



HARNETT REGIONAL JETPORT

2024 MID YEAR REPORT



Harnett
COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

Board of Elections

- Conducted the March 5, 2024, Primary Election.
 - Overall voters: 17,969 total registered voters: 86,359 (20.81% voter turnout).
 - Successfully maintained four early voting locations (35.64% of voter turnout was during early voting).
 - Verified voter history matched vote totals and conducted post-election audits and state-mandated sorts thoroughly and efficiently.
 - Several contests did not get the percentage required and a Second Primary was called.
- Conducted the May 14, 2024, Second Primary Election.
 - Overall Voters: 2,882 total registered voters: 60,485 (4.76% voter turnout)
 - Verified voter history matched vote totals and conducted post-election audits and state-mandated sorts thoroughly and efficiently.



Capital Projects



- Completion of Harnett Regional Jetport Terminal.
- Moved temporary terminal from Harnett Regional Jetport to Dunn-Erwin Landfill for office space.
- Removal and demolition of former Joblink building from CCCC Campus in Lillington.
- Boone Trail:
 - Removed all rotted wood doors and frames from the entrance of gym. Replaced these with storefront windows and doors.
- Tax Office:
 - Removed all cashier counters, replaced with ADA cashier counters.
- Resource Center and Library:
 - Renovated snack bar area to accommodate Stick Boy Bread Company.
- Benhaven:
 - Renovated back portion to accommodate two study rooms and a conference room.
 - Added new picnic area at Benhaven Library with new sidewalk entrance to Library.
 - Renovated two locker rooms at gym and converted them to classrooms.
- HARTS/Transportation:
 - Installed new automatic door openers with large gates.
- Development Services/Inspections:
 - Remodeled front entrance
 - Installed new ADA compliant counter.
 - Relocated window.

Cooperative Extension

- **4-H**
 - Harnett County Cooperative Extension was highlighted by the NC State Local Foods Program Team with an article they put together that shows the impact our office makes by working together.
 - 12 Harnett County schools registered for the 4-H Embryology program this spring.
 - In March, Harnett County 4-H recognized 42 4-H members for their club work in 2023. 35 4-H Club members completed 4-H Points of Success where they earned certificates, gift cards, medals, and trophies depending on the level they earned.
- **Agriculture**
 - Assisted nine Harnett County farmers with writing, reviewing, and submitting grant applications. Harnett County was awarded four NC AgVentures Grants that totaled \$29,950 in 2024.
 - Completed the Harnett Ag Shelter enclosure. Framing the wall and installing the metal saved the County \$3,000 dollars. The electrical, lighting, and roll up door have also been installed. The equipment and tools housed in this area will help the farmers and residents of Harnett County.
- **Horticulture**
 - On May 30, 2024, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate a greenhouse that was built by the Master Gardener program and was made possible by support from Senator Jim Burgin. The greenhouse is a fundraising opportunity for the Master Gardeners as they grow/sell plants and provide demonstrations for small and mid-size growers. The ceremony also celebrated the work of ECA as they completed a memorial quilt that is now framed and on display at the Ag Center.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences**
 - Safe Plates is NC State Extension's family of evidence-based food safety programming and resources for retail, community, and home-based food safety. Staff taught two SafePlates classes where approximately 25 HCS cafeteria managers were trained, tested, and certified in SafePlates.



Development Services

- **Central Permitting**
 - Made physical and personnel changes to our reception area in Central Permitting to help with customer flow and increase productivity.
 - Processed 3,599 permit applications and issued 2,984 permits since the beginning of 2024.
- **Building Inspection**
 - Filled code enforcement officer position with a Level III certified inspector.
 - Code enforcement officer Steven Gazlay achieved Level III certification in all four trades.
 - Three other inspectors received standard certifications in various other trades.
 - Continue to maintain next day inspections policy, despite the large amount of growth we are having throughout the county.
 - Completed 20,818 inspections since the beginning of 2024.

Development Services cont.

• Planning

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update
 - Wrapping-up Phase II of the land use plan update and beginning to draft policy recommendations and the future land use map.
 - Concluded the community survey and analyzed results. Over 1,000 residents participated in the survey.
 - Held two public engagement workshops to educate the residents about the land use plan update and gained valuable insights for the future plan.
 - Increased functionality and user participation in eTRAKit, the online project management and permitting system, by designing a step-by-step user guide for licensed design professionals and providing an in-person demonstration to surveyors at their local chapter meeting. Additionally, staff has increased the types of projects which can be submitted using the eTRAKit software from two to five.
 - Introduced three text amendments to update policy and improve the quality of the Unified Development Ordinance.
 - Reviewed 317 projects, including 976 new lots, since the beginning of 2024.
 - Investigated 52 code cases since the beginning of 2024.

Economic Development

- Triangle Business Journal Names Angie Stewart a 2024 Women in Business Award Winner
- Product Development:
 - The Harnett Economic Development Corporation received \$547,885 in Golden LEAF Funding for Site Development activities at Edgerton Industrial Park in Dunn. This SITE Program funding will support various site preparation activities, including clearing, grubbing, grading, and erosion control. Grant funding is also allowing for the completion of a title opinion and utility capacity analysis. for a 25-acre site.
 - Harnett County and the I-95 Crossroads of America Economic Development Alliance will close on land to construct the first of six planned Class A industrial buildings. The first of which is projected to be approximately 162,000 square feet, subdividable.
- Harnett County Economic Development launched a newly redesigned website (harnettcdc.org)

Emergency Services



- Completion of the Municipal Law Enforcement VIPER Radio Replacement Project \$1,681,300 in ARPA funding
- Staffed Northwest Harnett Fire Department with an EMS unit and crew, Medic 16.
- Assumed the Search and Rescue Team operation from the Harnett County Chiefs Association. This will be managed by the Emergency Management Division

Facilities

- Updated all HVAC controls in Courthouse, Government complex, Tax and Deeds and Health science buildings. Had three Techs to earn their Backflow licenses saving the County over \$12,000 by doing this in house.
- Repaved the parking lot at the Government Complex in front of the Department of Social Services and Health building.
- Installed new Septic tank at Boone Trail community center.

Finance

- Began implementation of ePayable system to streamline accounts payable system and provide added layer of protection for the County and our vendors against possible future bank fraud.
- Began implementation of Tyler Enterprise Reporting Planning (ERP) Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) module to bring the annual ACFR report writing function in house. This will help to control rising cost of annual audits and allow the County to have more continuity in its financial reporting structure.
- Began implementation of Tyler ERP Bank Reconciliation module to improve accuracy and efficiency in required monthly processes.
- Provided subject matter expertise support to IT in the conversion of our ERP system from on premises to Cloud based. This migration will give the County staff more flexibility to access our system remotely in the event of a natural disaster or some other work disruption that would restrict access to our offices.
- Provided subject matter expertise support to various County departments concerning issues involving Sales Tax to ensure that all County departments are fully complying with Sales & Use Tax laws.

Fleet

- GovDeals online auction platform for our surplus vehicle sales.
 - Sold 14 vehicles for a total of \$50,373.
 - 880 bids and 15,319 hits to our vehicle pages.
- Fleet staff took on several in-house projects instead of out-sourcing to vendors for an approximate savings of \$36,500.00; in-house projects include:
 - Catalytic converters stolen from 11 vehicles in February. Fleet staff purchased and installed new converters; approximate savings \$11,000.
 - Replaced three transmissions: approximate savings \$2,500 per vehicle.
 - Rebuild of HARTS/Transportation vehicle 7,962; approximate savings \$12,500.
 - Vehicle has new engine, transmission and rear differential.
 - Bodywork and bumper replacement (not requiring paint) for three vehicles; approximate savings \$1,000 per vehicle.
 - Replaced cylinder head on a Dodge Charger; approximate savings \$2,500.
 - Receiving updated diagnostic readings for Ford and Dodge; saving trips and expense to dealerships.
- 854 vehicle work orders were completed during this period.
- Fleet staff worked with Human Resources/Risk Management to ensure consistency in our vehicle lists for insurance purposes. We agreed it was beneficial to review each year prior to annual insurance renewal.

General Services

• Animal Services

- Total municipal cases & animal intake: Cases – 212; Animals – 324. Increased 13.8% over same period last year.
- Municipal Animal Control contract increased to \$25,000 per town. The increase in annual fee supplements a new town dedicated Field Service Officer and associated equipment.

• Community Development

- USDA Housing Preservation Grant (HPG23) program secured three contractors to help with home rehabilitation. Bidding requests will include the three who showed an interest in rehab projects in the county.

