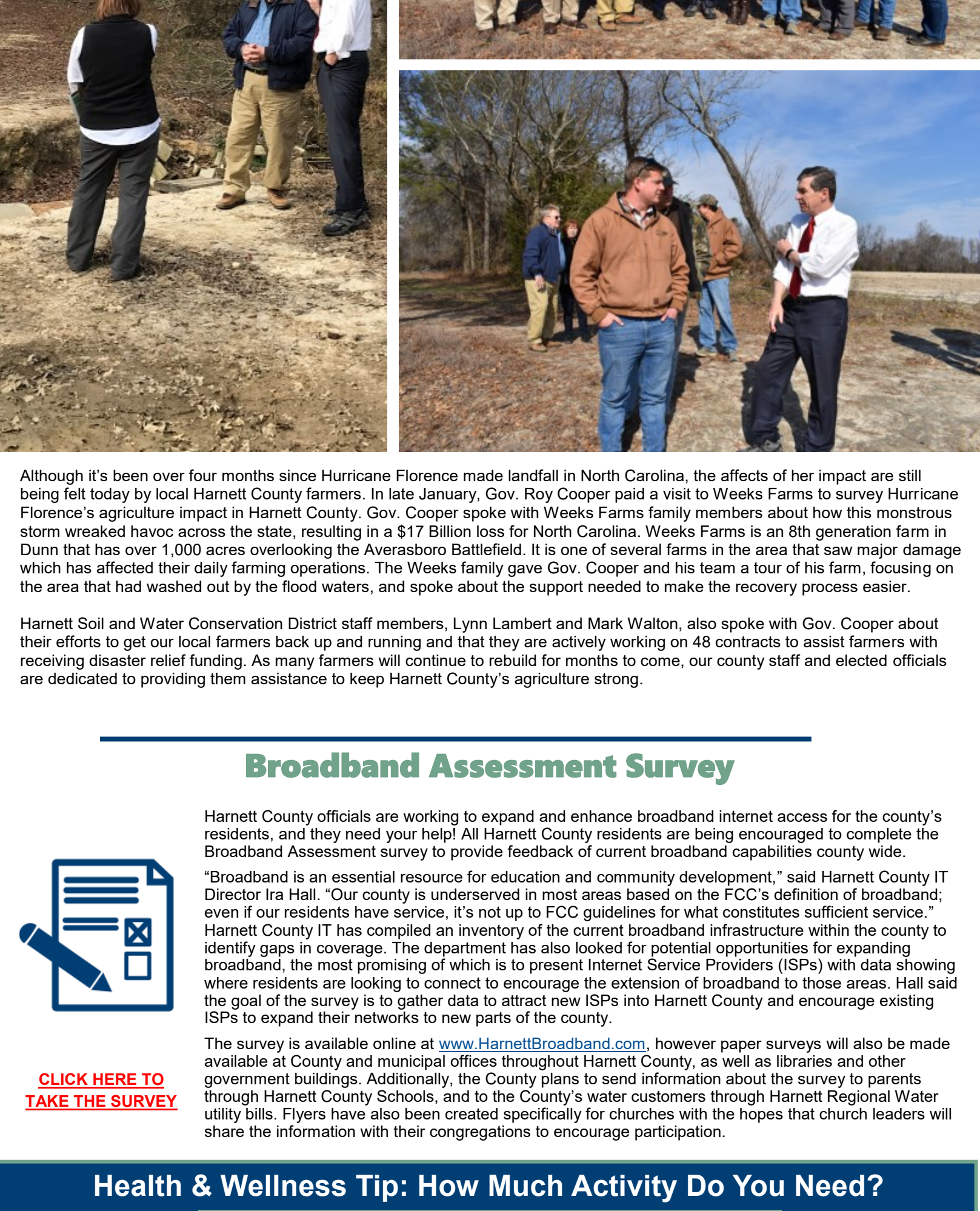


Harnett Connect

Monthly Employee newsletter • Keeping You Connected

Gov. Cooper visits Harnett County for Hurricane Florence Impact Update



Although it's been over four months since Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina, the effects of her impact are still being felt today by local Harnett County farmers. In late January, Gov. Roy Cooper paid a visit to Weeks Farms to survey Hurricane Florence's agriculture impact in Harnett County. Gov. Cooper spoke with Weeks Farms family members about how this monstrous storm wreaked havoc across the state, resulting in a \$17 Billion loss for North Carolina. Weeks Farms is an 8th generation farm in Dunn that has over 1,000 acres overlooking the Aversboro Battleground. It is one of several farms in the area that saw major damage which has affected their daily farming operations. The Weeks family gave Gov. Cooper and his team a tour of his farm, focusing on the area that had washed out by the flood waters, and spoke about the support needed to make the recovery process easier.

