



Click [HERE](#) to
Join Our Mailing List

August 22, 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the Directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

What's Inside

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[Cooperative Extension](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Finance](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Transportation Services \(EMS/Transit\)](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

[***Special Announcements***](#)

Subscribe

[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 1393.76 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 213 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 718 gallons. Cash sales totaled \$125.99 and prepaid fuel sales were \$20,000.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Director attended a meeting with the County Manager and attended the Department Head Meeting. The Director also attended a District meeting in Lincoln County. Staff has been busy with public requests for information and processing registrations.

[Building Inspections](#)

Building Inspections is excited to announce that we have issued 10 new house permits with an estimated construction value of \$1.4 million in just the last two weeks. We have issued a total of 66 permits totaling \$13,316 in permit fees. Our inspectors have conducted 237 inspections, as well as, starting the bi-annual public school inspections. The Director has continued to work closely with the other departments in relation to the project for a unified Development Services Office and the Board of Elections relocation.

[Clerk to the Board](#)

Budget has been passed, vacations are over, and it is now time to settle back into our regular routine. On Wednesday, Commissioner Owens attended the Department of Social Services' Board meeting and Chairman Eckler attended a TAC meeting at Isothermal Planning and Development Commission.

Staff attended the department head meeting on Thursday. The Clerk participated in a Westlaw Webinar later in the day. Commissioner Owens attended an Advantage West Transition Committee meeting and an Advantage West Board of Directors' meeting.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff met with Extension & Community Association members for monthly meeting; prepared upcoming programs; and trained childcare providers in the *Color Me Healthy* curriculum.

County Manager

The County Manager had a very busy week. On Monday he met with Sheriff Francis, Solid Waste Director Kilgo, Public Works and Planning Director Searcy, and Building Inspections Director Ruff. Tuesday included meetings with law enforcement and facility maintenance staff, Airport staff, Board of Elections personnel and participation in an economic coordination effort. The County Manager held his weekly meeting with the County Attorney on Wednesday, met with an outdoor recreation partner and also Commissioner Owens. Thursday led with a discussion group, followed by a department head meeting and Detention staff meeting. On Friday, the County Manager held several individual meetings with County personnel, met with staff from Senator Burr's office and participated in a conference call.

Economic Development

This week the Executive Director issued a press release for the Rutherford County Information Bag initiative at the Rutherford County airport; worked on the Gateway West Commerce Park Project; distributed Golden Leaf Files; attended the NCEDA meeting in Raleigh; attended the EDC Board Meeting; reviewed the Ameridial Building Reuse Agreement; attended the Department Head meeting at the County Office Building; attended the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting; and met with Robin Ramsey of US Senator Burr's Office.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled visits; conducted three existing industry visits this week and took representatives from ICC Customized Training and WCU Engineering on one of those visits; worked with office staff to upload a video to our webpage; conducted a Business Advancement Team meeting which was held at IPDC – 14 members present with productive sharing of works in progress and proposed programs; updated and published Rutherford County Business Resource Guide.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant worked with the Project Administrator to update the Feature Focus section on the EDC Website; sent the Rutherford County Airport Info Bags Press Release to AOPA; continued working on the RFQ for website redesign; and distributed correspondence for the Executive Director.

Finance

The Director and Human Resources staff attended an IRS Webinar on the Affordable Care Act and its reporting requirements. The Director also attended several interdepartmental meetings and the Staff Meeting. The Office has also began fiscal year end close out procedures to prepare for the Auditor's arrival in late September. The Finance Office has processed accounts this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director conducted one origin and cause fire investigation and assembled resources for and participated in the "Active Shooter" exercise at East Rutherford High School.

#TBT ThrowBackThursday

Every Thursday, we join in with the #TBT trend and post a picture or other historical gem related to Rutherford County on our social media sites. Consider joining in and sharing a bit of history with the Public Information Clerk to add to the feed. We are currently sharing the Rutherford County postcards from the UNC Archives. If you have some interesting facts or images to share (related to your department, please) , let Adrienne know at adrenne.wallace@rutherfordcountync.gov.



Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires Steve Webb (Revenue Department), Sean Wright (DSS), and Angela Browning (DSS). Please keep the family of Diane Allen in your prayers. Diane worked for the Senior Center and passed away on August 15, 2014. The Director attended the Department Head meeting, attended a Webcast on the Affordable Care Act, and conducted interviews for the Utility Worker along with James Kilgo and Tony Bumgarner. The Director also met with the family of Diane Allen. The County currently is seeking a p/t janitorial person for the Mountains Library.