• Harnett Area Rural Transit System (HARTS)

- HARTS received a no deficiencies grade earned through a comprehensive tri-annual FTA & NCDOT Proficiency Review whose focus areas were financial management, technical capacity, maintenance, ADA, Title VI, procurement, DBE, legal, planning and coordination, public comment processes, charter bus compliance, safety and security, drug free workplace testing, and EEO. HARTS was only one of four out of fifty-four NC transit systems to receive a no deficiencies grade.
- Secured CAMPO, FAMPO and Transportation Advisory Board resolutions to support the Harnett Area Transit System and the County's application for a Microtransit study.

• Youth Services

- 41 youth admitted into Restitution program.
- 31 youth satisfactorily completed program.
- 480 community service hours.
- Successfully transitioned the Teen Court program under the county's Youth Services Program umbrella. Anticipate first 'court dates' in September-October 2024.

GIS

- 1,521 addresses created.
- 91 development sub phases created.
- 135 road segments created.
- 87 custom map/projects completed.
- 4 zoning/rezoning request completed.
- 5 annexation requests completed.
- 4,340 parcel transfers, splits and recombination's completed.
- 1,885 parcel splits and recombination's completed.
- 251 plats reviewed and mapped.
- 93 easements mapped.
- 25 covenants.
- 125 road sign work orders completed.
- Created a Narcan distribution app for the Health Department.
- Created a Code Enforcement Dashboard for Development Services.
- Updated all Map Gallery maps from Arc Map to Arc Pro format.
- Completed GIS system upgrade from Arc Server to Arc Enterprise.
- Created and implemented Medic 16 Emergency Response Area for Emergency Services.
- Created a brochure map of Lillington for Lillington Chamber of Commerce.

Harnett Regional Jetport

• Staffing

- Hired Heather Lawson as Administrative Assistant. In addition to administrative duties, Heather has worked to improve social media with Harnett Regional Jetport (HRJ) and has adapted to front desk responsibilities well.

• Training

- Staff attended annual Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Training at Fayetteville Regional Airport in January.
- Brent Trout attended the North Carolina Airport Association Spring 2024 Conference in April as an HRJ representative.
- Staff completed two Airport Leadership and Management Program courses so far in 2024.

• Operations

- Staff moved into the new Jetport terminal in March of 2024.
- FAA awarded Non-Primary Entitlement Grant funding to HRJ and a work authorization has been issued for the design and bid of a new fuel farm for HRJ by Parrish and Partners.
- Harnett Regional Jetport hosted several groups since its opening: Director's Meeting, DSS staff meeting, Brookside Christian Academy Class visit, Leadership Harnett, and the Lillington Chamber of Commerce among other events hosted by Harnett County Economic Development Department.
- Harnett County Economic Development Department moved to the terminal in May 2024.
- Operational totals: from January 2024 to June 2024, HRJ conducted 15,328 operations, ending FY 2024 with 32,167 total operations. This is up 7,001 operations from FY 23 (25,166).
- HRJ is at capacity, with 17 of 17 tie-down spots rented, 20 of 20 T-hangars rented, 3 of 3 open hangars rented, and all corporate hangars occupied.
- Construction began on a new private corporate hangar at 497 Airport Road.



Harnett Regional Water

- Completed the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Capital Project in which we replaced all of our existing manually read meters (over 46,000) with new automated meters at a cost of approximately \$16 million dollars. This project was funded entirely from Harnett Regional Water (HRW) reserves.
- Received approval from the NCDEQ to construct the estimated \$10 million-dollar Southwest Wastewater Pump Station and Force Main Project. This project will expand the County's ability to provide sewer transmission capacity along the vital Hwy 87 corridor.
- Began construction on the \$111 million-dollar North Harnett Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion capital project. This project required the cooperation and coordination to include new legal contract amendments and the securing of funding commitments with three different municipalities in our region.
- Received \$1 million dollars of ARPA funding and NCDEQ approval to begin construction of the St Matthews Rd Utility Extension in Erwin.

- **Mobile Health Program**

- Mobile Unit was on site at Lillington and Dunn Food Pantries to offer COVID-19/Flu vaccines and education on services.

- **HIPAA Privacy and Security Audit**

- Collaborated with Harnett County IT to participate in our annual Tego HIPAA Privacy and Security audit, we passed with a score of 95/100.

- **Workforce Retention**

- Incentivized retention of staff through retention pay plan using state issued CDC funds.