Harnett Soil and Water Conservation District staff members, Lynn Lambert and Mark Walton, also spoke with Gov. Cooper about their efforts to get our local farmers back up and running and that they are actively working on 48 contracts to assist farmers with receiving disaster relief funding. As many farmers will continue to rebuild for months to come, our county staff and elected officials are dedicated to providing them assistance to keep Harnett County's agriculture strong.

Broadband Assessment Survey



Harnett County officials are working to expand and enhance broadband internet access for the county's residents, and they need your help! All Harnett County residents are being encouraged to complete the Broadband Assessment survey to provide feedback of current broadband capabilities county wide.

"Broadband is an essential resource for education and community development," said Harnett County IT Director Ira Hall. "Our county is underserved in most areas based on the FCC's definition of broadband; even if our residents have service, it's not up to FCC guidelines for what constitutes sufficient service." Harnett County IT has compiled an inventory of the current broadband infrastructure within the county to identify gaps in coverage. The department has also looked for potential opportunities for expanding broadband, the most promising of which is to present Internet Service Providers (ISPs) with data showing where residents are looking to connect to encourage the extension of broadband to those areas. Hall said the goal of the survey is to gather data to attract new ISPs into Harnett County and encourage existing ISPs to expand their networks to new parts of the county.

The survey is available online at www.HarnettBroadband.com, however paper surveys will also be made available at County and municipal offices throughout Harnett County, as well as libraries and other government buildings. Additionally, the County plans to send information about the survey to parents through Harnett County Schools, and to the County's water customers through Harnett Regional Water utility bills. Flyers have also been created specifically for churches with the hopes that church leaders will share the information with their congregations to encourage participation.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Health & Wellness Tip: How Much Activity Do You Need?

Are you and your family getting enough exercise? Being active can help you improve your health and feel better. It can lower your blood pressure and reduce your risk of chronic diseases, like type 2 diabetes and certain cancers.

Physical activity can boost your mood right away and help sharpen your focus. It can also reduce stress and help you sleep.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently updated advice about how much physical activity you and your family should try to get. The new Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans is based on the latest research on how activity affects health.

Adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week. You can start with just 5 minutes at a time. Swim, garden, walk the dog, dance, or bike your way to feeling better. Whatever gets you moving counts! Strengthening your muscles is important too. At least two days each week, get those muscles working with things like push-ups or lifting weights.

