

Harnett Connect

Monthly Employee newsletter • Keeping You Connected

Employees Honored for Years of Service at Annual Employee Luncheon



The Annual Employee Luncheon took place on Friday, December 7 and allowed our organization to honor over 125 employees who celebrated milestone anniversaries with Harnett County. Employees and retirees with over 20 years received service awards. We'd like to congratulate the following employees who are celebrating retirement:

- Peggy Barefoot (Tax)
- Kimberly Brewer (Social Services)
- Ann Burgun (Social Services)
- Beth Byrd (Social Services)
- Dennis Cain (Sheriff's Office)
- Jerry Gilbert (Sheriff's Office)
- Roy Greene (Sheriff's Office)
- Donald Horan (Social Services)
- Eddie Jaggers (Sheriff's Office)
- Michael Kemp (Sheriff's Office)
- Ruth McNeil (Social Services)
- Karen Moore (GIS)
- Billy Norris (Public Utilities)
- Bruce O'Brannovich (Sheriff's Office)
- Jimmy Riddle (Emergency Services)
- Cathy Ryals (Finance)
- Randy Smith (Solid Waste)
- Terrri Strickland (Solid Waste)
- Deloris Suggs (Public Utilities)
- Janet Tucker (Facility Maintenance)
- Cathy Williams (Tax)

For the complete list of employees who were honored at this year's employee luncheon, [click here to view the program](#). Congratulations to all of our retirees and employees. We appreciate all you do for the Harnett County community!

Coley Price Name Assistant County Manager



Last month, Coley Price joined Harnett County as the new Assistant County Manager. Coley will complete the County's management team, which also includes Assistant County Manager Brian Haney.

"Coley brings a wealth of knowledge to our office," said County Manager, Paula Stewart. "He will be able to make an immediate impact with very little transition time since he has already developed positive relationships with most of our staff and partners." Price has over 20 years of experience in local government. He served the Town of Angier for 24 years as the Town Manager, Parks & Recreation Director, Water Treatment Manager, and Assistant Town Manager.

Coley, who is a native of Harnett County, resides in Angier with his wife, Rachel and his fur baby, Pete, who was rescued 5 1/2 years ago from the Harnett County Animal Shelter. He is an alumni of East Carolina University and a huge Pirates fan (Go Pirates!). Join me in welcoming our new Assistant County Manager. Welcome to the team, Coley!

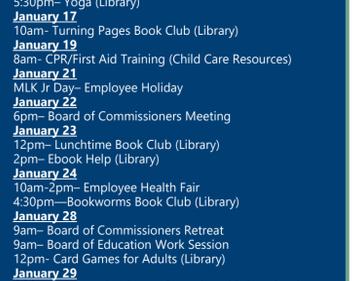
Health & Wellness Tip: Healthy Eating on the Run

Use these tips to stay on your healthy eating track even when you eat out.

- Order the regular or child-size portion. Don't supersize it. Mega-sized servings are probably more than you need.
- Ask for a baked potato or side salad in place of French fries; no mayonnaise or bacon on your sandwich.
- Pass up all-you-can-eat specials, buffets.
- Boost the nutrition in all types of sandwiches by adding tomato, lettuce, peppers or other vegetables.
- Build a better breakfast sandwich: replace bacon or sausage with Canadian bacon or ham and order your sandwich on a whole grain English muffin or bagel.
- Choose either a no-calorie beverage (like water, unsweetened tea, or diet soda) or one that contributes some nutrients along with its calories (like low-fat milk or 100% orange juice).
- Always eating on the go? Tuck portable, nonperishable foods in your purse, tote, or backpack for an on-the-run meal. Some suggestions are peanut butter and crackers, granola bars, a piece of fresh fruit, trail mix, single serve packages of whole grain cereal or crackers.
- Share portions, if you see that your preferred choice has a lot of calories, or save part of your meal for later.

For more information click on the link to view [Dining Out Doesn't Mean Ditch Your Diet](#) from the American Heart Association.