- **Women, Infant, Children**

- The caseload for WIC continues to increase, the monthly active participants is currently at 3,300 as of July 31, 2024. We continue to strive to meet the needs of our participants by providing extended clinic hours, and walk-in appointments. We work to provide information about our services through community outreach which has included local food pantries in Lillington and Dunn, along with Head-start sites.

- **Scam Jam**

- The Harnett County Division on Aging, in collaboration with the NC Senior Medicare Patrol Program (SMP), organized a SCAMJAM Event on Thursday, May 23. The event enlightened attendees about various threats of identity theft, fraud, and scams. Throughout the event, attendees had the opportunity to listen to presentations from various internal and external agencies and visit their dedicated table with resources and handouts.

- **Med Assist**

- On June 28th, the NC Med Assist event, sponsored by the Division on Aging and Alliance Health, was the largest to date, serving 1,102 individuals who received essential over-the-counter medications. 9% of these participants stated they were uninsured or underinsured. Among the attendees, 254 individuals expressed that access to these medications could have prevented their previous visits to the emergency room, translating to an estimated savings of \$381,000 in healthcare costs. Additionally, 73 participants were referred to the Quitline NC for ongoing support in managing their health and wellness. Throughout the event, the Health Department distributed 250 COVID-19 tests and 13 Narcan kits, addressing critical public health needs in the community.



- **“Go Red” Heart Health Lunch and Learn**

- In recognition of American Heart Month, Harnett County Health Department and Harnett Health partnered to offer the “Go Red Lunch and Learn” on February 13, located within the Government Complex Commons Area. The luncheon speakers included Dr. Reddy and Dr. Bahekar, Cardiologists with Harnett Health Heart and Vascular Specialists provided presentations on heart disease and ways to reduce your risk. A capacity crowd was in attendance.



Health cont.

• Girls are Great & Teen Girls Conference

- The Harnett County Health Department, in collaboration with Harnett County Cooperative Extension, and Girls Scouts-North Carolina Coastal Pines hosted the annual “Girls Are Great” and Teen girls conference on Saturday, April 20. “Girls Are Great” and the Teen Girls Conference is an educational program that provides information and discussions on easing the transition from childhood to pre-adolescence and discusses in a fun and friendly setting the emotional and physical changes that occur during puberty. The program is available for tween and teen girls ages 9-16 and their mother or adult guardian.

• Mobile Mammography

- Cancer ranks as the second leading cause of death in Harnett County. The Health Department continues to partner with Rex Mobile Mammography to offer mobile mammography screenings. The Rex Mobile Mammography screening program provides funding assistance for uninsured women to obtain screenings.

• Overdose Prevention

- The Health Department has implemented a series of community educational sessions which included at Veterans Services staff members, DSS staff members, a Narcan training was provided in Dunn at Another Barbershop and a session was provided at the Shawtown High School Alumni Association building located in Lillington.



Human Resources

- Updated the County’s Personnel Ordinance and it was approved by Board of Commissioners.
- Procured an external temporary staffing agency for Election Workers for payroll and onboarding purposes.
- Hosted an Eastern NEOGOV training that included surrounding local government municipalities.
- Planning/designing of the new Harnett Management Academy.
- Planning/designing the in-person customer service training.
- Assisted with Employee Access migration.
- Sent out RFP for TPA for Workers Comp – retained current carrier for one additional year.
- Completed open enrollment in May for the 2024-2025 plan year.
- Held employee wellness events (healthy cooking classes, corn hole tournament, Vitamin C Day, kick ball tournament, and picnic on the lawn).
- Held retirement informational meetings.
- Conducted 12 new hire orientations which led to the successful onboarding of 130 new hires for the County.
- Conducted Accident Reporting Training for managers and supervisors.

Information Technology

- Migration of Tyler ERP, Time, and Attendance to Tyler SaaS Cloud environment.
- Completed migration of County and Municipality E-Mail system from on-premises Exchange to Microsoft 365 environment.
- Implementation of Multi-Factor Authentication for email and all cloud platforms used by the county that we were able to integrate into Microsoft Entra.
- Multiple Cyber-Security initiatives including VPN authentication changes, Cisco Umbrella DNS security, firewall security configuration changes.
- Internet connectivity speed improvements.
- Network switch replacements and security upgrades in multiple departments.
- Backup infrastructure SAN technology renewal.
- Courthouse docket electronic signage project.
- County library and municipality fiber connectivity project that made the library branches network more accessible to all uses.
- Department of Social Services Compass Records Management Server Migration.
- Countywide Laserfiche Document Imaging System Upgrade.
- Tech Renewal: Replaced 160 user computers, 300 IP Telephones replaced.

