

Cornelius who?

You've heard Harnett County's motto – "Strong Roots, New Growth." This newsletter takes its name from the first part of that motto and Harnett County's beginning. Harnett County was named for Revolutionary War hero Cornelius Harnett, who lived in Wilmington.

Nicknamed the "Pride of the Cape Fear," Harnett was a leader in several protests against British taxation on the American colonies in the years that preceded the Revolution and was a founding member of the Sons of Liberty, a group that formed to protest the Stamp Act in 1765. The Stamp Act was the first direct tax placed on the colonies by the British government. Because of his efforts for the cause of independence, Harnett was arrested and imprisoned by the British in 1781. He served in the Continental Congress after the Revolution.

Prior to 1855, present day Harnett County was part of Cumberland County, which was established in 1754 as large numbers of Scottish immigrants settled along the Cape Fear River in northern Bladen County. In the years that followed, residents in northern Cumberland County wanted to form a county of their own, however counties back then were established to accommodate increases in population. It wasn't until the mid-nineteenth century that the population in the area grew to the point of justifying the creation of a new county.

In the election of 1854, Cornelius Harnett Coffield, a descendent of Cornelius Harnett, was elected to the North Carolina House of Repre-

sentatives representing Cumberland County. Coffield owned a large estate and winery in what is now the Chalybeate Springs community of Harnett County. In one of his first acts as a member of the General Assembly, Coffield introduced legislation to form a new county in northern Cumberland County, to be called Harnett in honor of his famous ancestor. The bill was approved on February 7, 1855, and Harnett County was established.

The first site selected as the county seat was located near Summerville Church just above Lillington. The site was named Toomer in honor of Judge John D. Toomer of Fayetteville, who was an Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court and served in the state senate. Some in Harnett County were not pleased with the name or location of the county seat, so in 1859, the legislature allowed residents to vote on a referendum proposing to move the county seat to a new location. The referendum was approved and a new county seat was chosen. Lillington was named in honor of Alexander Lillington of Wilmington, who was one of the Patriot commanders at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in 1776.

In naming this employee newsletter after Harnett County's name-sake, we want to highlight Harnett County's rich heritage, which is something we can all be proud of.

This information comes from *The Heritage of Harnett County North Carolina, Volume 1*, which was published in 1993 by the Heritage of Harnett Book Committee.

About this Newsletter:

The Cornelius is Harnett County's monthly employee newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to connect you, Harnett County's employees, with one another, bring you interesting information on Harnett County's history, familiarize you with all Harnett County has to offer its employees and citizens, and keep you informed of important information. If there's anything you would like to see in future editions of this newsletter, please send an email to bhaney@harnett.org.

Connect With Harnett County

Want to keep up with the latest news and happenings in Harnett County?

Check out www.harnett.org for news releases, important updates, a community calendar and other information.

You can also like "Harnett County Government on Facebook or follow @HarnettCounty on Twitter or "Harnett County" on Instagram to stay up-to-date on all things Harnett County.



Department Spotlight

Harnett County Parks & Recreation

As temperatures rise and warm, sunny days become more routine, you may be tempted to pack up the car and head to the beach or mountains or somewhere out of state to soak up the sun and enjoy nature, but there's plenty to do in your own back yard and one Harnett County department has a lot to do with that.

Harnett County Parks & Recreation is made up of three full-time employees and up to five additional part-time employees in peak season. The department supervises more than 1,100 acres of park land comprised of five parks including Neill's Creek County Park, Barbecue Creek County Park, South Harnett Park, Anderson Creek County Park and the Cape Fear River Trail Park, along with the Anderson Creek Senior Center. The department plans to soon open an access point on the Upper Little River near Lillington.

Carl Davis has served as Harnett County's Parks & Recreation Director since 2010. He came to Harnett County in 2008 to work under then-Director Alice Powell. Since Davis' arrival, the county has opened two new parks – the Cape Fear River Trail Park and Anderson Creek County Park – and completed a \$1 million renovation at Barbecue Creek County Park. The bulk of this new development has been done without county tax dollars, using Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grants.

Davis said when most people think of



Parks & Recreation, they think of youth sports programs, but in Harnett County, those functions are carried out by the municipalities and a group of citizens in western Harnett County.

Since 2008, Davis said Parks and Recreation has focused more on park development and maintenance than on recreational programs, but that's something that's changing with the addition of Recreation Program Supervisor Drew Bryant last October. Bryant's job is to boost the county's recreational programming.

Among activities the park has taken on is the Movies in the Park series, which recently wrapped up its spring series. Another series is slated to be held this fall with the event becoming a semi-annual activity.

Harnett County also takes part in the Mid-Carolina Senior Games and hosts numerous events for senior citizens each year. A senior golf tournament is held in the fall and the park also organizes a trip to the North Carolina State Fair for senior citizens.

