



## County Employee Doris Peregoy Reaches Blood Donation Milestone

A Harnett County employee was recognized for reaching a milestone during last month's Lillington Community Blood Drive, held in the Harnett County Government Commons Area.

Doris Peregoy of Lillington, who works in the Harnett County District Attorney's Office, donated her 100th pint of blood. Peregoy received a certificate commemorating her achievement and a pen from the American Red Cross.

Peregoy said she has been giving blood since she was in college. Her blood type is O-negative, making her a universal donor, meaning anyone can receive her blood. She said she is eager to give because her blood type is always needed.

Peregoy said she feels good knowing

she is helping others by donating blood and she wants to encourage more people to donate.

Last month's blood drive saw 37 donors give 39 units of blood.

The Lillington Community Blood Drive is a partnership between the American Red Cross and Harnett County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) under the Harnett County Department of Public Health. Blood drives are held in the commons area every two months from 1 until 5:15 p.m.

The next scheduled blood drive will be Thursday, Sept. 10. If you would like to donate blood, contact Harnett County RSVP Director LeAnn B. Blackmon at (910) 893-7578.

### What's Happening in Harnett?

Are you looking for something to do over the weekend? Have you ever wanted to run your own business, but need some help getting started? Keep up with what's going on in Harnett County with the Community Calendar at [www.harnett.org/publicinfo](http://www.harnett.org/publicinfo).

The calendar compiles community events taking place throughout Harnett County — from all the town festivals and parades going on this fall to community meetings and seminars at Triangle South Enterprise Center — and puts them in a single location.

See something that's missing from the calendar? To submit an event for inclusion in the Community Calendar, email [bhaney@harnett.org](mailto:bhaney@harnett.org).

Keep up with Harnett County on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and go to [www.harnett.org/publicinfo](http://www.harnett.org/publicinfo) for news releases, important updates, a community calendar and other information.



# Department Spotlight

## Harnett County Legal Services

One of Harnett County's smallest departments is also one of its most essential.

Harnett County Legal Services developed in 2005 when the county hired a staff attorney to handle overflow work from the county attorney and over time, the position developed into its own department with multiple employees. Today, the department is made up of Senior Staff Attorney Monica Jackson and Paralegal Lacey Segars.

Jackson was hired by the county in February. Prior to coming to Harnett County, she worked in both the private and public sectors, working with the North Carolina Industrial Commission and as a magistrate judge. Her background is in insurance defense, medical malpractice defense and other medical liability issues. She's also a DCR-certified mediator with experience in litigation, dispute resolution, workers compensation and construction.

Jackson serves as Harnett County's in-house legal counsel.

"I cover everything except family law," she said.

Jackson said her main goal is to make sure the county doesn't obligate itself to any legal liabilities it doesn't have to.

"At the end of the day, I want to make sure our tax dollars are being used wisely," she said.

Jackson said she spends about a fifth of her time responding to public records requests, many of which are forwarded to her office from other county departments.

She also manages pending litigation whenever the county is party to a lawsuit.

Jackson performs an entirely separate function from Dwight Snow, who serves as county attorney for the Harnett County Board of Commissioners.

"He advises the board on day-to-day matters like 'Can they vote on this?' or 'Do they need to go into closed session?'" Jackson said. "But we do have



**Harnett County Legal Services is comprised of Senior Staff Attorney Monica Jackson and Paralegal Lacey Segars.**

an understanding and he is available to assist me, just like I'm available to assist him."

Another responsibility of Legal Services is reviewing contracts entered into by the county. Legal Services reviews all contracts over \$90,000, however Jackson said she is happy to look at any contract if there is a valid reason or a specific question related to the contract.

"There's no such thing as a dumb question," she said. "I'm happy to look at it and I want to encourage communication with the legal department about anything that may have some legal impact for the county. That's why I'm here."

Legal Services also keeps track of every county contract, even those not requiring legal review.

Jackson refers to Paralegal Lacey Segars as the county's "air traffic controller" for contracts.

"Every contract that comes through, I touch," said Segars.

Segars keeps track of contracts through an Excel document on the Pub-

lic (P) drive and everything is scanned into Laserfiche with hard copies of certain contracts kept in a safe.

One common misconception Jackson said the public has about Legal Services is that her job is to assist Harnett County residents with personal legal matters.

"I'm not here to disperse legal advice to county residents," she said. "My client is the County of Harnett, but I'm happy to redirect anyone who calls to where they need to go for help."

Jackson said she is also willing to field what she calls "various and sundry questions involving legal issues" related to the county and to help guide staff through the legal process.

