May 2019 Volume IV, Issue V

Harnett Connect

Monthly Employee newsletter • Keeping You Connected

County Employees Put Trash in its Place for Earth Day

On April 22, County employees joined with Harnett County citizens for the 2019 NC DOT Spring Litter Sweep. Litter Sweep is the N.C. Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative in which residents throughout North Carolina participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roadways.

Thirteen employees and two community citizens assisted with picking up litter and debris on Earth Day at the following sites:

- Three Bridge Road, Dunn
- Hwy 210 from James Norris to Angier
- McKinney Parkway, Lillington
- McNeil Hobbs Road/Sanderfer Road, Bunnlevel
- Spring Branch Road, Dunn

In just one hour, over 50 bags of trash were collected. Items included: televisions, furniture, aluminum cans, glass bottles, tires and lots of random paper items. It was a fun afternoon where employees got to meet new co-workers and enjoy an afternoon making an impact in the community.

With the success of this event, the county does plan to organize regular cleanups throughout the year. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in participate in the next Harnett County Litter Sweep. If you'd like to serve on the committee to organize these roadway cleanups, please contact Ashley Deans at 910-814-6001 or adeans@harnett.org.

We'd like to extend a BIG thank you to all of the employees who participated in this initiative and helping to promote a cleaner Harnett County!

To view all of the pictures from the Spring Litter Sweep, view the Spring Litter Sweep photo album.

Health & Wellness Tip: Mental Health Benefits of Getting Outside

We all know that going out for a walk is good for our physical health, but it doesn't stop there. Research shows that getting outside in nature has many mental health benefits as well.

Walking has been proven effective in reducing anxiety and depression, and there is further evidence that walking in nature improves those results even further. That's because different parts of our brain activate in nature. Our mind calms, leading to physical changes including a reduction in heart rate and blood pressure.

But don't think you have to hike a mountain to feel the results. Spending time outside at a park or any green space can have the same effect. Even if it's only for a few minutes during a lunch break, getting out in nature can positively impact your mental health.

Watch the VIDEO BELOW to learn more from Nate Sowa, MD, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry at the UNC School at Medicine.

You can also CHECK OUT THE LIST OF HARNETT COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS to visit!

Article provided by UNC Healthcare System. The advice provided is for informational purposes only.

Celebrating our Volunteers

Harnett County Division on Aging joined thousands of local leaders across the country in a nationwide bipartisan initiative to highlight the impact of national service in tackling local problems. National Service Recognition Day is a nationwide effort to recognize the positive impact of national service, to thank those who serve, and to encourage more citizens to give back to their communities. This day is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), with support from the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and Cities of Service.

Although CNCS recognizes a National Day of Service, our county celebrated our CNCS volunteers all month long. On April 5th, the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held at the Dunn Community Center. Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. John Rouse, Public Health Director with Harnett County Department of Public Health and County Commissioner Barbara McKoy was on hand to share remarks from the Harnett County Board of Commissioners as well.

The 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Arthur and Frances Hollingsworth who are volunteers with the Averasboro Battlefield Museum in Dunn. They conduct guided tours to the public, help with the re-enactments, provide education and period information to visitors and help with the maintenance and up-keep on the grounds. They are wonderful advocates of the Battlefield and Museum and are dedicated to its' preservation. The Battlefield Director, Mr. CC Livingston says he doesn't know what he would do without them. All volunteers who were nominated for Volunteer of the Year received a pin and certificate of appreciation. All RSVP Volunteers were presented with an insulated shopping bag as an appreciation gift for their service.

On April 10th, the RSVP Volunteers who serve with Harnett Health Systems (Betsy Johnson and Central Harnett Hospitals) were honored with a luncheon at Triangle South in Dunn. Harnett Health sponsored the luncheon and presented each of their volunteers with a gift and certificate. Volunteers with years of service received a pin too.

On April 15th, the Harnett County Board of Commissioners proclaimed April as National Service Recognition Month in Harnett County. The proclamation was given to Mrs. LeAnn B. Blackmon with the Harnett County Retires Senior Volunteer Program to share with all the volunteers across Harnett County. A copy of the proclamation was mailed to each volunteer site so all the volunteers could see it. A copy was added to the Division on Aging website and is on display in the office as well.

