



HARNETT CONNECT

Employee Newsletter | Keeping You Connected

ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2022

2032 STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED

2032 HARNETT COUNTY

STRATEGIC
Plan



Commissioners Approve County's
First Strategic Plan!

SCAN ME



To read more about the
strategic plan, goals,
& MORE visit:
www.harnett.org



The Harnett County Board of Commissioners approved the County's inaugural Strategic Plan at their February 7 regular meeting! The 2032 Harnett County Strategic Plan will serve as a guide for the Board and County departments over the next decade.

[View the Plan](#)

COMMISSIONERS HOLD LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

On March 7, Harnett County Board of Commissioners and County staff met with state and federal legislative representatives to discuss support for funding and various needs for Harnett County citizens. Commissioners presented their 2022 Legislative Priorities, with Economic Development, Harnett Regional Jetport, and Education being top priorities.



To view all of the 2022 Legislative priorities, [click here](#).

You can also watch the full Legislative Luncheon on the [Harnett County Government youtube channel](#).

COMMISSIONER'S MARCH 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.

HARNETT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 15th at 9am: Work Session

Monday, March 21st at 6pm: Meeting

Tuesday, March 29th at 9am: Work Session

Monday, April 4th at 9:00am: Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 12th at 9:00am: Work Session

Monday, April 18th at 6:00pm: Board Meeting

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

Watch Commissioner Meetings Online!

Missed a recent County Commissioners meeting?

Check out the Harnett County Government youtube channel to view all past meetings.



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU7mTF6HTD65x_98EhAMeMg_

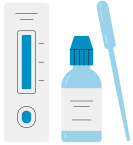
COVID-19 VACCINES & TESTING REMINDERS

RAPID ANTIGEN & PCR TESTING

NEW COVID-19 TESTING SITE: Victory Tabernacle Church

Effective February 14: Ameritech Diagnostics Lab will be providing a COVID-19 testing site at Victory Tabernacle Church at 7330 NC-27 Lillington, NC 27546. The drive thru COVID-19 testing site is available Monday-Saturday from 9:00-4:00pm providing Rapid and PCR to schedule an appointment call 910-631-8198 or www.ameritechdiagnostics.com. 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.

Free Tax Assistance

Harnett County residents can receive free assistance with preparing their 2021 state and federal taxes.

NC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program through the IRS are preparing taxes for free on Tuesdays at the Coats Senior Center from 9:15 - 12 noon. Call 910-897-4616 for an appointment. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, VITA volunteers are preparing taxes at the Erwin Library by appointment from 9:15 am - 12 noon. Call 910-893-7578 to schedule your appointment.

Harnett County residents can also get their tax returns prepared free each Wednesday through April 6 at the Harnett County Resource Center & Library, located at 455 McKinney Parkway in Lillington. This assistance will be available from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM and is provided in partnership with Campbell University.



2022 REAPPRAISAL UPDATE

During the month of February, the Harnett County Tax Department held several public meetings, both virtually and in-person, to provide updates on the County's 2022 Reappraisal efforts.

For those unable to attend the meeting, you can view the presentation online at www.harnett.org/tax.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: Notices will be mailed to taxpayers during the week of March 24, 2022.

Instructions for on-line filing of appeals will be provided on the notices and the Tax Department website. An appeal process will be available for individuals that do not agree with their new real property appraised value. Appeals must be submitted no later than April 28 at 3pm.

For more information on the 2022 Reappraisal, visit www.harnett.org/tax/revaluation.asp.

2021 TAX COLLECTIONS UPDATE

Currently, Harnett County Tax Collections is actively collecting on delinquent property tax bills. Wage levy, Bank Attachment, Sheriff Levy, and Foreclosure are the methods our office currently uses.

Newspaper and website advertisement of delinquent tax amounts and Real Property tax liens can occur any time after March 1, 2022.

Beginning in mid-April, prepayments will be accepted on 2022 property taxes. In order to participate in this payment plan, all prior year taxes must be paid in full.

For more information, contact Harnett County Tax Collections at 910-814-6921.

