



HARNETT COUNTY

2023 Mid-Year Report



strong roots ● new growth

August 2023



Harnett
COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

County Projects

February 2023



August 2023



Harnett Regional Jetport Expansion

Terminal Construction Project

The Harnett Regional Jetport is a Fiscal Year 2023 Legislative Priority. Harnett County is expanding and enhancing the Jetport.

On Feb. 14, 2023, Jackson Builders began demolition on Harnett Regional Jetport's original terminal building. A new 7,000+ square foot, two-story terminal will soon be home to Harnett Regional Jetport and Harnett County Economic Development.

The new terminal will offer a variety of amenities including conference rooms, a spacious lounge, a pilot's lounge with planning room, and a 2nd-story observation deck overlooking HRJ's midfield.

The terminal project is scheduled for completion in April 2024.

Runway Rehabilitation Project

In July 2023, KPR Engineering and HASCO, Inc. started a runway rehabilitation project on Harnett Regional Jetport's runway and taxiway.

The project consists of:

- pressure washing the runway and taxiway
- applying a layer of rejuvenator, which extends the life of the asphalt and darkens the asphalt to promote contrast between the asphalt and the painted markings
- routing and sealing crack in the asphalt
- repainting of all painted surfaces

The project is scheduled for completion in September 2023.

Board of Elections

- Election outreach- Angier Kiwanis (January 2023, 20 people).
- County/Precinct Boundary meetings with GIS.
- Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE) conducted by US Department of Homeland Security in March.
- Municipal Candidate filing (July 2023, 36 filed).



Cooperative Extension

- Pesticide applicators training: 80+ private applicators earned required pesticide credits to maintain their credentials.
- Chainsaw Safety Field Day: 21 individuals learned techniques for safely operating a chainsaw. Two earned International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) credits and two earned safety certifications, which are required for their positions.
- The Forestry Area Specialized Agent has served 1,119 clients ranging from forest landowners to elementary school children with educational programs and technical assistance.
- The mobile poultry processing unit was rented out multiple times. Due to the high usage of this equipment, Extension acquired an Ag Venture grant to secure a second unit.
- Meeting Food Insecurity issues through assistance with four community gardens. Extension has been able to help participants identify pests, weeds, and diseases that threaten their gardens. They have also learned techniques to prevent and treat problems as they arise.
- Community & Rural Development (CRD) agent helped underserved residents with tax returns. The average tax return for clients we helped was \$200. The amount saved by Harnett County residents was \$104,200.
- Approximately 200 youth participated in 4-H summer fun activities.
- Volunteers, including County Advisory Council, 4-H, ECA, Agriculture, CRD, and Extension Master Gardeners, have provided approximately 277 hours of volunteer time with a value of \$8,296.15.

Emergency Services



- Initiated their first Paramedic Academy to aid in retention and recruitment issues.
- Expanded the Community Paramedic Program by implementing a Post Overdose Response Team (PORT) to target opioid abuse issues in the county.

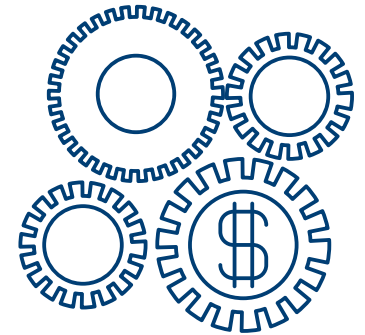


Economic Development

- The Harnett County Economic Development Partnership Board of Directors held its inaugural planning retreat in Raleigh on February 23, 2023. This meeting convened to review last year's progress and unite behind new annual priorities, outlining a plan of action for the coming year.
- Created and launched new Economic Development website.
- Hired Economic Development Marketing Director.
- Implemented Economic Development Newsletter and enhanced social media campaign.
- Created and distributed monthly business resource e-News for existing industries.