Harnett County also facilitates a group of disc golf enthusiasts who meet frequently to play at Anderson Creek County Park.

This fall, Harnett County will partner in starting an adult softball league for residents age 16 and older. A competitive running event is also in the works.

For the most part, however, the focus of Harnett County Parks & Recreation is on giving residents and visitors to the county

the opportunity to experience the abundance of natural resources we have here.

Davis said he sees his mission as improving the overall quality of life for the people of Harnett County. He said outdoor recreation plays a major role in improving people's lives. Parks positively impact health and give people a place to socialize and connect with the natural world. Parks even impact Economic Development efforts as industries looking to come to Harnett County and their future employees are drawn to a vibrant recreation system.

"Our parks are places where people of all ages, races and economic status can come together to enjoy what our county has to offer," said Davis. "It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, you can enjoy a park."

In developing future parks and amenities, Davis said he wants to continue utilizing the county's natural resources, particularly the Cape Fear River. Future parks will protect the county's natural areas and make them available to all residents. Davis said natural parks are places that encourage imagination, where people can use their imagination.

For more information on Parks and Recreation in Harnett County, go to www.harnett.org/parkrec/. You can also follow "Harnett County Parks and Recreation" on Facebook to stay connected with ongoing events and important information about the department, events and programs.



County Launches Land Use and Economic Development Plan

If you were asked what you would like to see happen in Harnett County in the coming years, what would you say?

That's the question county officials want help answering as they kick off development of a Comprehensive Land Use and Economic Development Strategic Plan that will help shape the future of Harnett County.

The purpose of the plan is to establish a number of achievable short- and long-term goals based on the input of Harnett County's residents for county leaders to work towards to get the greatest benefit out of planning and economic development efforts. The plan will be forward thinking and will address anticipated growth and development in a way that preserves community character, reduces sprawl, maximizes existing infrastructure, considers environmental impacts and improves quality of life for all Harnett County residents.

The county has hired award-winning land planning and design firm LandDesign and Ted Abernathy of Economic Leadership LLC to lead the creation of the plan.

The planning process officially kicked off in March with focus groups meeting to discuss a range of topics including Industry, Small Business, Education, Cultural Resources, Agriculture, Health, Real Estate and Development, Civic and Social Issues, Municipal



Issues, Transportation and Utilities.

The kick-off session culminated with the first meeting of a 25-person Advisory Committee, which is made up of leaders from across Harnett County who will help steer the creation of the Land Use and Economic Development plan.

A public workshop was held April 23 at the Government Complex Commons Area where the consultants and county officials received input from residents on what they want to see happen in Harnett County.

Additional Advisory Committee

meetings will be held as the plan develops and a second public workshop will be held in June to give Harnett County residents another opportunity to have their voices heard and to see how the plan is developing.

Once completed, the plan will be adopted by the Harnett County Board of Commissioners and will provide direction to county officials, staff, residents, businesses and developers on how to implement the county's goals.

To keep up with the plan's progress or for additional information, go to www.harnett.org/growth.

Truesdale Appointed to State Veterans Group



Harnett County Veterans Services Director Eric Truesdale has been appointed by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory to serve a two-year term on the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and their Families, which was established to bring veteran support agencies across the state together to better meet the needs of North Carolina's veterans and their families. Members will advise the governor on issues facing local veterans.

"This is an opportunity to put everybody together as one team ... and I look forward to being part of that," said Truesdale.

Truesdale has been with Harnett County Veterans Services since 1996. He is retired as a senior master sergeant with the United States Air Force where he served at Pope Air Force Base as a chief loadmaster for the C-130 aircraft.

He is a member of American Legion Post 28 in Lillington, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 74 in Erwin, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6722 in Lillington, Masonic Lodge No. 302 in Lillington and the Harnett County Shrine Club. He attends Kipling United Methodist Church and is married to Kimberly Hendricks Truesdale with two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Know More About Your Money

How well do you understand your finances? Start by taking the mystery out of planning for financial success. Improve your financial knowledge and learn to manage your money more effectively.

Know more, plan better

Improving your financial knowledge takes much of the mystery out of establishing and practicing good financial habits, such as planning early for retirement and preparing for the knowns and unknowns in your financial life. Financial planning isn't just for "wealthy folks." It allows you to look beyond today, and begin to think about tomorrow and the future.

With that in mind, consider these factors to get the maximum benefits out of your financial plan.

Plan: Plan for the future with do-it-yourself online personal finance services. Start with an assessment of where you stand today. Then take inventory of what you have and what you owe then focus on where you want to be. You can take a financial snapshot and plan to achieve goals with the help of online personal finance services.

Look for a service that allows you to create detailed charts and graphs about your finances such as managing debt, creating budgets or tracking your net worth. Your information is available in real-time, so you can make comparisons and see your goals progress.