HARNETT COUNTY ELDERLY/PERMANENTLY DISABLED EXCLUSION

Did you know that Harnett County Tax Department offers a property tax relief program for elderly and disabled individuals? North Carolina excludes from property taxes the greater of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or fifty percent (50%) of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner. A qualifying owner is an owner who meets all of the following requirements as of January 1 preceding the taxable year for which the benefit is claimed:

Is at least 65 years of age as of January 1 or totally and permanently disabled.

Has an income (including Social Security income) for the preceding calendar year of no more than thirty one thousand nine hundred dollars (\$31,900).

Owens the home where they reside.

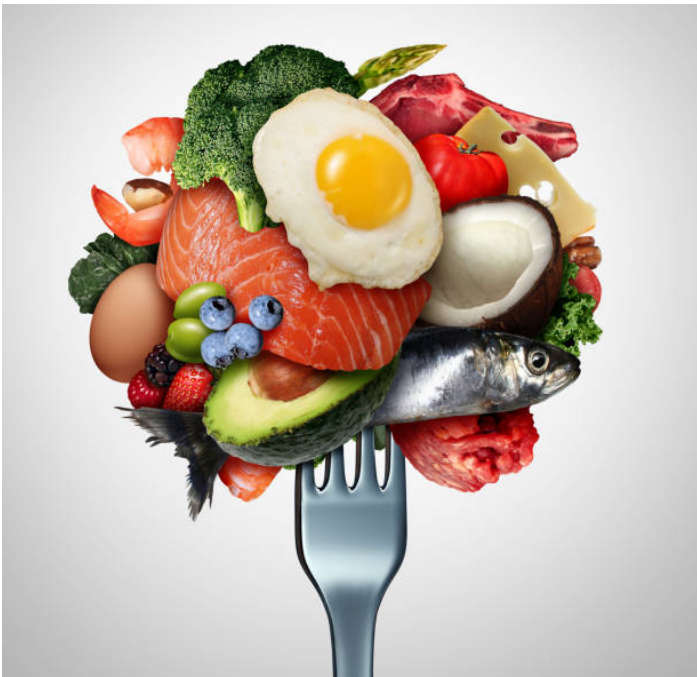
Income is defined as all moneys received from every source other than gifts or inheritances received from a spouse, lineal ancestor, or lineal descendant. For married applicants residing with their spouses, the income of both spouses must be included, whether or not the property is in both names.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

Harnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Lewis Weatherspoon and Commissioner Barbara McKoy attended a recognition ceremony for Boon Edam Inc. for earning the national Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) accreditation. We were honored to have Josh Dobson, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor, visit Harnett County to present this prestigious award and recognize local employees. Boon Edam is now one of 170 companies in the state of North Carolina receiving SHARP accreditation and the only current company in Harnett County with this designation. Chairman Weatherspoon was able to provide some remarks to employees stating, "we appreciate Boon Edam's dedication to workplace safety and making sure that each employee, many of whom are County residents, are able to go home safely each evening to their families. "



[CLICK TO
READ MORE!](#)



March is recognized as National Nutrition Month. During National Nutrition Month, we encourage everyone to make informed food choices and develop sound eating and physical activity habits they can follow all year long.

A healthy eating plan emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products. It includes lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts, is low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium), and added sugars, and stays within your daily calorie needs. When deciding what to eat or drink, choose options that are full of nutrients. Make every bite count!

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.



LIBRARY DESIGN SPACE:

MAR 21, 22 & 23

Leather Patches

THERE ARE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES WITH THIS PROGRAM.



USE OUR SOFTWARE TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR DESIGN. ENGRAVE ON YOUR CHOICE OF GENUINE LEATHER. THEN ATTACH TO YOUR BAG, HAT, BEANIE, JACKET, OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU CHOOSE.

ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Literacy in Motion

AGES 3-6

INSPIRED KIDS
Literature in Motion
CREATIVITY. CONFIDENCE. COMMUNITY.

Books
Art
Dance

MOVE & GROOVE WHILE BUILDING EARLY LITERACY SKILLS!

Registration Required

Friday, March 11th @ 10 am
Tuesday, March 15th @ 11 am

AI
Inspired Kids Academy

Harnett County Public Library

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES



"BLANKET" ECOLOGY W/ PARK RANGER CODY

RESCHEDULED DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022 @ 10 AM
Anderson Creek County Park Picnic Pavilion
1492 Nursery Rd
Lillington, NC 27546

Join "Park Ranger" Cody to learn all about animals, the many habitats in which they thrive, and how we as humans can care for and protect them!

