

October 31, 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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**Special Announcements**

### Board of Elections

As of the close of voting Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, a total of 5731 voters have cast their ballot. One-Stop Early Voting will continue on Thursday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We would like to thank all of the One-Stop workers who have worked long and hard hours during this process. We would also like to express our appreciation for Deputy Mike Johnson who has diligently controlled traffic outside our office to protect the voters.

### Clerk to the Board

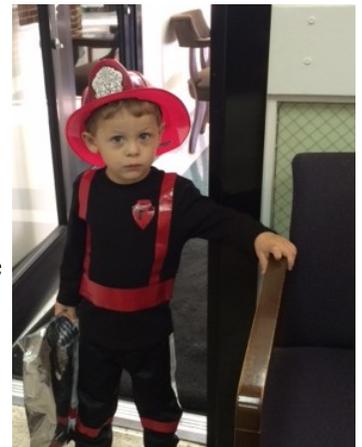
On Tuesday Chairman Eckler had meetings at the County Office Building. He also met later in the day with the Library Board.

Commissioner Owens attended the Cattleman's Association Meeting on Thursday evening.

On Friday the offices began celebrating Halloween with the first little trick 'r treaters appearing around 9:00 AM.

Voting has continued all week and there appears to be a great turnout.

The November County Commissioners will be held on Monday, November 3, at 6:00 PM. The agenda can be viewed online.



*Chief McBrayer stopped in for a brief hello and a Happy Halloween!*

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## County Manager

The week leading up to the monthly Board of Commissioners Meeting is always busy and this week was not different. The County Manager held meetings with the Department Heads for Planning and Public Works, Solid Waste, Finance, Human Resources, Economic Development and the County Attorney. His week included additional meetings with Airport staff, a local business leader, Soil and Water Conservation staff, the Rail-Trail Advisory Committee, and a grant team. With the November Board of Commissioners Meeting coming up on Monday, November 3, a considerable portion of the week was spent working with Commissioners and the Clerk to the Board on finalizing the agenda for the meeting.

## Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff conducted "Diversity & Inclusion" training at the Extension & Community Association (ECA) State Conference, completed end-of-month reports and prepared upcoming programs.

## Economic Development

The Executive Director co-hosted a prospect visit with the Town of Forest City; met with the County Manager to review economic development activities; prepared materials to be included in the upcoming Board of Commissioners agenda for November 4th; met with economic development representatives from Duke Energy; met with representatives of Northland Cable; met with a real estate broker regarding an industrial prospect lead; and met with Clark Poole to prepare materials for an upcoming prospect visit.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via phone calls and email, provided feedback and scheduled upcoming industry visits; conducted 3 existing industry visits and one 1000 in 100 visit for NCWorks; provided follow-up information and input data for NCWorks; collaborated with NC iRIS Coordinator and Principal Rogers about possible joint existing industry meetings to engage activity with the school and industry; and worked on marketing piece and Resource Guide for Work, Grow, Thrive!.

The Economic Development Assistant worked with a company official to secure documentation needed for completion of a Building Reuse application; continued to work with local industry to plan for an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony; re-distributed event invitations to secure RSVP's prior to required deadline; worked with the Finance Director and a representative from Commerce to discuss a pay out requisition revision; and contacted Commerce to determine the status of two payout applications in process.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant updated the data sheet template and began converting available building data sheets to the new format; received and entered 1 NC Broadband lack of service survey; updated site information on AccessNC; and created name tags and formatted agenda for a future existing industry event.



## Finance

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

The Director and Human Resources Director attended a webinar sponsored by the School of Government on Friday. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week.



## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

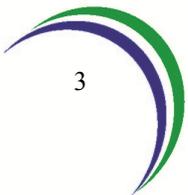
The Fire Marshal and Emergency Management staff conducted one origin and cause fire investigation; participated in a table top exercise at Rutherford Regional and completed the Fire Safety house tour of schools.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director met with Charles Eaton regarding the worker's compensation audit, met with Library Director Martha Schatz, met with Economic Development Director Matt Blackwell, and met with Craig Sappenfield, NCACC regarding the safety credits for the County. The Director attended a mediation in Asheville on Wednesday. HR staff along with other departments viewed a webinar on Diversity in Local Government this week. PNC held a lunch and learn session for county employees. Open enrollment for the SHP continues through October 31, 2014. Current vacancies are Library Director. Apply at [www.rutherfordcountync.gov](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov).