Budget: Develop healthy financial routines by paying attention to how you spend your money. This is a good way to ensure that you are not spending beyond your means. Tracking where your money goes allows you to see where you can cut back and save more.

Save: Plan for both the expected and the unexpected. Contribute as much as you can to your supplemental retirement plans or to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This way your funds can grow tax-deferred over time and will be available when you retire.

Build an emergency fund and save for the financial boomerangs you can't see coming. It's a good idea to set aside six months worth of expenses. And if you can spare it, add more to cover insurance deductibles and unexpected major medical expenses! Over time, your savings can make a positive difference in your future lifestyle.

Review: Whether you manage your money yourself or opt to get help from a professional, take a step back from time-to-time to check in on your financial goals. Are you heading in the right direction? Do you need to make adjustments? Think about where you want to be and what it will take to make that happen.

The more you know about managing your money, the easier it will be to improve your money situation as your wealth grows.



Upcoming Events

- The Lillington Community Blood Drive will be held Thursday, May 14 from 1 to 5:30 p.m. in the Government Complex Commons Area. The blood drive is sponsored by Harnett County Public Health and Harnett County RSVP. To make an appointment, call 893-7578.
- The 21st annual RSVP Senior Citizen's Fair will be held Thursday, May 21 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Dunn Community Center at 205 Jackson Road, Dunn. For more information, contact Harnett County RSVP at 893-7579.
- Harnett County Economic Development's Industry Appreciation Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, May 21 at Chicora Country Club in Erwin. This event was previously held in the fall, but has been moved to the spring.
- This year's Wings Over Harnett fly-in will be held Saturday, October 17 at the Harnett Regional Jetport. Last year's event far exceeded expectations and we look forward to an even better event this year with more airplanes, more food vendors and more entertainment. This is a free event.

If you know of any important events for June or the coming months that need to be included in this newsletter, please email them to bhaney@harnett.org.



Meet Harnett County's Two Newest Commissioners

Harnett County's leadership changed last December after two new members were elected to the Harnett County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Barbara McKoy represents District 1 and Commissioner Abe Elmore represents District 2.

Commissioner McKoy was born and raised in Lillington. She is a retired business agent for Workers United and is a licensed cosmetologist. She has been a community activist in Harnett County for more than 20 years. She has served on numerous state and county boards and helped found multiple organizations including the Harnett County Food Pantry and Lillington United Police Athletic League. She helped organize the Harnett County Council for Women and is a past president of the organization. She serves on the Harnett Health System Board of Trustees.

She and her husband, Willie, have been married for 50 years and have two sons. She attends Lillington Grove Free Will Baptist Church where she serves as a trustee.

As a county commissioner, McKoy said her goal is to im-

prove the lives of Harnett County's residents. She said she is especially interested in Economic Development and bringing more jobs to Harnett County, and in making sure every child in Harnett County receives a quality education.

Commissioner Elmore has owned and operated Elmore Furniture for more than 60 years. He currently operates stores in Dunn and Pinehurst. He previously served as mayor of Dunn for 16 years. He is a member of the Sudan Shriners and the Kiwanis Club of Dunn, and one of his greatest joys is serving on the board of the Baptist Children's Home of NC.

He and his wife, Jackie, have been married 61 years and have four children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He is a member of Westfield Baptist Church in Dunn.

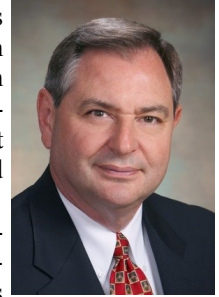
Elmore said he enjoys serving the citizens of Harnett County and he is excited to be part of making a better Harnett County for future generations. He said he has been impressed with the experience level of Harnett County's employees.

Burgin Named to State Council on Health

Board of Commissioners Chairman Jim Burgin has been appointed to serve on the North Carolina State Health Coordinating Council by Governor Pat McCrory. His term will end Dec. 31, 2017.

Chairman Burgin was elected to the board of commissioners in 2008 and is serving his second term. He is president and owner of C&D Insurance and Insurance Network Group. He is chairman of the board for New Horizon Insurance Group and president of B.C. Property Inc., a real estate development company. He is also a partner with John Hiester Automotive.

Chairman Burgin serves on the boards of Triangle Workforce Development, Mid Carolina Council of Government, Central Carolina Community College, NC Association of County Commissioners and First Bank. He and his wife, Ann, have been married 34 years and have three children and two grandchildren. He is an elder at Crossroads Baptist Church in Lillington.



Elmore Receives Award From Dunn Chamber



Commissioner Abe Elmore received the Beautification Award during this year's Dunn Area Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. The award recognized improvements Commissioner Elmore made to the exteriors of more than a dozen buildings he owns in Downtown Dunn.