

# RUTHERFORD COUNTY MANAGER

## County Commissioners

**Julius Owens**, *Chairman*  
**William Eckler**, *Vice Chairman*  
**Greg Lovelace**  
**Eddie Holland**  
**Roger Richard**

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

October 25, 2013

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

## **Weekly Report Items** **Weeks Ending October 25, 2013**

### **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.

### **Airport:**

The Airport sold 560.5 gallons of 100LL fuel and 25 gallons of Jet A fuel. The Airport received 8,000 gallons of Jet A on Thursday.

### **Board of Elections:**

Early One-Stop voting began on the 17<sup>th</sup> for the eight Municipalities in the County. It will continue through next week and end on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00. The Board met on Tuesday to approve the absentee applications to date. Staff continues to prepare supplies for the election. The Director has been working with GIS and the State Board to correct address points in the State's district boundary files.

### **Building Inspections:**

The Building Inspections Dept has issued 39 permits with a total project valuation of \$337,898. We have also conducted 135 inspections in the last week. Our inspectors will meet tomorrow with Horsehead officials as they are nearing completion of many of their permits.

### **Clerk to the Board:**

County Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday night in conjunction with the Town of Rutherfordton to consider incentives for an industrial recruitment project. On Tuesday, Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc., a leading manufacturer of engineered polymer solutions, would expand its operations in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 76 new jobs and invest \$10.6 million over the next four years in the towns of Rutherfordton and Ruth. Commissioner Holland attended a Tourism Development Authority meeting at the Lake Lure Inn on Thursday. The Clerk to the Board and a member of the IT staff have been attending weekly sessions with Granicus, the agenda software company that will be generating the agendas for the County Commissioners' meetings beginning in December. Commissioners have been invited to the grand opening of the Genesis Group in Forest City on Friday. The Revenue Department moved back to the Courthouse early in the week. It is somewhat quieter in the County Office Building, but we miss their smiling faces.

### **Cooperative Extension:**

The **Director** assisted producers in shipping two tractor trailer loads of Mountain Cattle Alliance Calves. The Director also continues to assist clients with technical problems through office visits, phone calls, email, and farm visits. The **Family and Consumer Sciences Agent** attended a Community Engagement Team meeting, attended a Diabetes Coalition meeting, attended the West District Extension Association meeting, and prepared for NCECA Centennial Event and State Conference. The **Agricultural Agent** was out of the office this week. **4-H Youth Development** held the annual 4-H Fall Fest and Bake Off at the Extension Center, hosting vermicomposting, team building and a garden scavenger hunt. Youth and adults also participated in the roadside cleanup project. The Pinnacle 4-H Club has divided into subjects groups, each led by different volunteer leaders. Currently, within 4-H, there is a Garden Club, a Technology Club and a Consumer Sciences Club. Each group has 10 members, Last week, the Garden Club harvested sweep potatoes and planted onions and garlic.

### **County Manager:**

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. Beginning the week, Mr. Classen met with Rhonda Owens and Peter Gaulin regarding the phone system, met with the Revenue Department staff on the completion of the Revenue Department; met with Michelle Whitaker and Rhonda Owens, attended the weekly update meeting with Danny Searcy and David Odom, which includes Greyrock and Queens Gap, attended the weekly update meeting with James Kilgo, attended the weekly update meeting with Matt Blackwell, met with Kerry Giles, and attended a Special Board meeting held at the Hospital. Continuing, Mr. Classen attended a Detention Center Crisis( Mental Health) meeting at the Sheriff's Office, met with staff from the Revenue Department, attended a Ag Sustainability Grant meeting, attended a Rutherford Adaptive Reuse Plan meeting, attended a meeting regarding the Farmer's Market and attended a Broad River Water Authority Board meeting.

### **Economic Development:**

The Executive Director worked with the NC Department of Commerce in advance of an industrial project announcement; followed up on active project inquiries; prepared and submitted a building information package as follow up to a site visit by an industrial prospect; worked with staff on documentation of existing project grants; and began planning for EDC Board Subcommittee travel to review and examine structures of other organizations. The Economic Development Assistant worked on documentation for existing project grants; distributed a press release for an industrial project announcement; assisted in preparing and packaging grant applications for submission; picked up and delivered supplies for the help desk; and prepared payroll documentation for the help desk and office staff. (See Special Highlights)

### **Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:**

Staff conducted one fire origin and cause investigation, responded to a report of a missing person, and attended the N.C. Emergency Management Fall Conference. Also, staff continues with fire prevention activities and attendance at various meetings and training classes.