Legal

- Staff reviewed 677 contracts.
- 119 public records requests were received with an average response time of 9.2 days. The average days to respond depends on the volume of the request, time and resources to fulfill the request, the number of other pending requests, the number of redactions necessary to protect confidential and privileged information, and time to receive the documents from the relevant department(s).
- As of 8/2/24, the County has received \$2,527,924 in Opioid Settlement Funds. Effective July 1, 2024, \$20,000 of the settlement funds were allocated to the Health Department for the purchase of naloxone for community distribution. Discussions are ongoing with the Opioid Task Force to determine the best use of funds with potential funding requests at the next quarterly meeting in October.
- Four workers compensation claims that were in active litigation were successfully resolved.
- Seven other non-workers compensation cases in active litigation or potential litigation were resolved.

Library

- Library services expanded to Western Harnett County
 - Opened Benhaven Public Library, a full-service library branch offering an extensive collection of library materials, public computers & Wi-Fi, programs for all ages, reference assistance, a public meeting room, and study stalls.
- Harnett County Library System Strategic Plan
 - Significant progress has been made in crafting a new strategic plan to guide the library's future direction.
 - Facilitated six community focus groups and conducted 14 interviews with community leaders to identify community needs and priorities.
 - Conducted surveys among staff, the Library Board, and the community yielding approximately 600 responses.
- Key Performance Metrics January 1-June 30, 2024
 - System Wide Number of programs and participants
 - Programs: 730/705 – 10.27% increase
 - Attendance: 15805/19199 – 21.47% increase
 - System Wide Physical Circulations: 141220/16116 – 14.12% increase
 - System Wide Electronic Circulations: 36194/42679 – 17.92% increase
 - Computer usage: 9412/9905 – 5.23% increase
 - New patron registrations: 2581/3432 – 32.97% increase



Parks and Recreation



- Increased participation in programming at Boone Trail Community Center: Summer Day Camp (94.9%) and Afterschool Program (24.5%).
- Offered new programming with Pickleball Clinics, open gym at Benhaven Community Center, and watercolor painting classes.
- Offered three Movies in the Park in Lillington and Angier with over 450 citizens attending.
- Hosted and managed Senior Games events in track, cornhole, and croquet.
- Started the Adult Church Softball League at Neill's Creek Park increasing the number of registered teams by 18.18%
- Added a sidewalk from the Anderson Creek Senior Center to the Picnic Shelter for greater accessibility.

Parks and Recreation cont.

- Graded and implemented erosion control measures to the Anderson Creek Park driveway.
- Replaced large drainage culverts under the Dunn-Erwin Rail Trail to eliminate a large sinkhole within the trail.
- Removed invasive plants and underbrush at Cape Fear Shiner Park along the river to create a vista from the athletic fields.
- Added a Canoe/Kayak drop-off driveway at Cape Fear Shiner Park to lessen the walk to the water access area.
- Completed the walking trail around the ballfield at Benhaven Community Center to connect the park amenities to the gymnasium, library, and Early College.
- Started the Design process for the addition of a restroom facility at Patriots Park
- Completed the Neill's Creek Park Master Plan adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
- Hosted a Triangle Trail Initiative Workshop with 41 attendees representing 30 different agencies.
- Parks had 226,412 visitors and 619 hours of rented facilities (fields, gyms, shelters).

Public Information

- Hosted two Citizen Information Sessions. 18 individuals registered for February and 24 registered for July.
- Led the 3rd Annual Community Day, over 600 individuals registered.
- Received 84 new subscribers for our e-newsletter (Harnett Happenings).
- Established a County-wide cohesive email signature template and document for all Harnett County employees.
- Developed a County-wide Media Policy.
- Completed the FY 2023-2024 Grassroots Grant process, provided State funding to 10 organizations and ARPA funding to six organizations.
- Developed a County-wide Brand and Communications guide.



Register of Deeds

- Completed restoration and preservation project for all marriage licenses from 1911-1961.
- Rearranged office moving all real estate records to the real estate vault.
- Received \$4,700 grant from NC OSBM.
- Received \$30,000 grant from Senator Burgin.

