



October 10, 2014

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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Board of Elections

The Board of Elections has been keeping a busy pace as Election Day gets closer. Since the Fourth Circuit reinstated Same Day registration at One-Stop Early voting, and also allowed provisional ballots cast in the wrong precinct to be counted if the voter was otherwise eligible to vote, we have been reviewing draft procedures on a manual process to handle these new requirements so close to the election. That completely changed on Wednesday when the Supreme Court stayed that decision. So, for this election there will be NO Same Day registration and Provisional ballots will follow the same rules in place during the Primary.

A Mock Election was conducted on Tuesday in all 100 counties to test the election reporting system and website. Files were submitted at four intervals during the day by all counties and times were recorded to determine the processing speed.

We are continuing to process and mail Absentee ballots daily. Election information of interest can be obtained here:

Sample Ballots

<http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/Sample>

To request an Absentee Ballot by Mail

<http://rutherfordcountync.gov/boardofelections/absenteeballot>

Clerk to the Board

County Commissioners had a special meeting on Monday, October 6 at 5:00 PM. Their regular meeting was held on Monday at 6:00 PM.

Vice Chairman Holland met with the Tourism Development Authority on Wednesday. He is the County Commissioner appointed to this Authority.

Chairman Eckler attended a meeting that was held in Raleigh by telephone at the Economic Development Office on Thursday and later attended a meeting of the Library Board, of which he is a member.

Commissioner Owens attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissions' Board of Directors meeting in New Bern.

The Public Information Clerk processed seven public information and record requests; pushed two media releases; assisted the Public Works and Planning staff with the Biggerstaff's Old Fields Certification and Ceremony; met with TDA contractors about including relative County events with their calendar of events feature on their website; completed data migration and updating for 22 boards and commissions through Granicus; and finished final revisions and design changes to the Solid Waste sign program with James Kilgo.

County Manager

The County Manager held his weekly meetings with the department heads from Solid Waste, Public Works and Planning, Economic Development, Finance and the County Attorney. On Monday, he attended the special meeting of the County Commissioners at 5:00 PM and then the regular meeting at 6:00 PM. Tuesday began with a conference call and update with Public Works and Planning, followed with a conference call regarding the Applied Sciences Initiative ARC Grant Implementation, and finally a meeting with the Revenue Director. On Wednesday, the County Manager attended a meeting at Sunshine Elementary School; met with the HR Director, EDC Director, and TDA; and attended an IPDC conference call. Thursday continued the busy week with the County Manager and EDC Director travelling to Raleigh to meet with State Officials and then a return trip the same day to a Library Board Meeting. The week concluded with several meetings with department staff, the monthly Regional County Managers' meeting and a conference call with the Revenue Department.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff chaired the Partnership for Children Board meeting; met with Extension & Community Association fundraising committee and district planning committee; followed-up on past programs; and planned upcoming programs.

Economic Development

The Executive Director conducted a staff meeting; spoke with existing industry to discuss potential expansion and outline the Building Reuse program; delivered presentation materials to the Director of the Chamber of Commerce; attended the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners Meeting; participated in a conference call with Chamber of Commerce Representatives and company officials in Raleigh; assisted with planning an upcoming ribbon cutting; met with NCDENR in Asheville; and hosted an Economic Development Prospect Activity meeting in Raleigh with Commerce Officials and County Officials.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled upcoming industry visits; participated in the “Making it Work” event at Rockwell Lithium in Cleveland County; attended EDC office staff meeting; researched current Building Data for updates to AccessNC; conducted two existing industry visits; and met with utility provider to discuss service updates.

The Economic Development Assistant attended a monthly staff meeting, participated in a conference call with an existing industry to discuss a potential expansion and to outline the Building Reuse program, completed the monthly building permits report and the safety report, began working with an existing industry to plan a ribbon cutting event; attended a pre-bid meeting; and distributed the public notice, minutes and agenda for the upcoming EDC board meeting.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant attended a staff meeting; continued work on the available buildings vs. prospect requests project; received and entered 14 NC Broadband lack of service surveys; scheduled a meeting for next week for the EDC subcommittee to evaluate website design proposals; and assisted with video conference testing and execution.

