

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*

June 29, 2012

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

Weekly Report Items **Week Ending June 29, 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. **NOTE:** There will be no Weekly Report for the week ending July 6 due to the number of vacations caused by the mid-week holiday.

Board of Elections:

The Elections office has not had any candidates file for School Board or Soil and Water Supervisor this week. We continue to process and maintain campaign finance reports. Filing will continue until July 6th at noon. One-stop Early Voting will begin Thursday at 8:30 and will continue until July 14th at 1:00 pm.

Building Inspections:

Inspector Blake Bostic completed his Building Level I school and Fire Inspector Clint Houser completed training in "Crowd Management." Two permits were issued this week for firework displays. The Building Inspections Department is in the process of closing out the present fiscal year. Construction values on new homes are slightly up, as are total permits, total inspections, and total deposits. Inspections will know more on these actual numbers in the next week. The staff continues to receive plans for the Horsehead Facility for review and permitting.

Clerk to the Board:

The Board of County Commissioners held a Special Meeting reference EDC projects this week. The Clerk prepared and distributed the agenda packet for the July Board meeting.

Cooperative Extension:

The County Extension Director continues to assist clients with technical information through phone calls, emails, office and field visits. The Director is in the process of meetings to begin planning for a Rutherford County Livestock Educational Facility. This week, the Director loaded 2 tractor trailer loads of cattle marketed through an internet sale. The Family and Consumer Sciences agent attended a Regional Health meeting, participated in a conference call on Latino Outreach, and continues work on the preschool outdoor learning project. The 4-H Agency had 42 youth and adults attend a workshop on Raising Exhibition Poultry with hands on experience with exhibiting live birds. 4-H youth and the 4-H agent are attending a 4-H camp at the Eastern 4-H Center. The campers are canoeing, kayaking, swimming, wall climbing, and other activities that are creating positive experiences in live skills, gaining independence and teamwork. The Agricultural Agent made 105 contacts. The agent participated in the Local Foods Demonstration at the Farmer's

Market and also with the POEMS (Project's Landscape Plan Implementation) at the Learning Tree and U & I Child Day Care facilities.

County Manager:

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. Meetings with EMS supervisors, Transit regarding alternative fueling, the Senior Center, Transfer Station repairs and the Chamber of Commerce began the week. Next, a meeting was held with County Attorney Richard Williams, the weekly media discussion with the Daily Courier in attendance, met with Allen Proctor regarding Amateur Radio and attended a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. A meeting regarding the Rules of Procedures was held with Richard Williams, Hazel Haynes and the County Manager. Also, on the calendar was a Client meeting with EDC, as well as, a meeting to review the Transit/DSS contract. The weekly NCACC telephone conference was held. The Solid Waste Director met with the County Manager regarding the Foothills Landfill Lease proposal. Additional meetings were held with the Tax Office and IT regarding the Tax website. Mr. Classen attended the Roundtable meeting at the Hospital. Wrapping up the week, Mr. Classen along with the Board of Commissioners were invited to attend the Grand Opening of Chimney Rock Park.

Economic Development:

Emergency Services/Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:

This week **EMS Personnel** responded to 168 calls. The EMS Director along with EMS staff continue to plan for and develop the newly approved convalescent services, as well as, the 24 hour EMS ambulance in the southeastern area of the county. EMS personnel participated in the Annual Kid-N-Cops event sponsored by the Forest City Police Department and provided advanced life support coverage at the Owl's Baseball Game. At the Senior Center, EMS personnel provided a public education session on Signs and Symptoms of Stroke. **Emergency Management/Fire Marshal** continues to work on identifying solutions for radio coverage in the Lake Lure area and continues to work on Service District Projects. Staff has begun to gather data for a 800 MHz radio grant application.

Finance:

The Finance staff is continuing to prepare documents for all departments with their individual budget information for FY2012-13. The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended a Special Meeting called by the Board of Commissioners; as well as, several meetings regarding Horsehead and several ongoing projects. The Director also attended meetings with Solid Waste reference the Transfer Station repairs.

Human Resources:

The Human Resources Department has implemented the SHP changes effective July 1, the dental rate changes effective July 1 and the NC Retirement System rate changes, as well as, the payroll changes that were approved in the FY2012-13 budget. Several meetings were held this week to discuss potential retirees and personnel budget changes. Employees who have left Rutherford County are Bridgett Weitz (p-time Detention) and Patrick Wiesner (p-time EMS).

Information Technology:

As seen in the newspaper, the IT Department has been busy repairing our website after the Algerian hacker took the County website down. IT staff have worked hard and everything is back up and running as normal. We ask that you do keep a check on your departmental web pages weekly to ensure accuracy of all information.

Library:

Attendance numbers for the "Mountain Marionettes" summer reading program this week were County Library 121, Haynes Branch 64, and Mountains Branch 41. There will be no children's program the week of July 4th. The next performer at the Library will be Doug Elliot – Storyteller and will take place on Tuesday July 10th. The number of patrons using the libraries continues to rise since school is not in session. On average, the County Library in Spindale has had 260 visitors per day since the beginning of June. Keep checking our webpages for happenings at the county libraries. www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org , www.haynesbranchlibrary.org, www.mountainsbranchlibrary.org

Planning/Parks and Recreation:

The Maintenance Department has been very busy this week. Due to the extreme heat, two HVAC units have gone out that require replacing. One is at the Mountains Branch Library and the second unit is at the Annex house on 4th Street occupied by the Sheriff's Department. In addition, several other HVAC units have required maintenance calls. Emphasize has been placed on safety awareness due to the extreme heat temperatures as the staff is working.