Social Services

- Child Support collected \$9,600,000 million dollars this year for Harnett County families, paternity and support was established for 90.02% of our cases.
- Program Integrity collected \$333,501 last year.
- Adult Services participated in the Citizen Information Session on 7/24/24.
- Low Income Energy Assistance Program processed 1,223 applications from 1/1/24-3/31/24.
- Monthly contacts with children in foster care averages over 98% (Federal requirement is 95%).
- Spoke with the Lillington Rotary Club and the YMCA regarding Foster Care Placement and partnered with local churches to support foster children and raise awareness.
- Foster Care had a State IV-E review with no errors.
- Foster Care Placement worker won the Statewide Family Champion Award based on her dedication, commitment to the families she works with and willingness to go beyond the minimum.
- Held our quarterly foster parent support meeting including an Easter egg hunt to support foster parents as well as all children that are in agency custody.
- Received a grant for participation at the Daniel Memorial National Independent Living Conference in Orlando, Florida.
- Participated in the NC Child Welfare Joint Planning Session and NC Child Welfare Indian Gathering.
- Made a Child Abuse and Neglect presentation to Harnett County newly hired Paramedics.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) served on the planning committee with five other agencies for The Harnett County Trauma Summit and served as a panel participant for the Summit.
- Organized the county Prevent Child Abuse event where pinwheels were planted to raise community awareness and held Elder Abuse Walk.
- Designed and sold Prevent Child Abuse t-shirts to raise money to assist in meeting needs of families receiving CPS services in our county.
- DSS supervisors participated in Narcan training held by the Harnett County Health Department.
- CPS social workers participated in Narcan and car seat training provided by the Harnett County Health Department.
- Collaborated with the Dunn Police Department on a child death case that resulted in arrests with murder charges.
- Navigated the first known Child Labor Trafficking case in the county and closely worked with State and Federal Agencies.
- Maintained high standard service provision, exceeding both regional and State data, with as many as 6 vacancies in the unit. HCDSS CPS timely initiated 93.8 % of our CPS Investigations compared to the regional rate of 92.6% and the State rate of 92.5%. CPS also surpassed timely case completion with a rate of 36.6% compared to the regional rate of 26.5% and the State rate of 31.0%.
- 11 staff members attended the Social Services Institute in Hickory, NC.
- Medicaid held an event at DSS for all the Medicaid Healthcare Provider companies.
- Food and Nutrition Services has an active caseload size of 8,667 cases.
- Adult Medicaid has an active caseload size of 10,890 cases.
- Children's Medicaid has an active caseload size of 38,877 cases.
- The Adult Services Unit was selected from the counties in our region to participate in the APS Opioid Pilot Project which is sponsored through the Administration for Community Living.

Soil and Water

• Technical Assistance

- Voluntary Agriculture District Program(VAD): Enrolled 1,139 acres (Jan-July 2024) into the VAD for a total of 26,400 acres enrolled on 699 parcels Countywide. VAD enrolled parcels are protected by a voluntary conservation agreement for a minimum of 10 years for agricultural production. Public notice is provided creating awareness that the VAD enrolled properties are working farms creating an informed community among current or perspective landowners.
- Agriculture Cost Share Programs (FY 2024): Provided \$166,943 to Harnett farmers for installation of conservation practices via the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program saving 29,970 tons of soil from eroding and impacting 1,822 acres (21 contracts). Cost share contracts have a maintenance period requiring land to remain in agricultural use from 1 to 10 years depending on the best management practice installed. 2024 FY contracts have a combined maintenance period totaling 105 years.
- Stream Debris Removal Funding Secured: \$116,327 in additional Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) funds secured to continue clearing debris waterways allowing for unrestricted waterflow and easing lowland flooding during heavy rain events – July 2024
- Conservation Equipment Rental Program: 558 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 the same model grain drill is \$34,000 - FY 2024.
- Community Conservation Assistance Program: Secured \$50,000 for the Town of Erwin to conduct a stream restoration project in Porter Park serving to protect both water quality and citizen safety. Secured an additional \$10,000 from a Water Resources Development Grant (WRDG) for a feasibility study to supplement the project funding.
- Beaver Management Assistance Program: Partnering with the USDA, 64 beaver dams were removed, and 137 beavers trapped to alleviate flooding on private and public properties valued at \$302,766. A cost benefit analysis reflects \$25.44 was saved for every \$1 of County contribution. – FY 2024

• Conservation Education (Youth and Adult)

- Keep Harnett Beautiful: Organized Spring Litter Sweep, over 482 volunteer hours valued at \$40,000, 49 cleanups completed on 82 roadways collecting over 1,500 bags and 800 large items – April 2024
- NC Envirothon Program: Coached and sponsored four Envirothon teams all advancing from Area level to State level competition (20 students) – Jan - April 2024.
- Youth Education Events: 1,126 students (Field Days, Classroom Presentations, Camps, Service Projects, Area and State Envirothon Contests) Jan-July 2024.

