



July 18, 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](#)

[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 1,278.82 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 890 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 289 gallons; \$400 received in hanger rent; and \$2728.75 in cash sales.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections staff have had a very busy two weeks! Filing continued for School Board and Soil and Water and ended July the 7th at Noon. One-Stop voting began on July 3rd and continued through Saturday, July 12th at 1:00 p.m. Voting has been busy for a Second Primary with 650 voting at One-stop and by mail as of 2:30 on Thursday, July 10, 2014. The Director has been busy in meetings preparing for the move of the Elections Office to Charlotte Road. Staff has begun the process of sorting, packing and preparing as much as possible.

[Building Inspections](#)

The Building Inspections Department has seen a steady increase in permit activity this year. In the past two weeks, the department has issued 81 permits totaling \$10,342 despite the holiday weekend. Included in those permits was 8 new houses. Our inspectors have conducted 251 inspections including issuing a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for Pioneer Bonita to occupy their new location to begin training new employees. The Director has been busy working to coordinate the plans for the combination of several departments to a new location on Charlotte Road as well as continuing to work with Polk County on planning and inspections for the Tryon Resort Equine facility.

Clerk to the Board

Monday, June 30 was a busy day as the agenda was being prepared in a condensed time frame. Commissioners began the new fiscal year with a meeting on Tuesday, July 1 to review the agenda for the July 7 County Commissioners' meeting. As Friday (July 4) was a holiday, the regular agenda review meeting scheduled for July 3 was changed to July 1. Commissioners attended the Transit Office celebration on July 3 and celebrated Independence Day on July 4.

Monday, July 7, was an especially busy day. Chairman Eckler and Commissioner Owens traveled to Greer, SC to view the inland port there. Secretary of the Department of Commerce Sharon Decker also attended this meeting. The regular monthly meeting of the County Commissioners was held at 6:00 PM that same evening.

Commissioners have been meeting individually with the County Manager since the interim budget was passed on June 23 in order to craft a budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

The Public Information Clerk continued migrating and entering new data for the County's boards and commissions; met with department staff for upcoming educational, media pieces; received and processes six public records request; performed various administrative duties to support the Clerk and County Manager.

Metrics of the County's media impressions over the last 4 weeks have been tabulated—22,647 impressions have been made.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff prepared for Kids & Chefs day camp; submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier; met with Extension & Community Association Executive Council; prepared for upcoming events.

County Manager

The County Manager met with Revenue Department staff, the Directors of Solid Waste and Economic Development, and members of the non-profit community; attended a coordinated economic development meeting; revised special meeting of the County Commissioners and Airport Authority meeting; attended the ICC Hospitality Training Presentation in Lake Lure; met with the Board of Elections and Transportation Department Directors; and met with Rutherford Outdoor Coalition representatives.

Economic Development

The Executive Director prepared for and hosted an industrial prospect visit; met with an existing industry regarding a potential expansion opportunity; participated in the monthly EDC Board meeting; gathered and submitted additional information in response to the industrial prospect visit; and worked on efforts to enhance economic development recruitment opportunities in Rutherford County.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; compiled a summary report of existing industry visits to date; worked on compilation of a Business and Industry Resource Guide and updated introductory materials; worked with existing industry to gather information for a NC DOC Rural Division submittal; connected Workforce Development team and Customized Training with an existing industry contact for introduction of support programs; and held the monthly Business Advancement Team meeting.

The Economic Development Assistant sent a draft report to the GoldenLEAF Foundation for review; attended and transcribed the minutes of the Economic Development Board meeting; assisted in assembling the marketing package for an industrial prospect visit; assisted in collecting information in response to a request for additional information from a prospect; finalized the airport welcome bags with additional marketing material; and distributed copies of grant agreements to appropriate agencies and county departments.

Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioners' meeting Tuesday evening. The Director is working to update Keystone with the budget as adopted. The Director and Transportation Services Director held several debt setoff hearings. The Assistant Director has been working closely with the School Garage Staff to develop a School Vehicle Replacement plan. The Finance Office has processed accounts this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director conducted two origin and cause investigations; conducted investigative interviews on both cases; transported and set up Fire Safety House at Kistlers Chapel for a fire safety event; assisted Rutherfordton Fire Department on a structure fire and Spindale Fire Department on a vehicle fire; attended various meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Diane Hill to the Senior Center staff. The Director attended the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, met with representatives from PNC, attended a Financial Fitness Webinar, and worked Election night returns. Interviews have been conducted for the part time EDC secretary position and an announcement for the new hire will be made soon. July 29 is the date for the County Wellness/Financial Fair. Lots of different topics will be discussed.

Information Technology

The IT Department has closed 122 work orders over the past two weeks. Staff met with Planning, Environmental Health, Building Inspections, and BOE regarding the impending move to the Rutherford Plaza by September 1st. Staff completed the Exchange email server upgrade, and will now have to buy the exchange 2013 client versions which will be in next year's budget (2015-2016) so the look of outlook will not change but the backend programs have changed and are running much better. We are still working on the vaulting of all emails and have purchased a box called Barracuda that will handle vaulting. We are still ironing out details of the backend of the voip system with Avaya. Things are moving right along with the software upgrade of the Revenue Department. We are also making changes to the camera servers and trying to tweak better performance out of them as we prepare to add another 50 or so cameras to our network this year. We have upgraded Trackit as well and it should be up and running again, so use trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov for all your work order needs.

Library



All three libraries were filled to overflowing with almost 400 people attending this week's Summer Reading Program, with people being turned away at each place because of lack of space. Noah's Landing Exotic Petting Zoo in Coats, North Carolina, brought diverse animals such as a hairy armadillo, a baby genet, a two-headed gecko, a kinkajou, a moluccan cockatoo, a California king snake, and a brown skunk for the patrons to learn about and pet.

Next week's program is Zelnik the Magician, bringing his "Talk to the Animals" show at 9:30 a.m. at Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at Mountains Branch Library. And at 7:00 p.m. that evening at County Library is a free "Tales From Beyond" magic show for older kids and adults.



Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department Maintenance has had a hard and hot week with 62 work order repairs and the garage has been very busy with multiple service calls, repairs, and inspections. Planning and Projects continues working with regulatory agencies and contractors in Queens Gap Greyrock and the Developmental Services project. We have also been very busy with the historical Gilbertowne and Biggerstaff properties in addition to multiple plat reviews, coordination with the planning board. In addition an update on Community grants project was briefed to the Commissioners and coordination with the Manager and NCDOT regarding a Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Lastly the Director has had multiple meetings and conversations with the manager, attorney and other department heads.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 12 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$44, processed 192 real estate records with \$14,649 received in cash, and processed 118vitals, receiving \$1,830. A total of 322 transactions were made with a total of \$16,523 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 552 phone calls, and assisted 253 citizens who came in to the office and assisted 49 PUV customers. We had 45 deeds recorded, 95 were transferred and 33 new accounts were set up. 26 Deeds were certified. We processed 5 splits, 5 merges, 1 acreage adjustment, 1 estate transfers and created 6 new maps. We also had 2 plat reviews and 3 pre-permits issued. Added 8 new E911 addressees and updated 111 addressees with ownership information. We completed 192 field reviews and 17 building permits. We had 122 citizens pay at the counter. The department had electronic payments consisting of 16 by credit/debit, 27 by website, and 2 by phone. Enforced collections consisted of 2 garnishments, 2 payment plans, 98 bank drafts, 133 prepays, 2 debt setoff, and 3 employer lists. Staff worked 1 data request and 8 bankruptcy payments/issues, and 43 VTS assists. 104 pieces of mail were received and processed. We processed 5 discoveries, 6 releases, and 6 refunds and completed 8 exemption applications for 2015. Also completed October Motor Vehicle renewals.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from Carolina Home Care conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. 48 clients took advantage of this service. The Center keeps blood pressure history cards on file and referrals are made when necessary. On Tuesday, Dr. Drew Morris with Carolina Chiropractic discussed and demonstrated the benefits of laser therapy for knee pain management, healing of chronic and acute knee injuries, and arthritis in the knee. The Center hosted a special program on Thursday about "Medicare Fraud & Scams". Diane Trainer, SHIP Senior Medicare Patrol Outreach Specialist, spoke about Medicare fraud and abuse, understanding the Medicare summary notice, current scams targeting seniors, and the importance of protecting one's identity, along with tips on how to prevent becoming a victim of scam artists. The Center also held play auditions this week for the upcoming play in October, "Murder in the Magnolia's". 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 we will have Zumba on July 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office monthly report for June is as follows:

Calls for Service:	4177
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	164/153
Domestic Calls:	255
Involuntary Commitments/Hours:	20/10.25 Man Hours
Civil Papers Served:	371
Ex Partes Served:	23
Evictions:	16
Animals Pick Up/Surrender:	360
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	162
Animal Control Calls for Service:	137
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	159/20
Pill Drop Collections:	4,222 Doses Units/0 ML
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	228
Gun Purchase Permits:	55
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	59
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	7/8.0 Man Hours
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	178/29.0 Man Hours