## Information Technology

The IT department has been working very hard on the email server and IT updates. Moving to a new version of software is sometimes not so easy and it takes several days and sometimes weeks to get all the old and new bugs out of the system. We think for now we have it leveled out. We started a new camera project at the courthouse and we are installing 27 new cameras there. We installed 6 new cameras at the animal shelter, so now we are working to get the camera software/server ready for those new recordings. That will give us a total of 130 cameras in various locations of our government buildings. Our next project will be 23 new cameras at the detention center, so we are getting ready for those recordings as well. Think about your office area and if you feel you need camera security around your location, let us know and we will begin to work on a plan for next budget year for your security. We have closed out 62 track-it orders this week.





## Library



### From the Director

Martha attended a librarian's forum at Thomas Jefferson Academy to discuss the "Future of Libraries" facilitated by Robin Lattimore. She participated in the Library Board of Trustees quarterly meeting, and presented a program to the adults at Life Services on the history of Halloween. There were 20 in attendance.

### From the Children's Librarian

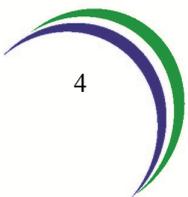
This week closed out the series on Forest Animals by learning about bats. In the spirit of the season, the children dressed in their costumes and had a Halloween party after each program. Next week we start a new series—learning about our bodies, and will begin with our feet! Outreach programs were held at Forrest Hunt Elementary School, and the Children's Librarian participated in a Roundtable Discussion at TJCA.

### From the Mountains Branch

April attended a meeting with other county, city, college, and school librarians in Rutherford County to discuss the future of our local libraries. During this meeting, we focused on how to showcase each individual library's strengths and making referrals for specific materials across libraries to better help our patrons. Staff at Mountains processed many newly purchased and donated books this week and the library book club met on Monday to discuss the book *Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt.



*Miss Jeannie and her trick-or-treaters.*



## Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department's maintenance garage continues to work hard at keeping the fleet of EMS County vehicles in great running condition. 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. In addition, the interview process for a new mechanic is complete. Our maintenance crews have been very busy in completing numerous trackit work orders and annual preventative maintenance tasks for the fall season - along with routine maintenance on our equipment and mowers. Planning and Projects met with the architect and general contractors for the Southeastern EMS bid opening. The County is in negotiations with the low bidder to bring the project into budget. A Recommendation from the architect is expected during the November Commissioners meeting, as requested by the commissioners during their September meeting. Additionally, close monitoring and oversight continues for the development of Greyrock and Queens Gap along with the Planning Board and the Vista at Bills Mountain Phase 4 subdivision. The Rail-Trail Advisory Committee met and forwarded a recommendation for a future half-marathon of which a portion would utilize the Rail-Trail. We also continue to coordinate with EDC and NCDOT regarding cleaning up a fill site along Henson Rd.



## Revenue

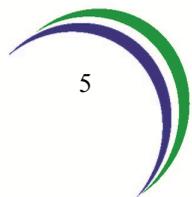
The Revenue Department handled 28 VTS assists. The office answered 563 phone calls and assisted 253 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews, and 4 pre-permits. Appraisers completed 591 field reviews. A total of 61 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 70 straits, 14 estates, 38 new accounts, 3 merges, 7 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 8 new maps. The GIS website had 165,398 hits and 119,380 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 4 new addresses and updated 98 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers installed 1 new road sign and completed maintenance on 9 old ones. 4 informal appeals were sent and 1 more was received. The PUV program mailed 5 letters, and assisted 6 program members. Staff mailed out 5 exemption letters. We had 1 discovery this week. Payment types consisted of 18 credit cards, 32 website, and 7 phone payments. Collections completed 3 gross receipts, processed 273 items mailed in, and 3 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 194 tax payments. 34 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

## Senior Center

On Tuesday, the Senior Center hosted the AARP Safe/Smart Driving Class. This class is designed specifically for older drivers and informs them of research-based safety strategies that can reduce the likelihood of having a crash. Several of the seniors enjoyed a trip to Justus Family Orchard on Wednesday. The Center's Annual Health Fair was on Thursday. We had a large variety of health screenings available for the seniors as well as multiple agencies giving out health related information. The Health Department administered the flu shots and the blood profiles. On Friday, the Senior Center performers had a dress rehearsal-matinee performance of "Murder in the Magnolia's". We will have the evening performance of "Murder in the Magnolia's" on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per couple and everyone is welcome!

### Upcoming events:

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

The hard launch for the Medicaid implementation in NC FAST is here! Or at least it will be here on Monday, November 3rd. Managers, supervisors, and staff have been proactive and put a tremendous amount of work into planning for this in order to minimize any delays or problems for Medicaid consumers. On Wednesday of this week, Barkeyia Ormond, State NC FAST Liaison was at the agency to discuss final issues regarding the implementation with staff. As prepared as our agency may be, there will still be some issues, both on the local level and State level, some that we have little control over. We will work with our consumers to help resolve these issues, and try to ensure that everyone has the benefits that they are entitled to in a timely manner. Staff continues to attend training at the agency and via webinar, and weekly update meetings. Last week (Wednesday - Friday) ten staff members, including the Director and Social Work Program Manager attended the 91st Annual North Carolina Social Service Institute in Hickory, sponsored by the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS). The DSS Board Member's Association (NCACBSS) held their annual meeting during the conference. Board Member, Jackie Hampton, who serves as a Regional Director for Region 1, attended the meeting. During the Best Practice Awards Luncheon on Thursday, Rutherford County DSS was awarded the state-wide Best Practice Award for Cost Saving Measures and/or Improvements in Efficiency for Tier One and Two Counties. The award is for the Department's new initiative "A Front Line Initiative- Staff Driven CQL." On Thursday, Medicaid Transportation staff participated in the quarterly conference call for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation, which we refer to as Medicaid Transportation. This week on Wednesday, the Director participated in *County Manager/NC-DHHS Webinar on Critical Social Services and Public Health Issues*. On Thursday, a conference call was held with Northwoods and agency staff to begin planning for implementation of the Northwoods Case Management System for Family Services.



## Soil and Water

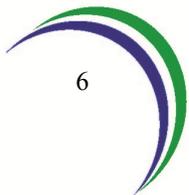
The Admin/Education Specialist sent notices for Farmland Preservation meeting, worked on Farm City plans and met with the County Manager to work on the Farmland Preservation Ordinance changes. The Ag. Cost Share Technician spent the week at a job site overseeing construction, and measuring and approving construction of best management practices on various farms.

## Solid Waste

The landfill served 352 customers, hauled 56 loads from convenience centers, shipped 22 loads to Lenoir, sent out three recycling trailer to Conover, and had 23 tire customers. The Director attended the weekly solid waste meeting with the County Manager, visited Greenville County's landfill, attended a SWANA conference in Asheville and held internal meetings with staff. The landfill staff continues to perform everyday job duties and also sowing grass in the construction and demolition area. We continue working on the rails to trails corridor with inmates and have made a lot of progress. Maple leaf Construction will begin work at Colfax Convenience Center pouring a pad for the recycling compactor this week. Also Leslie Horton will be patching the holes in the driveway at the Avondale Convenience Center, depending on weather.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is follows:

- ~Attended the solid waste code enforcement conference in Wrightsville Beach.
- ~Had 5 community service workers
- ~1 community service report
- ~Has 3 new cases of littering
- ~Had 3 road side clean ups.



## Transportation Services



EMS Personnel responded to 154 emergency calls and 58 convalescent calls. An RFQ was sent out for resurfacing of the EMS parking lot. New employee background checks were completed. The Director also reviewed a new contract for electronic patient charting services.

Transit drove 9,767 miles, completed 1,098 local trips and 82 out of county trips, transported 237 unduplicated passengers and collected \$15,390 in revenue. Staff attended Dispatcher training utilizing our new software capabilities. Operations Manager has begun annual driver ride along evaluations. Transit is also working with the Chamber of Commerce and downtown merchants associations to plan a Christmas shuttle bus to promote **Buying Local** on one Saturday in December.

## Tourism Development Authority

The TDA has been working this week on setting new Executive Committee meetings, and Wayfinding meetings. The TDA met with marketing contractors and stakeholders about the continuing evolution of marketing-branding TDA plans with regards to new tourism opportunities in Rutherford County. Work has begun on a new Tourism-Economic Development project.

## Veteran Services

The Veteran Services staff had 58 mail-ins, 105 facsimiles, 138 mail-outs, 95 telephone contacts and 285 Veteran contacts.

On Saturday, November 1, from 8am to 10am, FATZ is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser. All profits will go to the Toys for Tots.

TOYS FOR TOTS BOX IS OUT AND READY TO START COLLECTING.

### *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*