The garage completed 11 preventative maintenance actions, 24 repairs, 1 set of tires, and 11 other vehicle actions.

A bid opening was held for clearing and grading work to be accomplished at the Bechtler Mint site.

The Planning Director worked with contractors to begin the process of moving playground equipment to the DSS area and Frank West Park. Also, the Director attended a conference call with Richard Williams and David Coats about rail trail legal work needs. Mr. Coats agreed to provide pro bono legal work and to draft several key documents to move the work forward. The Director additionally attended a meeting pertaining to the Town of Forest City's comprehensive plan and commitment on recreation aspects of the plan. Other meetings attended were with property owners reference river access points, met with Friends of Frank West Park members regarding bathroom construction bids, met with several Department Heads on a presentation about propane as an alternative auto fuel, and lastly met with local business owners regarding feedback to NCDOT pertaining to the HWY 221 expansion in the Gilkey area.

Register of Deeds:

Social Services:

DSS continues to be busy preparing for the many programmatic and funding changes effective with the new fiscal year, as well as, watching the decisions on Healthcare Reform and evaluating how they will affect the agency and the citizens of the county. The Foster Care and Adoption unit is preparing for their move to the lower level of the Rutherford Center, as administrative staff work with Maintenance to prepare the building. The target date for the move is August 1. The DSS Director met with Greg Lovelace, a candidate for County Commissioner, on Monday; attended the county Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday; and held the regularly monthly DSS supervisor's meeting on Thursday. Social Workers, Lloian Byers, Roxie Toms and Phil Anders occupied a group of LINKS participants on an outing to Savannah and Atlanta, GA this past weekend. Records were sent to Raleigh on Monday for a Medicaid Program Integrity Review.

Soil and Water:

The Admin/Education Specialist met with Cindy Dotson, Pinnacle Teacher to work on the Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant Interest Survey. The Specialist also attended the Farm City Connection planning meeting, as well as, completed the End of Year Closing Reports. The Water Quality Specialist took new applications, gave technical advice to landowners/farmers and inspected ongoing projects. Continues to enter contracts into the IBEAM system. Attended the Mountain Valley's RC&D meeting.

Solid Waste:

The Solid Waste Department served 324 customers, hauled 61 loads from the convenience centers and shipped out 34 loads to Lenoir. The Director attended meetings with the State Inspector on procedures for illegal dumping, as well as, attended three meetings on the transfer station construction. The White Goods pad is on schedule and bids will be opened on July 2nd. Bids will be opened this week for the metal pile. The Solid Waste Director is still working with Foothills Connect on the proposal for the landfill land lease. The Litter Control Officer investigated six complaints of littering. All these cases are still open. The Litter Control Officer continues to use the assistance of community service workers.

Tax:

Tax Collections The Department has reviewed employee lists from 147 employers. \$221,751 has been collected on delinquent motor vehicles that received notices this month. With only one more day to go, we expect this total to reach a quarter million. As a note, \$25,000 was spent to issue these bills. Tax staff has worked hundreds of notices that were returned as undeliverable and expect to receive additional payments in the weeks ahead. We have been reviewing web sites and tax payment providers in an effort to provide citizens a better website and way to pay online or over the phone.

Listing/Billing completed 6 discoveries this week totaling \$684.08 **The Appraisal Department** received 1 new informal appeal bringing the total informal appeals received to 2696. We received no formal appeals this week. The staff answered 34 phone calls and assisted 1 citizen with the present use program and 4 citizens who came in to the office. Staff also mailed 315 informal appeal notices and 3 Board of Equalization and Review appeal forms.

GIS/Mapping/Land Records/Addressing assisted 62 taxpayers, answered 151 phone calls, issued 2 pre-permits, and reviewed 3 plats. Three projects are currently in progress. Land Records printed 36 newly recorded deeds, transferred 63 properties and set up 35 new accounts. GIS completed 4 splits, created 28 new maps and filled 3 data requests. The addressing department assigned 6 new addresses, updated 32 addresses, and installed 7 new road signs and maintenance on 2.

Tourism:

The TDA prepared FY2011-12 year-end reports, as well as, worked on Vision and Work Plans for the upcoming 2012-13 fiscal year. Specific planning meetings included VIN Information, Wayfinding, and the Website. Also, several stories have been in the press due to public relations efforts. Check out these stories at the following links: CBS

"Better Destinations" of Atlanta:

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/category/213198/better> American Airlines' American Way Magazine:

<http://www.americanwaymag.com/north-carolina-lake-lure-aug-dirty-dancing>

Transit:

This past week Transit drove 9,575 miles, transported 1,059 passengers and collected \$12,810.67 in revenue. There were no safety violations. We handled two customer complaints with positive corrective action. Staff held a meeting with a representative from Alliance Autogas to discuss propane as an alternative fuel. The County Manager and the following departments attended: Transit, Sherriff, Finance, EMS and Maintenance. Transit also finalized all year end expenditures and payroll changes for the new budget year. Two new LTV buses were ordered through the NCDOT's capital grant. All agency contracts were also updated and approved for the new fiscal year.

Veterans Office:

The staff made 169 veteran contacts this week. They also had 115 telephone interviews, with 102 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service.

Special Recognition Highlights



EMS at KIDS-N-COPS