Jimmy Riddle Retires After 32 Years of Service



Jimmy Riddle, Emergency Services Director, retired on December 14 after 32 years of service to Harnett County. He began his emergency services career as a professional Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician in 1986. Jimmy's tenure as Emergency Services Director has moved Harnett County's emergency response capability forward as he has built partnerships with emergency agencies and organizations inside and outside of the County, seeking every possible training opportunity for emergency responders and creating an emergency services network that ensured success.

Employees, family, and friends from all over the state of NC were able to celebrate Jimmy and his accomplishments at his retirement party. Jimmy was presented with several awards which included: The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Certificates of Appreciation, a proclamation, and an American flag and state of North Carolina flag flown over the capital building. We'd like to thank Jimmy for his passion and dedication to Harnett County and his leadership to keep the community safe.

For those unable to attend Jimmy's retirement party, you can view the photos in [Jimmy's Retirement photo album](#).

Mark Your Calendar

MAKE HEALTH A TOP PRIORITY

EMPLOYEE HEALTH FAIR

ENJOY RAFFLE PRIZES, TONS OF GIVEAWAYS, AND GREAT WELLNESS PROVIDERS

Thursday, January 24, 2019
10am-2pm
Harnett County Government Complex Commons Area
(located between Social Services & Health Department)

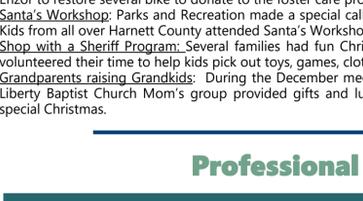
Harnett County North Carolina

Upcoming County Events

January 1	New Years Day- Employee Holiday
January 2	2pm- Ebook Help (Library)
January 7	9am- Board of Commissioners Meeting 6pm- Board of Education Meeting
January 8	11am- Story Time (Boone Trail Community Center)
January 9	4pm- Board of Elections Meeting 6pm- Harnett County Veterans Council Meeting
January 9	12pm- Embroidery Class (Library)
January 10	All day- Community Blood Drive (Health) All day- County Employee Food Drive (Health)
January 10	10am- Job Fair (JobLink Career Center)
January 10	4:30pm- Young Adult Book Club (Library)
January 10	6:30pm- Be Active Kids (Child Care Resources)
January 12	11am- Lego Club (Library)
January 14	5:30pm- Chronicles of Yarnia: Hook & Needle Club (Library)
January 15	9am- Board of Commissioners Work Session 6:30pm- Developing Friendships (Child Care Resources)
January 16	10am- Job Fair (JobLink Career Center)
January 16	5:30pm- Yoga (Library)
January 17	10am- Turning Pages Book Club (Library)
January 19	8am- CPR/First Aid Training (Child Care Resources)
January 21	MLK Jr Day- Employee Holiday
January 22	6pm- Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 23	12pm- Lunchtime Book Club (Library)
January 23	2pm- Ebook Help (Library)
January 24	10am-2pm- Employee Health Fair 4:30pm- Bookworms Book Club (Library)
January 28	9am- Board of Commissioners Retreat 9am- Board of Education Work Session 12pm- Card Games for Adults (Library)
January 29	6:30pm- Preventing Power Struggles with Preschoolers (Child Care Resources)
January 30	5:30pm- Yoga (Library)

Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Meeting
Monday, Jan. 7	9:00am	Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 15	9:00am	Work Session
Tuesday, Jan. 22	6:00pm	Board Meeting
Monday, Jan. 28	9:00am	Retreat



Angela Edwards Selected as Harnett Regional Water Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Angela Edwards for being selected as the 2018 Harnett County Regional Water Employee of the Year. This annual award is given to the HRW employee who exemplifies proficiency in their job specialty and faces daily work related challenges in a positive manner. For two years, Angela has been assisting with a new utility billing software program upgrade, while still keeping up her daily collection and customer service duties. Angela's positive attitude and exceptional customer service skills are a great asset to Harnett County, and we are lucky to have you on our team!