Development Services



Planning

- New Planner 1 hired.
- Adoption of Hwy 421 "Ed-Med" Corridor Overlay.
- Started the process of updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- Department won a 2023 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for their residential Compatibility Design Regulations.

Central Permitting & Inspections

- Steven Gazlay obtained Standard level II certification in Electrical and Plumbing, making him level II certification in all four trades.
- John Kokoszka obtained Standard level II certification in Mechanical and Plumbing.
- Processed and issued 2,124 permits from January to July.
- Made 13,779 inspection stops, 2,747 of which were in Angier and Dunn.
- Reviewed 882 plans for the county, 64 in Angier, 68 in Dunn, totaling 1,014.

Facilities Management

- Installed two new replacement commercial large capacity water heaters at the Detention Center.
- Installed new concrete walkway from the Library to Health Department to aid in pedestrian safety and ease of mobility.
- All maintenance staff are state certified in Fire Sprinkler Maintenance and Repair.

Finance

- Updated purchasing card policy.
- Implemented paperless system for reporting purchasing card transactions within Enterprise Resource Planning Software (ERP) system.
- Obtained full staffing for the first time since 2018.
- Began implementation of eCivics grant management software.

Fleet

- Replaced two Dodge Charger engines in-house: cost savings approximately \$8,000
 - Approximate cost if outsourced \$10,000
 - Approximate in house cost \$6,000
- Replaced lifters in Dodge Charger; cost savings approximately \$1,500
 - Approximate cost if outsourced \$2,500-\$3,000
 - Approximate in house cost \$1,500
- Purchased four vehicles in the vehicle replacement program for FY 2023.
- Fleet Department sold 22 assets on GovDeals.com in the amount of \$66,338.14, with 1,112 bids, 29,948 website hits, and 18,042 visitors online.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

- Converted Addressing and Roads data to NENA standard format.
- Implemented a new addressing tool and procedures.
- Transitioned to mapping in ArcPro from ArcMap (with the exception of parcels).
- Created 1287 Address Points.
- Created 191 Development Sub Phases.
- Created 207 Road Segments (total 27 miles of road).
- Reviewed 299 Plats and Completed the Mapping.
- Completed 75 Custom Map/Project Requests.
- Completed 25 Zoning/Rezoning Requests.
- Completed 3 Annexation Requests.
- Completed 3959 Parcel Transfers, Splits and Recombination's.
- Completed 120 Road Sign Work Orders.



Health Department

- January 2023, completed the 2022 Community Health Assessment along with Campbell University.
- Staff has been working on the 2023 Accreditation document and getting prepared for the October site visit.
- Purchased and received a Medical Mobile unit.
- The HCHD partners with Rex Mobile Mammography to provide access for breast screenings on campus.
- Girls are Great and Teen Girl Conference was held in April.
- Step into Fitness month was held in April.
- May 2023, Med Assist and Shred a Thon event in conjunction with the NC Department of Insurance Senior Medicare program, was held in the Commons.
- The Senior Volunteer program provided 9,591 hours of volunteer services at 22 sites in the county.

Human Resources

- Implemented recommendations from the Compensation Study which consisted of multiple step increases.
- Completed implementation of a paperless onboarding process with Neogov.
- Conducted (13) New Hire Orientation sessions which resulted in onboarding 123 new hires for the County.
- Conducted an I9 audit.
- Conducted Benefits Enrollment for plan year 2023-2024.
- Moved to a paperless employee personnel file system

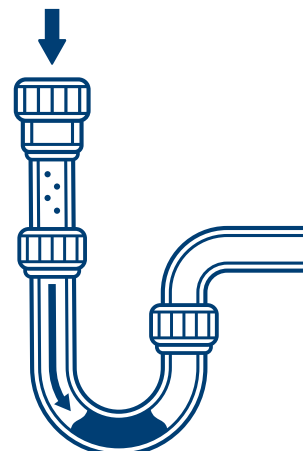
Information Technology

- Migration of email for county and municipalities to Office 365.
- HR onboarding import into Munis software.
- Tax collection software migration to Bitek.
- Benhaven building project connectivity.
- Public Utilities AT&T project from connectivity to all water distribution SCADA sites.
- Cell service migration to AT&T from Verizon.
- Cloud faxing service implemented.
- Upgraded time keeping system, Executime to latest release.



