

Harnett County Commissioners Name Paula Kelly Stewart Interim County Manager

Former Manager Jeffries Leaves to Manage Lillington

Deputy Harnett County Manager Paula Kelly Stewart has been named interim county manager following the departure of County Manager Joseph Jeffries on October 10.

Jeffries resigned effective immediately, to take a position as manager with the Town of Lillington. The Harnett County Board of Commissioners selected Stewart to serve as interim county manager.

"We appreciate all Joseph has done to get us where we are today and we know Paula will continue leading us where we've already started going," said Board of Commissioners Chairman Gordon Springle. "We're confident Harnett County is going to continue to progress."

Stewart, a Lillington native who currently resides in Angier, said she is grateful to be given the opportunity to continue moving Harnett County forward.

"I want to thank Joseph for the confidence he had in me when he made me his deputy, and the Board of Commissioners for placing their trust in me to serve as interim manager," said Stewart.

She wished Jeffries well in his future endeavors and said she looks forward to making a positive difference in her home county in this new role.

"As someone who was born and raised in Harnett County, I have a strong connection to the County's mot-



Paula Stewart was named interim county manager on October 10 following the departure of County Manager Joseph Jeffries.

to of 'Strong Roots, New Growth' – I am proud of our heritage, but I am also excited about what lies ahead for us," she said. "My goal is to improve the lives of our citizens along with the efficiency and effectiveness of county services, and to be an advocate for our employees."

Stewart also noted the historical significance of her appointment.

"I feel honored to be Harnett Coun-

ty's first woman interim county manager," she said. "I am confident in the management team we have in place, and in our department heads as we move forward."

Stewart came to Harnett County as IT Director in 1996. In February 2015, she was brought in as interim deputy county manager, and she was named deputy county manager by the Board of Commissioners in May 2015.

Stewart grew up in Lillington and currently resides in Angier. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a Certified Government Chief Information Officer with the UNC School of Government.

Prior to working for Harnett County, she worked at N.C. State University for nine years as a budget analyst and applications analyst. She attends Angier Baptist Church where she teaches Sunday school. She and her husband, Del, have been married for more than 27 years and have two daughters – Kelly and Natalie.

Jeffries was first hired by Harnett County in 2002 as chief planner with the Harnett County Planning Department. He became director of Planning & Development Services in 2007. He was named Harnett County Manager in May 2015 following two years as deputy manager and two stints as interim manager.

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.



Harnett County Veterans Day Ceremony Set for November 10 at 11 a.m. in Lillington

The Harnett County Veterans Council will hold its annual Veterans Day Ceremony Friday, November 10 at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park at 299 West Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington, beside the Harnett County Courthouse.

The guest speaker at this year's ceremony will be Lt. Col. Marcus W. Wright, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team 1-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

This year's Veterans Day Ceremony will also include several special medal presentations to Harnett County veterans. Veterans who will receive medals include Booker T. Williams of the Shawtown Community and Bienvenidos Torres of the Spring Lake area. Medals will also be presented to the families of deceased veterans Willis C. Langdon and Ezra Darroch, of Lillington.

Williams is a 101-year-old World War II veteran who served in

the U.S. Army under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the Philippines. Tores is a veteran of the Korean War who was born in the Philippines and survived the Japanese occupation. He joined the U.S. Army following World War II. Langdon was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army. He was the father of former Harnett County Clerk of Court Dianne Hatley. Darroch was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army.

In addition to the medal presentations, there will be a presentation of colors and service flags by the Harnett Central JROTC, along with a wreath laying and the playing of "Taps" in remembrance of veterans who died in service to the nation. Following the ceremony, refreshments will be provided in the Harnett County Commons Area.

The annual Veterans Day Parade will begin at 2 p.m. The parade lineup will begin at 1 p.m. on 10th

Street, and the parade route will go down West Front Street, turn onto South Main Street, and then onto West Lofton Street. The medal recipients and their families will serve as parade grand marshals.

Veteran Services Officer John Elskamp will also be on-hand to take brick orders for the Veterans Memorial Walkway, which is currently being installed at Veterans Memorial Park. Citizens may purchase bricks in honor or in memory of their loved ones who are veterans of the U.S. Military. The cost per brick is \$40 and replica bricks may be purchased for \$20 each. Proceeds will go toward additional projects and programs to benefit Harnett County Veterans Memorial Park and the county's veterans.

For more information, go to www.harnett.org/veterans/ or contact Veterans Council President Amy Noel at anoel@harnett.org or (910) 893-7574.



The Harnett County Veterans Council will hold its annual Veterans Day Ceremony Friday, Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park (left) at 299 West Cornelius Harnett Blvd., Lillington. The ceremony will include a guest speaker from the 82nd Airborne and medal presentations to veterans of World War II and the Korean War, and to the families of two deceased World War II veterans. Following the ceremony, the annual Veterans Day Parade will be held in Downtown Lillington from West Front Street to West Lofton Street.



