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RUTHERFORD COUNTY
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October 24. 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' One-stop early voting started on October 23, 2014 and has been very busy with lines out the door at all locations. The schedule is listed below along with the locations.

Absentee voting by mail continues until October 28, 2014. All requests must be received by our office by that date, postmark does not count.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections continues to see great numbers in both permits and inspections. In the past two week period, our department has issued 71 permits totaling $2.2 million in construction value and totaling $8,627 in permit fees. Our inspectors have conducted 320 inspections over that same period. The Director has continued working on the relocation plan for Development Services, as well as, working closely with Planning and EDC on several other projects. We have scheduled our next local contractors meeting for Thursday, November 6th for Mechanical and General Contractors at 6:00pm at the Annex/County Office Building at 289 N. Main Street. We have also been conducting final inspections at Horsehead on several buildings, the MAHEC Clinic and the Timber Ridge units in Spindale. Plan review continues for the Tryon Equestrian Center and Lake Lure Classical Academy.

Clerk to the Board

Commissioners met as the Airport Authority On Tuesday evening.

Chairman Eckler, a member of the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees, met with the trustees on Tuesday. He met with the Enhanced Recycling Program on Thursday morning and with the Senior Center Board later in the day.

Commissioners attended the Cohesian Phenomics Business After Hours on Thursday and Friendship Dodge Grand Opening on Friday.

Early Voting began in earnest on Thursday as quite a few folks showed up to cast their ballots.

The Public Information Clerk worked with Granicus to resolve some operational bugs in the Boards and Commissions app (now live and online); released several media messages and scheduled additional one; began populating an in-house meeting calendar for the County's 43 active Boards and Commissions; collaborated with Granicus Project Developers on enhancement ideas for the app; closed out one public records request file; continued website revisions; and assisted the County Manager and Clerk to the Board with administrative tasks.

County Manager

On Monday, the County Manager attended a meeting with Courthouse staff, then held his weekly meetings with the department heads from Solid Waste, Public Works and Planning, and Economic Development. Tuesday included conference calls, a leadership seminar at ICC, meetings with Chairman Eckler, Commissioner Holland and the monthly Airport Authority meeting. Wednesday was dedicated to administrative tasks and meetings with department heads, conference calls and a meeting with staff from the Soil and Water Conservation office. On Thursday, the County Manager began the day meeting with Chairman Eckler, followed by a meeting with Animal Control and Finance Department staff, and then a Smoky Mountain Center Board of Directors meeting. The week concluded with an Animal Control Department meeting, meeting with the County Attorney and agenda preparation with the Clerk to the Board.

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff attended the Family & Consumer Sciences Administration meeting in Raleigh; facilitated Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group; participated in Health Impact Assessment; attended the district meeting of FCS professionals; and prepared for upcoming events and programs.

The 4-H Youth Development staff taught local fifth graders about Vermicomposting at the Soil and Water Conservation Field Day. They taught students and teachers how a to make a worm bin to help reduce the amount of waste. Worms eat the plant materials and break it down in to compost that can be used for fertilizer.

The 4-H Pumpkin Contest was held at the Farmers Market in Forest City. This was the first time the contest has been held there. We had nine entries in the contest. Our annual 4-H Fall Fest and Bake Off is this coming Saturday. Teens will be leading workshops and a service project.

Economic Development

The Executive Director met with the County Manager to review economic development activities; met with a marketing and public relations firm to review opportunities to enhance economic development activities in the county; met with the Town of Forest City to begin preparations for an upcoming prospect visit; met with Odom Engineering, the Town of Rutherfordton, and the Town of Spindale to review preliminary infrastructure planning efforts; and hosted a Building Reuse and Restoration grant pre-application conference call for an potential existing business expansion project.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled upcoming industry visits; met with Project Spring Flower, building inspections and the planning department to review project and answer questions; talked with ICC Applied Science and Engineering Technology department about industry needs and follow-up; followed up with existing industry requests; and provided summary review of BR&E through 3rd quarter.

The Economic Development Assistant sent out invitations for an industry ribbon cutting event and stayed in constant contact with the industry official to discuss details for the event; completed and submitted a Rural Grant pre application; participated in a pre application conference call with Commerce representative and company official for industry looking to expand; attended and recorded tabulation for bid opening; and prepared payroll.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant updated building information on AccessNC; and created and revised data sheets for available buildings.

Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. The Finance Office Staff continues to work closely with the external auditors who are now on-site.

The Assistant Director continues to sell County surplus items through GovDeals. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and has begun working on timesheets for the upcoming payroll.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director attended meeting with ICC, architect and training ground committee members to discuss master plan and attended fire investigative approaches training seminar.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director along with Danny Searcy and Larry Bailey conducted interviews for the Mechanic Tech position at the Garage. The Director had a meeting with Solid Waste, attended an ESC hearing, and worked with auditors. The selection for tenure awards was also held this week. The HR Specialist attended the Job Fair at the Sheriff's Department. 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 goes through Friday. Current vacancies are Library Director and Transit Drivers. Please see the County website to apply.

