

2nd Wings Over Harnett is Oct. 17

Harnett County will host the second annual Wings Over Harnett fly-in, presented by Hiester Automotive, Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015, at Harnett Regional Jetport at 615 Airport Road, Erwin.

Last year's fly-in far surpassed expectations as more than 5,000 people converged on the jetport to view vintage aircraft, see classic cars and watch the Golden Knights jump onto the airport runway.

"Last year was much bigger than we anticipated," said Wings Over Harnett Committee Chairman Barry Blevins. "We had a lot more people come out than we ever dreamed of, and all we heard after it was over was people asking us if we were going to do it again this year."

Asked why he thought last year's event was so popular, Blevins said, "I think people just like seeing airplanes. People like to watch planes fly, they enjoy watching them perform."

He said the goal for this year is to be bigger and better than the inaugural event.

This year, the fly-in will feature a performance by the All Veteran Group Parachute Team, a group of former Golden Knights that uses parachute demonstrations and tandem jump experiences to bring attention to the military and veterans.

The fly-in will honor Vietnam veterans on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, and will feature numerous military displays of weapons, vehicles and historic artifacts.

"We're proud of the great relation-



A crowd of onlookers watches an airplane take off during last year's Wings Over Harnett fly-in at Harnett Regional Jetport.

ship we have with our military community in Harnett County," said Blevins, "and we're glad we can make this event a salute to them."

There will also be a demonstration by a water bomber from the N.C. Forest Service, along with other aircraft performances.

Other activities will include a classic car cruise-in, helicopter rides, activities for the kids, plenty of food, information booths and entertainment provided by Ellington Studios of Angier.

Gates will open at 11 a.m. with the event running from noon until 5 p.m. Wings Over Harnett is a free event for

the public.

Blevins said the fly-in is a way to give back to the community and let the public see one of the county's best assets in the jetport.

"So many people ride by the airport every day and don't even know where it's at," he said. "This gives them a chance to see what we've got here."

"We want people to come out and have fun," he said. "It's not like anything else around here. It's good, clean fun and it doesn't cost you a dime."

Stay up to date on event details, like performance times, traffic and parking information at www.harnett.org/wings/.

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



Department Spotlight

Harnett Regional Jetport

The Harnett County Airport was built in 1981 as a way to spur economic development in the county. At the time, the runway was 3,000 feet long.

Since that time, the runway has been extended to 5,001 feet to allow corporate jets to land, and the airport was renamed Harnett Regional Jetport to go along with the new capacity.

Airport Administrator Barry Blevins called the jetport the "Gateway to Harnett County."

"Planes can take off from here and fly all the way to South America," he said. "We've had planes fly from here to Canada and then hop over to Europe. It is a gateway."

Blevins said the jetport has certainly lived up to its initial purpose as an economic development asset for the Harnett County.

"When a business is looking at locating somewhere, they look at what kind of access a place has," he said. "When you own an airport that's easy to get to, that's attractive."

He said an airport is an avenue for businesses to reach an area.

Blevins said executives and contractors for Rooms To Go have used the jetport to fly into and out of the county. The jetport currently houses two corporate jets that belong to local businesses.

Blevins estimates around 85 percent of the 47 aircraft housed at the airport are business related.

According to data compiled by the NCDOT Division of Aviation, in 2013, businesses that use the jetport accounted for 360 jobs with \$16 million in payroll and an economic output of \$87 million.

The county also collects more than \$50,000 in property taxes from aircraft at the jetport, which are valued at more than \$6 million.

"And we do all of that on a budget of \$206,000," said Blevins.

In addition to helping Harnett County attract business, the jetport has also helped build relationships with the military and other agencies.

The military does special operations training at the jetport. The State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) also has an airwing there, and agencies like the N.C.

Forest Service stage aircraft in Harnett County to respond to emergency situations across the state.

Today, the airport is run by a fixed-base operator (FBO) — Warren Aviation, and Airport Manager Josh Pusser.

The company sells fuel to pilots who fly into the jetport. Residents can also rent planes, take flying lessons or just go up for a ride with an area pilot.

In addition to improvements that lengthened the airport runway and allowed it to accommodate jets, the jetport has seen additional improvements in recent years.

In 2013, a \$4.3 million project strengthened the pavement of the airport runway, taxiway and apron to allow even larger planes to land in Harnett County. The project more than tripled the strength of the pavement, raising the limit from 12,500 pounds to 45,000 pounds.

Asked what the future holds for Harnett Regional Jetport, Blevins said he has a long list of projects he wants to get done, including expanding the jetport terminal to add conference rooms and space where business owners can meet with county leaders.

There are also some electronic upgrades that need to be made, and some improvements to make sure the airport stays open at night.

What's most impressive is that nearly all airport projects are completed with only a small amount of taxpayer dollars.

"Capital projects are funded by the FAA or through state block grants," said Blevins. The only requirement from the county is to provide a 10 percent match.

"That's money well spent by the Harnett County taxpayers because of the impact it makes on our economy," he said. "Most people don't realize the economic impact."

For more information on Harnett Regional Jetport, go to www.harnett.org/airport/.



Harnett Regional Jetport, located at 615 Airport Road, Erwin, is a major economic development asset for Harnett County.

County Officials Update Board on Avian Flu

A team of Harnett County officials have come together to make sure the county is prepared for a possible outbreak of Avian Flu in the region.

Harnett County Cooperative Extension Director Tyrone Fisher brought a task force together that includes Cooperative Extension, Harnett County Emergency Management, Harnett County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Harnett County Health Department. Fisher said the group has been hosting meetings and trying to educate area poultry farmers on how to manage their farms to protect them from the virus.

Members of the team recently gave an update to the Harnett County Board of Commissioners. To date, the virus has been found in 21 states and has devastated poultry growers in some northern states like Minnesota.

Dan Campeau with the state Cooperative Extension said the virus has not yet been seen in North Carolina.

“We’re trying to keep it out of North Carolina the best we can and prepare for it if it does come because it’s a devastating disease,” he said.

He said the virus poses no threat to the food supply and at this point, it cannot be transmitted to humans.

“It only effects birds,” he said. “And as long as you cook poultry meat or eggs, there’s basically no way you can catch it.”

He said the virus is easy to kill.

“All it takes is 120 degrees,” he said. “Soap and water can kill it.”

Campeau said the virus could enter North Carolina this fall as birds carrying the flu migrate south from northern states. Should it get to North Carolina and spread, he said, the result could devastate local farmers.

He said poultry farming is Harnett



A task force including, from left, Harnett County Cooperative Extension Director Tyrone Fisher, Dan Campeau with the state Cooperative Extension, Larry Smith and Gary Pope from Harnett County Emergency Services, and Lynn Lambert and Neal Taylor with the Harnett County Soil & Water Conservation District update county commissioners on Avian Flu prevention efforts.

County’s largest agricultural industry, generating \$100 million each year. In North Carolina, it is a \$4.1 billion industry. Concerns over the virus have already resulted in no poultry being allowed at public events, including the North Carolina State Fair.

“If it hit here, it would be devastating,” said Campeau.

Should a Harnett County poultry operation see a case of Avian Flu, plans are to quarantine the operation to keep it from spreading to other farms. An infected farm could be out of commission anywhere from 3 months to a year while they depopulate and work to bring their operation back online.

Neal Taylor, research conservationist for the Harnett County Soil & Water Conservation District, said there are 34 chicken growers and two turkey opera-

tions in Harnett County.

“At this point, we’ve made contact with all but three,” he said.

Fisher said the biggest concern is reaching out to small flock owners and back yard operations to educate them.

“We want small flock owners to register their birds,” he said.

Emergency Services Director Gary Pope said plans are in place to manage an outbreak should it happen.

“Hopefully this thing won’t come at all,” he said, “but we’ve got a plan together and we’re ready to move forward with it.”

