



October 17, 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.

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

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections training of the precinct workers began this week and four classes have been completed with over 90 workers trained to date. We still have one more class scheduled for this week.

Close of books occurred last Friday requiring all registrations to be in our office that day or be postmarked by that date. We are still processing all of these registrations and completing the required mailings.

To date, we have issued 236 ballots by mail and 68 have been returned.

Remember that One-Stop Early Voting begins Thursday October 23rd. The locations and hours are listed below.

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

The Public Information Clerk closed out 3 public record requests and [updated the form for easier online submission](#); collaborated with three department heads on new information releases; continued updating the [boards and commissions information widget](#) for the website; assisted Public Works and Planning at the Biggerstaff's Old Fields Certification and Ceremony - [images and program are online](#); distributed media release for Farmers Market; continued updating the County's Public Information page on the website; scheduled several eMedia blasts; assisted the Clerk to the Board with organizing archive information; and continued updating the digital archive for the County Clerk.

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 met with the NCDOT Division of Aviation in Raleigh. Tuesday included conference calls with the Applied Science Initiative/ARC and CIT BJA Grant Teams along with various administrative meetings and tasks. On Wednesday, the County Manager attended a meeting on teaching assistance, met with the Health Department Director and participated in a meeting with Animal Control Services. Thursday began with a discussion group meeting and was followed by the County and Town Managers' meeting. Thursday ended with a team meeting about courthouse cameras. The week wrapped up with a scheduled reception for Fleming Bell of UNC's School of Government, and the County Manager finalizing several administrative projects.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff met with Head Start staff to plan educational programs for parents; facilitated the Extension & Community Association's fall educational tour; participated in the health department assessment for community partners; presented an educational station at Conservation Field Day for 5th grade students.



The 4-H County Council hosted a political candidates' forum on October 2. They included candidates for the races of Clerk of Court, Sheriff, District Attorney, and County Commissioners. The Senior Center and United Way Youth Council partnered with us. Youth committees were established for tasks such as: set up, media, flier distribution, clean up, and writing thank you notes. A committee also reviewed and sorted questions for the candidates. 4-H members also went out and spoke to various civic groups, such as Ruritans, Lions Club, and more, inviting them to attend. Over 150 citizens attended the event.

4-H'ers had their Expressive Arts entries exhibited at the Mountain State Fair, Ellenboro Fair, and Cleveland County Fair in September. This month, they were displayed at KidSenses Interactive Museum for their Fall Festival. The items are now entered in the NC State Fair in Raleigh.

A group of 4-H volunteers and youth worked on an entry for the 4-H hay bale competition at the NC State Fair. The group converted their hay bale into a large flower pot and painted wooden flowers and 4-H clovers to go in it. The theme was, "Rutherford County 4-H: Growing Tomorrow's Leaders."

Out of 12 entries from across the state, we were awarded third place!



Economic Development

The Executive Director met with Odom Engineering to provide an update on the Preliminary Engineering Report on infrastructure improvements necessary to support job growth and tax base enhancements in Rutherford County; attended the Hwy 9 Corridor Meeting at Lake Lure to review potential development opportunities associated with anticipated growth in the vicinity of the Hwy 9/Hwy 64 interchange; met with the Interim Director of the Polk County EDC to discuss opportunities for cooperative regional economic development efforts; continued working with two existing industries on possible expansion opportunities; participated in the monthly EDC Board meeting providing an update of economic development activities; participated in the monthly Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting; met with FLS Energy to hear an overview of a potential project in Rutherford County; and met with a prospect regarding a potential new recruitment lead.