On April 24, the RSVP Volunteers with the Harnett County Veterans Treatment Court Program will be recognized and the proclamation will be read in court.

Thanks to all of our RSVP volunteers who contribute time, talents, and resources to make an impact in the Harnett County community. We also appreciate the efforts by our Division on Aging staff to coordinate these volunteers and make sure they have everything they need for volunteering. For more information on our Harnett County CNCS programs, contact the Division on Aging at 910-893-7578 .

Mark Your Calendar

We've got a busy April with board and committee meetings, spring, events, fairs, and more! Check out the **community calendar** to see all of the upcoming events & meetings coordinated by our departments!

Girls are Great!

& Teen Girls Conference

Join us girls ages 9-16 bring your Mom/Guardian to an event that will provide information on the physical and emotional changes that take place with girls during Puberty. Teens will get answers about topics including teen health, healthy dating/relationships, and more!

Saturday, May 4, 2019
9:00am– 1:00pm
(Doors open at 8:30am)

Harnett Health Sciences Center
51 Red Mulberry Way Lillington (Behind Central Harnett Hospital)

Featuring: Educational sessions ♦ Exhibits ♦ Selfie Station ♦ Breakfast ♦ Fun Sessions ♦ Lunch ♦ GAG-Swag Bags & More!

It's "Great" being a Girl!

Registration Required.
Cost: $7.00 per person: Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 24, 2019
Download a registration from the Health Department's web site: www.harnett.org/health

Registrations will be accepted at the following sites:
Harnett County Health Department located at 307 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd. Lillington
Cooperative Extension located at 126 Alexander Drive, Suite 300 Lillington
Please, no on-site registration the day of the event.

For more information:
Harnett County Health Department 910-893-7550
Cooperative Extension 910-893-7534

aloha

2019 RSVP Senior Fair

25 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

"Finding Silver Linings, Celebrating 25 Years with Harnett County RSVP!"

Exhibits, Resources, Door Prizes/Giveaways!
Health Screenings • Senior Safety • Insurance
Independent Living • Medical Equipment
Educational & Volunteer Opportunities
Assisted Living • Hearing Screenings
Medicare Counseling • SHIIP SMP Information
FREE hot dog lunch • MUCH MORE!

FREE SHRED TRUCK ON SITE

Bring your old Medicare, Insurance and Banking Information to shred. The Shred Truck is sponsored by the NC Dept. of Insurance Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

For more information contact:
Harnett County Division on Aging
910-893-7579 • www.harnett.org/aging

Harnett County North Carolina | SMP

Thursday, May 9th

10:00–2:00pm

Dunn Community Center
205 Jackson Road
Dunn, NC

Sponsored by:
Harnett County RSVP

Parenting Matters

Harnett County Cooperative Extension's "Parenting Matters" Series is designed to help any parent enhance their knowledge and fine tune their parenting skills.

This series is offered FREE of charge to all interested parents and caregivers.

All 6 sessions are required to receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the series.

Class Dates:

Wednesday April 3rd, 2019
Wednesday April 10th, 2019
Wednesday April 17th, 2019
Wednesday April 24th, 2019
Wednesday May 1st, 2019
Wednesday May 8th, 2019

Class Time:

6pm-9pm

Class Location:

Family Connection's Building
327 Pine State Street
Lillington, NC

For more information, please contact Harnett County Cooperative Extension at 910-893-7530.

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION | Harnett County North Carolina

UPCOMING COMPUTER CLASSES

Ancestry Library Edition
Thursday, May 9 at 10:00

Getting Started with Email
Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00

Shrinky Dink Fridge Magnets From Outer Space!

K-2 Program:
Monday, May 13th
4:30pm

Tween Program (Gr 3-6)
Tuesday, May 14th
4:30pm

No Registration Required!

