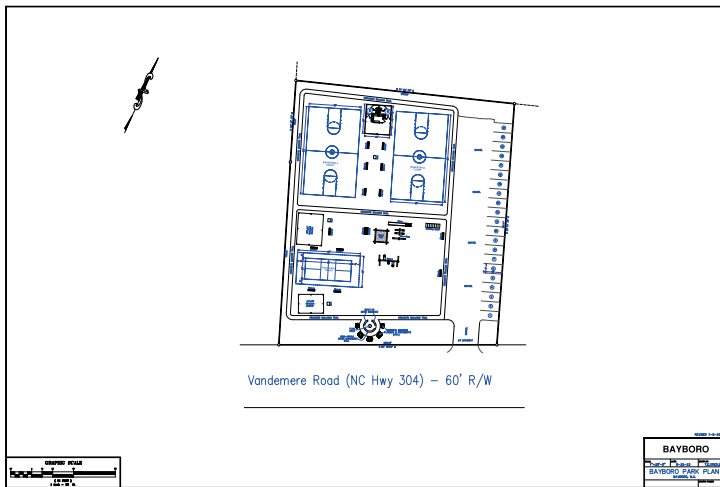
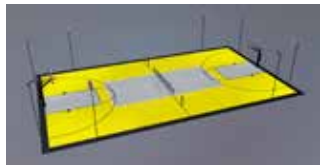


Architecture graduate student, Lizandro Marcial-Armas, provides an overview of "The Villages at Pamlico."

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## Bayboro Veterans Park Taking Shape

from town citizens on the times of usage for the park." The Town is also getting input from local Veterans groups on how they would like their area of the park to be set up. "The veterans memorial will likely be our final phase as we do not want it to be disturbed by any adjacent construction of the other phases. Our plan is a nice orbital layout to install a well-lit flag pole and stone monuments. We are still working on the design of this with the local Veterans rep Larry Summers." Says Summers, "When completed, I think this will be a beautiful complex. It will give us a nice place to call our own, to gather and have ceremonies honoring our Veterans." Broughton adds, "We have been lucky to get the work completed by local contractors who have cut us a break financially and without them, we wouldn't be as far as we are. Turnage Construction, TS Prescott Marine Construction, and Gonzalez Construction have all contributed so much to help us reach the point we are."



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