

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MANAGER

County Commissioners

Julius Owens, *Chairman*
William Eckler, *Vice Chairman*
Susan G. Crowe
Eddie Holland
Roger Richard

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

July 20, 2012

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

Weekly Report Items **Week Ending July 20, 2012**

General:

This is a highlight of items from the previous week. It is not meant to be exhaustive but to inform the Commissioners and Department Heads. **THERE WILL BE NO WEEKLY REPORT DUE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 27 DUE TO NUMEROUS VACATIONS.**

Board of Elections:

The Second Primary election was held on Tuesday with only 832 voters or 1.98 % voting. We are estimating that this election will cost the county around \$17 to \$20 per vote, once we get all the bills in. Staff is completing the audit of the election. On Monday, we will have the sample count to verify that the machines operated correctly and the Board will canvass the results on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Once this is completed, we will start on over 950 voter registrations and changes that could not be processed until the 2nd Primary was completed.

Building Inspections:

The new Horsehead facility on Hicks Grove Road is moving right along. The Building Inspections Department had a meeting this week with the electrical contractors on site and have permitted a 7200 SF office building. Our Fire Inspector just completed his series of Law & Administration classes. "More at 4" school inspections have begun this week. The Department Head spoke at the Rutherford County Homebuilder's Association's monthly meeting regarding permits and code changes. Finally, we have permitted a 15,750 sf concrete slab at the Rutherford County Landfill to be used for a white goods handling area.

Clerk to the Board:

The Clerk is receiving information from departments in preparation for the August board meeting.

Cooperative Extension:

The County Extension Director continues to assist clients with technical information through phone calls, emails, office and field visits. The Co-op Director attended a welcome reception for the new ED Director. The Agricultural Agent made field crop, vegetable and home landscape site visits. The Agent made 82 contacts. Also, the agent attended training of MGVI Interns for Consumer Horticulture client requests. The 4-H Youth Development agent attended the NC 4-H Congress this week in Raleigh along with six youth. Seven youth participated in 4-H state presentation finals, receiving two gold medals and three silver medals. The Betsy Ross 4-H club received a district gold and a state silver award for

their Community Service project efforts in the Hungry to Help initiative. Two youth received 4-H scholarships (total of \$1,600) for this academic year based on their project.

County Manager:

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. The week began with a meeting with Darrell Conley to review his existing lease, a Greyrock conference call, and a Transfer Station Project update status call. Additional meetings were held with Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy and Finance Director Paula Roach for the weekly projects update. The manager attended an Advance Literacy Project meeting at IPDC, as well as, held the weekly media discussion but no media representatives attended. County Attorney Richard Williams met with the County Manager and Finance Director to discuss the refinancing process. Mr. Williams then met with County Manager and Richard Pettus to discuss the convalescent care contracts. Mr. Classen met with Danny Searcy to get an update on the ramp outside the courthouse as he prepared to attend the Historic Preservation meeting at the Town Hall. Several other meetings were held with Michelle Whitaker (TDA), Commissioner Owens and Russell Hyde regarding airport hangars, and an informational meeting with Commissioner Candidate Pruett Walden. Wrapping up the week, Mr. Classen met with Jerry Fox and Clair Hubbard regarding Greyrock, attended a reception to welcome new ED Director Matt Blackwell, and met with Commissioner Owens, Mike Hagar, and Matt Blackwell regarding an Economic Development Project.

Economic Development:

On Tuesday, July 17th the Executive Director met with Wilbert Plastics, an existing industry, and the Town of Forest City. On Wednesday, July 18th the Economic Development Advisory Board met at the County Annex. All staff members were present at this meeting. Staff will attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner on Friday, July 20th at the Carolina Event & Conference Center. Our office would like to thank Brenda Watson for her contributions to Economic Development over the past 5 ½ years and wish her the best as she begins her new position as the Director of Communities- In-Schools of Rutherford County.

Emergency Services/Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:

This week **EMS Personnel** responded to 162 calls. The EMS Department began the new 24 hour EMS coverage in the southeastern areas of the county. The staff attended the annual EMS Administrators Conference and the Advanced Cardiac Life Support training at ICC. EMS Administration continues to plan for and develop the newly approved convalescent services. **Emergency Management/Fire Marshal** continues to coordinate and initiate a missing person search that began on Tuesday in the Union Mills Area. Various departments and rescuers are participating in the search activities.

Finance:

The Finance Director and Assistant Director have attended several meetings regarding Horsehead and several ongoing projects. The Director has been working on the LGC Refinancing, as well as, Rural Center Applications. The Finance Director also met with Commissioner Candidate Pruett Walden, attended a reception to welcome ED Director Matt Blackwell, and met with Planning and Public Works Director Danny Searcy and County Manager Carl Classen for the weekly project updates.