### **Finance:**

The Finance Office is working closely with departments and vendors to update vendor files with E-Verify data as required by new legislation. The Director attended a TDA Board meeting and monitored bid openings with David Odom. The Assistant Director attended a Risk Management meeting along with staff from the Human Resources Office on Tuesday.

### **Human Resources:**

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Donna Kenner (p/t 911). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Brianna VanDyke (EMS) and James Lowery (Solid Waste). The HR Department coordinated with the Health Department to administer flu shots to County Employees on October 24 with approximately 100 employees receiving the shot. The HR Director attended a SHP training on the new retiree health insurance and staff attended a Risk Management Training in McDowell County.

### **Information Technology:**

The IT Department continues working on data migration for the Revenue Department. IT staff have been busy with the Revenue Department as they are transitioning back to the Courthouse.

### **Library:**

Skip Watts, Regional Representative from the College Foundation of North Carolina, presented a workshop for high school seniors and their parents on topics related to applying and paying for college. Topics covered included: filling out the FAFSA, matching career interests to schools, and ways to save on college application fees. Ten people attended the workshop. The Director and other staff attended the monthly CMC meeting. The Director also attended a round table meeting of Western North Carolina Public Library Directors in Waynesville. Miss Jeannie and the children of Story Time have had a great time learning about Police Officers this week, with special thanks to Lt. Leon Godlock for following us around to all the branches. (See Special Highlights) This Saturday at 11:00 is "Bone-Appalooza!," a fun program led by Miss Jeannie for elementary-age children. It's a learning event full of stories, activities, games, and crafts centered around skeletons.

### **Public Works/Planning:**

The garage had 11 preventative maintenance service calls, 21 repairs, 8 tire service calls and 11 other repairs. Maintenance completed 30 work orders and repairs along with preventative maintenance and fall pruning and groundskeeping of all County facilities and grounds. The Revenue Department renovation is now complete and officially reopened for business as of yesterday. A ceremony to recognize the reopening is scheduled for Nov. 1. The Planning Commission held their October meeting this week, during which they voted to move forward with presenting the draft ordinance for solar energy development. That public hearing with the County Commissioners is set for Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 6:00 PM in the County Commissioners Auditorium inside the County offices building. There are a few minor changes that will be read aloud during the hearing.

Greyrock Project 3B is nearing completion of grading. Project 8 began to install stone. Project 9 has grading and stone completed. Work has begun on the next cul-de-sac for this project. Project 4 Paving bid has been awarded and scheduled to start next week.

Queens Gap Updates: Project 1 grading is expected to begin next week as DENR approvals are due any day now. Project 2 bid opening is set for Tues, October 29. Water system design is nearing completion. We anticipate bidding the water system to begin in early spring of 2014. The bid package for project 3 may be released during November, and projects 4 & 5 design and plans are in progress.

### **Register of Deeds:**

Last week, the Register of Deeds office had an active week with 373 recordings and collecting \$14,854.00. This week, the Director is on vacation.

### **The Revenue Department**

The Revenue Department has moved back into the renovated office and currently working on getting everything back up and running.

### **Senior Center:**

The Senior's enjoyed a trip to Strawberry Hill on Wednesday. They had lunch and went on a hayride through the farm. On Friday, the center hosted a "Pink Walk" in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The seniors could walk in memory or in honor of someone affected by breast cancer. The Medicare Part D Annual Election Period continues until Dec. 7, and SHIIP, the Senior's 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 trained counselors. The main number is 287-6409.

### **Social Services:**

The Director is out of the office in training, will submit two reports next week.

### **Soil and Water:**

The Admin/Education Specialist worked with Extension staff and Agriculture teachers to judge the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Farm City Posters and worked on 2013 Contract Amendment and Matching Funds paperwork. District, Farm Service Agency, and NRCS staff met with Jan McGuinn to receive information on a multi-purpose agricultural center. The Ag Cost Share

Technician processed 2 contracts and submitted one payment, worked with Ag. Cost Share Program Manager in IBEAM and attended the Western Region Land Judging competition (RS Central won the competition). The technician also trained with NRCS on measuring Best Management Practices and closing out contracts. The Federal phone system is still down.

**Solid Waste:**

The Solid Waste Department served 283 customers, hauled 58 loads from convenience centers, and shipped 34 loads to Lenoir. The Recycling Program continues to move forward with positive customer feedback. The Director attended the weekly update meeting with Carl Classen, met with Finance Director Paula Roach regarding Solid Waste financial statements, and continues working with the Town of Rutherfordton on picking up recyclables at the county building. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties. Reminder: If your office has recyclables needing to be picked up, please contact us to get your department on a schedule. Frank has been doing a great job picking up recyclables.

