



Finished in 2002, the Harnett County Courthouse has become an iconic symbol of Harnett County and has spurred new growth in the county seat.

A Harnett County Icon

In many counties, the courthouse is seen as a symbol of pride. When it opened in 2002, Harnett County's new courthouse was long overdue.

The old courthouse, located at the intersection of South Main and East Front streets in Lillington, was woefully in need of replacement. Portions of the building did not have hot water, files had to be stored in bathrooms because there wasn't enough space in the building, and the basement was prone to flooding.

The courthouse was remodeled in the 1950s, but it did little to improve

things.

In addition to cosmetic and structural issues, the old courthouse also presented safety concerns. Inmates were led to trial through the courthouse halls and judges had to walk through the same halls as the families of inmates they may have just sentenced.

When Neil Emory became county manager in 1993, one of his top priorities was building a new courthouse.

It would be almost another decade before construction would start on the courthouse, but officials broke ground on the new facility, located across the

river, in August 2000. The 100,000-plus square-foot building was built at a cost of \$20 million.

The new courthouse solved many of the issues that plagued its predecessor. Most importantly, it separated the various functions of the courthouse. Judges and members of the jury remain separate from the public and individuals who are on trial. Special elevators between courtrooms allow for detainees to be safely and securely transported from the jail to the courtroom.

The courthouse was also built with growth in mind. In the future, addition-

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.



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.

The calendar compiles community events taking place throughout Harnett County — from all the town festivals and parades going on in the fall to community meetings and seminars at Triangle South Enterprise Center — and puts them in a single location. It also includes events held by partner organizations including area chambers of commerce, the Dunn Area Tourism Authority, Campbell University, Central Carolina Community College and Raven Rock State Park. See something that's missing from the calendar? Let us know and we'll add it! To submit an event for inclusion in the Harnett County Community Calendar, email bhaney@harnett.org.



At top, the original Harnett County Courthouse. Above, the Harnett County Courthouse after it was remodeled in the 1950s. The old courthouse, which was located a block over and across from the County Administration Building, has since been torn down.

al courtrooms can be added on the third floor along with an entire unfinished fourth story that could be used for expansion.

Today, the courthouse sits at the center of the Harnett County Governmental Complex, which is also home to the Harnett County Tax Office and Register of Deeds, GIS, the Health Department and Social Services, and the Harnett County Commons Area. More recently, a new Harnett County Sheriff's Office was constructed just a few hundred feet behind the courthouse.

In the decade and a half since the courthouse opened, it has become an iconic symbol of Harnett County.

In 2009, the Harnett County Courthouse won a merit award in a design competition for the Eastern Section of the state chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The courthouse has also brought other growth to the area. Additional county facilities including Public Utilities, Economic Development, General Services and the Agriculture Center have been built behind the governmental complex. Across U.S. 401 is the Brightwater Science & Technology Park with Central Harnett Hospital and the Central Carolina Community College Health Sciences Center. County leaders are currently working to attract new growth to the area.

Springle Recognized by NCACC for Professional Development

Harnett County Commissioners Vice Chairman Gordon Springle was recognized by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) for meeting the requirements for the Master level in the Local Elected Leaders Academy. A Master has completed a minimum of 66 credits (18 orientation credits, 30 focused in-depth credits and 18 elective credits) of continuing education since becoming a county commissioner.



rector Kevin Leonard. "A commissioner who achieves recognition through LELA has shown a true commitment to their personal development and to their constituents back home."

Harnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jim Burgin recognized Springle for his accomplishment during the board's Sept. 6 meeting.

The Local Elected Leaders Academy (LELA), a partnership with the UNC School of Government, the NCACC and the N.C. League of Municipalities, offers local elected officials the knowledge and skills needed to lead and govern their communities.

County commissioners are recognized for their participation in both educational programs and service to the Association. The starting place for earning credits is the orientation program, the Essentials of County Government. As commissioners increase education and service, they earn credits toward recognition at three levels: Practitioner, Master and Mentor. The NCACC tracks credits and recognizes participation every year at the Annual Conference.

"The Academy is designed to help our commissioners by improving their knowledge of the issues and their leadership skills," said NCACC Executive Di-

rector Kevin Leonard. "A commissioner who achieves recognition through LELA has shown a true commitment to their personal development and to their constituents back home."

Harnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jim Burgin recognized Springle for his accomplishment during the board's Sept. 6 meeting.

Springle was elected to the Harnett County Board of Commissioners in 2012 and has served as the board's vice chairman since 2014. He is a retired district sales manager for N.C. Farm Bureau. He graduated from Campbell College in 1971 and is a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War.

Springle serves on the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fayetteville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mid-Carolina RPO, Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, NCACC Agricultural Advisory Committee and NCACC Legislative Committee. He received the LELA Practitioner Award in 2015 and the M.H. "Jack" Brock Memorial Award from the Mid-Carolina Council of Governments in 2016. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Angier and Angier Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon. Springle and his wife, Donna V. Springle, have two children – Patrick Springle and Valerie Seymour, and two grandchildren.

Parks & Rec Master Plan Survey

Harnett County Parks & Recreation wants to know what you think about its current offerings and what parks and programs you want to see in the coming years.

Residents are asked to complete a brief survey at [https://](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/harnettrecsurvey)

www.surveymonkey.com/r/harnettrecsurvey.

Your involvement is crucial to completing the Harnett County Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which will serve as a guide as county leaders add new parks and programs.

Upcoming Events

- The Harnett County Public Library will host "Supernatural Folklore of North Carolina" with stories of the spooky, scary and haunted tales of North Carolina Thursday, October 27 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The library is located at 601 S. Main St., Lillington.
- The Harnett County Employee Wellness Committee will host the 2016 Strong Roots Growing Stronger! Employee & Family 5k Walk/Run on Saturday, November 12 in Lillington. Employees who sign up will receive a free long-sleeve T-shirt. Family members may participate for free, but must pay to receive a T-shirt. For a registration form or more information, email bhaney@harnett.org.
- One-stop early voting will begin October 20 in Harnett County. You may register to vote during one-stop early voting. You may also request an absentee ballot by mail from the Harnett County Board of Elections. For more information on voting in Harnett County along with a list of one-stop hours and locations, go to www.harnett.org/elections/.

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

Human Resources Corner

Near Retirement? Consider Money Market Account

You've worked hard to get to retirement and want it to be a happy, stress free time. You don't want to worry about where to put your retirement funds to see your money grow. A money market account can give you that peace of mind. Here's how:

Rest easy at night

Money market accounts are insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) at your local bank or by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) at your credit union. This coverage ensures that your money will be safe if the financial institution were to go out of business.

Money when you need it

Like your checking account, you have access to your money market funds anytime for any reason. Funds don't have to be "sold" like stocks or bonds so you can withdraw them anytime without worrying about losing money when you need it.

Easy access to funds

Some financial institutions allow you to write checks and access your money market funds using a debit card. This 24-hour feature provides a lot of flexibility in the event you can't make it to the bank before they close or in the event of an emergency. The number of times you can access your funds may vary depending on the financial institution so

check with the institution to know your limits.

Get a better rate

Money market accounts pay a set interest rate just like your savings account; however, the interest rate is typically higher than that of a savings account. Chances are your retirement account balance is more than what you would have in a savings account so getting paid a higher interest rate will allow your money to grow more at a faster pace.

Enjoy your golden years knowing your money is still working for you.

Article provided by Local Government Federal Credit Union.

County Holds Insurance Event for Retirees



Harnett County held a special event for retired employees who are Medicare eligible on September 1 in the Commons Area. The event was a kickoff luncheon that coincided with an open enrollment period for these employees to purchase vision and dental insurance on the county's insurance plan. In addition to lunch, these former employees received important information comparing the costs of vision and dental insurance between Harnett County and the North Carolina Retired Governmental Employees' Association (NCRGEA), moving to Medicare from the Harnett County Health Insurance Plan, and Medicare Parts A and B. Employees also learned about other ways to stay involved with Harnett County.

Harnett County Emergency Management Earns Sixth Consecutive StormReady Designation

With Hurricane season now in full swing, Harnett County Emergency Management has achieved a recognition that will pay major dividends in the event of a severe weather emergency. Harnett County has been recognized as a StormReady County by the NOAA's National Weather Service.