Human Resources Corner: Employee Tips

Protect yourself: IRS reveals top tax scams to avoid
Tax filing season is here. The IRS has identified some of the top tax scams that seem to increase this time of year. Know what's out there so you can protect yourself when filing your taxes.

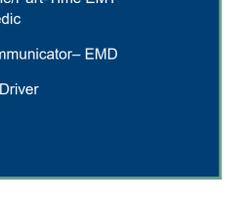
Phone and email scams
• Phone scams: Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents are on the rise. Scam artists falsely threaten arrest, license revocation and other things to get you to send money.
• Phishing: Ignore unsolicited emails claiming to be an official notice from the IRS. It could be an attempt to steal your personal information. The IRS will not call, email, send a bill or refund out of the blue.
• Identity theft: The IRS continues to aggressively pursue criminals that file fake returns using stolen Social Security numbers. Be extremely careful when providing your personal information to people you don't know.

Tax fraud
Tax preparer fraud: Some tax preparers set up shop every year so they can commit fraud. Most tax professionals provide honest high-quality service, but there are bad apples in the batch. When looking for a tax preparer, check out the IRS' list of tax preparers first.
• Inflated refund claims: Look out for anyone promising inflated refunds. Also, be wary of anyone who asks you to sign a blank return, promises a big refund before looking at your records, or charges fees based on a percentage of your anticipated refund. Scam artists use flyers, advertisements, phony store fronts and word of mouth via community groups, and churches seeking victims.
• Fake charities: Be on guard against groups masquerading as charitable organizations to attract donations from unsuspecting contributors. Take a few extra minutes to ensure your hard-earned money goes to legitimate, and currently eligible, charities. IRS.gov has the tools you need to verify the status of charitable organizations.
• Falsifying income to claim credits: Don't invent income to gain tax credits. Someone may try to talk you into committing this type of tax fraud. You're better off filing the most-accurate return possible.

The IRS has a full list of tax scams to help guard against criminals who try to take advantage of you and your money. Share these tips with others so they can be prepared, too.

Article provided by [Local Government Federal Credit Union](#). The advice provided is for informational purposes only. Contact a tax advisor for additional guidance.

County Departments Spread Christmas Cheer



Elderly Christmas Cheer Program: Community citizens donated over \$3,000 to the Elderly Christmas Cheer Program to provide gift bags with included necessities for the elderly in our community. Department of Social Services Christmas elves worked hard to put together 60 gift bags this year.
Library Wins Float Contest: The Public Library participated in the Lillington Christmas parade and won first place in the float contest. The Dr. Seuss themed float was definitely a standout at this year's parade.
Holiday Craft Fair: The Family Caregiver Support Program hosted its 7th Annual Holiday Craft Fair. Local vendors set up booths to sell homemade goods.
Foster Care Bike Donation Program: The Department of Social Services worked with community citizens Bennie & Teresa Enzor to restore several bikes to donate to the foster care program so children could be gifted a bike this Christmas.
Santa's Workshop: Parks and Recreation made a special call to Santa for him to visit the Boone Trail Community Center. Kids from all over Harnett County attended Santa's Workshop to create Christmas crafts and see if they made the nice list.
Shop with a Sheriff Program: Several families had fun Christmas shopping with our Sheriff's Department. Our Sheriff's volunteered their time to help kids pick out toys, games, clothing, and more!
Grandparents raising Grandkids: During the December meeting for Grandparents raising Grandkids, members from the Liberty Baptist Church Mom's group provided gifts and lunch for the program participants so the grandkids could a special Christmas.