Information Technology

Information Technology completed 46 trackits this week. We are working to deploy virtual desktops this year beginning in the IT and Revenue departments. Part 1 of the Revenue data has been moved over to the new tax software, so they will begin collecting on the new system next week. We are working with Avaya to replace the backend systems of our new phone network, you will not see a difference on your desk but you will have some downtime over the weekend of September 13th. We are organizing to be ready for the DSS move in September and then we will be ready for the Community Development/BOE move. We are also gearing up to update the sound system in Court Rooms 1 & 2, then put cameras at the Detention Center, around the Courthouse, at the Animal Control Facility, and at the Landfill. Always remember the IT has an open door policy but also remember to use trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs.

Library

The Director will be attending a State Library Summit and the summer NCPLDA meeting in Blowing Rock Wednesday - Friday.

From the Children's Librarian: There is a brand new section in the Rutherford County Library—a Parent/Teacher Resource Center, which is located at the back of the Children's Room. The Youth Services Librarian has pulled all the books on parenting, teaching, and homeschooling from the Adult Non-Fiction section and added quite a few more she's collected and ordered over the past several months. They have been relabeled under the heading of "PT," and relocated to one place to make it easier for parents, teachers, and homeschoolers. Examples of the 325 books are "Becoming a Calm Mom," "Homeschooling for Success," "Classroom Management for Substitute Teachers," "Reading Games for Young Children," and "Yes, Your Teen is Crazy."

Library IT: Kenneth and Stephanie put together a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for the library's web site. Topics covered include how to get a library card, costs for printing/faxing, how to access ebooks, and much more. The section can be found at the address below or by clicking the Frequently Asked Questions link on the library homepage. <http://rutherfordcountylibrary.org/webRCL/frequently-asked-questions>

From the Mountains Branch: Mountains Library is current taking reservations and payments for our Friends October Books & Bites. Micheal Rivers, a multi-genre and paranormal thriller author, will be making a presentation on Oct. 17, 2014 at the Lake Lure Inn - Roosevelt Room beginning at 6 pm. This ghostly festivity will include dinner for \$30 per person, a full service cash bar, 50/50 raffle, and a ghost tour of the Inn by Patrick Bryant, Events Manager at the Lake Lure Inn. This is a special event - reservations are required, so please call the Mountains Branch Library" (828-287-6392) for your tickets. Checks are made out to "Friends of the Mountains Branch Library" and can be mailed to 150 Bills Creek Rd., Lake Lure, NC 28746. Get your friends to join you - reserve a table for ten! Seats are filling quickly.

From the Reference Desk: The Rutherford County Library added 25 music DVDs to their DVD collection this week. These DVDs include live performances from popular country and pop artists of today, such as Lady Antebellum, Faith Hill, Dave Matthews Band, and the Avett Brothers, as well as classic rock and country favorites, including Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, Waylon Jennings and Jimi Hendrix. DVDs can be checked out to any adult with a county library card.

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department has had a very productive week as Maintenance responded and completed multiple track work orders for repairs and recurring maintenance to facilities along with our groundskeeping crew working diligently to keep up with the rapid rate of growth from all the rains. Also the garage has had a busy schedule this week with many repairs, service calls, and inspections. The garage continues revising storage and improvements to our bench stock inventory of vehicle parts. Planning and projects has had an eventful week with continued emphasis on transportation priorities and follow up activities on the rail trail. In addition, we are working with several grant agencies in an effort to properly close out grant files from completed projects such as the Daniel Morgan Water project off Hines Rd., Rail Trail, Gilbertowne, and the Preservation Master Plan for Biggerstaff Hanging tree property. In addition we've been very involved with oversight of the corrective work taking place at Queens Gap from the violations incurred from DENR. We also continue working with the other departments related to the Development Services and Elections relocation which has now been delayed, as well as participating in the charette hosted by Forest City regarding livable communities workshop. Lastly the 2014-2015 Community Grants Project has been finalized and we encourage applications from all communities – please encourage participation.

The Garage had 10 preventative maintenance calls and six repairs. Four vehicles were vandalized.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 6 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$59, processed 275 real estate records with \$17,776 received in cash, and processed 168 vitals, receiving \$2,480. A total of 449 transactions were made with a total of \$20,315 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department handled 43 VTS assists. The office answered 510 phone calls and assisted 232 customers. We completed 2 plats, 3 pre-permits, and answered 5 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 270 field reviews. A total of 51 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 67 straits, 1 estate, 30 new accounts, 2 merges, 4 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 5 new maps. The GIS website had 154,314 hits and 108,143 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 5 new addresses, 1 new centerline, updated 38 addresses with new owner information, and 1 road name. Part time maintenance workers installed 12 new roads signs. The PUV program mailed 7 letters, and assisted 55 program members. Staff processed 1 exclusion/deferment. We had 0 refunds, 5 releases and 7 discoveries. Collection enforcement consisted of 18 attachments, 12 newspaper items and 1 notice letter. Staff processed 119 items mailed in, 5 bankruptcy issues, and 77 bankruptcy payments. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 98 tax payments. 30 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center celebrated Hawaiian Days this week with numerous fun events. Hawaii was officially proclaimed as the United States fiftieth state by President Eisenhower in August of 1959. On Tuesday, the seniors participated in Hawaiian theme games. The Center hosted a Hawaiian Scavenger Hunt and Hawaiian Tea Party on Wednesday. The seniors enjoyed playing Hawaiian Pictionary on Thursday - a great exercise for your brain. Lastly, on Friday The Royal Quartet came to perform gospel music. The Center continues to stress health and wellness with our Zumba class and Square Dance Class. Our Square Dance Class is on Thursday's at 4:00 p.m. and Zumba will continue on September 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Training Exercise Active Shooter