Harnett County Emergency Management earned the county's first StormReady County designation in 2001. Emergency Services has since renewed that designation five times with the most recent renewal going into effect July 31, 2016. The designation is good through July 31, 2019.

Harnett County Emergency Services Director Jimmy Riddle called the designation a prestigious honor.

"This is an award that our Emergency Management division secured for Harnett County," Riddle said. "It shows our readiness capability in Harnett County."

The StormReady program is intend-

ed to help communities strengthen local extreme weather-related safety programs. StormReady communities and other jurisdictions are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. While no community is storm proof, participation in the StormReady program can help communities save lives.

StormReady helps communities respond to weather events by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

To earn the StormReady designation, communities must do the following:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and alert the public
- Create a system that monitors

weather conditions locally

- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes severe weather spotters and emergency exercises

All requirements are reviewed by the National Weather Service, which conducts a site visit to make sure all StormReady requirements have been met.

The Harnett County Board of Commissioners recognized Riddle and Emergency Management for achieving the honor at a recent commissioners meeting.

"Thank you for making sure Harnett County is prepared," Commissioners Chairman Jim Burgin said.

For more information on the StormReady program, go to <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>.

Employment Anniversaries

The following Harnett County employees celebrate employment anniversaries in September 2016:

5 years	Deborah Hall (Board of Elections) Bryan Wilkins (EMS) Michael Britt (Sheriff's Office) Sean Stewart (Sheriff's Office) Joseph Swagger (Sheriff's Office)	20 years	Marcellus Wright (Public Utilities) Johnathan Suggs (Public Utilities) Scott Kelly (Sheriff's Office) Paul Phillips (Sheriff's Office) Cynthia Harris (Social Services) Tracie Lecesne (Social Services)
10 years	Timothy Loftus (EMS) Melvin Rodriguez (EMS)		Mary Sauls (Health)

The following Harnett County employees celebrate employment anniversaries in October 2016:

5 years	Jacob Gardner (Sheriff's Office) Isabell Rolle (Social Services)	15 years	Allen Scronce (Sheriff's Office) Laura Byrd (Social Services)
10 years	Jamie Strickland (Finance) Bradley Byrd (Sheriff's Office) Jonathan West (Sheriff's Office) Lisa Guy (Social Services)	25 years	Teresa Wood (Social Services) Scott Kelly (Sheriff's Office)
		30 years	Karen Moore (GIS)

September Employee Birthdays

The following Harnett County employees and board members celebrate birthdays in September. Please join us in wishing these employees a happy birthday.