Professional Development

LEADERSHIP HARNETT

ABOUT
Leadership Harnett provides a professional development opportunity for anyone who lives or works in Harnett County and aims to educate and inspire a diverse group of future leaders who are representative of the county's population. Longtime county leaders and those who are looking for ways to get more involved in their community are encouraged to participate.
The eight-month program runs from March through October each year. Sessions are held the fourth Wednesday of each month and take participants to points of interest across Harnett County.
The cost to participate in Leadership Harnett is \$400, which may be paid by a participant's employer. Scholarships are also available. The deadline to apply for admission to the 2019 class is January 31, 2019.

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to view Job opportunities with Harnett County government.

- Gain leadership skills in the following topics:
- Business & Industry
 - Local Government
 - Health Care & Human Needs
 - Recreation & Tourism
 - Education
 - Agriculture

- Administrative Assistant
- Assistant Manager of Building Services
- Code Enforcement Officer I, II, III
- Detention Officer
- Part-Time EMT Basic
- Full-Time/Part-Time EMT Paramedic
- Telecommunicator- EMD
- Transit Driver

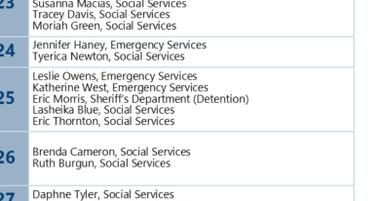
Soil & Water Conservation District Assist Community with Hurricane Relief Efforts



Cape Fear River Above Flood Stage



Damaged Tobacco Crops



Water line in pasture over 5 feet deep

Rain Rain, Go Away! That's been a common phrase we've heard over the past several months in Harnett County. During 2018, our area hit record numbers with the amount of rainfall we've received from Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Michael, and the numerous rainstorms. Although Hurricane season has come and gone, the Harnett Soil & Water Conservation District has been hard at work helping our local farmers with disaster relief assistance.

Harnett County took a big hit this Hurricane season with farms seeing crop damage, farm roads being washed out, and agriculture lands and fields experiencing erosion. Tobacco not yet harvested prior to the storm experienced damage leading to the greatest economic loss for agriculture. Many farmers were also unable to cut hay and throughout the state of North Carolina a hay shortage is expected this upcoming year.

Leading the disaster relief efforts is Lynn Lambert, Natural Resources Director, and Mark Walton, Natural Resource Conservationist. Lynn stated "Our team has been very busy, but it's been a good busy. These storms have been a learning experience and allowed us to implement best management practices in order to diversify the assistance we can provide." The Soil & Water Conservation District held two agricultural recovery information sessions this fall to inform the community of the different types of disaster relief programs available. These programs provide farms with partial funding to cover costs of damage incurred from the storms. Even though the programs do not pay the full costs, they still provide a great deal of support to help farms make it to the next growing season.

Altogether, Lynn and her team are working on over 50 contracts with the central area farmers to receive assistance and funding for the damage they have received from these Hurricanes. Along with the contracts, the Soil & Water Conservation District has experienced an increase in number of residential calls due to the saturated soils. With the amount of rain we have received, including a 1000 year flood, residential grounds are becoming so saturated that farmers are trying to implement new strategies to maintain landscapes.

As we start off the New Year, Lynn and her team are still working hard to assist our community in getting the Harnett County agriculture back to normal operations this year. To read more about Disaster Relief Efforts, check out the [Soil & Water Conservation District webpage](#).

