



HARNETT CONNECT

Employee Newsletter | Keeping You Connected

ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY MANAGER



Brent Trout



*I do this work
because at the
local level, I
believe I can
make a
difference, as
can each of
you!*

I am honored and excited to be the County Manager for Harnett County. I would like to introduce myself and provide you a little more depth to my experience and why I love being a public servant and servant leader.

In college, I learned the path I wanted to follow was being a City or County Manager. I took my first job in a very small town in Iowa, and I am now starting my sixth position of leadership in either a city or county. I think back to the completion of projects that have had a lasting impact in my community long after I am gone. My best example is the childcare/head start/adult day care facilities that I was a part of making in to a reality in two different cities. The ability to have a quality childcare/preschool facility in each of these smaller cities is invaluable.

I am enjoying being in North Carolina and this county. I have always had an interest in living in this part of the country. I have visited many times to see our grand kids in Raleigh and always came away with the thought that this would be a good place to live. Harnett County in particular is a good fit for me given that the four cities I first managed were in rural areas, with the largest community in Iowa being around 28,000 residents. My next opportunity led me to manage a large organization in the City of Topeka, Kansas. Topeka and Harnett County have many similarities in size and breadth of operations.

I have begun to meet many of you over my first few weeks, and I look forward to hopefully meeting all of you at some point. I will do my best to get to where you work and get to know you. Based on my short time here, I can tell that you are all leaning forward trying to accomplish great things for this county.

We have a big challenge ahead of us to manage and support the continued growth and development in this county. We are becoming of place of choice to live and that is exciting, but we need to be ready to support the new resident's needs at the county level when they arrive here. I ask that you all continue to look for ways to provide quality customer service to our residents and businesses. It is a large task, but I know that together, as a team, we can accomplish a positive result and keep things moving forward.

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2022 REAPPRAISAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Harnett County Tax Department will host a series of public meetings during the month of February to provide an update to the public on the County's 2022 Reappraisal efforts.

The County partnered with Vincent Valuations, a private Reappraisal Firm, to conduct the 2022 Reappraisal. The Reappraisal included a full measure and list of all real properties in Harnett County.

Field appraisers began collecting data on each property in Summer 2019, and moved to the value modeling phase in the Spring of 2021. A review of each property will be concluded by the end of this month.

[READ MORE](#)



COMMISSIONERS REFLECT ON 2021, PLAN & PREPARE FOR 2022

Like the year that preceded it, 2021 presented unique challenges in Harnett County, including the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and continued residential growth resulting in increased service demand on County departments. Harnett County's elected leaders and County employees rose to the challenge to meet the changing needs of County residents.

"I want to commend the Board on a concerted effort to get Harnett County headed in the right direction," stated Harnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Lewis Weatherspoon. "By working together, we have been able to start meeting the challenges facing the County and its citizens."

In February 2021, County Commissioners adopted their annual Legislative Priorities, which focused on five key areas: Broadband, Economic Development, Transportation, Education, and Harnett Regional Jetport. Over the past year, the County has made considerable progress in these areas and several other initiatives that have helped to improve the quality of lives for residents of Harnett County.

This Spring, Commissioners plan to finalize the Strategic Plan and task County Management with putting this comprehensive plan into action. Commissioners have also updated their Legislative Priorities and will meet with the County's State and Federal Legislative delegation this month to discuss the Board's priorities for the coming year and opportunities to continue to meet the needs of Harnett County's residents.

[READ MORE](#)



2022 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Lewis Weatherspoon
Chairman
District 4



Matthew Nicol
Vice-Chairman
District 5



Barbara McKoy
District 1



Mark Johnson
District 2



Brooks Matthews
District 3

COMMISSIONER'S FEBRUARY MEETING SCHEDULE

The Harnett County Board of Commissioners hold regular meetings on the first Monday of each month at 9:00 AM and the third Monday of each month at 6:00 PM. Meetings are held in the Commissioner Meeting Room on the second floor of the Harnett County Resource Center and Library, located at 455 McKinney Parkway in Lillington. Unable to attend the meetings in person? Watch the live stream at www.harnett.org/boc.