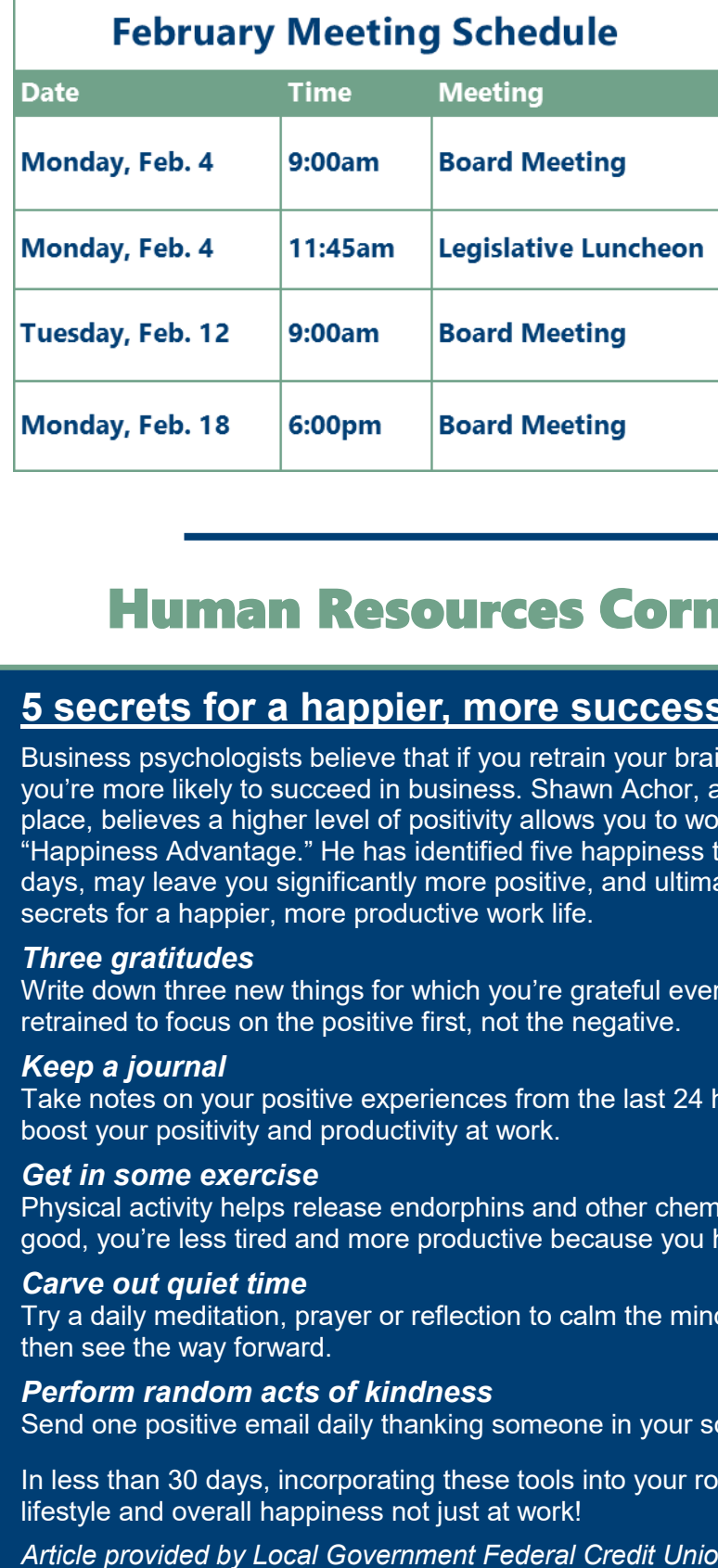
Children ages 3 to 5 should be physically active for at least 3 hours throughout the day. Kids 6 through 17 need at least 1 hour per day.

All of your physical activity adds up. Moving more often throughout the day can help you get enough activity. Find fact sheets and other resources for parents, kids, and more.

Article provided by *National Institutes of Health*, part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The advice provided is for informational purposes only.

Mark Your Calendar

The First Annual Harnett County African American Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, February 16 from 1pm-6pm at Campbell University Carter Gym. For more information, visit: <https://africanamericanexperience.org/african-american-festival>



Board of Commissioners February Meeting Schedule		
Date	Time	Meeting
Monday, Feb. 4	9:00am	Board Meeting
Monday, Feb. 4	11:45am	Legislative Luncheon
Tuesday, Feb. 12	9:00am	Board Meeting
Monday, Feb. 18	6:00pm	Board Meeting