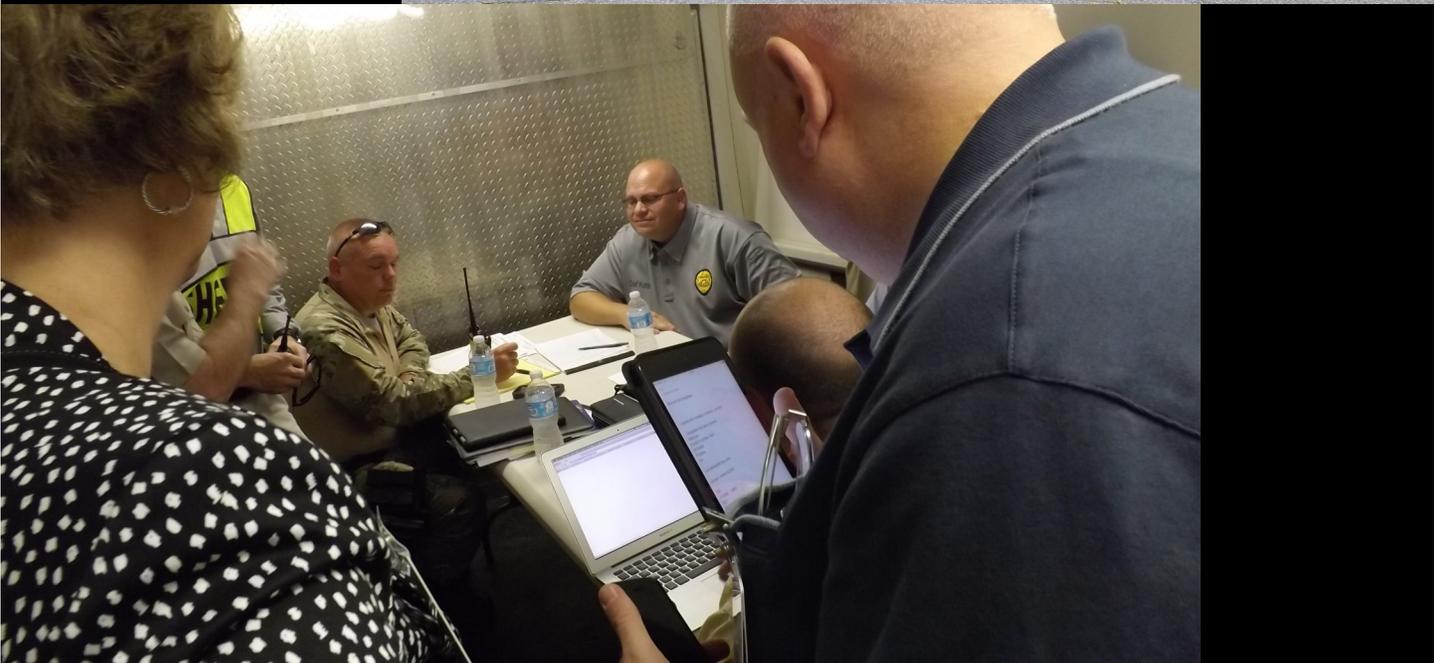
August 20, 2014

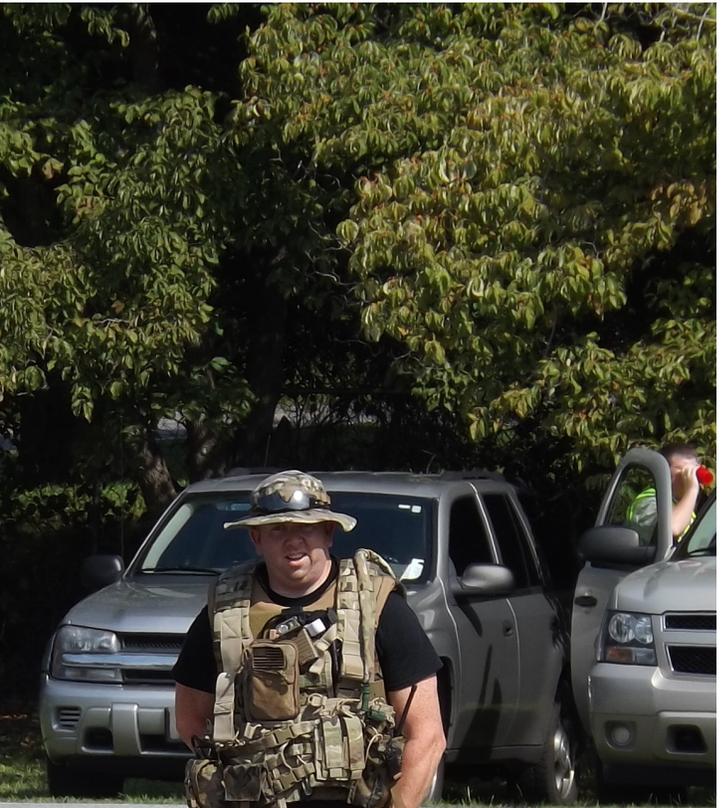






Multiple agencies and multiple jurisdictions trained together with cohesion and cooperation.





Social Services

The Department of Social Services has been preparing for the relocation of many of our offices. Over the past week, some of the plans have been changed. All Income Maintenance units will be housed in the Rutherford Center, including Food and Nutrition Services, Medicaid, and Work First. All Children's Services, including Child Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoptions, and Child Care Subsidy Services will be located in the main DSS building. Child Support and Adult Services will be located in the building opposite the main building across the breezeway. This change will improve the experience for the consumers that visit the agency, as well as, streamline many work processes. The moves will take place on September 2 and 3. On Monday the DSS Director, representing the Director's Association, participated in a Guardianship Workgroup conference call. The group is tasked with making recommendations to the General Assembly on investigating complaints made against public agent guardians. The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, with all five board members present. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board reviewed and approved the agency's Energy Programs Outreach Plan, heard legislative and state budget updates, heard NC FAST updates, and were informed about a joint effort with district court judges, the GAL Program, DSS and others to improve the processes of juvenile court. On Thursday, the Director attended a discussion group focused on mental health and substance abuse issues. Others that participated in the group were Rutherford County Schools Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, the County Manager, the Sheriff, and a Magistrate. The Children's Services staff held their monthly breakfast meeting this week. During the meeting, a new supervision structure was discussed, as well as, plans for the relocation of offices. Income Maintenance staff continues to ready for the hard launch of Medicaid in NC FAST scheduled for November.

Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist attended the Department Head Meeting and worked on the Ellenboro Fair Display. The Ag Cost Share Technician went on 2 farm visits, attended NRCS/Division training, and worked on conservation plans for 2015 contracts.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 328 customers, hauled 57 loads from convenience centers, shipped 25 loads to Lenoir, and sent out two recycling trailers. The textile recycling program is doing well. Also the bids for the metal recycling came in this week with Omni-Source having the winning bid at 218.00 dollars a GT (Gross ton). This money is used to help offset expenses from solid waste. The Director attended the weekly solid waste meeting with Carl, reviewed applications with Debra, opened metal bids, attended the department head meeting and finally interviewed for the open position at the landfill on Friday. The landfill had a few visitors this week including Rob Taylor from DENR and Sam Lockridge from Cleveland County. They were looking at our recycling program. The state inspector conducted our safety review. The rest of the staff continues to perform everyday job duties.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follows:

Please Remember
to Recycle!



Active cases 10
Closed cases 3
Pictures taken yes
Citations written 0
Community service workers 4
Community service reports 1

Every convenience center now has textile recycling bins and the high schools textile recycling bins will be in place before the schools start. The Town of Rutherfordton, Town of Spindale and the Town of Forest City have expressed an interest in having some bins placed in their municipalities.

Tourism Development Authority

The TDA reported the following for the past week:

- Facebook content management
- Media impressions tracking and clipping

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 146 emergency calls and 47 convalescent calls. Twenty-five employees participated in the emergency school drill on Wednesday. EMS focused on mass triage, utilizing color coded triage tarps. EMS is developing an internal emergency preparedness plan with the information gathered during this drill.

Transit drove 10,355 miles, completed 1,208 local trips and 83 out of county trips, transported 260 unduplicated passengers and collected \$16,631 in revenue. Annual motor vehicle records were run on all safety sensitive employees. We are also awaiting final approval from Google Transit for our fixed route to go live on their database.

Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 57 mail-ins, 0 facsimiles, 101 mail-outs, 124 telephone contacts, and 151 veteran contacts.



Deadline for applications is September 15th at 5pm.



County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman **Julius Owens**
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman **Roger Richard**
Greg Lovelace

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney