



September 5, 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.

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[Airport](#)

The Airport began new hours of operation this week. They are now open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., including all holidays. Jet-A fuel is currently for sale at \$4.75 per gallon and staff are working to maintain a fuel inventory to meet customer demand. The paving of Airport Road and Oscar Justice Road is now complete. Painting of the new surface is underway. The Airport when through an FAA Site Update Inspection and passed.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections office has reviewed and approved the November ballot for the voting equipment and sample ballots are posted to the website. The sample ballots can be found at: <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/Sample>

We held a voter registration drive for students at ICC and REACH on Wednesday. Staff began preparing supplies for the election and recruiting poll workers.

[Building Inspections](#)

Building Inspections has issued 39 permits totaling \$7,907 in fees and inspectors have conducted 148 inspections. Our department hosted a representative from the NC Association of County Commissioners on Thursday to do some ride-a-longs with our inspectors. The Director has continued to work on the plan for the relocated BOE/ Development Services office which included various meetings with the designer and several Department Heads. The Fire Inspector has continued the semi-annual school inspections also.

Clerk to the Board

Everyone enjoyed the Labor Day holiday on Monday!! On Wednesday the staff participated in a School of Government Legislative Update Webinar which provided information on the actions of the General Assembly this year and how they affect local governments.

Commissioners were invited to the grand opening of Farmers' Furniture in Forest City. Later in the day the Commissioners had a special meeting to review the agenda for the September 8 County Commissioners' meeting. Following that meeting, the Board changed hats and sat as the Airport Authority for a re-scheduled Airport Authority meeting.

The Public Information Clerk processed five public record and information requests; assisted the County Manager and Clerk with the preparation of material for the September 8 Agenda; collaborated with Solid Waste for signage revisions; compiled and distributed the September newsletter to the public; continued working on updating the Boards and Commissions program; archived data for the Clerk; and prepared two media releases.

September 8	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building
October 6	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building
November 3	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building
December 1	Board of County Commissioners Monthly Meeting	6 p.m.	County Office Building

Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff met with Extension & Community Association members for their monthly meeting; prepared upcoming programs; and trained childcare providers in the *Color Me Healthy* curriculum.

County Manager

The County Manager's week was very busy as he worked with the Clerk and Department Heads in preparing the Agenda for the September 8 Commissioners' meeting. He attended a UNC School of Government webinar; met with TDA, Public Works and Planning, and Building Inspections department heads; attended weekly meeting with the County Attorney; attended a project review and update meeting on the Development Services building and Southeastern EMS Station; attended the Special Meeting of the Commissioners on Thursday; and attended the monthly meeting of the Airport Authority.

Economic Development

The Executive Director continued work on preliminary infrastructure planning; followed up with engineers completing site and civil design services for the Gateway West Commerce Park development project; prepared and presented conceptual development planning for an industrial park to the Airport Authority; reviewed grant documents with staff; followed up with the Town of Spindale on the progress of the sewer improvements funded by an IDF grant and necessary to support operations at Team Air; continued research and planning efforts related to the development of a non-profit organization to enhance and support economic development efforts in Rutherford County; met with Duke Energy and Ameridial to review energy efficiency and cost savings opportunities at the new Ameridial facility; attended the Board of Commissioners Agenda Review meeting; and served as a panelist for the Isothermal Community College Council Retreat at the Polk Center.

The Economic Development Assistant secured and evaluated quotes for printing services for marketing material; worked with the NC Department of Commerce representative to complete a pay request for an existing grant; contacted the organizations that partner with us on the distribution of the airport bags to coordinate getting additional marketing material to replenish the supply of bags; and provided information to the County Attorney to draft a document for an existing grant.

The Part-Time Economic Development Assistant continued the available buildings vs. prospect requests project; and compiled a mailing list for the Gateway West Commerce Park flyer distribution and entered it into the database.

Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioner Meeting Thursday evening. The Director also attended several interdepartmental meetings. The staff continues to work on fiscal year end close out. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week. Be sure to join everyone out at Relay For Life tonight!