The Economic Development Assistant attended and transcribed the EDC board meeting; worked with company officials to gather information for Building Reuse pre-applications for two proposed existing company expansions; reached out to a representative from Commerce with regards to pre-application requirements; worked with a company official to plan an upcoming ribbon cutting event, created a formal invitation for the event, and worked with the company to develop a distribution list for the invitation.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant updated building information and created / revised data sheets accordingly; provided NC Broadband surveys to a neighboring business to obtain their assistance in collecting data from residents; received and entered two NC Broadband lack of service surveys; opened proposals and prepared score sheets for the website design evaluation meeting; and calculated weighted scores for proposals received.

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



Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings, the Tourism Development Authority's Special Meeting and assisted Public Works with the Energy Audit and the State Energy Office Team last week. The Assistant Director continues to sell County surplus items through GovDeals. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and worked closely with the external auditors who are now onsite.



Moments from the October 11th Certification and Commemorative Ceremony at the Biggerstaff's Old Fields



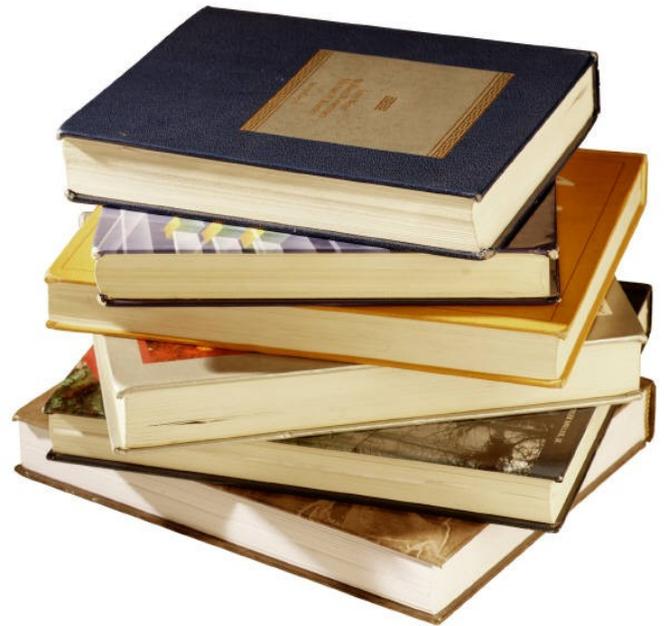
Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director responded to a search for a missing person in the Chimney Rock State Park; attended the North Carolina Emergency Management training conference; continued investigation of several fires; ensured that the Fire safety house continued on its visit to elementary schools; and received a \$10,000 training grant from North Carolina Emergency Management for a table top exercise.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director along with Angela Ezell, conducted interviews for a part-time data entry clerk at the Senior Center. The Director attended a NCACC Risk Management training on Cyber Security & Liability. The flu shot clinic was held and 99 employees participated. SHP enrollment is open until October 31. Don't forget to enroll. PNC will offer a lunch/learn on October 27th for all those interested in attending. Colonial open enrollment is the week of October 20-24. Job openings posted are Library Director and part time Transit driver.

Library



Director

The book sale is underway and the library is full of customers.

Children's Librarian

The theme of “Forest Animals” continued this week by learning about Squirrels. Next week’s lesson is on Owls, and Outreach is at Forest City/Dunbar Elementary School.

Library IT

Members of the CMC Library Consortium met to discuss a grant opportunity. Research into the grant and finding community partners continues.

Haynes Branch

Processed new books donations to Library and proctored one Processed student.

Mountains Branch

On Friday evening, 90 attendees will enjoy a Books & Bites Program sponsored by the Friends of the Mountains Library with five time Edgar-nominated folklore author and ghost enthusiast Randy Russell. In addition to the author presentation, the evening will include a ghost tour with guide Patrick Bryant of the beautiful Lake Lure Inn and an information session with local Paranormal Investigator Joe Wright. The ghostly festivities include dinner, a 50/50 raffle, and several door prizes. The Books & Bites Program is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Mountains Branch Library.