Sept. 1	James Currin (Board of Elections) Steve Ward (Public Utilities) Norman Edwards (Sheriff's Office) Rebekah Shea (Social Services)		Heather Livesay (EMS) Leanne Michaels (Sheriff's Office) Nikita McDuffie (Social Services) Robert Lee (Solid Waste)
2	William Fowler (EMS) Amritraj Lock (Sheriff's Office) Debra Weis (Public Buildings) Melanie Driggers (Social Services)	19 20	Pamela Freeman (Public Utilities) Michael Crisp (Sheriff's Office) James Stradley (Sheriff's Office) Donald Best (EMS) Sandy Wade (Finance) Dave Cameron (Public Utilities) Kristen Arnott (Social Services)
3	Susan Cox (EMS) Latonia Holiday (Social Services)		Jenny McDonald (Sheriff's Office) William Ogletree (EMS) Michael Wimberly (Social Services)
4	Taylor Emory (Administration) Roger Sullivan (Emergency Services) Barbara Ross (Health) Milton Stewart (Sheriff's Office)	21	Diane Raynor (Sheriff's Office) Betty Wishart (Library) Kenneth Lorkiewicz (EMS) Barbara McKoy (Board of Commissioners) Miraluna Ellington (Health) Trudi Wester (Register of Deeds) Tammy Matthews (Social Services)
5	Johnathan Suggs (Public Utilities)	22	Sharon Denton (Public Utilities) Mark McLeod (Public Utilities) Terri Turner (Health)
6	Edward McLamb (Sheriff's Office) Bryan Davis (Solid Waste) Sherry Johnson (JobLink)	23	Edward Holder (Sheriff's Office) David Hornsby (Sheriff's Office) Martin Locklear (Development Services) Harold Flowers (Emergency Services) David Young (Public Utilities) Tabitha Avery (Health) Michael Pittman (Sheriff's Office)
7	Robert Doberstein (Development Services) Jennifer Godwin (Health) Jeremy Howard (Sheriff's Office) Terry Wade (Tax)	24	Anita Woods (Social Services) Kerry Willis (Social Services) Amy Bain (Tax) Webb Adams (Sheriff's Office) James Davis (Sheriff's Office) Kristin Wells (Social Services) Stephanie Wilson (Tax) Christopher Peterson (EMS) Sylvia Richmond (Public Utilities) Belinda Rayner (Health) Gary McGuire (Sheriff's Office) Betty Green (Social Services)
8	Meredith Doherty (EMS) Christopher Beasley (Sheriff's Office)		Amanda Durazo (Sheriff's Office) Morgan Langdon (EMS) Alison Wachtel (Register of Deeds) Brandi Miles (Social Services) Isabelle Smith (Transportation) Catherine Bryant (Veterans Services)
9	Regina Stone (Animal Services) Darren Steadman (Sheriff's Office) Shelly Humphrey (Cooperative Extension) Kevin Matthews (Sheriff's Office) Cassandra Jackson (Social Services)	25	Caitlin Dolan (EMS) John Hall (Solid Waste)
10	Allen Coats (Finance) Linda Sturdivant (Health) Alice Wester (Library) Paul Hart (Parks & Recreation)		
11	Randy Taylor (Sheriff's Office) Jimmy Holbrook (Sheriff's Office) John Werbelow (Sheriff's Office)	27	
13	Kittrane Sanders (Cooperative Extension) Rodney Daniels (Emergency Services) Jeremy Young (Public Utilities) Gail Hobbs (Health) David Hildreth (Sheriff's Office) Danita Lee (Social Services) Jennifer Harrop (Tax) Michael Sturdivant (Transportation)	28	
14	Holly Blair (EMS)	29	
15	Courtney Hayter (Public Utilities) Carl Davis (Parks & Recreation)		
16	Amy Nowell (EMS) Derrick Lynch (Public Utilities)		
17	Douglas Daughtry (Tax)	30	
18	Chelsea Pruitt (EMS)		

