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August 29, 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.

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[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 1393.76 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 213 gallons of Jet A.



[Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections office has been working with neighboring counties on voters that pay taxes in one county but live in another. Absentee ballots by mail start going out next Friday for the November election.

[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](#)

On Monday Chairman Eckler participated in a webinar describing the launch of the strategic plan of the Cooperative Extension Administration. The Clerk has begun work on the September 8 County Commissioners' agenda. The regular meeting date has been changed for September due to the Labor Day holiday. An agenda review meeting will be held on September 4 followed by a meeting of the Airport Authority.

Cooperative Extension

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

County Manager

The County Manager held his weekly meetings with the Directors of the Solid Waste and Public Works and Planning Departments, Economic Development and the County Attorney. He met with representatives of the Smoky Mountain Center; attended the monthly meeting of the Broad River Water Authority Board; participated in a planning session for the County's Enhanced Recycling outreach goals; attended a conference call/webinar with Cooperative Extension staff; met with Animal Control staff; presented to the DSS leadership team; and attended two additional Smoky Mountain Center meetings (committee and board of directors).

Economic Development

The Executive Director worked with staff to review and finalize a draft RFQ for website development; worked with project engineers on site and civil design services associated with Gateway West Commerce Park; reviewed and coordinated revisions with Commerce on a Building Reuse Grant; prepared responses to AdvantageWest and Commerce prospect opportunities; continued efforts on infrastructure preliminary planning; continued research and planning related to the development of a non-profit organization; and made a presentation to DSS staff regarding the role of the ED Department.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled visits; completed and submitted hanger owner survey for infrastructure needs at Marchman Field; provided follow-up information to business advancement team members from meeting; attended Lunch and Learn seminar presented by HR; and attended Community Connection Team meeting at ICC.

The Economic Development Assistant provided lease payout calculations for an existing grant; worked with the Finance Department upon receipt of the payout; contacted the County Attorney to request documentation for the payout; prepared payroll for submission; began assembling documentation and a Rural Economic Development payment request for Project Cozy; and completed research and reported results to the Executive Director as requested.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant met with the Executive Director to finalize the draft RFQ for website design, e-mailed the draft to the sub-committee, and set up a meeting for its review; continued working on the available buildings vs. prospect requests project; assisted with metric conversions and proof-reading of an RFP; 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 begun 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 two origin and cause investigations; interviewed architects for the emergency services training facility; completed additional Emergency Management Performance Grant activities; conducted a review of the County's Emergency Operations Plan; conducted follow-ups on fire investigations; and attended various meetings.



Public Information Contact:

Adrienne B. Wallace
(828) 287-6061
adrienne.wallace@rutherfordcountync.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNTY DSS OFFICES RELOCATING SEPTEMBER 2 AND 3

SPINDALE, N.C. - The Rutherford County Department of Social Services, located at 389 Fairground Road, will be relocating various divisions within the Fairground Road complex on September 2 and 3. During this time, the agency will be open and telephone services will be available.

The Child Care Subsidy Program and Economic Services Division, which includes Food and Nutrition Services, Medicaid, Special Assistance, and Work First, will not be scheduling appointments for September 2 and 3. However, consumers can still apply for benefits by coming to the agency and signing an application. This will protect the application date and ensure, that if determined eligible, benefits will be provided from the application date. Child and Adult Protective Services will operate as usual.

Effective Thursday, September 4, all Economic Services will be located in the Rutherford Center Building (Building C) located across the parking lot from the main DSS Building (Building A). Consumers for these services will need to enter through the back entrance that faces the parking lot. There will be no consumer access through the Callahan Koon side of the building.

Children's Services, including Child Care Subsidy, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adoptions, as well as Administrative Services, will be located in the main DSS building (Building A). Child Support Services and Adult Services offices will be located across the breezeway in the building (Building B) adjacent to the main building. However, reception and consumer check-in for these services will be in the main building (Building A).

"The new structure will allow more convenience and efficiency for consumers, in addition to allowing better communication and collaboration among DSS staff," said DSS Director John Carroll. "Much planning has gone into this move to make it go as smoothly as possible, and to lessen any inconvenience to our consumers." New signage will be installed that will direct consumers to the appropriate building for the services that they need. Anyone with questions about this change can contact the main DSS number at 287-6165.

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Human Resources

The Director has been in Boone this week attending the Supervisory Management Course conducted by the School of Government.

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 back-end 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 13. 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 October 17 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's garage completed over 10 repairs, 5 tire service calls, 11 preventative maintenance repairs and researching one minor vehicle accident. Maintenance was very busy with completing 47 trackit work orders along with groundskeeping and weed killing along the rail trail. Planning and projects continued emphasis on the commissioners annual goals and priorities in addition to follow up activities on the rail trail and preparing Patterson Design to share an update with the Commissioners during their September meeting regarding the Southeastern County EMS and Library projects. We also are making slow progress in working with 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. There is good news in the contractor's progress at Queens Gap and Greyrock is progressing nicely. Lastly, the Development Services and Elections relocation which has now been delayed is still making slow progress as the committee reevaluates all options to ensure that the County is best served in moving forward.