Harnett Regional Water

- Continue with Advanced Meter Infrastructure Project deployment-now 90% complete with scheduled completion date of September.
- Completed customer service initiative to remove availability fees from billing protocol.
- Continue working with consulting engineer & NCDEQ to seek Authorization to Construct the North Harnett Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade Project.
- Completed water line construction, wastewater line, and pump station to serve new Northwest Elementary School.
- Continue to plan joint project with Town of Holly Springs for new pump station and water tower to complete water supply project.



General Services

Animal Services

- Initiated Foster to Adopt program to increase animal adoptions and improves spay/neuter rate. All animals in the program 100% success rate.
- Initiated internal spay/neuter program, 95% of all animals of proper age are released altered.
- Attended adoption events at businesses in surrounding counties. Increased animal adoptions and donations with these events.
- Social media page creation has increased foot traffic and outreach across the county.



Community Development

- Applied for USDA Housing Preservation Grant (\$85,000) - State office recommended funding to Federal level – on-hold until Feds release funds.

Harnett Area Rural Transit System (HARTS)

- Transit Manager & Operations Supervisor successfully completed NCSU's Transportation Leadership Development Program (a highly sought after credential).
- Transportation Advisory Board approved FY23 – FY24 Senior Center Trip Requests – commitment to provide additional transit service for Centers.
- Citizen survey focused on both Fayetteville – Raleigh area destinations completed.
- NC Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) NW Harnett Transit Study approved.

Youth Restitution

- Successfully completed a Department of Juvenile Justice program audit with no negative findings.

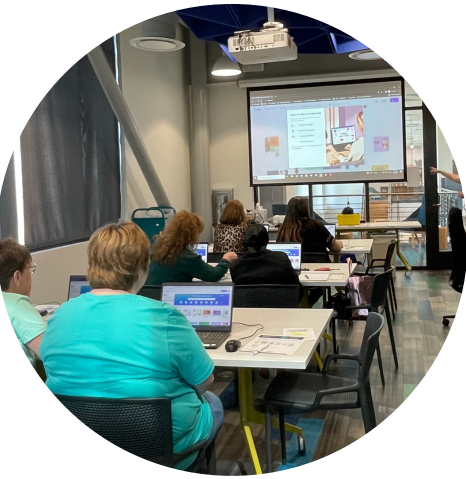
Register of Deeds

- Completed Phase I of the Marriage License preservation project. Years 1890 – 1910
- Collected \$1,683,493 in Excise Tax (\$858,581.43 for Harnett County - \$824,911.57 for State) \$841,746,500 in Real Estate has transferred in Harnett County so far this year.
- Issued 458 Marriage Licenses
- Implemented filing of Assumed Business Names electronically
- Finishing up back indexing project. Current index will now go back to 1972 from 1986.



Library

- Applied for and was awarded food literacy grant funds to purchase a Charlie Cart, a fully equipped mobile kitchen and curriculum for the purpose of bringing nutrition awareness and access to healthy meals for all children, teens, and adults. Programs included, multi-cultural, interactive programs for teens and adults, cooking classes with senior citizens, baking classes for children ages 5-8 in collaboration with NC Cooperative Extension and 4-H, Candy-making classes during that library's summer reading program for ages 6-12, and cooking classes for school-age children and teens at library branches in Coats and Erwin.
- Revised Library Service Policy to streamline and harmonize services, enhance user experience, incorporate best practices, and align policies in the newly consolidated library system.
- Redesigned Benhaven Media Center for future site of Benhaven Public Library.
 - Partnered with Campbell University to provide free tax preparation services more than 200 Harnett County citizens.
 - Offered the following adult technology classes: Computers for Beginners, Microsoft Word for Beginners, Intermediate Microsoft Word, ebooks, eAudiobooks and eNewspapers, Getting Started with Canva, and 3D printing for Newbies.
 - Partnered with Cloudwyze and the Kramden Institute to provide a digital literacy course. All participants who completed the course received a free laptop.
 - Planned, organized, and implemented more than 250 summer activities and programs in libraries throughout Harnett County to promote community engagement and prevent summer learning loss among students.