Employee Spotlight: Krissy Johnson

Kristine "Krissy" Johnson was recently recognized as an outstanding field instructor in Social Work. Krissy is an employee with our Harnett County Department of Social Services and serves as a Children Protective Services Social Worker. She thrives on the challenges her job presents. As part of her responsibilities, she often supervises student interns and is a mentor for new hires. Krissy also helps college students learn more about social work by serving as an adjunct professor at Campbell University teaching both Social Work Pre-Field and Child Welfare courses.

Prior to her career in social work, Krissy worked with the public school system for 16 years prior to obtaining her degrees in Social Work. She attended Pitt Community College and transferred to East Carolina University where she obtained her BSW and MSW. She was involved on both campuses with SGA (President for 2 years) and BSW & MSW club (president). She also served on the Board of Trustees.

As a student, Krissy was selected to attend a student leadership program and then selected to serve as a facilitator of the program. She served for many years and was one of only four facilitators in the state. Krissy also served on the NC Child Welfare Collaborative Selection Committee. She was awarded several scholarships for her academic achievements, received recognition at the state level, and was selected as the student speaker at the Pitt Community College commencement ceremony. She has attended many in-state and out-of-state conferences related to her area of study.

Krissy currently resides in Cumberland County with her two fur babies. She enjoys the beach and tries to go as often as possible. She also has a wonderful daughter and a beautiful granddaughter who is full of life. She and her daughter both graduated at the same time from college.

Boone Trail Community & Library Center Featured in latest NCACC Podcast

NCACC COUNTYCAST

Check out Assistant County Manager, Brian Haney, and Harnett County Parks and Recreation Director, Carl Davis, discuss the Boone Trail Community Center project on NCACC latest podcast episode, "Parks and Recreation getting creative in a rural NC county. Why does community buy in matter?" In this episode, Davis and Haney discuss the importance of community buy-in and how the county developed a creative solution to an underserved portion of the county by opening the Boone Trail Community Center and Library.

Listen to the podcast now!

Human Resources Corner: Bank Deposit Fraud Alert

The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. has informed our Finance Office about a bank deposit fraud alert. For those employees banking with PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., please review the following information about your security.

“For those of you that do bank with us and use PINACLE the below message was posted out there, but I wanted to also share this via email as it is extremely important to understand that fraudulent activity is just getting worse and we need to think about every angle fraud can hit. Please share this information with your employees who handle all changes to employees information.

A new email impersonation variant is targeting employee direct deposits. Hacked or spoofed employee email accounts are being used to request seemingly legitimate changes to the employee's direct deposit payment instructions (routing/ account numbers). Company executives, who tend to have higher payroll deposits, are a common target of this scam, though all employees are potential targets. As with all email requests to initiate payments or update payment instructions, we strongly recommend you first confirm the request with the requestor using a known telephone number. **Do not reply to the email to verify the request.** Please share this important information with your payroll employees for awareness.

For additional information on how to protect your organization from various fraud schemes, please visit the PINACLE Security Center, which can be accessed from any page by clicking the blue shield icon located in the top-right corner. If you do not currently bank with us I am happy to share this information with you.

Commissioner Springle Presents at NC DOT Meeting

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT) hosted a statewide meeting at Campbell University on Tuesday, April 30. The meeting provided an opportunity for our county to discuss current transportation and infrastructure projects and potential partnerships with NCDOT to assist with the growth transportation needs in the County.

Commissioner Chairman, Gordon Springle, was a presenter at the meeting. He was able to give updates on the growth of the county, transportation and area plans, Campbell University projects, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, the Harnett County Resource Center & Library, Harnett Regional Jetport, and much more!

Legislative representative, Senator Jim Burgin, was also in attendance to hear updates on the transportation needs in our area.

Check out Commissioner Springle’s presentation and the Harnett County NCDOT transportation report to learn more on our upcoming transportation projects and initiatives.

Harnett EOC Completes Harris Nuclear Plant Emergency

Harnett County teamed up with Duke Energy and federal, state, and local authorities on Tuesday to participate in the Harris Nuclear Plant Drill. This emergency planning drill, which takes place every two years, provides the county with the opportunity to prepare and verify proactive measures are in place in the event of an emergency at the Harris Nuclear Plant.