Information Technology

The IT department has been working with BOE to setup for one-stop voting, and evaluating new camera software for the network cameras we have in place and coming in the near future. We have overseen the replacement of the sound system in the courtrooms, and placed acoustic boards on the walls to help absorb the vibrating sounds so that judges, attorneys, audience, and jurors can hear so much better when they are in courtrooms #1 & #2 on the third floor. We are beginning a camera security project at the courthouse and a camera/ intercom project at the detention center. In the past two weeks, we have completed 100 trackit orders.

Library

From the Director

289 visitors attended last week's book sale. Martha is preparing a chart for Robin Lattimore's upcoming librarian's meeting at Thomas Jefferson Academy next week and is compiling the librarian's quarterly report and agenda for the upcoming Library Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 28.

From the Children's Librarian

Owls were the topic this week at Story Time, with next week wrapping up the series on Forest Animals by studying Bats. Since it's Halloween next week, the children have been encouraged to wear their costumes, with parents providing parties after the lessons

From the Library IT

Kenneth spent the week preparing a new Terminal Server for the library consortium (loading software, setting up user accounts, testing, etc). The server gives all the libraries in the consortium access to the shared software system used for cataloging materials and managing patron accounts. This is the first time in ten years the server has gotten a major upgrade/replacement. Also this week, April and Kenneth submitted an application to receive a donation of 3D printers. They worked with the local school system and charter schools to gauge interest and gather ideas on how the printers could be used to help enhance student learning. The application is a competitive process and winners will be announced in mid December (so keep your fingers crossed!).

From the Reference Desk

April Young and Stephanie Long attended a ProQuest workshop in Asheville on Wednesday, October 22. This workshop was designed to familiarize librarians with the new offerings available through ProQuest on NCLive starting in January, 2015. ProQuest Central is an online reference database of magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, reports, books, and videos for over 160 subject areas.

From the Mountains Branch

April, along with Stephanie from the main library, attended a training session in Asheville on Wednesday. The training was provided by NC LIVE, a library consortium providing digital content and services to libraries in NC. While our libraries and patrons have had access for years to NC LIVE content, that content will change starting January 1. The training allowed us to become more familiar with what will be available on the new NC Live platform. The session was very informative and enhanced our understanding of changes to the NC LIVE offerings. We will now be better able to help patrons transition to using the new services provided by NC LIVE

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department's maintenance team has had an extremely busy week in completing trackit work orders, preventative maintenance and groundskeeping with the changing seasons. As for County vehicles, the garage has completed numerous repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, vehicle safety inspection. In addition, the search for an additional mechanic continues with interviews this week as we make an effort to bring additional preventative maintenance of oil changes in house. Planning and projects has been extremely busy in moving the Southeastern EMS and Library plans forward stemming from the Commissioners' approval to do so last month. The bid opening is next week followed by bid tab results in November. In addition, we are researching additional funds to improve the Biggerstaff property, the Rail-Trail, the Gilbertowne historical property and the Bechtler Mint site. In fact, we met onsite with the Tourism Asset Foundation this week to discuss further improvements to the Bechtler mint site. As Hwy 221S widening nears completion we have also met onsite with NCDOT, DaVere and subcontractors regarding closing out the fill site along Henson Road. The Planning Board reviewed and approved Phase 4 in the Vista at Bills Mountain during their regular business meeting this week, along with receiving updates on Greyrock and Queens Gap.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds made nine copies resulting in receipts of $9.00, processed 216 real estate records with $18,742 received, and processed 211 vitals, receiving $2,710. A total of 481 transactions were made for a total of $21,461.

Revenue

The Revenue Department completed 4,395 motor vehicle renewal and handled 41 VTS assists. The office answered 516 phone calls and assisted 377 customers. We completed four plat reviews and answered 1 Data Request. Appraisers completed 398 field reviews 32 splits/merges and 14 permits. A total of 67 new documents were recorded. Transfers 36 deeds consisted of 6 straits, 14 new accounts, 1 merge, and 6 splits. GIS created 1 new maps. The GIS website had 157,938 hits and 114,338 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 4 new addresses, ordered 3 new road signs, and updated 6 addresses with new owner information. 8 informal appeals sent/received. 1 business listing form was received, 1 was processed and 5 listing letters went out. The PUV program mailed 9 letters, and assisted 12 program members. Staff processed 5 exclusions/deferments and mailed out 0 notice letters. We had 21 refunds, and 8 discoveries. Collection had electronic payments of 10 debit/credit, 21 website, and 2 phone also had enforcement consisting of 17 bank attachments, and 34 overpayments. Staff processed 591 items mailed in and 9 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 412 tax payments. 32 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center's the Recipe Club met on Monday at the Center and brought their favorite recipes to share with the group. On Tuesday, the seniors participated in "Pink" Bingo. All the prizes were pink in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness month. Several of the seniors also went on a trip to Strawberry Hill on Tuesday afternoon. The Senior Center Advisory Board met on Thursday for their quarterly meeting. The Center will be hosting a "Black Out" Dance on Friday evening. The dance is from 6:00-9:00 p.m. There will be great live music by Rusty & Chiquita Collins and band. The cost is $5.00 and doors will open at 5:45 p.m.