The Garage had 11 preventative maintenance calls, 10 repairs, five tire services, and 13 other needs.

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 41 VTS assists. The office answered 1084 phone calls, assisted 448 customers and completed 2 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 53 building permits and 360 field reviews. A total of 59 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 63 straits, 6 estates, 30 new accounts, 5 merges, 2 splits, and 7 acreage adjustments. GIS created 18 new maps and the GIS website had 160,493 hits and 111,209 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 2 new addresses, 1 new centerline, and updated 89 addresses with new owner information. One road name was created. Part time maintenance workers installed 4 new roads signs and completed maintenance on 5 old ones. The PUV program mailed 8 letters, and assisted 31 program members. Staff processed 20 exclusions/deferments. We had 0 refunds, 4 releases and 6 discoveries. 10 new deeds were certified for recording purposes. The front counter went live collecting taxes on the new NCPTS 2014 tax bills so no collection enforcement numbers are available this week.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted its annual "Scam Jam" on Wednesday. Our speakers were Caroline Farmer, Attorney General's Office; Barbara Bennett, Investor Education Program Specialist with the Securities Division of the NC Department of the Secretary of State; and Diane Trainor, NC Senior Medicare Patrol Outreach Specialist. According to the National Council on Aging, financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered "the crime of the 21st century." Wealthy and low income seniors are all at risk of financial abuse. The seniors learned about current scams and tips to protect themselves from becoming a victim of fraud. The Center also hosted our quarterly Diabetic Support Group meeting this week. Anita Phillips, RN and Diabetes Educator, from Rutherford Regional Medical Center, came to discuss dealing with sickness when you are a diabetic and how important it is to test your blood sugar levels when you are sick. Lastly 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 class will be held on September 8, 22 and 29 at 5:30 p.m.



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(828) 287-6061
adrienne.wallace@rutherfordcountync.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1,200 NEW EBOOKS AVAILABLE TO LIBRARY PATRONS

SPINDALE, N.C. – Rutherford County Library and NC LIVE, North Carolina’s statewide public and academic library consortium, are experimenting with a new eBook project that gives North Carolina library patrons unlimited access to more than 1,200 eBook titles from North Carolina-based publishers. This collection offers a wide range of content, including novels by popular North Carolina authors, poetry, short stories, and non-fiction. The eBooks are available for public use on the BiblioBoard platform from <http://nclive.org/ebooks> and on North Carolina library websites, featuring titles like *Guests on Earth* by Lee Smith and *North Carolina and Old Salem Cookery* by Beth Tartan, among many others.

The library consortium partnered with eight local publishing houses to purchase the eBooks, including Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill (an imprint of Workman Books), Crossroad Press, Gryphon House, Ingalls Publishing Group, John F. Blair Publishing, McFarland, Press 53, and UNC Press. Unlike traditional library eBooks, this collection features always available, unlimited simultaneous user access during the life of the pilot, meaning patrons will not have to place a hold or wait for an eBook to become available. Additionally, the BiblioBoard platform allows users to view the eBooks in a web browser or download them to their tablet devices via the BiblioBoard Library app.

With this project, Rutherford County Library was able to acquire eBook titles not previously available to libraries at lower prices than would be possible if libraries had purchased them independently. Library Director Martha Schatz stated, “With a very small contribution, we were able to give our patrons access to a selection of interesting eBooks that we’re very excited about.”

-MORE-

NC LIVE Executive Director Tim Rogers noted, “For the cost of about 5 - 10 eBooks per library, the Home Grown collection gives every North Carolinian access to more than 1,200 eBooks. It is something we can all feel good about,” he said.

State Librarian Cal Shepard echoed Rogers’ sentiments. “I believe this project showcases one of the many ways the state’s libraries are harnessing technology and working together to efficiently offer services that people want and need. When we pool our resources in this way, we’re able to achieve a lot more than we could individually.”

The pilot program will run through December 2014, during which time NC LIVE will work with publishers, libraries, and BiblioLabs, the provider of the BiblioBoard platform, to assess the long-term sustainability and success of these models.

About NC LIVE

NC LIVE is a statewide library consortium that provides shared digital content and services to North Carolina’s community colleges, public libraries, the UNC System, and NC Independent



Colleges and Universities. Patrons of NC LIVE’s 200 member libraries may access eBooks, magazines, newspapers, journals, streaming videos, and more online via library websites, and through www.nclive.org.

About BiblioBoard

BiblioBoard is the PatronsFirst mobile library. The folks behind BiblioBoard are a powerful team based in Charleston, South Carolina. They aim to transform access to information by providing a world-class user experience that thrills library patrons and is profitable for publishers. BiblioBoard is moving library content delivery into the future in a sustainable way. BiblioLabs is also a proud member of the Charleston Digital Corridor. To learn more, visit www.biblioboard.com.