Above left, from left, facilities technicians Mitchell Moore and Jeremy Pope, and Facilities Maintenance Manager Kenneth Snipes stand behind the well cover they made for a resident who had issues with vehicles running over her well and breaking the pipe. The issue was finally resolved after a HARTS vehicle ran over the well and the department enlisted the County's Facilities Maintenance department to help them come up with a solution. Above right, Facilities Maintenance employees move the well cover into place on the resident's property.

County Maintenance Employees Partner with HARTS to Assist Resident in Need

A pair of Harnett County Departments have teamed up to assist a resident in need.

A passenger of Harnett Area Rural Transit System (HARTS) has had problems with vehicles running over her well and breaking the pipe due to issues with visibility. On one occasion, a HARTS vehicle broke the pipe when the driver accidentally ran over the well.

When Transportation Manager Larry Smith was made aware of the incident, he went out to the scene to see what the problem was. He enlisted the help of his fellow General Services division head, Facilities Maintenance Manager Kenneth

Snipes, who offered to go out look at it as well.

They determined a well cover would help make the well more visible. Once repairs were made and the water was turned back on, a crew from Harnett County Facilities Maintenance constructed a well cover and installed it. Snipes, along with facilities technicians Mitchell Moore and Jeremy Pope donated their time and recycled materials to construct the cover.

Harnett County General Services Director Barry Blevins said he was proud of his employees for going above and beyond their normal duties to assist a resident.

“They saw a need and they just acted on it,” said Blevins. “I’m proud of them for showing initiative, and for working together and leveraging their combined resources and knowledge to solve a problem and help a citizen. That’s what we’re here to do.”

For more information on Harnett County General Services and its departments — Harnett Regional Jetport, Harnett County Animal Services, Community Development, Facilities Maintenance, HARTS, and Youth Services (Juvenile Restitution and Community Service), go to www.harnett.org/genserv/ or contact (910) 893-7536.

Want to know about events taking place in Harnett County each month? Check out the Harnett County Community Calendar at www.harnett.org/publicinfo. And if you know of an event that should be on the calendar and isn't, email information to bhaney@harnett.org.

Harnett County Public Utilities Employees Educate Students on the Water Cycle

Employees with the Harnett County Department of Public Utilities are teaching local elementary school students about the water cycle and the operation of the County's utility system. The employees volunteered to talk with students at various schools, who are engaged in a county-wide project on the water cycle, about how the distribution and reclamation of our water/wastewater system works. At right, Senior Engineer Shane Cummings speaks with students at Highland Elementary School while Senior Pre-Treatment Plant Operator Vicky Payseur poses for a photo with students at Coats Elementary School, below.



Harnett Employees and Programs are Winners at 2017 N.C. State Fair



Harnett County was well represented among the winners at this year's North Carolina State Fair, which was held October 12 – 22 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Tammy Matthews, an employee with the Harnett County Department of Social Services, won a blue ribbon for her banana nut muffins (above). This was Tammy's first time entering the competition. Harnett County 4-H also won third place in the 4-H County Exhibit competition for their exhibit (below). In total, Harnett County residents earned ribbons in more than 150 categories. For a full list of Harnett County's State Fair winners, go to <http://www.ncstatefair.org/2017/Competitions/WinnerSearch/winnerdisplay.asp?CountyRequested=43&page=1>.



Upcoming Events

- The next Lillington Community Blood Drive will be held November 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Harnett County Commons. The blood drive is sponsored by Harnett County Public Health and Harnett County RSVP. For an appointment, call (919) 893-7578 or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "Lillington."
- The Harnett County Department of Social Services is collecting Christmas stockings for foster children the department works with. This year, the department needs stockings for 80 children. If you are interested in preparing a stocking, contact Kami Jackson at (910) 814-6076 or Vicky Walden at (910) 814-6074. You will be given a wishlist from the child along with other information to assist you in selecting appropriate gifts.
- Harnett County will hold its annual Employee Holiday Luncheon Friday, December 8 at noon in the Government Complex Commons. During the event, employees will be treated to lunch as the County honors retirees and employees who have achieved service milestones.

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

Three Ways to Stay Protected While Connected

The growing amount of data, devices and connections we have brings a potentially new set of online security threats. As a result, we all need to take steps to secure our digital lives. Start with these three tips to help you stay protected while connected.

Use strong, secure passwords

A strong password is one that can't easily be guessed. In this case the longer, the better. With an 11-character password, you may need a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. When you reach a 16-character password, a mix of upper and lowercase letters may be all the complexity you need. Go a step further and create a passphrase, where allowed. For instance, a phrase such as I can eat eight tacos becomes 1c@n3at8t@c0\$.