Upcoming County Department Events	
February 2	11am- Family Storytime (Library)
February 4	9am- Board of Commissioners Meeting 10am- Book Babies (Library) 11:45am- Legislative Luncheon 6pm- Board of Education Meeting 6:30pm- Planning Board Meeting
February 5	11am- Boone Trail Storytime 6pm- Veterans' Council Meeting
February 6	9am- Development Review Board Meeting 10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library)
February 7	10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Family Bingo Night at BTCC (Parks & Recreation)
February 8	11am- Lego Club (Library)
February 11	10am- Book Babies (Library) 6:30pm- Board of Adjustments Meeting
February 12	9am- Board of Commissioners Work Session 11am- Boone Trail Storytime
February 13	10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library)
February 14	Valentine's Day 10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library)
February 15	Mobile Mammography (Health Dept.) Early Release Day for Harnett County Schools 5:30pm- Parents Night Out at BTCC (Parks & Recreation)
February 16	11am- Preschool Storytime (Library) 11am- George Washington Carver & Friends Black History Month Celebration (Library)
February 18	Harnett County Schools Teacher Work Day 9am- Board of Education Work Session 10am- Book Babies (Library) 6pm- Board of Commissioners meeting
February 19	11am- Boone Trail Storytime
February 20	10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library) 5pm- Dungeons & Dragons (Library)
February 21	8:30am- Harnett Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting 9am- Harnett County Schools District Spelling Bee 10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library)
February 22	6pm- Family Movie Night at BTCC (Parks & Recreation)
February 23	10am- Book Babies (Library)
February 25	10am- Book Babies (Library) 6pm- Historic Properties Commission Meeting
February 26	11am- Boone Trail Storytime
February 27	10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library)
February 28	9am- Harnett Voices (NC Cooperative Extension) 10am- Toddler Storytime (Library) 11am- Preschool Storytime (Library) 4:30pm- Bookworms Book Club

Human Resources Corner: Career Development

5 secrets for a happier, more successful work life

Business psychologists believe that if you retrain your brain to focus more on the positives in the workplace, then you're more likely to succeed in business. Shawn Achor, a Harvard researcher and expert on happiness in the workplace, believes a higher level of positivity allows you to work harder and be more productive. It's what he calls the "Happiness Advantage." He has identified five happiness techniques that, if applied for two minutes a day over 21 days, may leave you significantly more positive, and ultimately more successful, than you were before. Here are five secrets for a happier, more productive work life.

Three gratitudes

Write down three new things for which you're grateful every day. By the end of your 21 days, your brain will likely be retrained to focus on the positive first, not the negative.

Keep a journal

Take notes on your positive experiences from the last 24 hours. This can teach your brain to relive that experience and boost your positivity and productivity at work.

Get in some exercise

Physical activity helps release endorphins and other chemicals that make you feel good. In addition to making you feel good, you're less tired and more productive because you have more energy.

Carve out quiet time

Try a daily meditation, prayer or reflection to calm the mind and get over that which is weighing you down. You can then see the way forward.