She said she's encountered some interesting questions, but that's just part of the job.

"You have to be prepared to answer some questions you didn't dream you'd ever be answering," she said.

For more information on Harnett County Legal Services, go to [www.harnett.org/legal](http://www.harnett.org/legal).

## Human Resources Corner

### It's Time To Update Your Will

After a while, people realize the only constant in life is change. However, finding the time to keep up with change and all the important details that accompany it can be quite difficult.

August is Make-A-Will month, so take a look at your will to make sure it still reflects your current wishes. Updating your will is something that often seems to slide by. Once your will is signed and witnessed, it remains valid until you revoke it; however, changing family and financial conditions may call for adjustments.

Here are some signals it's time to review your will. Feel free to share these tips with those in your community:

- **Disposal or acquisition of assets.** Perhaps you no longer own property that is listed in your will or maybe you've acquired additional assets.
- **Increase in your net worth.** A significant increase in the size of your

estate may prompt an update to your will.

- **Changes in the tax law.** Any recent tax law changes may call for a review of your will to ensure it meets your needs while taking full advantage of the tax law benefits.
- **Changes in your personal life.** If you've married or divorced, had a child or grandchild, or moved to another state, a review of your will is in order. Also, consider the family members you've named in your will. Have they divorced or remarried? Are children or grandchildren financially dependent now? Is your named executor still available to serve?

Like your car, a will needs regular maintenance to continue to provide ultimate service. Take a minute to give yours a check up now!

*Content courtesy of Members Trust Company*

## Employee & Family 5k is Sept. 19

Harnett County's Employee Wellness Committee will hold the *Strong Roots, Growing Stronger!* 5k Run/Walk for county employees and their families Saturday, Sept. 19 in Lillington. The 5k will start and end in the Governmental Complex parking lot with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and the run/walk beginning at 9.

The 5k is non-competitive and open to all Harnett County employees and their families for free. Whether you're a seasoned runner or looking for a casual stroll, this event has something for you.

To register, email Margie House at [mhouse@harnett.org](mailto:mhouse@harnett.org) or Brian Haney at [bhaney@harnett.org](mailto:bhaney@harnett.org) for a registration form and waiver. A separate form must be completed for each participant. The deadline to register is Aug. 28. Completed registration forms should be taken to Harnett County Human Resources at 102 E. Front St., Lillington, or you can fax forms to (910) 814-0350 or scan and email forms

to Margie or Brian. You may also email with any questions about the event.

All employees who register by the deadline will receive a free event T-shirt. Family members can purchase shirts for \$8 (for sizes up to XL) or \$10 (for sizes XXL and up). The deadline to register and be guaranteed a T-shirt is Aug. 28. Even if you don't want to walk or run, volunteers are also needed to make sure the 5k is a success.

The 5k will be held the same day as the Lillington Fall Festival, which will start following the 5k at 10 a.m. All employees and their families are encouraged to stick around following the 5k for the Fall Festival. Everyone who registers for the 5k will also be entered into a drawing for door prizes, which are being provided by local businesses and other organizations. You must be present to win a prize. There will also be other giveaways during the 5k event.

## Upcoming Events

- The Harnett County Public Library will host the first in a series of Entrepreneur Meet-Up events Thursday, Aug. 27 from 6 to 7:45 p.m. Harnett County entrepreneurs Ryan Dailley and Jackie Dixon will speak and answer questions about how they started and grew their businesses, iGrow Golf and KidZone Community Learning Center.
- Harnett County Economic Development will partner with the Campbell University Business School to host an Economic Development Panel Discussion Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. at the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine in Buies Creek.
- The next Lillington Community Blood Drive will be held Thursday, Sept. 10 from 1 to 5:30 p.m. in the Harnett County Government Complex Commons Area. The blood drive is sponsored by Harnett County Public Health and Harnett County RSVP. To make an appointment, call (910) 893-7578.

*If you know of any important events for September or future months that should be included in this newsletter, please email [bhaney@harnett.org](mailto:bhaney@harnett.org). And be sure to regularly check the Harnett County Community Calendar at [www.harnett.org/publicinfo](http://www.harnett.org/publicinfo) for more upcoming events.*

## U.S. 421 Closing in Buies Creek for Pedestrian Tunnel Project

A portion of one of Harnett County's most traveled roads will be closed for a month while construction crews make a dangerous crossing safer for students at Campbell University.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has announced that crews are scheduled to begin construction of a pedestrian tunnel across U.S. 421 in Buies Creek on Aug. 31. The project will close all four lanes of U.S. 421 near Barker-Lane Stadium at Campbell University for approximately 30 days.