[Take the NC Broadband lack of service survey - it's only 5 questions.](#)



Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director responded to two searches for missing persons; conducted two origin and cause investigations; transported the fire safety house to various schools for annual tour of schools; met with a radio vendor to finalize programming lists; provided manpower on several fires; attended various training and meetings; and assisted the health department with information for their accreditation.

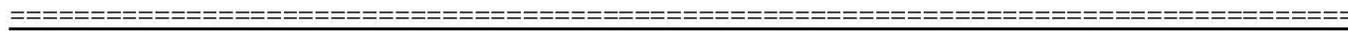
Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires Joann McMahan (p/t Mtns. Library), Joe Gantt (p/t SW), Charles White (p/t SW), William Guffey (Sheriff), Michael Smawley (p/t SW), Dena Guffey (DSS), Kelli Lipsey (DSS), and Thomas Neff (DSS). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Connie Bennett (DSS), and Janice Roberson (DSS). The Director held several meetings this week, attended the regularly scheduled County Commissioners meeting, attended an ESC phone hearing, and attended a meeting with Robin Lattimore and Carl Classen. Open Enrollment for the State Health Plan began October 1, 2014. Flu vaccination clinic will be held October 14 at the County Office Building.

OPEN SEASON is scheduled for the week of October 20-24. Please make all full time employees aware that they must see a Colonial Representative to sign a Cafeteria Plan. Please remember this is an **IRS regulation and is mandatory.**

Open season applies only to your flexible spending accounts and colonial accounts.

Please take the time to ask questions and learn about products available.

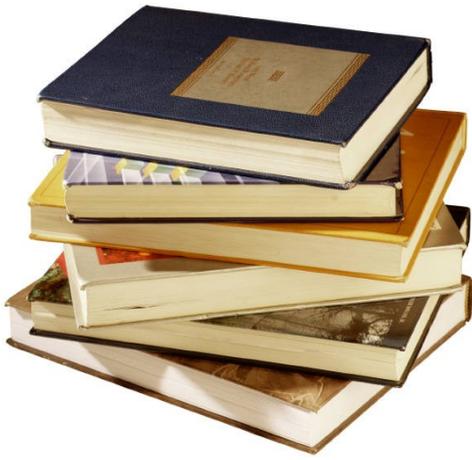


Locations available:

County Offices-Monday-Friday October 20, 2014 –October 24, 2014 9:00 am-4:00 pm. THERE WILL BE A REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE DURING LUNCH HOURS.

DSS-Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Sheriff Department-Monday-Friday 5:30 am to 2:00 pm.



Rutherford County Library October Book Sale
255 Callahan Koon Rd. Spindale, NC 287-6115

Thursday, October 16 & Friday, October 17 from 9am - 5pm

Saturday, October 18 from 8am - 12noon

We have many CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes. You will also find numerous adult fiction and non-fiction books (both hardbacks and paperbacks), and children's books galore.

Library

Library Director

Martha attended the weekly construction meeting for the EMS/Library and she submitted updated information on the circulation desk specs and requested the use of carpet tiles. Preparations are being made for the October Board of Trustees meeting at the end of the month. The book sale begins this Thursday the 16th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Librarian

After learning about "Bears" this week, the children of Story Time will continue the series on "Forests" by studying "Squirrels." Outreach Story Times were in classrooms at Forest City Dunbar Elementary School.

Haynes Branch

The Haynes Branch library continues to process numerous book donations. We have had some people come by to look at Johnny Phillips' scrap books who didn't get to look at them at Caroleen/Henrietta/Avondale day. Deb continues to proctor her online college students. We have been bringing Halloween children's books out of storage .

Mountains Branch

Through the financial support of the Friends of the Library, Mountains Branch Library made a purchase of new shelving. Before the end of the year, the library, with the help of the maintenance department, will be installing a new DVD storage system behind the front desk of the library. These shelves will allow the library's DVD collection to continue to grow and better serve our population's needs.