October Employee Birthdays

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

Oct. 1	Richard Cruickshank (Development Services)	Thomas Swartzlander (Sheriff's Office)
	Jonathan Ivey (EMS)	Mary Smith (Social Services)
	David Hesselmeier (EMS) 15	Yarneli Avila (Public Buildings)
	Jason Remington (Public Utilities) 16	Barry Blevins (General Services)
	Elliott Brown (Health)	Bradley Wester (Sheriff's Office)
	David Miller (Sheriff's Office) 17	Kara Mason (Division on Aging)
	Sandra Boykins (Social Services)	Kenneth Lee (Sheriff's Office)
2	Lynn Blalock (Social Services)	Sandra Ashworth (Social Services)
	Brandy Hall (Social Services) 18	Richard Foley (Social Services)
	Lynn Lambert (Soil & Water)	Jonathan Smith (EMS)
3	Elena Alexander (EMS)	Benjamin Dingus (Parks & Recreation)
	Kelly Smith (Finance)	Levi Granger (Sheriff's Office)
	Stephanie Hudson (Sheriff's Office) 19	Landon Chandler (Development Services)
4	Randall Byrd (Sheriff's Office)	Susan Stewart (Health)
	Dean Hewitt (Sheriff's Office) 20	Starlette Ockletree (Social Services)
5	Jason Lemons (Development Services) 21	Luther Prevatte (Public Utilities)
	Louis Kicklighter (EMS)	Michael Williams (Sheriff's Office)
	Ashley Johnson (Social Services)	Morris McNeill (Transportation)
6	Latorius Adams (Division on Aging) 23	Carolyn Surlis (Sheriff's Office)
	Rodney Ellen (Public Utilities)	Teresa McRae (Social Services)
	Dwayne McLean (Sheriff's Office)	Madonna Dawood (Social Services)
7	Jimmy Riddle (Emergency Services) 24	Ricki Smotherman (EMS)
	Billy Norris (Public Utilities)	Maurice Carter (Library)
	Christopher Tyler (Public Utilities)	Lashara Glover (Social Services)
	Carnella Nuesmeyer (Health)	Ernest Alexander (Transportation)
	Daniel Jackson (IT) 25	Donna Smith (Animal Services)
8	Rick Foster (Development Services)	Debra Harris-Hawkins (Health)
	Abe Elmore (Board of Commissioners)	Victoria Rodriguez (Register of Deeds)
	Jason Ray (Public Utilities) 26	Alissa Dean (EMS)
	Robert Tew (Sheriff's Office)	John Nunnery (EMS)
	Monica Stewart (Social Services)	Gordon Springle (Board of Commissioners)
	Rhoda Blake (Social Services)	Travis Daggett (Sheriff's Office)
9	Dorothy Holder (EMS) 27	Claudette Williams (Board of Elections)
	Delisa Staps (Sheriff's Office)	Nicole Fitzgerald (Social Services)
	David Adams (Sheriff's Office) 28	Aimee Lawson (Sheriff's Office)
	Beulah Washington (Social Services)	Walter Eason (Sheriff's Office)
	Cynthia Harris (Social Services)	Kimberly Kowanick (Social Services)
10	Eddie Dennis (Sheriff's Office) 29	LeAnn Blackmon (Division 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)
	Martha Jackson (Social Services) 30	Michael Martin (Emergency Services)
	Trisha Cox (Social Services)	Steven Patterson (EMS)
	William Beasley (Tax)	John Rankins (Human Resources)
13	Brandon Little (EMS) 31	Billy Thomas (Public Utilities)
14	Kenneth Fail (Public Utilities)	Pamela Bryant (Social Services)
	David Jones (Public Utilities)	Billie Bryant (Social Services)
	Ashley Pope (Health)	



Harnett County Economic Development has gained staff and moved to a new location at 200 Alexander Drive, Lillington. From left to right, in front, are Existing Industry and Product Development Manager Angie Stewart, Small Business and Downtown Development Manager Nick Dula, Marketing and Business Recruitment Manager Debbie Taylor, and in back, Deputy County Manager Paula Stewart and Economic Development Consultant Lee Anne Nance.

Economic Development Gains Staff, New Location

Harnett County Economic Development has a new location and has added staff to provide more hands-on services to Harnett County's businesses at every phase of their development.

The department has expanded from a staff of one to a three-person team of economic developers dedicated to different sectors of the business community. In addition to Small Business and Downtown Development Manager Nick Dula, Debbie Taylor has been brought in as Marketing and Business Recruitment Manager and Angie Stewart has been hired as Existing Industry and Product Development Manager.

The three economic developers will report to Deputy County Manager Paula Stewart. Lee Anne Nance with Britt Nance Collaborative has been brought in as a consultant for the department.

Paula Stewart said she is excited about the future of economic development in Harnett County.

"One of the things that was evident

when we completed our Economic Development Strategic Plan last year was that we needed more capacity in our Economic Development office," Stewart said. "What we've done accomplishes that and ensures that whether you're trying to start a business, operate or expand an existing business, or you're looking for somewhere to locate your business, we have an economic developer who is experienced, knowledgeable and solely dedicated to your needs."

Harnett County Economic Development also has a new home – 200 Alexander Drive in Lillington. The department's number will remain (910) 893-7524.

Taylor is a nationally certified economic developer with broad experience promoting economic development in the Research Triangle Region. She has more than 20 years' experience in the field, most recently serving as Vice President of Business Development for the Research Triangle Regional Partner-

ship. Prior to joining RTRP, she was vice president of the Moore County Economic Development Corporation.

Taylor is an active member of several professional organizations including the N.C. Economic Developers Association and the International Economic Development Council. She and her husband, Tony, have two children and four grandchildren.