Human Resources:

The Human Resources Department would like to welcome new employees Crystal Upton (p/t Senior Center), James Horn (p/t Jail), Benjamin Sutton (EMS), Randy Caudill (EMS), Stephen Hollifield (EMS), Robert Martin (Sheriff), Bryan Homesley (EMS), Ryan Nelsen (EMS), Yevgeniva Skots (EMS), Lindsay Crowder (p/t EMS), Ethan Miller (p/t EMS), Jake Stephenson, (p/t EMS), Christina Hamrick (p/t EMS), Kathleen Cook (p/t EMS), Kevin Street (p/t EMS), Duane Hooks (p/t EMS) and Ronnie Driver (p/t Senior Center). Employees who have left Rutherford County are Brenda Watson who will be transferring to Community in Schools, we wish you the best! The HR Office held orientation for new full time hires, as well as, held meetings to discuss personnel issues and retirements. Staff members attended a Keynet Webinar and Safety meeting.

Information Technology:

The IT Department webcast the Commissioners Meeting on Friday announcing the new industry that is coming to the County, Valley Fine Foods. The staff has managed lots of support calls this week, ordered new equipment for those that are scheduled to be replaced, and began the process of ordering cameras for the Forensic Department, as well as, upgraded cell phones and printers.

Library:

There was great attendance for the “Flow Circus” summer reading program this week. The County Library had 120 attendees, Haynes Branch 47, Mountains Branch 48, and 10 attendees for the teen workshop. The final summer reading program for the season will be on Tuesday July 24th. It will be a celebration pajama party. The Director met with the County Attorney to formulate a Meeting Room Policy for the Mountains Branch Library. For those of you, who don’t often see a copy of “Our State” magazine, look here for the NC Icons checklist of the many things you should experience and places you need to visit in North Carolina: <http://www.ourstate.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/NC-Icons-Checklist.pdf>

Planning/Parks and Recreation:

This week in maintenance 21 service calls were completed along with some extensive repairs, preventative maintenance, and groundskeeping. The garage had 11 preventative maintenance service calls, 8 repairs, 9 tire service calls and 5 state inspections/other repairs. Site inspections were held for the site clearing progress at Bechtler Mint Historic Park along with initiating the planning of the next phase which will revamp the mine opening and fencing. The Planning Board met and approved 5 new lots in an existing subdivision titled Tongass Ridge along Camp Creek Road. They also heard an update on Greyrock progress. The Planning and Public Works Director met onsite at the Greyrock project with engineers and contractors regarding the upcoming Project 3. The Planner also met with Jason Ruff to request bids to initiate the construction of the Frank West restrooms. The playground equipment is in the process of being installed with an anticipated completion date of two weeks. In addition, the Planner met with County Manager Carl Classen on the courthouse tree and ramp issues, which resulted in good news to move forward with construction of the ramp and pruning of the tree in the fall. The Cultural Planner continues to work extensively with TDA and the County historians regarding the site planning of Bechtler Site. The Cultural Planner also continues initiating progress of the Biggerstaff property including disposal of property and preserving historic interest items and antiques.

Register of Deeds:

The Register of Deeds office had an active week with 673 transactions collecting \$17,959.00.

Sheriff: June 2012

Calls for Service:	4642
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	185/142
Domestic Calls:	215
Involuntary Commitments/Hours.:	29/18.50 Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served:	346
Exparte’s Served:	30
Evictions:	3
Animals Pickup/Surrender:	473
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	229
Animal Control Calls for Service:	163
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	204/103
Pill Drop Collections:	13,406 Doses Units/741.7 ml of liquid
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	204
Gun Purchase Permits Issued:	141
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	61
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	14/4.0 Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	174/30.0 Man Hrs.

Please join us in congratulating:

New full-time employees: Terry Ware Sr. Detention Officer
Robert Martin, Courthouse Security

New part-time employees: Vicarcia Garcia, Med Tech. Detention
Liz Segers, Narcotics Secretary
Gary Horn, Detention Officer

Promotion: Ted Cook, Corporal Detention Officer

Social Services:

The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday. Newly appointed DSS Board Member, Maxie Jolley, was sworn in and participated in his first meeting. The other board members and DSS staff expressed appreciation to Mr. Jolley for his willingness to serve. Steve Wright was elected Chairman and Margaret Helton Vice Chairperson for 2012-13. The Board approved a new Program Integrity Policy and received updates on several Adult Services issues including Guardianship Services, Personal Care Services, and IMD. The Director attended a meeting on Monday regarding 211, United Way's Community Service Information Line. Income Maintenance staff participated in a webinar regarding North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST), which is a program designed to improve the way the NC Department of Health and Human Services, county departments, and social services do business. It will introduce new technological tools and business processes that will enable workers to spend less time on administrative tasks and more time assisting families. Rutherford County will go live with NC FAST in Food and Nutrition Services in November.