During this time, drivers will be directed to a seven-mile detour around the construction. Drivers coming from Lillington will turn left onto Johnson Farm Road, right onto Sheriff Johnson

Road, right onto Old Stage Road and left back onto U.S. 421. Drivers coming from Erwin will turn right onto N.C. 27, left onto Sheriff Johnson Road, left onto Johnson Farm Road and right back onto U.S. 421.

The tunnel project is needed to give Campbell students and others with a safer way of crossing U.S. 421 between the university and the football stadium and parking lot.

Keep in mind, the date of the closure is tentative and could change. Updates on the project timeline will be posted at <http://www.harnett.org/publicinfo/> and on the "Harnett County Government" Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HarnettCounty](http://www.facebook.com/HarnettCounty)) as they are made available.



US 421 - Campbell Tunnel Detour

1 inch = 1,000 feet

## Landfill Transfer Station Closing Temporarily

The municipal solid waste transfer station at the Dunn-Erwin Solid Waste Facility at 449 Daniels Road, Dunn, will be closed for approximately three weeks beginning Wednesday, Aug. 19, while repairs are made to the transfer station floor. Officials anticipate the facility reopening Wednesday, Sept. 9.

During the closure, all commercial MSW and bulky household items should be taken to the Anderson Creek Solid Waste Facility at 1086 Poplar Drive, Spring Lake. The Dunn-Erwin facility will continue accepting household loads of less than 20 bags, as well as Construction & Demolition debris, and land clearing and inert debris.

For more information, go to [www.harnett.org/waste/](http://www.harnett.org/waste/).

## View Restaurant Grades Online

Did you know you can look up inspection ratings for Harnett County restaurants online?

Go to the Environmental Health webpage at [www.harnett.org/health/environmental-health.asp](http://www.harnett.org/health/environmental-health.asp) and on the left side of the page, click on "View Restaurant Inspections Online."

From here, you will be able to search for restaurants in Harnett County by name to view their most recent inspection date, score and grade, and a detailed list of violations with "critical violations" displayed in red. You can also see each restaurant's inspection history.

## County Employees Can Receive Discount From Verizon

Did you know you can get discounts on phone bills and other items from companies just by being a Harnett County employee?

Harnett County employees can get 20 percent off their monthly access fee on eligible plans from Verizon (monthly access fees of \$34.99 and

higher) and features (restrictions apply to prepaid, already discounted or promotional plans).

To receive the discount, visit [www.verizonwireless.com/discounts](http://www.verizonwireless.com/discounts) and type in your information as an existing or new Verizon customer.

The site will require either your

Harnett County email address or a paystub to validate for the discount.

Please allow up to two billing cycles for any discount updates to appear on your monthly bill.

Be sure to look for additional discounts and promotional items in future editions of this newsletter.



## County Commissioners Honor Miss North Carolina

The Harnett County Board of Commissioners presented a resolution and plaque to Miss North Carolina Kate Peacock, a Harnett County native who won the Miss North Carolina crown in June, competing as Miss Dunn.

"I grew up in Harnett County," Kate said, following the presentation. "This is my home, and it was the values that the citizens of Harnett County and Dunn instilled in me like hard work, love and a tight-knit com-

munity that got me to the Miss North Carolina crown."

Kate will represent North Carolina in the Miss America Competition in September. She is the daughter of Gary and Penny Peacock.

## Board Impressed With Animal Shelter, Public Utilities

Harnett County Commissioners toured a pair of county facilities following last week's board work session and said they were impressed by what they saw. Commissioners got a first-hand look at the Harnett County Animal Shelter and Department of Public Utilities, meeting with staff and some of the citizens who utilize the two facilities.

Commissioner Barbara McKoy said she particularly wanted to see the animal shelter after receiving complaints from a citizen regarding the shelter's condition and the treatment of animals.

"I had a list of questions to ask, but I didn't find any of the complaints to be true, at least while I was there," she said. "I was very impressed with the facility and with the people working there."

"I think it's a clean, well-run facility," said Commissioners Chair Jim Burgin. "I wish more people would volunteer down there so they can see what a wonderful facility we have and how caring and compassionate our employees are."

Both commissioners said they would like to see the facility expanded in the future to accommodate more animals.



**Harnett County commissioners Barbara McKoy and Gordon Springle examine a rescued goat while touring the Harnett County Animal Shelter. The goat was found running loose outside of Coats and has since been adopted.**