



Bimonthly news for those leading economic development in Harnett County, NC

# forwardTHINKING

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MAY08

» FLEX BUILDING ON THE RISE...

## HFTC Breaks Ground on Spec Building

The Harnett Forward Together Committee and the Western Harnett Industrial Park board recently announced plans to build two spec buildings in

opens in the fall," said WHIP Board Chairman Jim Randolph. "We're now selecting a general contractor through competitive bids."

**The all-brick buildings can be up-fitted to meet a variety of business needs.**

Site preparations for both buildings will be completed concurrently on a lot across from the new branch of CCCC in the park, on Hwy. 87 in close proximity to Sanford and Ft. Bragg.

Western Harnett Industrial Park (WHIP). These two buildings will be located near the newly constructed western campus of Central Carolina Community College (CCCC).

"Once the first building is sold or leased, we'll begin construction on the second," he said.

The all-brick buildings will be designed as "flex space," which can be up-fitted easily to meet a variety of business needs, such as for offices and light industrial uses.

"The first building will be 10,800 square feet and should be ready at about the same time as CCCC

## River Park is Now

# OPEN

Harnett Co. residents and people from across the state were on hand this month for the grand opening of the new River Park in Erwin. Event-goers were wowed by the transformation of the land donated by HFTC along the Cape Fear River, at Hwy. 217 in Erwin.



**ABOVE:** Close to 2,000 people attended the River Park ribbon cutting in May. Visitors along the trails described the new park as "impressive," "beautiful," and "a great place for church events and family reunions."

**BELOW:** Twenty-one kayakers made the inaugural paddle trail trip to the park during the event. They, too, were impressed by the transformation of the riverbank.



» NEW HFTC LOGO

INTRODUCING...



The Harnett Forward Together Committee has spruced up for spring. Actually, our members are always quite dapper. It's our logo and the design of Forward Thinking newsletter that have been updated. Both were created by area design firm Davis Graphic Design to reflect the progressive work and goals of HFTC.

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» HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CAREERS

SPOTLIGHT ON:

# Harnett Co. Business/Education Partnership

Comprised of business leaders, educators and parents, the Harnett County Business/Education Partnership (HCBEP) reaches roughly 1,700 students every year through programs sponsored by volunteers at over 30 businesses.

HCBEP coordinates job shadow programs, a high school career fair, scholarship allocation and teacher orientations at all schooling levels.

“After job shadowing or talking with someone already in a career, students have commented that they changed their minds about a degree they wanted to pursue,” said Chairman Kim Hargrove. “They learn so much by watching and talking to

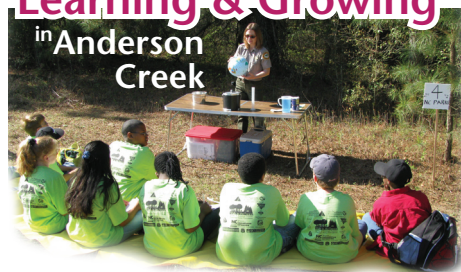
people in the workplace.” One of the goals of this group is to help students to make “responsible career choices and manage the challenges of a rapidly changing workplace,” according to their website, [www.harnettbused.com](http://www.harnettbused.com).

Businesses can help the partnership by hosting students interested in job shadowing; making presentations on job applications and interviews to high school juniors, for example; participating in career fairs; and making a financial contribution.

For more information, contact HCBEP Board Co-Chairman Kim Hargrove at (910) 893-7540, or e-mail her at [khargrove@harnett.org](mailto:khargrove@harnett.org).

## FAST FACTS

### Learning & Growing



HFTC’s 1,000+ acre “West Park” was the site of its first **Environmental Field Day** in April. Erwin Elementary’s 5th graders spent much of the day there learning about the eco-system from a number of experts. Jim Gray with JMG Forestry organized the event, which was funded entirely by sponsors.

HFTC has leased this land to Harnett Co. for use as a public park and recreation site. It is located about nine miles west of Lillington near Hwy. 27.

The management and staff of Lillington’s **Champion Homes** recently earned the statewide Carolina Star Award. The company is one of only 104 companies in the state and the only one in Harnett

Co. to receive this honor, which recognizes their facility-wide safety efforts. In April, N.C. Commissioner of Labor Cherie Berry presented them with the prestigious award, along with a plaque and official flag to fly at their Lillington plant.



# HFTC

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

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## MEET your BOARD MEMBERS



The newest member of the board of the non-profit Western Harnett Industrial Park is **L.D. BLACK** of Anderson Creek. He has been a member of HFTC for several years and accepted the WHIP board position in January.

**PROFESSION:** As a contract farmer for international food suppliers Prestage and Mountaire Farms, L.D. raises almost 6,000 hogs and 82,000 chickens, plus farms 150 acres of coastal Bermuda hay. “I’ve been farming here in Harnett Co. since I was 16,” he says.

**ABOUT WHIP’S NEW BUILDINGS:**

“Having buildings in place can save companies downtime, not to mention the hassles of construction and permitting. Companies will be more interested and willing to relocate because of these buildings.” (see p. 1 story)

**ABOUT HARNETT CO.:** “Our biggest challenge is growth. Keeping a good mix and good balance of business, industry and homes is important. That’s what HFTC’s goals are.”