To help with the preparation, a task force has been assembled which includes officials from Duke Energy, FEMA, the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management, Harnett County, Lee County, Chatham County, and Wake County. The purpose of the task force is to create a team that is prepared for conducting public information operations during emergency responses and other situations in which multiple organizations need to collaborate to provide timely, useful, and accurate information.

Zach Shean, Harnett County Emergency Management Coordinator, works closely with the Harris Task Force to prepare for these type of exercises. “Harnett County as well as other members of the Harris Task Force work together daily to establish and maintain policies/procedures to ensure that we are looking after the safety and well-being of our communities,” Shean stated. “We must train with our partners continuously; however, we exercise our plans bi-annually through a graded exercise that is evaluated by FEMA. These evaluations are conducted so we can demonstrate these capabilities as well as verify that we are meeting the established regulations.”

During the drill, county employees and partners from county, state, non-profits, and Duke Energy assembled at the Harnett County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to staff teams that included: Direction and Control, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance & Administration, and Public Information. The County also had employees serving in the Joint Information Command for the Harris Task Force, which oversees the emergency management efforts for Harris Nuclear Plant alerts.

Emergency Services Director, Larry Smith, managed the Harnett County EOC efforts during the drill and described the importance of this emergency planning drill. “Exercises like this ensure our readiness as a county government to face the challenges an event like this raises to ensure the safety of our residents. We have an outstanding Emergency Operations Staff that ensures we succeed at all emergency situations that may arise. Emergency response is a team effort.”

An area in Northern Harnett County is included in the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). All citizens in these zones are provided emergency preparedness information which includes: a map of the 10 mile emergency planning zones, reception centers, and relocation schools; emergency preparedness instruction packet; and emergency planning zone communities and evacuation list. All Harnett County citizens within the 10 mile EPZ are encouraged to review the emergency preparedness information on a regular basis. For more information on emergency preparedness for the Harris Nuclear Plant, visit **https://www.duke-energy.com/safety-and-preparedness/nuclear-safety/harris**

The Harnett County Emergency Services Department also collaborated with FEMA this month to evaluate the county’s Emergency Worker Decon Operations at Angier Fire Department and the Resident’s Reception Center and Congregate Care Operations. Both operations received positive feedback from FEMA who reported the county is using best practices for these operations.

“I am extremely proud of our staff in Emergency Services for the efforts and the hours they put into ensuring the protection and safety of our community and these evaluations were proof of that, “Smith stated.

Citizens can prepare for emergencies by reviewing the emergency preparedness documents on the Harnett County Emergency Management Webpage: **http://www.harnett.org/fire/default.asp** . The county also offers a Reverse 911 and Public Notification service that will text emergency notifications to a mobile phone. Citizens can register for this free service by visiting **http://www.harnett.org/fire/reverse-911-public-notification.asp**

EMS Division Chief, Ricky Denning, Retires after 20 Years of Service

On March 29, 2019, Harnett County Emergency Services honored EMS Division Chief Ricky Denning with a retirement celebration for his 20 years of service to Harnett County. Throughout the past 20 years, Chief Denning lead Harnett County EMS through many changes. Ricky was very instrumental in the development of the current countywide paramedic response plan. These changes have undoubtedly saved countless lives. During his retirement celebration, Ricky was presented with The Old North State Award from the Governor to recognize his “dedication and service beyond expectation and excellence to the Great State of North Carolina.” In a similar token, Ricky received a U.S. flag that had been flown over Congress and a N.C. State flag that had been flown over the US Capital in his honor.

Staff with Harnett County EMS gathered shirts and badges from each first responder agency within the county and had a beautiful quilt made for him. The Assistant Chiefs with Harnett County EMS gave Ricky a shadow box that was handmade by Heth West, with Ricky’s badge and uniform insignia. In addition to these accolades, he was recognized for his service on the Peer Review Committee, NCOEMS, and the Harnett County Fire Chief’s Association. Ricky held the following positions in Harnett County:

- EMT-AI, 1992-1997
- Paramedic, 1999-2000
- Shift Supervisor, 2000 – 2000
- Operations Chief, 2000 – 2005
- EMS Division Chief, 2005 - 2019