Upcoming events:

Annual Health Fair, Thursday, October 30th 8:30-11:30 a.m. and Flu Short Clinic 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

"*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.

Sheriff's Department

SEPTEMBER 2014

Calls for Service:	4199
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	143/114
Domestic Calls:	228
Involuntary Commitments/Hours.:	28/21.0Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served:	330
Exparte's Served:	21
Evictions:	6
Animals Pickup/Surrender:	176
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	152
Animal Control Calls for Service:	142
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	166/16
Pill Drop Collections:	51,279 Doses Units/282 OZ
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	191
Gun Purchase Permits Issued:	96
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	99
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	6/10.0Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	182/30.0Man Hrs.

Soil and Water

Staff attended the District Board Meeting. The Admin/Education Specialist completed the District Agenda and meeting folders, met with the County Manager to work on Farmland Preservation Ordinance changes and worked on District Contest announcements. The Ag. Cost Share Technician directed construction of best management practices for critical area planting, provided technical assistance for CSP projects for NRCS and met with a landowner to measure practices for request for payment.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department landfill served 273 customers, hauled 58 loads from convenience centers, shipped 19 loads to Lenoir, sent out 3 recycling trailers, 1 electronics truck and had 32 tire customers. The director attended the weekly solid waste meeting with the County Manager, met with the Assistant Finance Director on working budget, met with Human Resources on an employee matter and attended the ERPC meeting. Our NCSWANA presentation at Wrightsville Beach went very well and we had a lot of positive feedback. Also this week we participated in a webinar and were panelist for the SERDC. Staff and inmates have started working on the rails to trails trimming over handing limbs to create a canopy. Staff continues to perform every day job duties including bush hogging of the central landfill. Also in the next couple of weeks we should be able to start the recycling compactors for Colfax and Avondale convenience centers. The pilot program of recycling milk and juice cartons from Forest City-Dunbar school seems to being going well under the guidance of Frank Chyz . Please remember to recycle and if anyone has questions please call us at 287-6125.

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

The Building Inspections Department

of Rutherford County

cordially invites you to an informational meeting

for Mechanical and General contractors on

Thursday, November 6th, beginning at 6 pm,

in the kitchen meeting room of the

RC Office Building (County Annex)

289 N Main St, Rutherfordton.

We will discuss commonly asked mechanical questions, more frequent code violations, and a discussion of NC Mechanical and Residential Codes.

Transportation Services

EMS personnel responded to 177 emergency calls and 53 convalescent calls. Meetings were held with all employees this week to discuss new career opportunities and organizational structure for the department. Administrative staff also participated a state wide conference call with the hospital and health department regarding Ebola preparedness.

Transit drove 9,560 miles, completed 1,154 local trips and 62 out of county trips, transported 229 unduplicated passengers and collected $13,654 in revenue. Transit is currently having four (4), thirty foot poles installed with LED lights in the parking lot. The former Farmer's Market area is also being paved in order to expand parking at Transit. Both of these projects are being paid 90% through NCDOT grants. The Director also met this week with the Storehouse Pantry and the RHI Legacy Foundation to discuss areas to explore for potential reopening of this needed service.

Tourism Development Authority

The Tourism Development Authority developed coalition and marketing meetings; attended EDC/Chamber meeting; met with PR and Marketing team; continued updating listings on TDA website; interviewed with BBC reporter for article on Dirty Dancing; photographed Downtown Forest City and Chimney Rock Village for fall color and decorations; tracked and recorded media impression; focused on pitching "Fall Color/ Holiday" stories to short lead publications; distributed the Fall/Holiday press release (finalized partner links with Heather Meech); continued pitching press visits; started conversation with VisitNC on NYC mission pitch sheet; secured Chimney Rock images for guide book being written by Jason Frye through Shannon Tucker; continued Twitter—up to 242 followers—fall leaf mentions are getting best traction; finalizing lodging, itinerary and dates for upcoming press trips; led second, informal trail development group discussion; developed coalition and marketing meetings; and attended EDC/Chamber meeting.

Veteran Services

The Veteran Services Office had 60 mail-ins, 105 facsimiles, 116 mail-outs, 151 telephone contacts and 366 Veteran contacts.

The Toys for Tots box is out and ready for donations.