February 7 | 9:00 AM
Regular Meeting



February 21 | 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting



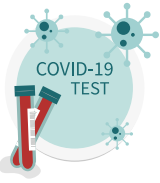
February 15 | 9:00 AM
Work Session



February 24 | 9:00 AM
Planning Retreat

COVID-19 VACCINES & TESTING REMINDERS

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING



Rapid Antigen COVID-19 testing is available in Lillington on **Monday** and **Friday** from **9:00am-11:00am** at the **Governmental Complex-Commons**. **An appointment is required** to schedule an appointment please call **910-814-6582**. The Health Department is located within the Governmental Complex at 309 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd in Lillington.

FREE AT-HOME TEST KITS



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. The tests available for order are rapid antigen at-home tests and can be taken anywhere. You will receive results within 30 minutes (no lab drop-off required). Order your tests at www.covidtests.gov.

VACCINES & BOOSTER SHOTS



The Health Department is providing COVID-19 vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccines are free of charge to all individuals. If you would like to make an appointment complete the [COVID-19 Vaccine Inquiry Form](#) or call the Health Department at 910-814-6582. All vaccinations will be administered by appointment.

Needing your booster shot? Anyone ages 12 and older may receive a COVID-19 booster. Adults may receive any brand of the COVID-19 vaccine for their booster, while children 12 to 17 can only receive Pfizer. NCDHHS encourages individuals to speak with a doctor, nurse or pharmacist if they have questions about what booster is right for them. To make an appointment, call the Health Department at 910-814-6582.

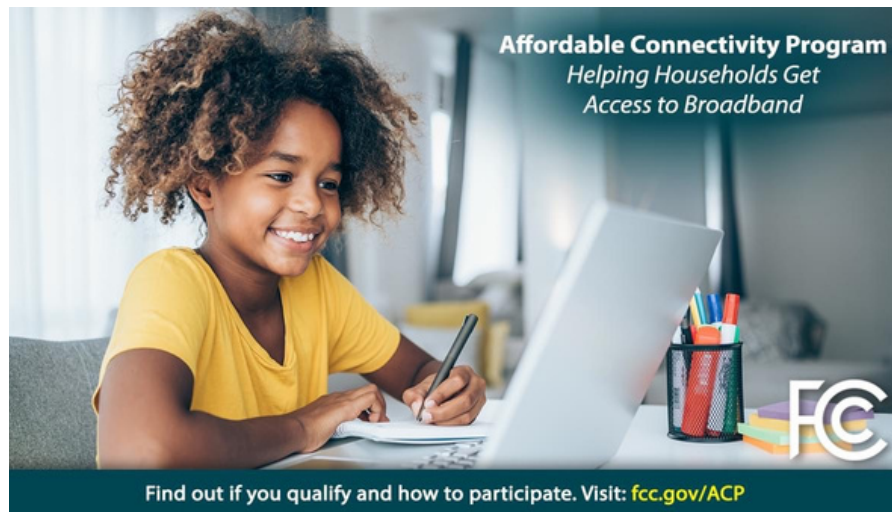
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Recently Congress created the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program, a \$14 billion program, which replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. This investment in broadband affordability will help people get the internet connections they need for work, school, health care and much more.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service and connected devices. This program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward the internet for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for homes on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. To enroll,

1. Go to www.ACPBenefit.org to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.



Affordable Connectivity Program
Helping Households Get
Access to Broadband

Find out if you qualify and how to participate. Visit: fcc.gov/ACP

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

LIEAP PROGRAM

Applications for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will be accepted through March 31, 2022 or until the LIEAP funds are exhausted.

Due to COVID-19 and the current Health Emergency, interested individuals can apply by:

- Calling 910-814-6823
- Applying online at <https://epass.nc.gov/>
- Applying in person at Harnett County Department of Social Services office, located at 311 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd. in Lillington or dropping the application in the Drop Box outside of the office
- Mailing an application to Harnett County Department of Social Services c/o LIEAP program at PO Box 2169 Lillington, NC, 27546
- Faxing an application to 910-814-8242

Harnett County Department of Social Services office hours are 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

For more information on the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, call Harnett County Department of Social Services at 910-814-6823.

US 421 CORRIDOR PROJECT UNDERWAY


Harnett County Development Services, along with consulting partner Stewart Engineering, is beginning a six month project to implement an overlay zoning district for the US 421 corridor in the County's jurisdiction from Lillington to Erwin/Dunn. This project comes by recommendation from the County's adopted Comprehensive Growth Plan. The purpose of this project is to create regulations to protect and preserve the natural landscape, transportation network, and other key assets that are located within corridor, while continuing to encourage quality growth. We encourage all residents who may have an interest in this project to please contact Harnett County Development Services Department for additional details.

2022



LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS FROM HARNETT COUNTY SCHOOLS

DONATE TO THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Help grow our collections!



The Harnett County Public Library is seeking high school yearbooks from schools in Harnett County, with special interest in copies of yearbooks printed prior to 1975. Interested in donating a copy? Want to know what we already have? Please call the Local History Librarian at 910-814-6340.



Valentine's for Veteran's

CREATION LOCATIONS

CREATE & DROP OFF HERE:
Harnett County Public Library
455 McKinney Parkway
Lillington, NC 27546

Boone Trail Community Center & Library
8500 Old US 421
Lillington, NC 27546

VALENTINE DROP OFF ONLY:
Harnett County Manager's Office
455 McKinney Parkway
Lillington, NC 27546

Join us as we share the love and show appreciation to our local Veteran's!

Make a Valentine and we will do the rest! Supplies will be provided at the Library sites.

Deadline to submit is FEBRUARY 7th at 5:00pm

QUESTIONS?


Contact our Communications Intern:
tmckenrick@harnett.org

Be sure to share on Facebook and Instagram and tag us!

@harnettcounty
@harnett_county

IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Do you have specific content or topics you'd like to see in the monthly Employee Newsletter? Send your ideas to Ashley Bauer at adeanse@harnett.org.



You can prevent or delay Type 2 Diabetes with the PREVENT T2 PROGRAM

If you have prediabetes or other risk factors for type 2 diabetes, you can make changes now to improve your health and prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Join the Harnett County Health Department's Prevent T2 Lifestyle Change Program!



Every Tuesday beginning,
February 15, 2022
5:30pm-6:30pm

Governmental Complex-Commons Area
309 W. Cornelius Harnett Blvd Lillington, NC

The Prevent T2 lifestyle change program can help you lose weight, become more physically active, and reduce stress. With Prevent T2, you get:

- A year-long program with weekly meetings for the first 4 months, every other week for 2 months, then once a month for the second 6 months to maintain healthy lifestyle changes.
- A proven program to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes
- Support from others like you as you learn new skills.

For more information:
Belinda Rayner, Public Health Educator II
910-814-6196
Registration by Friday, February 11th



HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that you receive volunteer leave as a Harnett County employee? Regular employees are authorized 1.5 hours of administrative leave each week to perform volunteer work at a Harnett County school or Harnett County non-profit organization. To utilize this form of leave, an employee must receive advanced approval (at least 48 hours) and is subject to workload requirements. The Supervisor, department Head or County Manager may require document of your volunteer leave. Check out these opportunities to volunteer with our own County departments.



ANIMAL SHELTER

Individuals can assist with the 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](#). To volunteer, contact Barry Blevins at bblevin@harnett.org.



ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Individuals can assist the Division on Aging by delivering meals to elderly homebound individuals throughout the County. To volunteer, contact Debby Vaughn at dvaughn@harnett.org or 910-814-6072.



KEEP HARNETT BEAUTIFUL

Employees can organize a litter cleanup along a roadway of their choice! Volunteers will be supplied safety vests, bags, gloves, and pick up sticks for litter cleanups. To volunteer, contact khb@harnett.org or 910-814-6156.

TAX FORM REMINDERS

2021 W-2 forms are available for employees. To view and download your form, follow these steps:



Visit <https://portal.harnett.org/ess/login.aspx> and log into your account.



Select Pay/Tax Information for 2021.



Review and print your form.

Looking to update your tax withholdings for 2022? Be sure to fill out the hard copy form (remember there is a [federal W-4 form](#) and [state W-4 form](#)) and submit those forms to Missy King in Human Resources. Missy is unable to process any changes you make in the employee navigator without the hard copy form.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Harnett County Government offices will be closed for the public and employees on the following days this year.

- Martin Luther King, Jr Day | Monday, January 17
- Good Friday | Friday, April 15
- Memorial Day | Monday, May 30
- Independence Day | Monday, July 4
- Labor Day | Monday, September 5
- Veterans Day | Friday, November 11
- Thanksgiving | Thursday, November 24; Friday, November 25
- Christmas | Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; and Tuesday, December 27

WELCOME NEW HIRES!



Join me in welcoming our new employees to the Harnett County team! New employees from various departments attended the January 24 orientation. Welcome to Harnett County!



For more information, contact:
Harnett County Public Information
455 McKinney Parkway
Lillington, NC 27546
910-893-7555

www.harnett.org/publicinfo