Solid Waste

- Hosted Hazardous Waste disposal and paper shredding events for County citizens.
- Participated in Keep Harnett Beautiful Spring litter sweep (April 2024).
- Received NCDEQ approval for new cell expansion of Dunn Erwin landfill.
- Purchased a Construction and Demolition Industrial Shredder to be placed in operations at the Dunn Erwin landfill to extend the lifespan of the landfill.

• 2026 Revaluation Work

- Made tremendous progress on the field site visits. Vincent Valuations brought on additional staff to complete field work and data entry work. Over 1/3 of county has been reviewed through July 2024.

• New Assistant Tax Administrator

- Sara Tyree joined our team in April 2024 and has been onboarded. She began work on personal property assessment improvements that are planned for FY '25.

• Collections

- Achieved a 98.80% overall collection rate for tax year 2023 bills, which is .29% higher than tax year 2022 bills.

• Public Outreach

- Increased outreach efforts for tax relief programs by issuing a March press release in the local newspaper and social media. Also, published payment plan information in the County newsletter in April. Revaluation information updated weekly on our website. We continue to seek opportunities to connect with citizens and local businesses to assist with property tax matters.

• Growth Management

- Staff continue to meet the needs of the growing tax base. Our real property parcels increased from 73,865 in December 2023 to 74,880 in June 2024. Our personal property abstracts increased from 12,217 in tax year 2023 to 15,242 in tax year 2024. With this increase we continue to focus on data clean-up to ensure accurate assessments and efficient collections.

Veterans Services



Saluting Soldiers

Harnett County Veteran Services

"Freedom isn't free" is an American idiom found across a spectrum of speech, from presidential talks to country music songs. When used in patriotic, poetic, and every-day plain talk, the phrase can seem a tad cliché until it is personally experienced. In Harnett County, an appreciation of freedom is more than just language, it's a living, multi-faceted memorial open to the public via Harnett County Veterans Services. The Harnett County Veterans Park, Wall of Heroes, Wall of Honor and other tributes salute the county's soldiers and military involvement in every war and conflict and from all Armed Forces branches.

Harnett County Veterans Services is housed within the circa-2011 Harnett County Resource Center & Library at 415 McKelvey Parkway in Lillington. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Harnett County Veterans Park provides the Veterans Services office. Created in 2004 in conjunction with the building of the adjacent Harnett County Courthouse, the Park was dedicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2004.

of Honor and other medals awarded for valor and heroism," Truesdale explained.

Currently, the Wall recognizes nearly 50 soldiers. Nominations are ongoing; candidates must have served in any of the five military branches and meet these criteria:

- **Time frame:** World War I and forward
- **Discharge:** Honorable only
- **Rank:** Any rank
- **Residency Criteria:** Former or current resident of Harnett County and has been established as a resident for five years.
- **Vital Status:** Living or deceased

• **Awards:** One of the Medals for Heroes — Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, any award with a V or Valor device except for most awards w/o Soldier's Medal, Airman's Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Medal, and Coast Guard Medal.

All nomination forms should include documentation, discharge (DD Form 214) and an award citation if possible.

The Wall of Honor is another feature inside the McKinstry Parkway office that was added simultaneously with the Wall of Heroes. The wall monument showcases service members selected for their military service

and dedication to their respective communities. Large hanging plaques present more than a photo of and biographical information on each honoree; the stories related represent exceptional community service, professional excellence and personal sacrifice. Service to country, community and family are the common denominators in the two honorees featured. Like the Wall of Heroes, candidates to be considered can still be nominated.

To qualify, the specific criteria the candidate must meet are as follows:

- **Time frame:** World War I and forward
- **Discharge:** Honorable only
- **Rank:** Any rank
- **Residency Criteria:** Former or current resident of Harnett County and has been established as a resident for five years.
- **Vital Status:** Living or deceased

• **Service:** Must have given service to country and community through impacts to education, medical, political and/or community impact.