Public Information Office

- Hired new Community Relations Director in March.
- Website redesign: Layout is complete. The new website incorporates new features including: customized carousels, popular resources, related links, what's new, FAQ's, upcoming events, and meetings. Each department page has a footer including a blurb about what they do and contact information. Each department header has a social media tag if they have their own social media page. Currently, each department is inputting information on their webpages. Would like to launch in September.
- Held the fall Citizen Information Session in June and had 22 in-person attendees and 3 online.
- Received 177 new subscribers for our e-newsletter (Harnett Happenings).
- Increased the open rate for the Harnett Happenings newsletter by 56% from 596 in Jan 2023 to 1,059 in August 2023.
- Constructed Board of Commissioners Recap videos and have been receiving at least 50 views on each video posted to our YouTube channel.
- Lead the 2nd annual Community Day, 767 people registered, and even more attended.
- Increased Facebook page engagement by 72.5% (from 1,869 [Jan-March] to 3,224 [April-August])

Parks & Recreation

- Offered two Nature Education Programs, two Movie in the Park events, three Barn Quilt Workshops, Afterschool and Summer Camp Programming at Boone Trail Community Center and Library, Church Softball Program at Neill's Creek Park, and host several events for the Mid-Carolina Senior Games.
- Year of the Trail Programming included a Spring Wildflower Hike (March), Treasures of the Trail Photo Contest (April), Memorial May Scavenger Hunt (May), and Partnered with Local Outdoor Recreation businesses in June to offer discounts to trail users.
- Resurfaced 2,700 linear feet of the Anderson Creek Park gravel driveway.
- Began the construction and development of Benhaven Community Park.



- Completed the construction of the Mountain Biking Trails at Anderson Creek Park.
- Began the design process for the Neill's Creek Park Restroom/Concession Building.
- Construction of stairs at the Cape Fear River Trail Park on the trail from the Restrooms to the water access point.
- Hosted athletic programs at Cape Fear Shiner Park for the Town of Lillington (soccer) and Carolina Charter Academy (cross country and soccer).
- Provided over 600 hours of rental facilities at ballfields, picnic shelters, gyms, countywide.
- Estimated 156,263 patrons visited the County parks.

Veterans Services

- Hosted ASIST Training- Suicide Prevention with 28 attendees.
- Hosted Suicide Forum/Panel Discussion and Vendor Fair.
- Hosted Memorial Day Ceremony/Program.
- Two Veteran Service Officers attended National Association of Veterans Services Officer Training.

Hope in Harnett

Save the Date
Friday, June 23, 2023
10AM - 2PM

Suicide Prevention Speakers, Panel Discussion and Information
Fair for Veterans, Service Members and their Families



Social Services

- Held New Foster Parent Training (20 people).
- Planned and presented Foster Care Halloween Bash (120 people).
- Held Foster Parent Support Group meeting (16 people).
- Held event for Planting of Pinwheels for Child Abuse Awareness (40 people).
- Held information session with Harnett County Schools social workers and counselors (30 people).
- Held Elder Abuse Awareness Walk (40 people).
- Continuing efforts on Website redesign.

Solid Waste

- Hosted Hazardous Waste disposal event for County citizens May 6.
- Hosted Shredding event for County citizens May 18.
- Obtained state permit to operate new landfill cell at Dunn-Erwin landfill.
- Participated in Keep Harnett Beautiful Spring litter sweep in April.
- Effective July 1, operation hours at convenience sites were extended.