For more information, contact Harnett County Cooperative Extension at (910) 893-7530. You can also contact Dan Campeau with the state Cooperative Extension at (919) 548-9895 or visit www.ncagr.gov/avianflu.

Veterans Services Opens in New Location

Harnett County Veterans Services has moved to a new location — 817 S. 8th St., Lillington.

Veterans Services moved from its previous office at 102 E. Front St. to the

former Harnett County Board of Elections site in Downtown Lillington, near the post office.

“Our new location will offer more room and hopefully more services to

our veterans,” said Veterans Services Director Eric Truesdale.

The phone number for Harnett County Veterans Services is still (910) 893-7574.

Human Resources Corner

Harnett County Employee Health Fair is Oct. 8

Harnett County Human Resources will host its annual Harnett County Health Fair Thursday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Governmental Complex Commons Area.

The health fair is free for all employees and offers an opportunity to meet local health care providers and learn about some of the many services available in Harnett County.

Participants in this year's health fair include the following:

- Parkway SleepHealth Centers — Sleep Disorder Information
- Assured Audiology & Hearing Solutions — Audiology & Hearing
- Lane & Associates Family Dentistry — Dental Health and Orthodontics
- CapTelNC — Hearing Loss Communications
- Total Body Therapy & Wellness — Physical Therapy
- Associated Urologists of NC — Men's Health
- Eyecarecenter, OD PA — Vision & Eye Care
- LiLa Laser Aesthetic Weight Management — Weight Loss Programs
- 2Cups Green Tea Hawaii — Alternative/Natural Wellness
- Harnett County Division on Aging — Elderly Care Options
- Prudential Retirement — 401K Provider
- Harnett County Health Department — Flu Shots
- BB&T — Fiscal Fitness (Financial Planning)
- Wet N Wild Emerald Pointe Water Park — Family Recreation Activities
- Strayer University — Advanced Degree & Continuing Education
- FastPark and Relax — Family Recreation Activities
- Local Government Federal Credit Union — Credit Union
- Delta Dental — Dental Insurance Provider
- Reliance Standard — Life Insurance Provider
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC — Medical Insurance Provider
- Hogan's Pharmacy — Pharmaceutical Education
- Worksite Services Inc. — Health Management
- Harnett County Emergency Services — Emergency Preparedness, Safety & Accident Prevention

Other activities include raffle prizes and free giveaways. Flu shots will be available in the Commons kitchen area.

You are invited to enjoy the festivities while learning how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Five Ways to Boost Your Credit Score

Which number would you rather reveal to a friend: how much you weigh or your credit score? A 2014 survey from the National Foundation for Credit Counseling found that people would be more embarrassed to admit their credit scores than reveal their age or weight.

Your credit score is a calculation based on your credit report that signals to creditors whether or not you're a good credit risk. Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) created the FICO score used by 90 percent of lenders to make credit decisions. Base FICO scores fall between 300 and 850 and are offered by some financial organizations at no cost on your account statement or online.

There are a number of benefits to maintaining a good credit score. For starters, a good credit score may net you the best insurance rates. In addition, a good credit score could mean the difference between a 'yes' and a 'no' when it comes time to rent an apartment, get approved for a mortgage or secure a

credit card.

Just like erasing those laugh lines, boosting your credit score takes time and commitment. Here are five simple ways to raise your number.

Verify your credit report information

Visit AnnualCreditReport.com to register for a free copy of your credit report and examine it to ensure the information is up to date and correct. If it is not, you will need to update personal information or dispute erroneous entries within your report. The three major credit-reporting bureaus — TransUnion, Equifax and Experian — allow you one free copy per year. Plan to order your copy every four months. Check for errors and fix any mistakes that could be weighing down your score.

Pay your bills on time

Late payments and collections can have a negative impact on a credit score.

Keep low balances on credit accounts

Charge or borrow only what you can afford to pay back in full each month.

Pay off debt

Look for ways to refinance or consolidate debt if it can result in lower total interest paid over time and faster principal pay off.