Keep thieves at bay

In addition to a strong password, two-factor authentication makes it even harder for thieves to access your account. This extra layer of security combines a username and password with a second factor only you have, such as a one-time passcode via text message; a push notification to a mobile device; or a code generator app. The second fac-



tor could be something unique to you like a fingerprint or retinal scan.

Don't be fooled

Thieves have turned old tricks into new email scams, called phishing. The message in your inbox looks like it's from a friend or an organization you're familiar with:

"Dear valued customer. We were unable to process your last payment with the information we have on file. Please use this link to log in to update your credit card and billing information to ensure your service is not interrupted."

Criminals use official sounding messages to trick you into providing personal data like passwords, credit card numbers and login credentials. Then they commit crimes in your

name. Clicking could also infect your machine with malware.

So, think before you connect. If you're unfamiliar with the sender or the request sounds odd, don't click.

However, if the request seems legitimate, contact the sender directly by going to your bookmarked site or entering the URL directly into the search field. You can also call and speak to a company representative.

If you're not using Wi-Fi to connect to the internet, data fees may apply. Check with your service provider for additional details. Get more tips at StaySafeOnline.org.

The advice provided is for informational purposes only. Article provided by Local Government Federal Credit Union.

2017 Employee and Family 5k Will be Nov. 18

The 2017 Run Now, Gobble Later! Harnett County Employee & Family 5k Turkey Trot will be held Saturday, November 18 in Lillington. Harnett County employees and their family members are invited to take part in this fun, free event. Employees who participate get a free long sleeve T-shirt and all partici-

pants are entered to win door prizes donated by local businesses and organizations.

The 5k is organized by the Harnett County Employee Wellness Committee. In addition to runners and walkers, volunteers are needed to make the event a success.

All participants must complete

and sign a registration form. For a registration form or for more information, contact Brian Haney at bhaney@harnett.org or (910) 893-7555. Completed registration forms should be emailed to Brian or to Margie House at mhouse@harnett.org.

We hope to see you there!

Harnett Social Services Employees Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



Employees with the Harnett County Department of Social Services in Lillington (above) and Child Support Enforcement Services in Erwin (below) wore pink on October 24 in recognition of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



County Holds Annual Employee Health and Wellness Fair



Harnett County Human Resources held the County's annual Employee Health and Wellness Fair on October 5. The event, which was held in the Harnett County Commons, allowed County employees to visit numerous health and wellness-related vendors and providers from around Harnett County. Employees who visited every vendor were eligible for giveaways and raffle prizes. County employees could also receive free flu shots during the event. At left, Shannon Eason with the County Manager's Office receives her flu vaccination from Carla Nuesmeyer with the Harnett County Health Department.

November Employee Birthdays

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

Nov. 1	Alex Pinkerton (EMS)	14	Anna Peele (General Services)
	Matthew Ammons (EMS)		Michael Blackman (Sheriff's Office)
	Carla Harris (Health)	15	Harold Manning (Public Utilities)
	Percy Grady (Sheriff's Office)		Dominic Alvarado (Sheriff's Office)
	Melinda Beasley (Social Services)		Princess Mercer (Social Services)
2	Dennis Cain (Sheriff's Office)	16	Lori Crabtree (Social Services)
	Donald Capps (Sheriff's Office)	17	Brian Parrish (Cooperative Extension)
	Wanda Thomas (Sheriff's Office)		Ira Hall (IT)
3	Marsha Johnston (Division on Aging)		Bobby Marshall (Transportation)
	Melvin Rodriguez (EMS)	18	James McCormick (Parks & Recreation)
	Cynthia Pierce (Health)		Kevin Ennis (Sheriff's Office)
	Eddie Jagers (Sheriff's Office)	20	Kara Wilson (Sheriff's Office)
	Stephanie Williamson (Social Services)		Angela Warren (Social Services)
4	Aaron Thomas (Public Utilities)		Monica Moore (Social Services)
	Jonathan West (Sheriff's Office)	21	Emily Barefoot (Health)
5	Jason Faircloth (Sheriff's Office)	22	Paula Stewart (Administration)
	Isabell Rolle (Social Services)		Isabel McCormick (Library)
	Wanda Tart (Tax)		Johnny Carroll (Sheriff's Office)
	Grace Kelly (Transportation)	23	Jennifer Little (Sheriff's Office)
6	Jason Guinn (Sheriff's Office)		Jamie Strickland (Finance)
	Anna Wood (Sheriff's Office)		Lashauna Williams (Library)
	Corey Stephenson (Sheriff's Office)		Travis Collins (Sheriff's Office)
	Angela Schaeffer (Social Services)	24	Cris Nystrom (Development Services)
	Moses Pendergrass (Transportation)		Derrick Jones (EMS)
7	Johnathan Dorman (Sheriff's Office)		Alphonse McDougald (Public Utilities)
8	Alfreda Hicks (Cooperative Extension)		Victoria Payseur (Public Utilities)
	Jason Chalflinch (EMS)		Angela McCauley (Library)
	Jeremy Pope (Public Buildings)	25	Heather Wilkins (Sheriff's Office)
	Tara Stewart (Sheriff's Office)		Stephen Caviness (Public Utilities)
9	Allison Norris (Sheriff's Office)	26	John Holder (Sheriff's Office)
	Janet Faircloth (Social Services)		Gale Greene (Health)
	Traci Haire (Social Services)		Danielle Little (Social Services)
10	Hortencia Lucas (Social Services)	27	Jan Snipes (EMS)
	Kathy Combs (Social Services)		Stacie Taylor (Public Utilities)
	Justina Wisner (Transportation)		Matthew Ballard (Sheriff's Office)
11	Christopher Toler (Emergency Services)	28	Jay Sikes (Development Services)
	Charmaine Nordquist (Health)		Christopher Hawk (GIS)
	Autumn Landers (Library)	29	Colleen Kelly (Social Services)
	Brenda Thomas (Sheriff's Office)	30	Laquan McKoy (Sheriff's Office)
13	Kenneth Slattum (Development Services)		

Employment Anniversaries

The following Harnett County employees celebrate employment anniversaries in November 2017. Please join us in congratulating them on reaching this public service milestone.

5 years	Alia Langdon-Williford (Coop Extension)	Mary Elskamp (EMS)
	Jamie Hargis (Public Utilities)	James Cook (Sheriff's Office)
	Ainsley Johnson (Health)	Veronica Ramos (Social Services)
10 years	Debra Byrd (Cooperative Extension)	

Five Harnett County Employees Graduate from 2017 Class of Leadership Harnett



Five Harnett County employees were among the 2017 graduating class of Leadership Harnett. Leadership Harnett held its graduation ceremony on October 23 at the Central Carolina Community College Health Sciences Center in Lillington. The class of 2017 featured 22 graduates including Capt. Jeff Armstrong with the Harnett County Sheriff's Office, Beth Byrd with the Harnett County Department of Social Services, Harnett County Public Library Director Angela McCauley, Mary Jane Sauls with the Harnett County Division on Aging, and Zach Shean with Harnett County Emergency Services. Capt. Armstrong also received the Neil A. Emory Excellence in Leadership Award, which is awarded each year to a member of the class.

Leadership Harnett is an eight-month program that consists of eight one-day sessions that allow participants to tour areas of interest in Harnett County related to Education, Business and Economic Development, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Recreation and Tourism, and Agriculture. The goal of the program is to identify potential community leaders and provide them with the information and encouragement to spur increased action and involvement. The application period for the 2018 Class of Leadership Harnett will open soon. For more information, go to www.leadershipharnett.com.



Harnett Hosts Forum on Opioid Abuse



Harnett County held a Leadership Forum on Opioid Abuse on September 20 in the Commons Area. The purpose of the meeting was to bring local elected and public officials together to learn the full effect of the opioid crisis on Harnett County and its citizens; to find out what resources are available to help families; and to develop collaborative strategies for effective education, prevention and treatment. The Leadership Forum included opening remarks from Harnett County Commissioners Chairman Gordon Springle and remarks by North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein (left), as well as information from Harnett County Health Director John Rouse, Daymark Recovery Services Regional Operations Director Jerry Earnhardt, Campbell University Professor Andrew J. Muzzk, and Dr. David Tillman, who is chair of the Campbell University Department of Public Health. Attendees also heard from panels comprised of public safety officials (below), and health care providers who provided their own perspectives on the opioid epidemic.



November 2017 Commissioners Meetings and Closings

Nov. 6 — Commissioners Meeting, 9 a.m.

Nov. 10 — Veterans Day Holiday

Nov. 14 — Commissioners Work Session, 9 a.m.

Nov. 23-24 — Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 27 — Commissioners Work Session, 9 a.m.

First Responders Honored at Blood Drive

Harnett County's first responders were recognized during the September 14 Lillington Community Blood Drive, held in the Harnett County Commons. During the blood drive, Harnett County RSVP Director LeAnn Blackmon thanked first responders for their service and Interim County Manager Paula Stewart read a passage of Thanksgiving for those in attendance.



Commissioners Recognize World Series Champion Dunn Angels



The Harnett County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation to members of the Dunn Angels 10-under All-Stars softball team on September 18, 2017, congratulating the team on winning the 2017 Dixie Softball World Series Championship in Alexandria, Louisiana, on August 2, 2017. Team members include Aubree Bass, Karabeth Benton, Berkeley Campbell, Jordyn Christopher, Stephanie Davis, Harmony Horne, Lindsey Knoll, Eva McLamb, Jazmin Rummel, Emily Scott, and Emily Williams.