Tax Department

- Completed Bitek Software conversion with yearly cost savings.
- Maintained strong collection rate of 98.51%.
- Increased value of Business Personal Property of \$94 million.
- Added a QR code for to the 2023 tax bills as a convenient payment option.
- Implement Training Guidelines for staff development.
- Implement data clean up measures.
- RFQ for 2026 Reappraisal in progress.

Soil & Water Conservation District

Technical Assistance

- Stream Debris Removal: In June we completed projects clearing debris from 89 miles of waterways allowing for unrestricted waterflow and easing lowland flooding during heavy rain events (\$2,514,516 in Federal and State grants); This work restored ability for families to navigate safely by kayak for recreational purposes.
- Agriculture Cost Share Programs: Provided \$66,695 to Harnett County farmers for installation of conservation practices via the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program saving 2,102 tons of soil impacting 941 acres.
- Riverside Drainage Project: Removed 221 tons/13 tractor trailer loads of abandoned tires from a primary drainage way to the Cape Fear River within the Riverside community for a cost savings to the community/landowner of \$85,966. Also cleaned out 1,225 feet of drainage ditches within residential areas of the Riverside community at a cost savings to the community of \$46,026. - Completed June 2023
- Conservation Equipment Rental Program: 746 acres no-till acres planted using District's Great Plains No-Till Grain Drills (2). Average planting per rental is 12 acres (\$120) vs the cost of a same model grain drill is \$33,000.




Soil & Water Conservation District

Conservation Education

- Keep Harnett Beautiful: Organized Spring Litter Sweep – Over 800 volunteer hours valued at \$25,500, 79 Cleanups completed on 53 roadways collecting over 1,360 bags and 325 large items – April 2023
- NC Envirothon Program: Coached and sponsored 4 Envirothon teams all advancing from Area level to State level competition (20 students) – Jan - April.
- Facilitated gardening program at LaFayette Elementary School providing student instruction and project resources to meet science objectives and provide increased opportunities for outdoor learning and life skill development (600 students) - Feb - May.
- Other youth teaching events: 1,095 students (Field Days, Classroom Presentations, Camps) Jan-June 2023
- Other adult teaching/speaking events - 395 adults (Farmer/Landowner Meetings, SWCD Area Meetings, S&W Professional Development) - Jan- June.

Workforce Development

- Provided 286 services to Harnett County Employers (Jan- June 30).
- Registered 26 veterans for training opportunities and referred to Veteran Services offices for benefits.
- 2,040 employment & training services was provided to individuals (Jan-June 30).
- Four employers hiring event.
- Hosted Multi- 20 Employer Job Fair.
- Community Outreach:
 - Beacon Rescue Mission, Brookside Apartments National Night Out,
 - Harnett Food Bank,
 - Angier Food Bank,
 - Recruiters for Christ, Central Carolina Community College, Express Coin Laundromat, Ft. Bragg Army Community Services, Star Academy Career Fair, Dunn Pals, Veteran Treatment Court.
- Provided 50 children with winter coats during our giveaway in the Angier Community.
- Gave away food boxes during Easter.
- Workshops provided:
 - Resume Building, Interviewing Tips, Conflict Resolution,
 - Financial Literacy, Labor Market Information,
 - Job Search Techniques, Career Assessments,
 - How to complete a job application ,
 - Moving forward from the Military to life as a Civilian,
 - The Skills You Bring: Transferable Sills in the Workplace,
 - How to have a Successful School Year,
 - Job Search Tips for Former Offenders and Balance Life & Work-Self Care.
- Provide citizens in need of interviewing clothes or work attire from clothes closet.



**For more information, contact:
Harnett County Manager's Office
455 McKinney Parkway
Lillington, NC 27546
910-893-7555**