This free program does include an interactive activity aimed at children ages 5-10 and the opportunity for a brief nature hike at the conclusion.

Questions? Contact Drew Bryant at (910) 893-7518



TIME FOR SENIOR GAMES 2022

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

**MID-CAROLINA SENIOR GAMES
2022 ENTRY PACKET**
For Athletes, Parents and Coaches

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE - MARCH 11 FINAL DEADLINE - APRIL 1
36th ANNUAL EVENT
April 20 - May 7, 2022
REACH OUT TO NEW HORIZONS



Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor...

Humana

**MID-CAROLINA
REGIONAL COUNCIL**
Creative Regional Solutions

Hop on over to Torch to register online and don't miss out on the early bird deadline.
<https://torch.ncseniorgames.org/>

Paper registration also available. Please call 910-321-4191 x40 or visit
<https://www.midcarolinacog.org/2022-senior-games>



Step into Fitness!

March 28th-April 24th

The "Step into Fitness" Walking Challenge will help you move more by offering simple suggestions to increase physical activity through walking. Walking challenges can be a great way to get your family, friends, and/or co-workers involved in friendly competition, physical activity, and a common goal.

"Step into Fitness" is a FREE program that includes:

- Weekly newsletters with tips and ideas you can use to move more.
- Walking Log for tracking activity and points. *Every 10 minutes of walking = 1 point.*
- **PRIZES!**

Complete the challenge and be entered into a drawing for prizes!

Let's start walking! Sign up now!

For more information or to sign up:
Harnett County Health Department
910-814-6196 or www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCHDStepintoFitness
Registration deadline: Friday, March 25th



TAX DEPARTMENT

Harnett County 2022 Reappraisal

Unable to attend a reappraisal public meeting?



View the presentation on Youtube & view 2022 Reappraisal FAQs online!

SCAN ME!



WHERE TO WATCH:
<https://tinyurl.com/weas22mh>



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES



Pork Loin Plate Sale

with hot sweet potato, black eye peas and cornbread

Drive Thru only

Friday, March 18, 2022

11:30-6:00pm

Coats Senior Center

910-897-4616

\$10



COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE DSS EMPLOYEES

Commissioners presented four Department of Social Services employees with certificates of appreciation for their public service to Harnett County citizens. Tim Adamaszek, Lori Pate, Princess Mercer, and Alyssa DiCristo were recently recognized by the US Marshal Service for assisting with the recovery of a 6 year old child, her sibling and their mother.

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER

Happy Birthday!

We Wish You All The Best

MARCH 1

Ashley Bauer
Ainsley Johnson
Nicole C. Kirk
Terri Crisp
Clarence Gibson

MARCH 2

Nathanline Gunn
Allan O'Brian
Lameen McBryde

MARCH 3

Randy Baker
Caitlin Brown
Wayne Coats
Jaime Phelps
Ashley Reid

MARCH 4

Alexis Anders
Missy King
Jessica Smith
Shannon S. Warren

MARCH 5

Ayla Bryant
Michael Morriso
Teresa Wells

MARCH 6

Michaela Armstrong
Isaac Das
Jerry Hamilton

MARCH 7

Amanda Michalowski
Lily Pilkington
Lianna Simmons

MARCH 8

Donald Lucas
David Price
Samantha Stanley
Roger Taylor

MARCH 9

Gayla Hurwitz
Jeb Shook

MARCH 11

Robert Edmonds
Kenneth Matthews

MARCH 12

Audrey Johnson
Robin Sawyers
Kaye Wise

MARCH 14

Willie Walter Edwards

MARCH 15

Kerri Davis
Steven Elms
Lee Harris
Kimberly Hathcock
Rodney Jackson
John Knight
Itasha McKethan



MARCH 16

Daniel Fleming
Renea Warren-Ford
Wesley Turner
Deborah Wilson

MARCH 17

William Jason Collins
Noah Gill
Taryn McKenrick
Edward Odom

MARCH 18

Jennifer Lester

MARCH 19

Rodney Eason
Jacob Holly
Neola Jeune
Brookie Jones
Andrea Maness
April Rangel-Diaz