Social Services

Social Service's hard launch for the Medicaid implementation in NC FAST will begin November 1. Managers, supervisors, and staff have been proactive in planning for this to minimize any delays or problems for Medicaid consumers. Staff continues to attend training at the agency and via webinar, and weekly update meetings. On Wednesday, several supervisors and line staff visited Buncombe County DSS to observe the work of their Over the Shoulder Support Team (OSS), in preparation for converting cases to the new system. Two new Income Maintenance workers attended an IM Academy this week held at A-B Technical College. This is classroom training for new staff that was developed by Buncombe County DSS and A-B Tech. On Monday, Mary Lynn Piven and Gail Hall with UNC-CH School of Nursing came to the office to share information on Healthy Ideas - North Carolina, which is currently funded through a Kate B. Reynolds Grant through 2016. The goal of this initiative is to improve access to quality mental health care to poor, underserved older adults by building the capacity of non-psychiatric community agencies serving older adults to screen for depressive symptoms and effectively intervene. The program is delivered by non-mental health professionals, such as case managers, social workers, and care coordinators who come into contact with older adults on a regular basis. In addition to our Adult Services Staff, others present included staff from the Rutherford Senior Center, McDowell Senior Center and DSS, and Burke County DSS. The Director and Social Work Program Manager attended the County Commissioner's Meeting on Monday. On Tuesday, the Director and Fiscal Officer participated in the statewide Director's Conference Call, and the Director also attended the Partnership for Children of the Foothills board meeting. A meeting was held with HR Director, Debra Conner on Tuesday and Wednesday concerning personnel issues.

Income Maintenance staff continues to enjoy pumpkins painted by each of the units and displayed in various employee areas of the agency to celebrate the onset of Fall.



Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Admin/Education Specialist is working on the plans for the rescheduled Conservation Field Day for 5th grade students. The rain date is scheduled for Friday, October 17th. She attended a Farm City planning meeting and continued work on the District Contract paperwork and quarterly reports. This week the Ag. Cost Share technician worked with contractors to plan installation of practices already under contract.



Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department served 316 customers, hauled 52 loads from convenience centers, shipped 30 loads to Lenoir, sent out 3 recycling trailers to Conover and had 33 tire customers. The Director attended the weekly meeting with the County Manager, attended the Commissioner's meeting for the MSW study presentation, attended a working budget meeting with the Assistant Finance Director, and held several internal meetings with landfill staff. Tony attended the pesticide school this week, with Bobby from maintenance, that was held in Mills River. The landfill staff has been busy finishing up the presentation for the NCSWANA conference next week. The rest of the staff has been busy performing everyday job duties while continuing to bush hog the central landfill. The water well testing has now been completed by Wes Scarlett and he will send in our reports. We are still working on a solution for the push wall in the old transfer station with David Odom.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

- Open cases 9
- Closed cases 2
- Convenience center cases 1
- Letters written 0
- Pictures taken yes
- Citations written 0
- Community service reports 1
- Community service workers 4

Please continue to recycle! The landfill staff continues to look at more options for recycling as they become available. Just to let everyone know we are in the process of testing a new recycling program at Forest City Dunbar Elementary School in which we are trying to recycle milk and juice cartons. A special thanks to Frank Chyz with the school system for his help in this project.

"I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my recent arm surgery," James Kilgo.

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 156 emergency calls and 60 convalescent calls. Staff attended the EM Today conference in Greensboro hosted by the State Office of EMS. The monthly supervisors' meeting was also held.

Transit drove 9,261 miles, completed 1,103 local trips and 58 out of county trips, transported 214 unduplicated passengers and collected \$12,909 in revenue. The Director presented information at the ROAP public hearing at the Commissioners' meeting.

Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 79 mail-ins, 105 facsimiles, 111 mail-outs, 159 telephone contacts, and 261 veteran contacts.

The Hot Dog Fundraiser on October 3 was a great event. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help and everyone that came out to support us and the veterans.

[The Toys for Tots box is out and ready for donations.](#)

Biggerstaff Revolutionary War Site to be Recognized

Certification Celebration & Commemorative Ceremony

Date

October 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Location

4883 Whitesides Road, Bostic
Site of the Biggerstaff Hanging Tree

A partnership formed of the National Park Service, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association and Rutherford County has brought us to a very special landmark. The Biggerstaff Old Fields and Long Farmstead are being recognized for their historical and cultural value dating back to the Revolutionary War.

More information to come

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