January Employee Birthdays

1	Stuart Maynor, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Terry Manahan, Social Services Cathy Williams, Tax	17	Stephen Schmidt, Harnett Regional Water Katy Perez, Human Resources Joseph Cousins, Sheriff's Department
2	Myra Laster, Social Services	18	Stephanie Jordan, Emergency Services Vickie Hicks, Health Department Marcus Allen, Sheriff's Department
3	Lewis Womack, Emergency Services Tony Allen, Harnett Regional Water	19	James Wester, Emergency Services Lisa McFadden, IT Tierra Brewington, Sheriff's Department (Detention)
4	Kimberly Williams, Health Department Beth West, Social Services	20	Amber Kozik, Communications Ethan Core, Sheriff's Department Elizabeth Gray, Social Services
5	David Dowdy, Harnett Regional Water	21	Zachary Hanceto, Emergency Services Jamie Hargis, Harnett Regional Water
6	Patricia Chalhahn, Health Department Gabriele Smith, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Warren Jeffries, Sheriff's Department	22	Zachary Shean, Emergency Services Taylor Williams, Emergency Services Michael Cherry, Harnett Regional Water Amy Johnson, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Paul Phillips, Sheriff's Department Wendy Butcher, Social Services James Haney, Solid Waste James Warren, Transportation
7	Katrina Hwang, Sheriff's Department Jamilee Blue, Social Services Frederick Green, Transportation	23	Jay Smith, Emergency Services Karen Moore, GIS Susanna Macias, Social Services Tracey Davis, Social Services Moriah Green, Social Services
8	Jessie Napeon, Sheriff's Department Jillian Pope, Social Services	24	Jennifer Haney, Emergency Services Tyerica Newton, Social Services
9	Mary Elskamp, Emergency Services Brittany Riggs, Sheriff's Department (Detention)	25	Leslie Owens, Emergency Services Katherine West, Emergency Services Eric Morris, Sheriff's Department Lashelka Blue, Social Services Eric Thornton, Social Services
10	Cynthia Beasley, Social Services Kishla Stone, Social Services Rose Lee, Social Services Cjamie Thomas, Tax	26	Brenda Cameron, Social Services Ruth Burgun, Social Services
12	Jasmine Gleaton, Department on Aging Thakida McDougald, Social Services	27	Daphne Tyler, Social Services Tammy Harrington, Social Services
13	Princess Davis, Social Services Phyllis Scott, Social Services	28	Lacey McLean, Emergency Services
15	Brandon Scott, Emergency Services Shelba Sullia, Finance Thomas Cummins, Harnett Regional Water Milton Hodland, Solid Waste Anitra Hart, JobLink Career Center	29	Charles West, Emergency Services Brenda Stangil, Emergency Services Carolyn Murayama, Harnett Regional Water Tonia Babo, Register of Deeds
16	Margaret Clegg, Communications Randolph Wood, Harnett Regional Water	30	Gina Wheeler, Administration
		31	Lenora Wheeler, Sheriff's Department (Detention)

January Employment Anniversaries

5 Years	20 Years
Allison Beam, Health Department Michael Blackman, Sheriff's Department Zachary Latimer, Harnett Regional Water Ben Polluck, IT Verna Thibodeaux, Transportation Hazeline Walker, Transportation	Wayne Coats, Sheriff's Department Theresa Jones, Development Services Donna Matthews, Sheriff's Department David Miller, Sheriff's Department Ashana Smith, Social Services
10 Years	25 Years
Annette Johnson, Health Department David Young, Harnett Regional Water	None in January
15 Years	30 Years
Christopher Carroll, Sheriff's Department	Jennifer Harrop, Tax Department

Community Give Back Opportunities

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Looking to make an impact in your local community? Become a volunteer with the Meals on Wheels program. The Department on Aging's Elderly Nutrition Program offers opportunities for individuals and groups to assist with delivering meals to our elderly homebound clients. Delivery of meals typically takes about 45 minutes per day and is done five days a week.

As a Harnett County employee, you are eligible for 1.5 hours of paid volunteer leave each week to assist in your community. In order to receive your volunteer leave benefit, please get approval from your supervisor prior to scheduling a delivery.

For more information and to sign up to deliver meals, contact Debra Vaughn at 910-814-6072 or dvaughn@harnett.org.

EMPLOYEE CAN FOOD DRIVE

Harnett County RSVP Program, will be sponsoring a County Employee Food Drive to collect canned food items to donate to the Harnett Food Pantry during the Blood Drive. This Food Drive will commemorate the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his legacy to serve. Donations can be dropped off at the Division on Aging or bring them to the Commons Area on January 10, 2019 during the Blood Drive.