"Those on both Walls are nominated by the citizens, and we have a committee of citizens from across the county, not only veterans but also community leaders, pastors etc., and they will sit down and look at the package. I give them the criteria, and if they feel the person should be up here, they get put up," Truesdale

Wall of Honor



- Ribbon Cutting for Benhaven Library. We now have office hours there two days a month for Veterans and Families.
- Three Staff Members attended the Veteran Battlefield Documentary in Fayetteville. This was in preparation for possibly hosting a presentation of this documentary in Harnett County.
- The Harnett County Health Department trained our office staff on the use and administering NARCAN. We now have 14 doses of NARCAN available in our office.

- Participated in an interview with Harnett Life Magazine for their Spring Edition. They wanted to showcase the Harnett County Veterans Park, Wall of Heroes, Wall of Honor, and the USS Harnett County display.
- Hosted the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony in the Resource Center and Library.

Workforce Development

- Staff provided 320 services to Harnett County Employers and provided outreach to 16 new employers.
- Registered and served 24 Veterans for training opportunities and referred to Veteran Services office for benefits.
- Hosted four Employer Hiring Events: SR Solar 1/31, Harbor Freight Tools 5/23, 5/24, 6/13, and on 6/19 hosted 16 employers at the Multi-Employer & Resource Fair
- Registered 196 new customers.
- Staff provided 5,414 employment services to individuals of Harnett County.
- Provided 313 Job Referrals to Jobseekers.
- Provided Customers in need of work attire in surrounding areas.
- Participated in various community outreach opportunities.

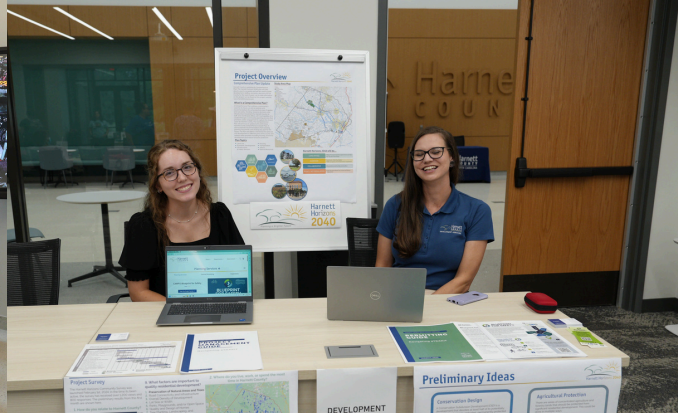
County Manager's Office

• Performance Management

- On January 23, 2024, at the Board of Commissioners retreat, an update to the existing Strategic Plan for FY2025 was presented. This information included a review of the Goals, Objectives and the alignment of Key Strategic Actions for FY2025. The Board of Commissioners agreed with the update and directed staff to update the Strategic Plan to reflect the new information.
- TEAM Harnett completed business plan training sessions with our partners from the UNC School of Government. Business plans related to the Strategic Plan and the TEAM Harnett Performance Management plan showing how the departments relate to the business of the County. County administration worked closely with the departments during the creation of the plans.
- For FY2024, TEAM Harnett reviewed thirty-one (31) Key Strategic Actions and Other Strategic Actions directly related to the Harnett County Strategic Plan.
- Status of 31 action items as of June 30, 2024
 - 6% pending action
 - 46% In-Process
 - 48% Completed

• Opioid Task Force

- In January, we launched a new executive committee structure. The Executive Committee consists of our OTF Co-Chairs, the OTF Coordinator (me), other important leaders, and two designated co-chairs from each of our three subcommittees: (1) Education & Prevention, (2) Treatment & Recovery, (3) Harm Reduction. The slide below illustrates the process to be followed in order for Opioid Settlement funding to be utilized. Graphic included below for your reference.
- In March, our partners at Campbell hosted the 2024 Recovering Hope Conference: Faith-Driven Responses to the Overdose Crisis. This was very well attended and Dr. Tillman has continued to engage a network of faith leaders since.
- In May, the County Commissioners adopted a resolution to allocate \$20,000 of Opioid Settlement Funds to community-based naloxone distribution. Health + Legal have created a policy to regulate this.
- In June, we launched our website and presented at the Harnett County School Board meeting to bolster that relationship.





2024 Mid Year Report

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