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal;/Emergency Management Director assisted Spindale Fire Department with suppression efforts at a house fire; met with Red Cross liaison to discuss identifying shelter location and completing surveys; completed reports for 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant activities and selected activities for 2015; worked on communications plan for 800MHZ radios; and chaired an Emergency Management Response Team meeting.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Corey Church to the Solid Waste Team. Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Brandon Friend (Sheriff). The HR Director along with Angela Ezell, Senior Center Director conducted interviews for the Nutrition Supervisor position. The Director also attended a Local Government Legislative Update webinar, attended the JCPC meeting, and attended the Agenda review meeting. Please join the County team on Friday for Relay for Life. United Way will be kicking off soon, we hope everyone will join us in the 2015 United Way campaign.

Information Technology

Information Technology completed 46 trackits this week. We are working to deploy virtual desktops this year, beginning in the IT and Revenue departments. Part 1 of the Revenue data has been moved over to the new tax software, so they will begin collecting on the new system next week. We are working with Avaya to replace the back-end systems of our new phone network, you will not see a difference on your desk, but you will have some downtime over the weekend of September 13. We are organizing to be ready for the DSS move in September and then we will be ready for the Community Development/BOE move. We are also gearing up to update the sound system in Court Rooms 1 & 2, then put cameras at the Detention Center, around the Courthouse, at the Animal Control Facility, and at the Landfill. Always remember the IT has an open door policy but also remember to use trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs.

Library

The Director will be attending a State Library Summit and the summer NCPLDA meeting in Blowing Rock Wednesday - Friday.

From the Children's Librarian: There is a brand new section in the Rutherford County Library—a Parent/Teacher Resource Center, which is located at the back of the Children's Room. The Youth Services Librarian has pulled all the books on parenting, teaching, and homeschooling from the Adult Non-Fiction section and added quite a few more she's collected and ordered over the past several months. They have been relabeled under the heading of "PT," and relocated to one place to make it easier for parents, teachers, and homeschoolers. Examples of the 325 books are "Becoming a Calm Mom," "Homeschooling for Success," "Classroom Management for Substitute Teachers," "Reading Games for Young Children," and "Yes, Your Teen is Crazy."

Library IT: Kenneth and Stephanie put together a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for the library's web site. Topics covered include how to get a library card, costs for printing/faxing, how to access ebooks, and much more. The section can be found at the address below or by clicking the Frequently Asked Questions link on the library homepage. <http://rutherfordcountylibrary.org/webRCL/frequently-asked-questions>

From the Mountains Branch: Mountains Library is current taking reservations and payments for our Friends October Books & Bites. Micheal Rivers, a multi-genre and paranormal thriller author, will be making a presentation on October 17 at the Lake Lure Inn - Roosevelt Room beginning at 6 pm. This ghostly festivity will include dinner for \$30 per person, a full service cash bar, 50/50 raffle, and a ghost tour of the Inn by Patrick Bryant, Events Manager at the Lake Lure Inn. This is a special event - reservations are required, so please call the Mountains Branch Library" (828-287-6392) for your tickets. Checks are made out to "Friends of the Mountains Branch Library" and can be mailed to 150 Bills Creek Rd., Lake Lure, NC 28746. Get your friends to join you - reserve a table for ten! Seats are filling quickly.

From the Reference Desk: The Rutherford County Library added 25 music DVDs to their DVD collection this week. These DVDs include live performances from popular country and pop artists of today, such as Lady Antebellum, Faith Hill, Dave Matthews Band, and the Avett Brothers, as well as classic rock and country favorites, including Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, Waylon Jennings and Jimi Hendrix. DVDs can be checked out to any adult with a county library card.

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department's garage completed over 10 repairs, 5 tire service calls, and 11 preventative maintenance repairs'. Maintenance was very busy with completing 47 trackit work orders along with groundskeeping and weed killing along the rail -rail. Planning and Projects continued emphasis on the Commissioners' annual goals and priorities in addition to follow-up activities on the rail trail and preparing Patterson Design to share an update with the Commissioners during their September meeting regarding the Southeastern County EMS and Library projects. We also are making slow progress in working with grant agencies in an effort to properly close out grant files from completed projects such as the Daniel Morgan Water project off Hines Road, Rail-Trail, Gilbertowne, and the Preservation Master Plan for Biggerstaff Hanging tree property. There is good news in the contractor's progress at Queens Gap and Greyrock is progressing nicely. Lastly, the Development Services and Elections relocation. which has now been delayed, is still making progress as the committee reevaluates all options to ensure that the County is best served in moving forward.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 6 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$59, processed 275 real estate records with \$17,776 received in cash, and processed 168 vitals, receiving \$2,480. A total of 449 transactions were made with a total of \$20,315 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department completed 3,590 motor vehicle renewals and handled 36 VTS assists. The office answered 1,160 phone calls and assisted 453 customers. We completed 3 plats, 1 project, 3 pre-permit, and answered 4 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 72 building permits and 245 field reviews. A total of 42 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 55 straits, 1 estate, 29 new accounts, 1 merges and 3 splits. GIS created 6 new maps. The GIS website had 162,273 hits and 110,854 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 1 new address and updated 40 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 10 road signs. The PUV program mailed 3 letters, and assisted 10 program members. Staff processed 22 exclusions/deferments. We had 1 refund, 9 releases and 4 discoveries. Collection enforcement consisted of 7 attachments, 163 bank drafts, 18 overpayments and 8 debt-setoff. 16 new deeds were certified for recording purposes. Collections counter remained extremely busy again this week due to 2014 bills going out.