Soil and Water:

The Admin/Education Specialist continues working on education lessons and Conservation Field Day planning and mailing meeting notices for District and Farmland Preservation. The Water Quality Specialist took new applications, gave technical advice to landowners/farmers and inspected ongoing projects. The Specialist is still entering contracts into the IBEAM system for the NC Department of Agriculture.

Solid Waste:

The Solid Waste Department served 199 customers from the county, hauled 49 loads from Convenience Centers, and shipped 29 loads to Lenoir. Weekly conference calls on the transfer station continue to be held. Members of the Solid Waste Department attended the monthly SWEEP meeting. The White Goods Pad should be started within two weeks. Staff continues to work on the gas to green project and the alignment of three phase power for this project. A grant application was submitted for fiber to be run to the Landfill and Animal Shelter. The aluminum can recycling efforts has generated around \$1500.00 in revenues since the end of June. Deborah Conard, part time scales operator, has been selected for a full time position at the Senior Center. We thank her for her service to the Solid Waste Department and wish her great success at the Senior Center. **Litter Control:** The Litter Control Officer investigated 7 cases of littering, two cases are still active.

Tax:

Tax Collections posted and balanced 413 prepayments for a total of \$151,573 toward 2012 bills. The office staff answered 198 phone calls, issued 5 garnishments, and entered information into the computer system for 38 employers. 17 inmate attachments were sent to the Rutherford County Detention Facility in an effort to collect delinquent taxes. The Commissioners passed a resolution requiring deeds to be certified (all taxes paid) before the deed can be recorded in the Register of Deeds. This effort started July 1 and thus far 158 deeds have been certified prior to recording. Staff members attended a meeting regarding bankrupt property with the Town of Lake Lure. Also, supervisory staff attended a welcome reception for Matt Blackwell and attended an EDC announcement welcoming Fine Valley Foods.

The Appraisal Department received 1 new informal appeal bringing the total informal appeals received to 2701. We also received 9 formal appeals this week. The staff answered 64 phone calls and assisted 37 citizens with the present use program and 8 citizens who came in to the office. Staff also mailed 2 Board of Equalization and Review appeal forms.

GIS/Mapping/Land Records/Addressing assisted 68 taxpayers, answered 57 phone calls, issued 1 pre-permit, and reviewed 2 plats. Two projects are currently in progress. Land Records printed 46 newly recorded deeds, transferred 58 deeds, 13 estates and set up 33 new accounts. GIS completed 6 splits, 3 acreage adjustments, created 36 new maps and

filled 4 data request. The Addressing Department assigned 6 new addresses, updated 56 addresses, and installed 9 new road signs.

Tourism:

The TDA registered nearly 100 Rutherford County stakeholders for TDA's inaugural Alliance Conference on November 8, 2012. TDA also developed a Media Plan, VIN Vision and Work Plan, with Strategic Goals under review. In marketing, a digital billboard advertisement was approved and will be located in Charlotte for the DNC. In PR, media outlets have been secured for an upcoming summer media tour. Visitor centers continue to greet hundreds of summer visitors. Also, the TDA has met in regards to the Bechtler Mint Site on what assistance can be given to accomplish this dynamic project.

Transit:

This week Transit drove 8,180 miles, transported 913 passengers and collected \$11,463.39 in revenue. There was one worker's comp incident. The monthly safety meeting was held and covered required drug and alcohol abuse training. Driver Gail Crawford was named Employee of the Month. Transit's Facebook page reached 458 people this week. Transit applied for a \$15,000 local Facebook grant to purchase mobile device units for all vehicles. Also, vehicle cameras arrived and will be installed in all vehicles over the next few weeks. Vehicles will have four cameras each with audio capability.

Veterans Office:

The staff made 173 veteran contacts this week. They also had 102 telephone interviews, with 46 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service. The Veterans Officer also assisted families in need with food from the food pantry.

Special Recognition Highlights



Welcome Valley Fine Foods

LIBRARY







289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 ♦ 828-287-6045 ♦ 828-287-6262 (FAX)
www.rutherfordcountync.gov



Matt Blackwell (EDC), Mike Saunders (ICC), and Harry Poovy (Duke Power)



He will fit right in, having fun with Mike Gavin from ICC





Gail Crawford Transit Employee of the Month