View more photos from Ricky’s retirement party **in this photo album.**

Professional Development Opportunities

ONLINE WEBINARS

Counting All Children in the 2020 Census: What Counties Need to Know and What They Can Do
May 14, 2pm—3pm
REGISTER HERE

Veterans and Homelessness: County Solutions for Ensuring Veterans Have an Affordable and Healthy Home
May 22, 2pm—3pm
REGISTER HERE

Bail Reform Webinar: Pretrial Risk Assessment Tools 101
May 24, 1pm—2pm
REGISTER HERE

WORKSHOPS

Utilities Billing and Collections Administration
May 14, 10am-4pm
May 16, 10am-4pm
Chapel Hill, NC
Cost: $185
MORE DETAILS

Designing Diverse and Inclusive Teams
June 7
Chapel Hill, NC
Cost: $485
MORE DETAILS

Harnett County Open Positions

Click here to view job opportunities with Harnett County government.

- **Accounting Technician III**
- **Central Permitting Technician**
- **Code Enforcement Officer I, II, III**
- **Deputy Sheriff**
- **Detention Officer**
- **Part-Time EMT Basic**
- **Full-Time/Part-Time EMT Paramedic**
- **Income Maintenance Caseworker III**
- **Income Maintenance Caseworker II**
- **Income Maintenance Administrator I**
- **Social Worker IV**
- **Solid Waste Director**
- **Telecommunicator– EMD**
- **Transit Driver**

Building your personal infrastructure: life, work and the pursuit of balance

The ability to effectively and efficiently adapt to change is necessary to achieve organizational success. During this interactive session, participants will learn innovative strategies to lead change and manage stress to ensure professional well-being. The speaker will teach essential professional development skills as well as the key characteristics of a hardy personality. Watch this online webinar now.

Harnett County Health Officials conducting Community Health Survey

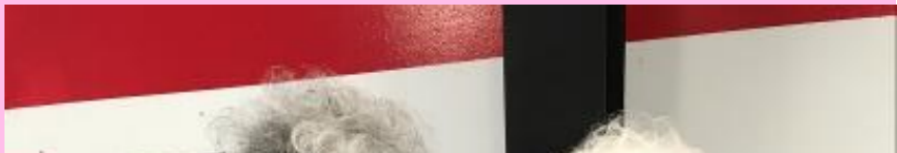
The Harnett County Health Department, Harnett Health, Healthy Harnett and with the help of Campbell University, are collaborating to conduct a community health survey for Harnett County. The survey is being conducted to learn more about the health and quality of life in Harnett County. The results will be used to help address the major health and community issues in our county. This survey is completely voluntary, and it should take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

The Harnett County committee will use the results of this survey and other information to identify the most pressing problems which can be addressed through community action. This survey is completely voluntary, and it should take about 15-20 minutes to complete. Your answers are completely anonymous and the information you give us will not be linked to you in any way. A link for the survey is posted on the Health Department's web site located at www.harnett.org/health.

The Community Health Survey is conducted as part of the Community Health Assessment. If you have any questions, regarding the survey, please call the Health Department at 910-893-7550.

2019 Spring Senior Games

Harnett County Parks and Recreation partnered with Mid-Carolina Senior Games to coordinate the 2019 Spring Games. Seniors from Harnett County were able to participate in several events such as track and field, bowling, cornhole, softball, and more! Several county employees volunteered their time to assist with this years events. Here's a few photos from this year's Spring games.



May Employment Anniversaries

5 Years	20 Years
Allen Coats, Finance Office Jeremy Pope, General Services John Colvin, Social Services	Rebecca Wise, Social Services
10 Years	**25 years**
Rebekah Butler, Communications Jeffrey Johnson, Emergency Services Wesley Roberson, Harnett Regional Water	Jan Snipes, Emergency Services
15 Years	**30 Years**
Jennifer Owen, Emergency Services Karen Hamilton, Harnett Regional Water	*No anniversaries in May*