Stewart, who has more than eight years of experience in economic development, most recently served as Business Services Coordinator for Central Carolina Community College. She previously worked for Harnett County Economic Development from 2008 until 2011 as Existing Industry Manager. She returns to Economic Development, having built and maintained positive relationships with industries and businesses in the county.

Stewart is a Harnett County native. She and her husband, Jon, have two children.

Harnett County Parks & Recreation Receives PARTF Grant for Government Complex Park

Harnett County Parks and Recreation has been awarded a grant that will enhance recreational opportunities for Harnett County's residents and provide greater access to the Cape Fear River.

Harnett County received a PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) grant in the amount of \$400,000 to complete the first phase of the Government Complex Park in Lillington, which will be located along the Cape Fear River off of Alexander Drive, behind Harnett County Public Utilities and the Sandhills Farm Park.

The grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match from the county, which was included in Parks & Recreation's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. While the project was originally projected to cost \$1.2 million, Davis said county staff will complete some of the work in-house, which he hopes will bring the cost of the project closer to \$800,000.

Items planned for the first phase of Government Complex Park include a walking trail with a boardwalk, canoe and kayak access, a river observation deck, ballfields, and multi-purpose fields. Future plans call for additional walking trails along with a playground, splash pad, bocce court, basketball courts, sand volleyball, shelters and opportunities for environmental education. An outdoor amphitheater is also in the works. The first phase will be developed on approximately 55 acres. Once completed, the finished park will span around 190 acres. The park will combine active and passive amenities to provide Harnett County residents with a unique recreation experience.

Harnett County Parks & Recreation Director Carl Davis said the Government Complex Park ties in well with the new Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which is currently under development.



Above, the future site of the Harnett County Government Complex Park in Lillington. Harnett County Parks & Recreation has been awarded a \$400,000 PARTF grant to assist with the first phase of the park.

“This goes along with what we’re trying to do in creating a blueway on the Cape Fear River and expanding trails to bring more connectivity to communities within the county,” he said. “This gives us a great start.”

The Government Complex Park will serve as a complement to the Cape Fear River Park in Erwin, and the trails will connect to recently added sidewalks in Lillington.

Davis said the multipurpose fields will also provide a space for residents across the county to come for organized soccer and football events.

He said work on the park's first phase should begin around the beginning of 2017 and will take approximately a year and a half to complete.

PARTF grant recipients are selected by the Parks and Recreation Authority, which is appointed by the governor and General Assembly. During the 2016

funding period, the authority received 66 applications with more than \$18 million in funding requests. Of those applicants, 32 were selected for just over \$8.4 million in available funding. Harnett County ranked 9th in scoring.

The award marks the fourth time Harnett County has received a PARTF grant. The county received previous grants in 2006 for the Cape Fear River Trail Park, 2008 for improvements at Barbecue Creek Park, and in 2011 to complete the first phase of Anderson Creek Park. Harnett County and municipalities within the county have been awarded 13 PARTF grants since 1998 worth nearly \$4.7 million.

For more information on Parks & Recreation in Harnett County, and to keep up with upcoming programs and events, go to <http://www.harnett.org/parkrec/> or follow “Harnett County Parks and Recreation” on Facebook.

Board Honors Residents' Accomplishments



Harnett County Commissioners made a pair of special recognitions during their September 19 board meeting. First, commissioners recognized Bookter T. Williams Sr. of the Shawtown community, who celebrated his 100th birthday on September 3. Williams is a World War II veteran and a retired educator. He and his wife, Ethel, have been married for more than 70 years and have two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Next, the board honored Harnett County resident Ricky Temple, his staff, and the Harnett County employees and citizens who volunteered to help demolish and remove dangerous structures on Smith Prince Road, improving the quality of life of residents in the area.

County Agencies Participate in State of the County Event

Numerous Harnett County departments took part in the 2016 State of the County event, which was held August 24 at the Central Carolina Community Colleges Health Sciences Center. The event was hosted by the Lillington and Angier chambers of commerce and featured the State of the County presentation, delivered by Harnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jim Burgin. Board of Education Chairman Bill Morris also gave an update on Harnett County Schools, and Harnett County's Director of Community and Government Relations Brian Haney provided information on how citizens can connect with Harnett County.