**Tourism:**

This week, the TDA prepped for and held its October board meeting at the Lake Lure Inn. At this meeting, this weekend's "instant movie" project was announced -- this will be a movie made by our visitors about their doings here and what they loved about their stay. Used for training and promotions, it will premiere at the Nov. 12th Alliance Conference. Please make sure to register -- this year is the "short" conference (only 3 hours, including lunch) where much TDA info will be shared for all stakeholders, including government entities. We continue a great leaf season and are especially excited that the elevator at Chimney Rock State Park is in full operation!

**Transportation Services:**

**EMS:** This week EMS Personnel responded to 158 emergency calls and 91 convalescent calls. An ACLS class was held and four medics attended. EMS staff worked on multiple financial and efficiency statistics to analysis areas of improvement. A monthly random drug and alcohol test was also completed. The Operations Manager worked on bid proposals for two new ambulances to be purchased this fiscal year. **Transit:** Transit drove 11,292 miles, completed 1,071 local trips and 86 out of county trips, transported 270 unduplicated passengers and collected \$18,645 in revenue. The monthly Safety Meeting was held and vehicle backing maneuvers were discussed. Congratulations to driver Dean Olsen, Transit Employee of the Month. Transit also received their State/Federal funding contract this week, now that the Federal Government shutdown has ended. This will allow for reimbursement of expenses since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff also worked on new auto attendant messaging for the VoIP system.

**Veterans Office:**

This week, the Service Officer is on vacation. Last week, staff made 161 contacts, received 89 telephone interviews, and had 34 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service. The Service Officer continues to help veterans with food from the food pantry. As Christmas fastly approaches, the Veterans Office has the **Toys for Totes Box**. Please help in filling these boxes to give to local children in need at Christmas. Save the date, November 1, 2013, the Veteran's office will host a hot dog luncheon. All proceeds will go to assist Veterans during the holidays. Please come and show your support for our veterans.

**SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 22, 2013**

**Trelleborg Coated Systems selected Rutherford County**

**Rutherfordton, NC –**

On October 22, 2013 Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Trelleborg

Coated Systems US, Inc., a leading manufacturer of engineered polymer solutions, will expand its operations in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 76 new jobs and invest \$10.6 million over the next four years in the towns of Rutherfordton and Ruth.

“With today’s announcement by Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc. the citizens of Rutherfordton should be excited for the new employment opportunities that have been brought to our town,” said Mayor Jimmy Dancy of Rutherfordton. “It is always a highlight for the Town of Rutherfordton to be considered for a new industry opportunity because of the competitive nature of the process, but to be selected for a project is truly a success that should be celebrated.” Town of Ruth Mayor Don Baynard added that “the announced new jobs are great opportunities for our community and the Town of Ruth will do its part in supporting the efforts of Rutherford County, Rutherfordton and the State of North Carolina in providing the necessary assistance to Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc.”

Rutherford County has been awarded a \$440,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund for this project. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. Rutherford County will partner with the Town of Rutherfordton and Town of Ruth to provide a portion of the required local match for the One North Carolina Fund grant. In addition, Rutherford County will submit a grant request to the Golden LEAF Foundation Economic Catalyst program for additional support of this project.

Rutherford County Commission Chairman Julius Owens said, "We are so excited that Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc. has selected Rutherford County. We want to thank them for their investment in Rutherford County and their confidence in our citizens who they will employ. Rutherford County is very pro business and we look forward to Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc. growing and thriving in Rutherford County. We welcome this great addition and all other companies that are looking for a great place to locate or expand. The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners looks forward to working with Trelleborg Coated Systems to build a lifelong partnership".

**“On behalf of the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission I want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc. for choosing to expand their operations in Rutherford County,” said Terry Hines, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. “I also want to thank the Town of Rutherfordton, the Town of Ruth, Duke Energy, the NC Community College System, Isothermal Community College, the NC Department of Commerce, County Manager Carl Classen and the Rutherford County Economic Development staff for all of their efforts in working with the company on this project.”**

The mission of Rutherford County Economic Development is to retain and recruit new jobs and investment to the county for both industrial and commercial development. Rutherford County has a population of 67,810 and is centrally located between Charlotte, NC, Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC. With a strong infrastructure system including roads, water, sewer and fiber, the county is well positioned for growth as the economy continues to improve.



Dean Olsen, Transit Employee of the Month