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department's garage consistently does a great job of keeping the fleet of EMS ambulances, Sheriff's vehicles, Transit vans and all county vehicles in great repair. In fact, this week we completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of N.C. vehicle safety inspections. The County garage has been seeking applicants for a mechanic and has scheduled interviews for next week. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy in completing numerous trackit work orders, preventative maintenance in addition to working very hard to prepare the trail and site at Biggerstaff for the public event held Saturday. This event was a huge success with over 100 in attendance and a great show of support for the historical importance that Rutherford County has on our Nation's development. Planning and projects met with the architect and general contractors in a pre-bid meeting for the Southeastern EMS and Library projects as those plans move forward from the Commissioners' approval last month. Additionally, close monitoring and oversight continues for the development of Greyrock and Queens Gap along with the planning board and the developer of the Vista at Bills Mountain adding new subdivision lots. Earlier this month, the Commissioners approved the community grants projects and these communities are eager to begin these improvements. Lastly, closing out the grants on Gilbertowne, Rail-Trail and Rural Center have proven more involved, so we continue to communicate with the granting agencies on their processes.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds made five copies resulting in receipts of \$18.25, processed 199 real estate records with \$14,278 received, and processed 102 vitals, receiving \$1,570. A total of 306 transactions were made for a total of \$15,866.25.

Revenue

The Revenue Department handled 38 VTS assists. The office answered 576 phone calls and assisted 197 customers. We completed three pre-permit and two Data Requests. Appraisers completed 176 building permits and 289 field reviews. A total of 40 new documents were recorded. Transfers totaling 68 consisted of two straits, 38 new accounts, one merge, two splits, and one acreage adjustment. GIS created six new maps. The GIS website had 159,585 hits and 112,003 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned seven new addresses, and updated 46 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers installed three new roads signs and completed maintenance on six old ones. Eight business listing forms were received, eight were processed and 10 listing letters went out. The PUV program mailed 12 letters, and assisted 11 program members. Staff processed three exclusions/deferments. We had four refunds and three discoveries. Collection enforcement consisted of eight bank attachments, 183 bank drafts, one prepay, nine overpayments, four debt setoff, and 10 newspaper items. Staff completed three payment plans, processed 667 items mailed in, two bankruptcy issues, and three bankruptcy payments. 14 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

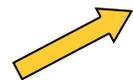
Senior Center

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. 52 clients took advantage of this service. The Center keeps blood pressure history cards on file and referrals are made when necessary. On Wednesday, the Carolina Singers & Dancers from Shelby entertained the seniors with fun music and songs. Lastly, the Book Club met on Friday. Book groups are a great way to meet new people while exploring and discussing good books.

Upcoming events:

Annual Health Fair, Thursday, October 30th 8:30-11:30 a.m.

MORE



“Murder in the Magnolia’s” Play Performance & Fundraiser, Saturday, November 1st at 6:00 p.m.

The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period is October 15 through December 7, and SHIIP, the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program, can help Medicare beneficiaries compare plans. The Senior Center has SHIIP counselors that are available to help. Call for an appointment to talk with our trained SHIIP counselors. The main number is 287-6409.



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. There will be some staff changes as a conversion team is formed. This team will convert cases in the old EIS (Eligibility Information System) to NC FAST. The conversion will take about one year to complete. Staff continues to attend training at the agency and via webinar, and weekly update meetings. An NC FAST conference call was held on Wednesday. Interviews were conducted this week for a vacant Income Maintenance position. The Rutherford County Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team met at DSS on Tuesday. Two Child Protective Services cases were reviewed. The DSS Board held its monthly meeting on Wednesday. In addition to the regular agenda items, the board received an update on NC FAST hard launch; an update on the Northwoods project for Children's Services; and about a proposed statewide Child Protective Services model. A meeting was held to finalize plans for an initiative to improve collaboration between DSS and law enforcement agencies in regards to child abuse investigations. Among those attending, in addition to DSS staff, included the Chiefs of Police of Spindale, Forest City, Rutherfordton, and Lake Lure, and the Sheriff. Also, on Wednesday, the Director, Social Work Program Manager, and Medicaid Transportation staff meet with Kerry Giles and Jeff Hill of Transit to discuss issues related to service provision. On Thursday, the Director and SW Program Manager attended the monthly discussion group regarding mental health services with the county manager and other stakeholders in the county. Also, the monthly management team was held on Thursday.