Community
Project Grant
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Applications are due September 15 by 5pm.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the application.

MISSION

Strengthen and build Rutherford County communities through a matching grant program. Community Projects should visibly and directly enhance the community where the project is completed.

GRANT-ELIGIBLE PROJECT EXAMPLES

The following is a list of examples and is not exclusive of the types of Community Project Grants projects that could be funded:

- Community Signs
- Community Building Improvements/Repairs
- Community Gardens
- Community Recreation Facilities
- Community Clean-up Projects
- Community Culture Programs
- Community Festival
- Community History/Heritage

“BATTERS, SPLATTERS, & PLATTERS” (RECIPE CLUB)

Monday, September 15

Time: 10:30 a.m.

September is *National Rice Month*; therefore, as a nod to this multitalented grain we are asking everyone to bring a variety of their favorite recipes that use rice. From side dishes to desserts, did you know that the typical American consumes an average of 25 pounds of rice per year? Rice is a healthy, versatile, economical dish that is sodium and cholesterol-free and contains just a trace of fat. Worldwide, there are more than 120,000 varieties of rice grown. American farmers produce high-quality varieties of short, medium and long grain, as well as, organic and specialty varieties including jasmine, basmati, Arborio, red aromatic, and black japonica, among others.



Just one of the many programs provided at the Senior Center!

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted “Use It or Lose It” on Tuesday this week. We encourage our seniors to increase their mental sharpness by continually learning new things. Learning encourages the growth of brain cells. We also encourage seniors to engage in thinking games as well as learning new skills and hobbies to continually keep the brain functioning and alert. Studies show that the brain requires a consistent workout to stay sharp just like the body does to stay strong. On Thursday, Dr. Caroline Lewis from the Rutherford Health Center came to discuss “Depression in Seniors”. The changes that often come later in life, such as retirement, the death of loved ones, increased isolation, and medical problems can all lead to depression. Dr. Lewis discussed the many steps you can take to overcome the symptoms of depression. In recognition of Grandparent’s Day this coming Sunday, the seniors brought in photos of their grandchildren and created a beautiful scrapbooking memory page on Friday. Lastly 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 Zumba class will be held on September 8, 22 and 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Social Services

The Department of Social Services staff has been extremely busy completing the office moves and services division relocations this week. Consumers were seen in the new locations beginning on Thursday of this week. All Economic Services are now located in the Rutherford Center Building located across the parking lot from the main DSS Building. Consumers for these services should enter through the back entrance that faces the parking lot. Children's Services, including Child Care Subsidy, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adoptions, as well as Administrative Services, are located in the main DSS building. Child Support Services and Adult Services offices are located across the breezeway in the building adjacent to the main building. However, reception and consumer check in for these services is in the main building. On Wednesday the Director attended the Legislative Update Webinar at the County Annex, and the Community Health Council meeting at the hospital. The Director and several Income Maintenance staff met with the Health Director and some of his staff on Thursday to discuss Medicaid issues surrounding NC FAST and NC Tracks, and how we can work on the local level to improve and maintain services for our citizens, despite issues with the systems statewide. Also on Thursday the Director participated in a conference call in preparation for the statewide committee meetings next week, and the foster care case review team met at DSS.