May Employee Birthdays

1	Dwayne Shepherd, Animal Services Raymond Holder, Development Services Andrew Currin, Health Department James Collinsworth, Sheriff's Department Mayra Franco, Social Services	17	Cassandra Roldan, Emergency Services Kimberly Lee, Sheriff's Department Mary Smith, Transportation
2	Andrew Jones, Harnett Regional Water Jeffrey Smith, Sheriff's Department	18	James Hooper, Sheriff's Department Shannon Autry, Tax Department Jerelene McLean, Transportation
3	Johnny Allen, Emergency Services Daniel Dillon, Emergency Services	19	Cynthia Humke, Register of Deeds Jada Wiggins, Social Services
5	Michael Hayes, Sheriff's Department	20	Joseph Combs, Emergency Services Richard Kennedy, Harnett Regional Water Amanda Duntz, Library Brian Hayes, Sheriff's Department Christopher Brooks, Sheriff's Department George Thurman, Tax Department
6	Suzanne Prince, Development Services Alexander Verrill, Sheriff's Department Charlotte Leach, Workforce Development	21	Karen Hamilton, Harnett Regional Water Christopher Zimmerman, Sheriff's Department Sharon Booker, Social Services Sonya Cissell, Social Services
7	Benjamin Thomas, Parks & Recreation Jannie Sykes, Social Services	22	Bennie Williams, Emergency Services
8	Pamela Goodman Amerson, General Services Catherine Evans, Health Department Jason Overby, Sheriff's Department	23	Yolanda Crocker, Social Services Charles Smith, Tax Department
9	William Surles, Sheriff's Department Sheley Eldridge, Health Department Shaunette Howard, Health Department Crystal Hernandez, Social Services	24	Toby Guy, Development Services Aaron Meredith, Sheriff's Department
10	Timothy Adamaszek, Social Services	25	Kaitlyn Hinkle, Emergency Services Andrew Caywood, Emergency Services
11	Gertrude Dejesus, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Sarah McNeill, Parks & Recreation Michael McCoy, Sheriff's Department	26	Tonia Johnston, Social Services Katrina Bethea, Social Services Jacqueline Thomas, Social Services Kelly Vaughan, Social Services Lasharal Blue-Hart, Workforce Development
12	Tracy Hamby, Sheriff's Department (Detention)	27	Tammy Ward, GIS Donna Petty, Social Services

13	Stephanie Weidner, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Kathleen Collins, Parks & Recreation	28	Christopher Knox, Emergency Services
14	Donna Surles, Health Department Christopher Haskins, Library Brandie Horton– Mosely, Social Services Carolyn Brown, Solid Waste	29	Jacob Cox, Emergency Services
15	Roy Gibbs, Sheriff's Department (Detention)	30	Gregory Huneycutt, Cooperative Extension James Blackwelder, Parks & Recreation William Edge, Sheriff's Department Pamela Walker, Transportation
16	Donald Wallace, Emergency Services Erika Padrick, Social Services Eric Truesdale, Veterans Services	31	Teresa Ratcliff, Development Services Madalyn Dickens, Parks & Recreation Brian Brewer, Tax Department

Community Give Back Opportunities

Did you know, as a Harnett County employee, you are eligible for 1.5 hours of paid volunteer leave each week to assist in your community? Check out these fun ways to make a big impact in the community! In order to receive your volunteer leave benefit, please get approval from your supervisor prior to volunteering.

Elderly Nutrition Program

Looking to make an impact in your local community? Become a volunteer with our Department on Aging. 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. For more information and to sign up to deliver meals, contact Debra Vaughn at 910-814-6072 or dvaughn@harnett.org.

Animal Shelter

Individuals can assist with our rescued animals at the Animal Shelter. Typical duties include: greeting and assisting the public with adoptable pets, socializing with the animals, and keeping the kennels clean. To view the volunteer policies, requirements, and application, **click here**

For more information, contact LeeAnn Wagstaff at 910-84-2952 or **rwagstaff@harnett.org**.

Stay connected to Harnett County online! Visit the County webpage and social media pages by clicking on the icons below.

Twitter Facebook Instagram Nextdoor Website

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For more information, contact:
Ashley Deans
Community Relations Coordinator
Email: adeans@harnett.org
Phone: 910-814-6001

strong roots • new growth