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 completed district minutes and sent out district meeting notices. Staff finalized registrations and plans for the Conservation Field Day held on Friday, October 17th at R-S Central High School. The Ag. Cost Share technician worked on one pending contract and fielded multiple technical assistance phone calls. The Technician also worked to set up Conservation Field Day.

Solid Waste

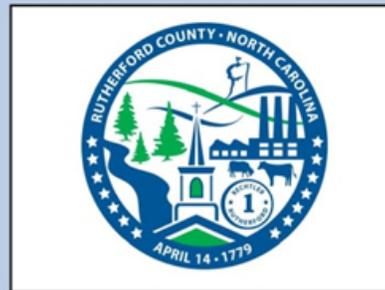
The Solid Waste Department served 279 customers, hauled 53 loads from convenience centers, shipped 29 loads to Lenoir, shipped two recycling trailers to Conover and had 30 tire customers. The Director and Recycling Coordinator are in Wrightsville Beach at the NCSWANA conference. We gave a presentation on the HUB and SPOKE program that the county is operating. Solid Waste staff continue to perform everyday job duties despite the weather. Also, we are in the process of getting all our vehicles inspected.

Please continue to recycle.

One - Stop Absentee Voting General Election 2014

3 LOCATIONS WILL BE OPENING IN OCTOBER

- **Board of Elections Office**
298 Fairground Rd.
Spindale NC 28160
- **County Annex Building**
289 N. Main Street
Rutherfordton NC 28139
- **Ellenboro Fire Department**
175 Depot Street
Ellenboro NC 28040



Thursday Oct., 23	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Friday Oct., 24	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Saturday Oct., 25	CLOSED
Sunday Oct., 26	CLOSED
Monday Oct., 27	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Tuesday Oct., 28	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Wednesday Oct., 29	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Thursday Oct., 30	9:00 am --- 6:00 pm
Friday Oct., 31	9:00 am --- 7:00 pm
Saturday Nov., 1	8:00 am --- 1:00 pm

Transportation Services

EMS Personnel responded to 134 emergency calls and 60 convalescent calls. Staff has worked to develop a new career ladder within the EMS department and will present to it employees next week. Director and Operations Manager also met with all the Rutherford County principals at their monthly meeting. Emergency protocol was discussed for schools calling in emergencies as well as the process for dealing with injuries during football games.

Transit drove 9,331 miles, completed 1,119 local trips and 74 out of county trips, transported 236 unduplicated passengers and collected \$13,393 in revenue. The Director began work on NCDOT grants for over \$500,000 for fiscal year 2015-2016. The monthly safety meeting was also held where route efficiency was discussed. A meeting was held between Transit and DSS to discuss new route opportunities. Transit also met with Polk County Transit to discuss our deviated fixed route which they may like to mirror.

Tourism Development Authority

“Fall Color/Holiday” stories and press trips for fall, holidays and spring coverage continue to be pitched to various magazines.

The Lake Lure Inn was featured in the 10/13 Leaf Peeping article. <http://www.examiner.com/list/4-instagram-worthy-spots-and-stays-for-fall-leaf-peeping>.

The Fall/Holiday/Travel Guide press release was created.

Continued our social media outreach via Twitter promoting events and fall activities; provided content for Facebook.

Web team installed Constant Contact on back end to capture email addresses of those signing up for eblasts.

New research statistics on the Mountain Region to are being acquired.

Meetings the week of Oct. 6-10 included: A Special Called TDA Meeting to vote on budget adjustments.

County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman
Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman
Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens
Roger Richard

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