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Social Services

The Department of Social Services continues preparing for the move and change in office locations this week. Many employees have already been moved to their new location, with the move scheduled to be completed on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 2 and 3. Effective Thursday, September 4, all Economic Services will be located in the Rutherford Center Building located across the parking lot from the main DSS Building. Consumers for these services will need to enter through the back entrance that faces the parking lot. Children's Services, including Child Care Subsidy, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adoptions, as well as Administrative Services, will be located in the main DSS building. Child Support Services and Adult Services offices will be located across the breezeway in the building adjacent to the main building. However, reception and consumer check in for these services will be in the main building. Several members of the Child Support staff, as well as the DSS Attorney, attended the annual state Child Support Conference in Concord this week. On Thursday the DSS Leadership Program participants held their seventh monthly meeting at the County Office Building. The meeting focused on the structure and function of various county departments and how departments work together in order to meet the needs of citizens. The group also took a tour of the county jail. Some children services staff attended training sponsored by the Guardian Ad Litem Program at the Lake Lure Inn on Thursday.

Soil and Water

Staff participated in a teleconference for the master agreement for district matching funds and technical assistance funds. The Admin/Education Specialist sent notices for District meeting and Farmland Preservation meeting, continued work on Conservation Field day plans and the Ellenboro Fair display. Staff also worked to get supplies ready for the Area 1 Soil & Water Conservation District booth at the Mountain State Fair. The Ag Cost Share Technician met with 4 landowners about new conservation plans, taken 3 Cost Share applications, completed a solar water pumping webinar, and helped with CSP sign ups.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill The landfill served 310 customers, hauled 62 loads from convenience centers, shipped 34 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers to Conover this week. We also had four customers bring in tires to the landfill. Omni-Source is here picking up the metal that was bided out. The Director attended various meetings this week including the weekly solid waste meeting with the County Manager, a meeting with David Odom, Recycling Marketing and Promotional Plan Development meeting and met with employees at the landfill. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties. The staff wants to congratulate Leroy (Pete) Bridges on his retirement. He retired at the end of August.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follows:

Please Remember
to Recycle!



Active cases 9
Closed cases 4
Convenience Center Cases 3
Community service workers 3
Community service reports 1

Also he directed traffic at Harris Elementary School for the first three days morning and evening since the road pattern was changed on 221 South.

Recent airport sightings



Tourism Development Authority

The date was set for a critical public meeting – please see the invitation below and mark your calendars for September 25th at 4:00 to come!

The new Rutherford County travel guide has gone to print.

Various meetings took place including Equestrian Center personnel, The McConnell Group, Chris Cavanaugh of Magellan strategies, and with the Wayfinding Committee Chair Dan Hegeman. Minor improvements to the Welcome Center have been made. A discussion was held on the Cherry Bounce Trail mobile phone application.

2014: The Game-Changer *A Public Event For Rutherford County & Its Tourism Industry*

Don't Miss This Milestone

Occasion Unveiling:

- * Updated Rutherford County Tourism Logo
- * New Comprehensive Travel Guide
- * Re-Envisioned PR/Marketing Team
 - * TDA Annual Report
- * County Master Wayfinding Plan

Tryon International Equestrian Center:

A Special Report

Tourism Impact Study presented by
Chris Cavanaugh, Magellan Strategy Group
and

Featured Guest Mark Bellissimo,
founder of Tryon International Equestrian Center

Date, Time & Location:

Thursday, September 25th
Presentation: 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Speaker Meet & Greet: 5:00 - 5:30 pm
Foundation Performing Arts Center
Spindale, NC

Presented by:

Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority

Questions:

Michelle Yelton, McConnell Group PR
michelle@mcconnellgroup.biz
or 828-407-0244

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 166 emergency calls and 47 convalescent calls. Director and Operations Manager attended the Department Head meeting and Director also participated in the DSS Leadership training with a presentation on services through the Transportation Services Department. Staff attended a meeting on architectural drawing of the Southeast EMS Station and began developing a comprehensive list of equipment and furniture that will be needed for the new station.

Transit drove 10,259 miles, completed 1,143 local trips and 97 out of county trips, transported 253 unduplicated passengers and collected \$16,778 in revenue. The Director issued an RFQ for new lighting in the Transit parking lot. This project is being funded by NCDOT. Staff also met with NCDOT to develop the scope of work for the 5 year strategic plan process that will be completed this fiscal year. The quarterly Transit Advisory Board was held on Friday. The Director also attended the board meeting for the NC Public Transportation Association in Hickory.

Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 56 mail-ins, 0 facsimiles, 87 mail-outs, 107 telephone contacts, and 176 veteran contacts.

Staff attended a welcome home ceremony for Veterans recently.



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