MARCH 20

William Ernest Connor
Kristian Davis

MARCH 21

Theresa Coupee

MARCH 22

Veronica Aguirre
Robert Burlock
Travis Holt
Jonathan Murphy

MARCH 24

Sherra McDougald
Joan Shaw

MARCH 25

Matthew Ellard
Donovan Heist
Elizabeth Beasley
Lane Doby
David Oakley
Stewart Parker

MARCH 26

Christopher Appel
Kimberly Sirois

MARCH 27

Billy Kelly
Lori Ann Pate
Tina Strickland

MARCH 28

Debra Hardison

MARCH 30

Karen Blackmond, Patricia Davis
John Kevin Holder, Kimberly Honeycutt
Jiang Ouyang, Logan Whitaker
Daniel Williams

MARCH 31

Tracy Tant, Catherine Taylor,
Michelle Temple
Michael Vanderpool

MARCH 29

Pamela Little

**Join us in celebrating
our Harnett County
employees!**

HUMAN RESOURCES CORNER

LIVE WELL, WORK WELL

Understanding Your Kidney Health

March is National Kidney Month, making it a great time to take charge of your health to lower your chances of developing kidney disease. Your kidneys filter your blood to remove waste and extra water to create urine.

They also make vital hormones that produce red blood cells, promote bone health and regulate your blood pressure. As such, the kidneys play a vital role in your body.



Kidney-friendly Tips

Your kidneys work hard for you, so it's essential to take good care of them. Consider the following tips:

- Get tested. Regular screening for kidney damage or disease can help you keep track of your kidney's health and help prevent future damage.
 - Reduce over-the-counter drug usage. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g., ibuprofen) can cause kidney damage if taken regularly, so never exceed the recommended dosage.
 - Exercise regularly. Exercising helps lower your blood pressure and boost heart health—both critical factors in preventing kidney damage. Focus on being active for at least 30 minutes a day.
 - Eat a healthy diet and monitor your weight. Choose a low-sodium diet, avoid processed meats and focus on fresh ingredients like cauliflower, blueberries, fish and whole grains.
 - Drink plenty of fluids. Water helps flush sodium and toxins from your kidneys. It's recommended that men should get about 15 1/2 cups of fluids each day, and women need about 11 1/2 cups.
- Contact your doctor for more information about kidney health and warning signs.

Looking for a new healthy recipe to try?

Macaroni & Cheese with Broccoli

Makes: 6 servings

Ingredients

2 cups elbow macaroni (uncooked)

4 Tbsp. flour

2 cups low-fat milk

2 cups low-fat shredded cheddar cheese 1/2 tsp. black pepper

2 cups broccoli (cooked and chopped)

Preparations

1) Cook the macaroni following the package instructions.

2) Drain the cooked macaroni and return to the pot.

3) While the macaroni is still warm, sprinkle in the flour and stir thoroughly.

4) Over medium heat, slowly stir the milk into the macaroni.

5) Add the cheese and black pepper.

6) Stir over medium heat until the milk and cheese thicken into a creamy sauce, about 7 to 10 minutes.

7) Stir in the broccoli. Heat thoroughly.

8) Taste and add a small amount of salt, if needed.

Nutritional Information (per serving)

Total calories Total fat Protein Sodium

Carbohydrate Dietary fiber Saturated fat

Total sugars

280

4g

19 g 277 mg 40 g 3g

2g 5g

Source: MyPlate



PREPARING FOR TAX-FILING SEASON

Tax season is here, so if you haven't done so already, it's time to gather all the appropriate information you need to file your 2021 tax returns. The federal tax deadline is April 18, 2022. Many people elect to file their tax returns electronically. This can be done in various ways, such as using tax preparation software or consulting a tax return professional. If you are filing with a paper form, there are certain documents you must be sure to include. There is a myriad of tax documentation you may need, depending on your employment status over the past year. It's critical to consult with a tax professional with specific questions about your tax-filing situation.



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.

WELCOME NEW HIRES!



Join me in welcoming our new employees to the Harnett County team! New employees from various departments attended the February 21 and March 7 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