Welcome New, Part-time Employees

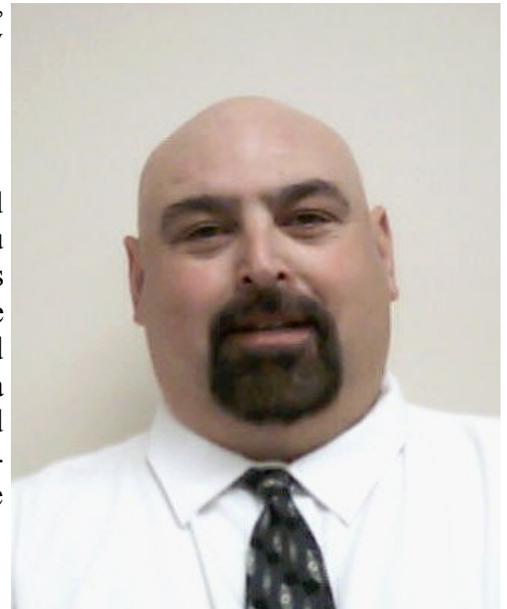
Steven Blair, Detention Officer, Effective 7/7/2014

William Guffey, Detention Officer, Effective 7/7/2014

Social Services

The Department of Social Services Income Maintenance staff continues to plan for the further implementation of Medicaid in the NC FAST System. The regular weekly NC FAST Conference Call was held on Wednesday. During the past two weeks, two on site support staff have been at the agency assisting with NC FAST tasks and providing some training for staff. The statewide Operational Support Teams (OST) have been assembled and have begun its work to support counties. The team will provide program support and policy guidance moving forward with policy integration and NC FAST implementation. On Tuesday, interviews continued for the vacant Child Protective Services Supervisor position. The regular monthly DSS Board Meeting was held on Wednesday with four board members attending. In addition to the regular agenda items, the board reviewed the agency turnover report for 2013-14, heard NC FAST updates and legislative and budget updates, discussed DSS court issues, and were briefed on the Casey Foundation Grant "*On the Front-Line*". On Thursday, meetings were held with DSS Attorneys and the County Attorney to review the 2013-14 FY and plan for the new fiscal year.

Frank Colini has been selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2014. Frank worked for the agency from January of 2007 thru March of 2010, and returned in August 2013. Frank's primary duty is investigating reports of alleged abuse, neglect, and dependency. He takes this job very seriously and displays a great deal of compassion and concern for the children and families that he serves. He always has a positive attitude, and a strong working relationship with his peers and other community professionals. Frank is a team player and always willing to take on tough assignments, and help in any way that he can. Congratulation Frank and thanks for your hard work!



Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist attended the Commissioners Meeting and the Farm City Planning Meeting; worked on existing board and commission paperwork; worked on District Board Meeting Notices and the 2013-2014 Annual Report. The Soil and Water technician traveled to several job sites assisting NRCS, visited several farms to meet with prospective farmers, and visited with Cooperative Extension Kids and Chefs 4-H program for a farm tour.

Solid Waste

The landfill served 331 customers, hauled 65 loads from convenience centers, shipped 32 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The director attended the weekly landfill meeting with the County Manager, the Commissioners meeting and the Airport Authority meeting. Also the director attended a meeting with Waste Industries to explain landfill operations. The director has been working on sewer issues at the transfer station, helping Rutherfordton with promotions for roll out recycling carts and working with Chris Roach (airport) on bush hogging property not under current contracts. The landfill staff has been busy performing everyday job duties while continuing to bush hog the old landfills.

The Litter Control Officer report is as follows:

Open case 10
Closed cases 0
Letters written 0
Citations written 0
Community service workers 5
Community service reports 1

Tourism Development Authority

This week the TDA held its quarterly marketing-planning meeting, completed steps towards the new travel guide, continued research for new tourism opportunities, prepared for the upcoming Cycle North Carolina weekend, visited stakeholders and collected rack cards for the welcome center. We held discussions with ICC regarding their new hospitality program and its benefits to stakeholders -- and attended the program kickoff. And last but not least, we also held a TDA staff meeting and training session.

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 167 emergency calls and 44 convalescent calls. Staff attended the summer conference for EMS Administrators in Asheville. The crew and ambulance out of the Bostic station were involved in an accident when their ambulance was struck by another vehicle. Crew were not injured and insurance has deemed the vehicle a total loss. Debt set off hearings were held on Thursday for several citizens.

Transit drove 9,889 miles, completed 1,180 local trips and 66 out of county trips, transported 240 unduplicated passengers and collected \$13,985 in revenue. Employee of the Month is driver Warren Toms. The Director issued a letter with the EDC Director and Carl Classen concerning the Highway Trust Fund to our elected officials. Annual state criminal background checks and motor vehicle records were run on all safety sensitive employees. New bus stop signs are being installed throughout Rutherfordton, Spindale and Forest City. Along with a new look, there is also a route schedule mounted below the sign so citizens can quickly determine when the next bus will arrive.



Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 108 mail-ins, 0 facsimiles, 242 mail-outs, 95 telephone contacts, and 285 veteran contacts.

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