Keep zero balance credit cards open

Closing old accounts could potentially lower your score. Credit bureaus may give you a higher rating if you have access to more credit.

You may never want to reveal your true age or your credit score, but you'll smile on the inside knowing that one of those numbers is higher than the other.

The advice provided is for informational purposes only. For additional guidance, contact a financial advisor.

Commissioners Recognize Responders Following Search for Missing Veteran



Harnett County Commissioners recognized members of the team that led a three-day effort to find an 88-year-old World War II veteran and Harnett County resident who went missing from his home in Coats on Sept. 27. Deputy County Manager Paula Stewart thanked Emergency Services Director Gary Pope, Sheriff Larry Rollins, Fire Marshal Jimmy Riddle and Coats-Grove Fire Chief Jay Smith for their team's efforts, which led to Lloyd Hall being found safe on Sept. 30. The men said credit should go to their staff and the nearly 40 agencies and 300 individuals who assisted in the search. Harnett County Emergency Services and the Harnett County Sheriff's Office coordinated the search from the Coats-Grove Fire Department.

Emergency Services Dedicates Memorial



Harnett County residents joined emergency responders from around the county on Sept. 11 at Veterans Memorial Park in Lillington to hold a Patriot Day ceremony and dedicate the county's Emergency Services Memorial, which memorializes emergency responders who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Upcoming Events

- Dunn and Erwin will hold **municipal elections** Tuesday, Oct. 6. Polls in both towns will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. To look up your voter information including your registration information, polling place and sample ballots, go to https://vt.ncsbe.gov/Voter_Search_Public/.
- Harnett County Extension and Community Association will host the **International Food Festival** Thursday, Oct. 8 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at 126 Alexander Drive, Lillington. Come and sample food from Mexico, Spain, Italy and the United States. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.
- Harnett County Parks & Recreation will host a **Movie in the Park** series this month. Movies will include "Paddington" Friday, Oct. 9 starting at 7 p.m. at Barbecue Creek Park, "Monsters University" Saturday, Oct. 10 starting at 7 p.m. at Lillington Park, and "Despicable Me 2" Friday, Oct. 16 starting at 7 p.m. at the Angier Depot. Admission is free. Concessions will be available for purchase. Bring blankets and camping chairs.

If you know of any important events for November or future months that should be included in this newsletter, email bhaney@harnett.org.

October Employee Birthdays

The following Harnett County employees celebrate birthdays in October. Please join us in wishing these employees a happy birthday.

Oct. 1	David Hesselmeyer (EMS)	Virginia Rouse (Social Services)
	Jonathan Ivey (EMS)	15 Michelle Lee (EMS)
	Jason Remington (Public Utilities)	Yarneli Avila (Public Buildings)
	Elliott Brown (Health)	16 Barry Blevins (General Services)
	Richard Cruickshank (Planning)	Bradley Wester (Sheriff's Office)
	David Miller (Sheriff's Office)	17 Kenneth Lee (Sheriff's Office)
	Sandra Boykins (Social Services)	Sandra Ashworth (Social Services)
2	Lynn Blalock (Social Services)	18 Richard Foley (Child Support Enforcement)
	Brandy Hall (Social Services)	Ronnie Crumpler (EMS)
	Lynn Lambert (Soil & Water)	Levi Granger (Sheriff's Office)
3	Kelly Smith (Finance)	Derek Sharp (Sheriff's Office)
4	Latorius Adams (Department on Aging)	Mylisa Spinner (Transportation)
	Randall Byrd (Sheriff's Office)	19 Susan Stewart (Health)
	Dean Hewitt (Sheriff's Office)	Landon Chandler (Planning)
5	Louis Kicklighter (EMS)	Charles Robinson (Tax)
	Ashley Johnson (Social Services)	20 Starlette Ockletree (Social Services)
6	Rodney Ellen (Public Utilities)	21 Michael Williams (Sheriff's Office)
	Dwayne McLean (Sheriff's Office)	Morris McNeill (Transportation)
7	Jimmy Riddle (Fire Marshal)	22 Takishia McMiller (Social Services)
	Deborah Hopkins (EMS)	23 Timothy Connor (EMS)
	Billy Norris (Public Utilities)	Pamela Hawley (Health)
	Christopher Tyler (Public Utilities)	Carolyn Surles (Sheriff's Office)
	Carnella Nuesmeyer (Health)	Teresa McRae (Social Services)
	Susan Roberts (Health)	Madonna Dawood (Social Services)
	Daniel Jackson (IT)	24 Lashara Glover (Social Services)
8	Abe Elmore (Board of Commissioners)	John McCarthy (Solid Waste)
	Jason Ray (Public Utilities)	25 Donna Smith (Animal Services)
	Rick Foster (Planning)	Debra Harris-Hawkins (Health)
	Robert Tew (Sheriff's Office)	Victoria Rodriguez (Register of Deeds)
	Monica Stewart (Social Services)	26 Christopher Nelson (EMS)
	Rhoda Blake (Social Services)	John Nunnery (EMS)
9	Dorothy Holder (EMS)	Gordon Springle (Board of Commissioners)
	Gabriel Moore (Parks & Recreation)	Blake Webber (Sheriff's Office)
	Delisa Staps (Sheriff's Office)	Travis Daggett (Sheriff's Office)
	David Adams (Sheriff's Office)	27 Claudette Williams (Board of Elections)
	Beulah Washington (Social Services)	Nicole Fitzgerald (Social Services)
	Cynthia Harris (Social Services)	28 Aimee Lawson (Communications)
10	Saunya Zwally (EMS)	Walter Eason (Sheriff's Office)
	Joe Miller (Board of Commissioners)	Kimberly Kowanick (Social Services)
	Eddie Dennis (Sheriff's Office)	29 LeAnn Blackmon (Department on Aging)
11	David Stone (Sheriff's Office)	Sandra Beasley (Health)
12	Stewart Stangl (Sheriff's Office)	Allen Scronce (Sheriff's Office)
	Donald Horan (Social Services)	Justin Thomas (Sheriff's Office)
	Trisha Cox (Social Services)	30 Michael Martin (Fire Marshal)
	William Beasley (Tax)	Steven Patterson (EMS)
13	Brandon Little (EMS)	John Rankins (Human Resources)
14	Kenneth Fail (Public Utilities)	31 Billy Thomas (Public Utilities)
	David Jones (Public Utilities)	Billie Bryant (Social Services)
	Ashley Pope (Health)	



More than 100 Harnett County employees and family members came out to the Harnett County Governmental Complex in Lillington Saturday, Sept. 19 to participate in the *Strong Roots Growing Stronger!* Employee & Family 5k Run/Walk. The 5k was organized by the Employee Wellness Committee, which encourages county employees to live healthy lifestyles by hosting events and educational programs geared towards employee health.



Employees and Families Participate in 5k

More than 100 Harnett County employees and family members participated in the "Strong Roots Growing Stronger!" Employee & Family 5k Run/Walk on Sept. 19 in Lillington. The 5k was organized by the Harnett County Employee Wellness Committee, which encourages county employees to live healthy lifestyles by hosting events and educational programs geared towards employee health.

The 5k was non-competitive, but the top finishers were:

- 1st Place — Gabe Gutierrez (Harnett County Public Utilities)
- 2nd Place — Paul Hart (Harnett County Parks & Recreation)
- 3rd and 4th Place — Melissa McLamb and Allison Beam (Harnett County Health Department)
- 5th Place — Christopher Byrd (son of Teresa Byrd with Harnett County Planning Services)
- 6th and 7th Place — Brian Haney (Harnett County Manager's

- Office) and his wife, Lauren Haney
- 8th Place — Stephen Byrd (son of Teresa Byrd with Harnett County Planning Services)
- 9th Place — Luis Franco (husband of Mayra Franco with Harnett County Health Department)

Thank you to everyone who participated, to the sponsors who provided door prizes for participants, and to the Employee Wellness Committee.