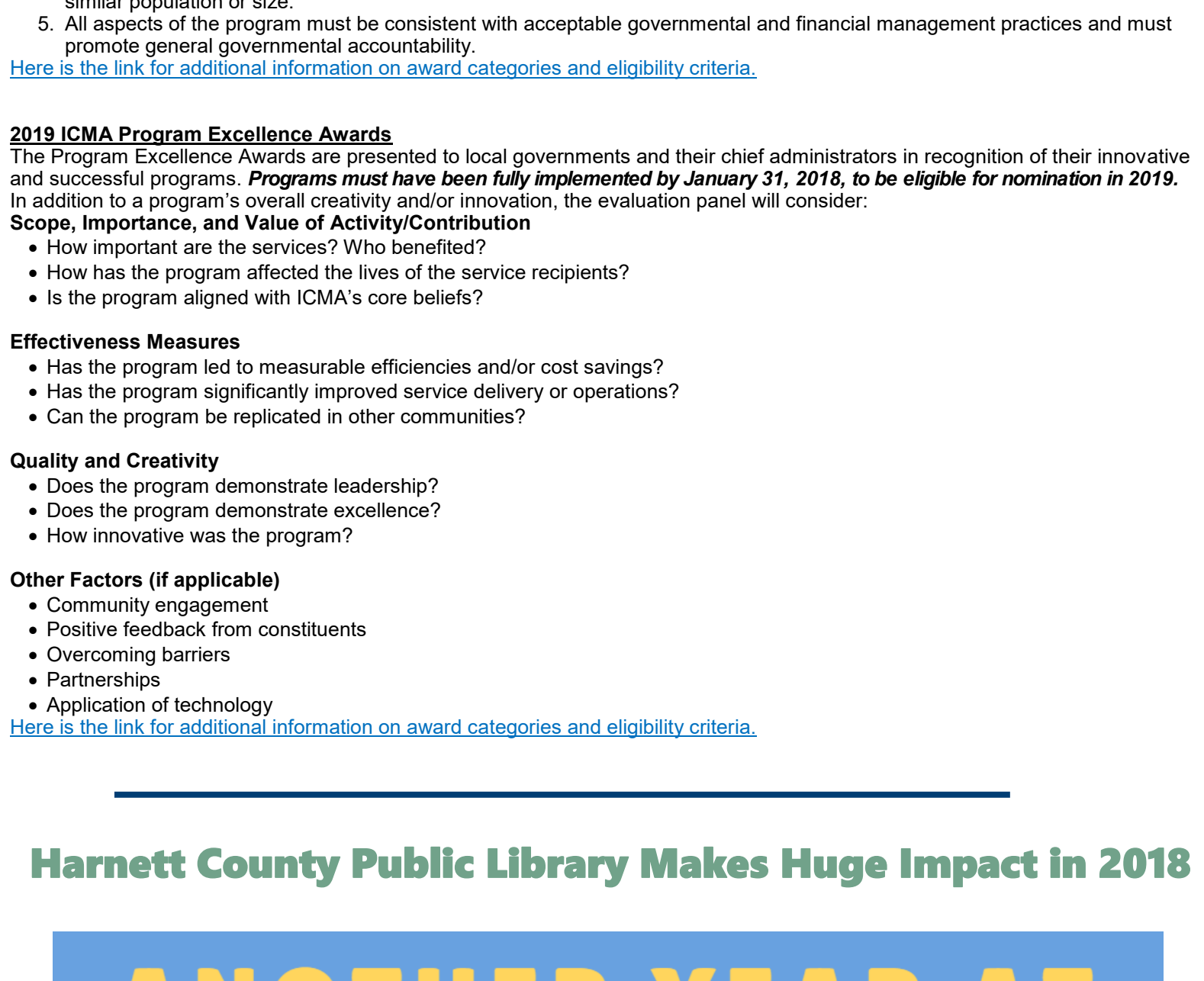
Perform random acts of kindness

Send one positive email daily thanking someone in your social or business support circle.

In less than 30 days, incorporating these tools into your routine may lead you to a new formula for a more productive lifestyle and overall happiness not just at work!

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

Local Trails Receive East Coast Greenway Network Designation



Harnett County Parks and Recreation has announced that a new section of the Dunn-Erwin Rail Trail and the Cape Fear River Trail Park's Greenway Trail have been designated into the East Coast Greenway (ECG) Network, a developing biking and walking route from Canada to Key West.

The Cape Fear River Trail Park opened in 2008 with support from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Harnett Forward Together Committee. The scenic park offers 16 acres of walking trails, overlooks, canoe access, and picnic shelter with restrooms.

With the original Dunn-Erwin Rail Trail already a part of the ECG Network, the new designation will add a 2.1 mile trail extension which includes the new trail extension that was completed in 2017 and the greenway trail at River Park. This partnership with the East Coast Greenway Alliance will help to advance the 3,000-mile route, one third of which is now on paths that are safe for all ages and abilities. The goal of completing the East Coast Greenway, the nation's longest linear park, represents a commitment to public health, environmental sustainability, economic development, and civic engagement.

Harnett County Parks and Recreation Director, Carl Davis, is excited for the new designation. He stated, "The ECG is a nationally known trail that will bring more people into our county and towns for tourism." With the new designation, the Dunn-Erwin Rail Trail will form a 7.3 mile section of the East Coast Greenway running through Harnett County.

Through central and eastern North Carolina, the East Coast Greenway spans 365 miles with 98 miles completed and 47 miles in active planning or development. The current spine route begins in Granville County and passes through the Research Triangle cities of Durham and Raleigh on extensive greenway trails, then touches the Sandhills and enters Fayetteville. It runs across the coastal plain along the Cape Fear River and through the port city of Wilmington.

You can learn more about the amenities of the Cape Fear River Trail Park by visiting: <http://www.harnett.org/park/cape-fear-river-trail-park.asp>. For more information on the East Coast Greenway Route in North Carolina, visit: <https://www.greenway.org/states/north-carolina>

Professional Development Opportunities

ONLINE WEBINARS

Utilizing Effective Partnerships to Serve Disconnected Youth

February 1, 1-3pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Evidence-Based Policymaking Part 3: Delivering Effective Programs & Monitoring Outcomes

February 7th, 2pm-3:15pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

"Stepping Up" Your Efforts to Reduce Mental Illness in Jails

February 14, 2pm-3:15pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

What's Next for Waters of the United States and the Federal Clean Water Act?

February 4, 1-2pm
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Harnett County Open Positions

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

- Assistant Manager of Building Services
- Code Enforcement Officer I, II, III
- Deputy Sheriff
- Detention Officer
- Emergency Services Director
- Part-Time EMT Basic
- Full-Time/Part-Time EMT Paramedic
- Facility Maintenance Technician
- Telecommunicator- EMD
- Transit Driver

Nominate Your Program for an Achievement Award

Do you manage a program that has made an impact in the community? The 2019 National Association of Counties (NACo) Program Excellence Awards and the 2019 International City Managers' Association (ICMA) Program Excellence Awards are currently accepting nominations for programs that have provided innovative and creative solutions to meeting the communities need. Listed below is additional information about these two award programs. If you are interested in nominating your program for an award, please contact: Ashley Deans, Community Relations Coordinator, at 910-814-6001 or adeans@harnett.org.

2019 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards

In order to be eligible for an Achievement Award, all programs must have become **operational after January 1, 2014**, have measurable results, and meet the following criteria:

1. Programs must accomplish **one or more of the following**:
 - Offer new services to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of services, fill gaps in or tap new revenue sources
 - Improve the administration of an existing county government program
 - Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees. Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs
 - Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making
2. In the case of a program that is in response to a federal or state law, regulation or order, the program must go beyond mere compliance with the statute, regulation or order and must display a creative approach to meeting those requirements.
3. The program must have measurable results (e.g. cost savings, enhanced employee productivity, improved constituent services, created better intergovernmental cooperation).
4. The program must be innovative and not rely on techniques or procedures that are common practice in most counties of similar population or size.
5. All aspects of the program must be consistent with acceptable governmental and financial management practices and must promote general governmental accountability.

[Here is the link for additional information on award categories and eligibility criteria.](#)

2019 ICMA Program Excellence Awards

The ICMA Program Excellence Awards are presented to local governments and their chief administrators in recognition of their innovative and successful programs. **Programs must have been fully implemented by January 31, 2018, to be eligible for nomination in 2019.** In addition to a program's overall creativity and/or innovation, the evaluation panel will consider:

Scope, Importance, and Value of Activity/Contribution

- How important are the services? Who benefited?
- How has the program affected the lives of the service recipients?
- Is the program aligned with ICMA's core beliefs?

Effectiveness Measures

- Has the program led to measurable efficiencies and/or cost savings?
- Has the program significantly improved service delivery or operations?
- Can the program be replicated in other communities?

Quality and Creativity

- Does the program demonstrate leadership?
- Does the program demonstrate excellence?
- How innovative was the program?

Other Factors (if applicable)

- Community engagement
- Positive feedback from constituents
- Overcoming barriers
- Partnerships
- Application of technology

[Here is the link for additional information on award categories and eligibility criteria.](#)

Harnett County Public Library Makes Huge Impact in 2018



The Harnett County Public Library released its 2018 impact report which revealed 232,000 patrons utilized library resources over the past year. The Harnett County Library system, which is comprised of the County Library located in Lillington, a branch library located in the Anderson Creek Primary School media center and the Boone Trail Community Center, and municipal libraries located in Angier, Coats, Dunn, and Erwin offers free online resources, programs, and events for community members.

Along with serving 232,000 community members, the Library hosted over 500 programs for individuals of all ages. These activities included: Yoga, Escape Rooms, Book Clubs, Game Days, educational events, and more. In addition to programs and events, the Library provided free online resources, resulting in 30,000 ebooks being downloaded and 16,500 hours of free internet access offered to the public.

The Library also plans to continue to offer free programs and events and has a big month planned for February. To celebrate Black History Month, there will be a performance on February 16th by the nationally renowned Bright Star Touring Theatre with their production of George Washington Carver and Friends. Other family friendly events will include: a Family Storytime, Lego Club, and Book Babies.

As an employee of Harnett County, you are eligible to receive a library card free of charge. A library card will give you access to thousands of books and online resources. Individuals interested in getting a library card can [visit one of our library branches](#) today!

For more information on the Harnett County Library system, visit <https://harnett.libguides.com/hcpl>.

February Employee Birthdays

1	John Bajkowski, Sheriff's Department	15	Judy Herrin, Health Department Jeffrey Huber, Sheriff's Department Alicia Gatrell, Social Services
2	John Rouse, Health Department Elaine Weeks, Health Department Daniel Holder, Tax Department	16	Shannon Warren, Emergency Services Maddie Cameron, Parks and Recreation Angela Hinson, Sheriff's Department Duncan McCormick, Social Services Kimberly Baker, Tax Department
3	Stanley Price, Development Services Michael Chappell, Emergency Services Sarah Anne Cone, Emergency Services John Bishop, Sheriff's Department	17	Steven Arellano, Emergency Services Curtis Thompson, Sheriff's Department (Detention) James Lanier, Sheriff's Department Michael Brewer, Social Services
4	James Lowery, Harnett Regional Water	19	Makenna Lykins, Library Teddy Howard, Sheriff's Department
5	Amanda Strickland, Finance Jason O'Brien, Harnett Regional Water Thomas Ray, Harnett Regional Water	20	Timothy Loftus, Emergency Services Brittany Zeledon, Emergency Services
6	Angela Kokoszka, Health Department Melissa Otto, Health Department Ronald Beasley, Sheriff's Department Pauette Strickland, Social Services	21	David McRae, Development Services Neural Robinson, Development Services Darin Haney, Harnett Regional Water Michael Williams, Sheriff's Department
7	Kimberly Cochran, Health Department David Syck, Solid Waste	22	Brian Hinton, Administration David Cowart, Emergency Services
8	Therrie Gregory, Sheriff's Department (Detention)	23	John Burgess, Harnett Regional Water Beverly Gore, Health Department
9	Tony Spears, Board of Elections Blaine Payne, Harnett Regional Water Vesper Brown, IT Matthew Willis, Register of Deeds Traci Ferrell, Tax Department James Vaughn, Transportation	24	William Owens, Emergency Services Donald Smith, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Daniel Bradley, Library
10	Jennifer Brock, Development Services Vivienne Marshall, Library Lettie Jones, Social Services	25	Sherry Roberts, Communications Deana Madison, Emergency Services Johnnie Jackson, Harnett Regional Water Charles Ginn, IT Haley Smith, Parks and Recreation
11	Albert Adams, Solid Waste	26	Stephen Berube, Animal Services Mandy Leon, Sheriff's Department Joseph Myatt, Sheriff's Department
12	Lawrence Foster, Sheriff's Department (Detention) Kristine Johnson, Social Services	27	Oliver Tolkdorf, Health Department Jamie Thornton, Health Department Ernesta Wilkins, Public Buildings Chase Banker, Sheriff's Department
13	Scott Lent, Communications Steven McFadden, Harnett Regional Water	28	Joseph Powell, Board of Elections Jessica Nelson, Communications Deen Taylor, Development Services Donny Osborne, Harnett Regional Water Brittany Webb, Harnett Regional Water
14	Kain Craddock, Harnett Regional Water Martavis Randall, Sheriff's Department (Detention) David Page, Sheriff's Department (Detention) James Cook, Sheriff's Department Michael Britt, Sheriff's Department Jacob Thomas, Sheriff's Department Jeremy Roberts, Sheriff's Department Gwendolyn Speas, Social Services	29	Gary McNeill, Sheriff's Department

February Employment Anniversaries

5 Years	20 Years
Shalonda Blue, IT Duncan McCormick, Social Services Kimberly Williams, Health Department	Richard Kennedy, Harnett Regional Water Kendra Smith, Communications Curtis Thompson, Sheriff's Department (Detention)
10 Years	25 Years
David Jones, Harnett Regional Water	No anniversaries in February
15 Years	30 Years
No anniversaries in February	Deloris Suggs, Harnett Regional Water

Community Give Back Opportunities

For more information on this opportunity, contact: Ashley Johnson at 910-814-6655 or ajohnson@harnett.org.