Soil and Water

The Admin/Education Specialist completed the District Agenda and meeting packets; attended the District Board meeting and a Farm City planning meeting; and continued work on Conservation Field day plans and Ellenboro Fair display. The Ag Cost share technician worked to prioritize applications and write plans to implement the first cost share contract of the 2015 budget year. In addition, he had a toolkit training session, a District board meeting and met with the contractor about watershed dams.

Please Remember...
Recycle!



Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 358 customers, hauled 46 loads from convenience centers, shipped 24 loads to Lenoir and sent out two recycling trailers. We had 18 customers that brought tires in for disposal. The Director attended several meeting this week including a meeting on mattress recycling, working budget review with the Assistant Finance Director and individual meeting with employees. The staff has been busy playing catch up due to the holiday. We have staff this week bush hogging the south landfill. We ask that everyone welcome our new employee Cory Church to the landfill staff. We have also research batteries for the airport tug this week looking for a cost efficient solution. The shop guys have been busy performing preventative maintenance on equipment. Staff has been working with NCDENR on our recycling grant to install recycling compactors at Avondale and Colfax.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follows:

Active cases 11
Convenience center cases 4
Citations written 0
Letters sent 0
Phone calls 1
Closed cases 2
Community service reports 1
Community service workers 3



2014 Litter Sweep (Sept. 20 - Oct. 4)

Volunteers are needed to participate in the Governor's proclaimed LITTER SWEEP to remove litter from North Carolina's roadways. Help beautify your community by getting involved locally.

Participants are eligible to receive a certificate of appreciation and enter the Unusual Litter Contest for cash prizes. The 2014 Litter Sweep safety and promotional materials are available through the "Forms" link below.

About Litter Sweep:

Litter Sweep is a statewide roadside litter cleanup drive sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). It is usually scheduled for the last two weeks of April and September. The NCDOT Office of Beautification administers the spring and fall Litter Sweeps.

- Volunteers can obtain pick up supplies as orange trash bags, that are reversible to blue bags (for items to be recycled) and also have a drawstring for closure, orange safety vests and gloves from their respective local NCDOT county maintenance office.
- NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time during Litter Sweep to pick up litter and collect orange bags from the roadsides once the groups have completed a cleanup.
- Everyone's participation in Litter Sweep is needed in order to clean up the increasing amount of roadside litter.

Tourism Development Authority

First, a reminder, if you never go to another TDA sponsored event, mark your calendars for:

2014: The Game-Changer
*A Public Event for Rutherford County
& Its Tourism Industry*

Don't Miss This Milestone
Occasion Unveiling:

- * **Updated Rutherford County Tourism Logo**
- * **New Comprehensive Travel Guide**
- * **Re-Envisioned PR/Marketing Team**
 - * **TDA Annual Report**
- * **County Master Wayfinding Plan**

Tryon International Equestrian Center:
A Special Report

**Tourism Impact Study presented by
Chris Cavanaugh, Magellan Strategy Group
and
Featured Guest Mark Bellissimo,
founder of Tryon International Equestrian Center**

Date, Time & Location:

Thursday, September 25th
Presentation: 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Speaker Meet & Greet: 5:00 - 5:30 pm
Foundation Performing Arts Center
Spindale, NC

Presented by:

Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority

- New travel guides were distributed over Labor Day weekend at the Rutherford County Welcome Center.
- Research began for the TDA Annual Report.
- Work has begun creating new Facebook content
- The Charlotte Observer was contacted for Fall Foliage & Holiday media pitching.
- Twitter following increased from 84 to 198 beginning the Labor Day weekend on @visitRCNC.

Transportation Services

EMS: This week EMS Personnel responded to 162 emergency calls and 40 convalescent calls. Staff projected furniture and equipment costs for the Southeast station. The Director met with Hospice and attended the Community Health Council.

Transit: Transit only operated four days this week with the Labor Day Holiday. They drove 8,036 miles, completed 931 local trips and 62 out of county trips, transported 220 unduplicated passengers and collected \$12,561 in revenue. Director spoke at the DSS Leadership class, and requested \$47,578 in reimbursement from NCDOT for administrative and capital expenditures. The quarterly Transit Advisory Board was held and an RFQ was issued for lighting in the Transit parking lot. Lighting is being funded through a NCDOT grant.

As a note: Both EMS and Transit are pleased to be able to provide services for Relay for Life Friday night.



Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 99 mail-ins, 75 facsimiles, 49 mail-outs, 72 telephone contacts, and 181 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