

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*

September 7, 2012

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

Weekly Report Items **Week Ending September 7, 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.

Board of Elections:

This week the Elections staff has entered over 120 absentee requests for ballots by mail in preparation for receiving ballots sometime after the 7th. The Director met with Danny Searcy and teleconferenced with Carl Classen regarding parking for early voting. During this week, staff processed 29 new registrations, 26 duplicate registrations, 21 changes of information and mailed out 334 cards.

Building Inspections:

Building Inspections issued 31 permits totaling \$3,902 in fees. Our inspectors conducted 139 inspections and investigated several various complaints. The month of August closed with a total of 12 new house starts, which is part of a total of 185 permits issued. The Director participated in a joint meeting with several departments and a couple of State agencies regarding space needs. The Fire Inspector and the Director have been working to update files in an effort to improve the collection of fees and make the fire inspections program more efficient.

Clerk to the Board:

The September regular meeting of the Commissioners will be held on September 10 rather than September 3 as this is Labor Day. The Clerk completed the agenda packet and materials for the Board meeting.

The Clerk attended a meeting with the Manager, County Attorney, Chair and Vice-Chair on the Rules of Procedure and attended a meeting at the Town Hall regarding the Gold Fever documentary and the Bechtler Mint site. (see special highlights section for invitation)

Cooperative Extension:

The County Extension Director continues to assist clients with technical information through phone calls, office, and field visits. The Director met with the 2012 Farm/City Committee to begin finalizing plans for this year's Farm/City event "Farming and Social Media". The Director also assisted cattle producers in marketing a tractor-trailer load of cattle, and met with County Agricultural Education teachers and students to give them an orientation for the Farm/City Poster Contest. The Family and Consumer Sciences Agent attended the Smart Start Executive Board and Community Health Council meeting, assisted with the Mountain State Fair preserved foods exhibits, taught Give Your Heart a Healthy Beat

class, submitted the monthly news column to the Daily Courier, and met with the ECA Leadership Council. The Agricultural Agent continues preparations for the 20th celebration of the Master Gardner Volunteer Program, assisted with the Rutherford County Farmer's Market, and networked with the MGV's in Consumer Horticulture requests. 157 contacts were made. The 4-H Youth Development Agent attended a 3-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) training at Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Center in Reidsville. The training focused on middle school science curriculum in Embryology, Home Energy, and Wind Energy. Additionally, the 4-H Council met and planned a Teen Team-building day at the River Ministries property on Green River. Along with the team-building activities, the teens enjoyed tubing down the Green River.

County Manager:

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. The week began with a meeting with the Chairman, Vice Chair, County Attorney, Clerk and Manager to review the Rules of Procedure. Additional meetings were held to discuss the Transfer Station, collection of Building Inspection fees with Jason Ruff, and building space needs with Danny Searcy, Jimmy Hines, Bryan Branch, Jason Ruff, Chris Francis, and John Carroll. Mr. Classen joined a meeting with John Carroll and Rhonda Owens regarding NC Fast. Additionally, a meeting was held with Beth Miller, David Odom, Matt Blackwell and Carl Classen to discuss Facebook land acquisitions. Mr. Classen attended the first meeting of the Chairman/Mayor/Manager luncheon held at Tuscany. The week wrapped up with the County Manager attending the Western Highlands meeting and reviewing the weekly report.

Detention Center:

This past week has been busy for the Detention Center. Detention averaged 227 inmates, 188 males and 39 females. Processing admitted 89 inmates and released 96. Kitchen staff prepared 4,306 meals for the jail population. Corporal Shell transported 4 commitments and 17 inmates to various locations across the state, for a total of 1,311 miles traveled.

Economic Development:

This week the Economic Development Director has worked with the NC Department of Commerce and Duke Energy to submit buildings and sites in Rutherford County for two industrial recruitment opportunities. The submittal included building and site data as well as extension demographic and research –based information on regional supply and customer chain. The Director continues working toward selecting a firm to complete an Economic Development Strategic Plan and Target Market Study, building local partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce and existing industries in Rutherford County.

Emergency Services/Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:

This week **EMS Personnel** responded to 162 calls. EMS Administration finalized the start up arrangements of the Rutherford County EMS Specialized Transport Division. This division officially started on Saturday, September 1st serving the scheduled convalescent needs of the community. EMS staff and Human Resource Director conducted administrative assessments for internal promotions. Staff provided community education and training to citizens at the Senior Center, attended monthly EMRT meeting, and attended a meeting with Oak Grove Nursing Home.

Emergency Management/Fire Marshal continues to attend meetings and work on proposed fire service districts and is working with local and state officials concerning the DNC in Charlotte.

Finance:

The Finance staff continues to work on the Fiscal Year End closeout reports and preparing for the auditors to come in September. This week is payroll week and Finance is busy processing payroll information. The Director has worked on completing year end reports and finalizing the refinancing. The Director also met with the Manager and Planning Director to discuss current projects.

Human Resources:

Employees who have left Rutherford County are James Quinn (p/t Detention), Max James Gee (p/t Detention), and Barbara Patton (p/t Detention.) The HR Office held meetings to discuss personnel issues and retirements. The HR Director attended a meeting on the Rules of Procedure with the County Manager, Clerk, Chairman, Vice-Chair and

County Attorney. The Director also attended meetings at Cooperative Extension, participated in EMS assessments, and attended a JCPC meeting.

Information Technology:

IT has had an exciting week. Staff have fought the Algerians once again (server hacked into) and conquered them. After three days the website is back up and running. The IT Director is gathering information from all departments as to what they would like to do with a new website, please send Rhonda Owens your DETAILED information this week or by the first of next week. The Director made several site surveys at the Bechtler Mint site in Rutherfordton, the new EMS site in Henrietta, the Landfill route, and also the Airport to find the best route to run fiber to these locations and where equipment and cameras could be installed. 25 new replacement machines are on order and are expected to be delivered mid September. Staff will be busy installing the equipment, while also replacing 6 old switches with new switches. The IT Director met with DSS staff and the County Manager to discuss IT plans for the upcoming migration to NC FAST in the DSS Department. This process will enable employees to electronically submit forms to the state to better assist the citizens. Between December and April there will be a lot of manual data entry to move files from an existing system to the new system. Tuscany Italian Grille hosted a Relay Day for the County Employees Relay for Life team on Thursday. Ten percent of the intake that day will be donated to the County team as part of the County relay fund raising efforts.

Library:

Despite the fact that our children's librarian, Jeannie Smith, broke her ankle and then sprained her arm, she resumed preschool story hour this week at all three county libraries. Check the libraries websites for times and dates for each location. This information is also posted on the county's website calendar.

The Friends of the Mountains Branch Library are producing another calendar this year and are having a photo contest. There will be twelve winners. They are requesting digital photos of the Hickory Nut Gorge area. For more information check this website: www.mountainsbranchlibrary.org

Planning/Parks and Recreation:

Maintenance had a busy week completing 22 service calls. The garage had 9 preventative maintenance service calls, 20 repairs, 4 tire service calls, and 9 state inspections/other repairs. There were no accidents reported. The Public Works Director attended multiple meetings with Carl Classen and other departments on space needs, project reports, and parking issues. The Director also presented an update on Greyrock to the County Manager. Additionally, the Director and Cultural Planner attended a PARTF grant session, coordinated a successful clean up day at the Biggerstaff site, made site visits to Bechtler, corresponded with the arborist reference the pruning schedule for the courthouse tree, received several grassroots arts grant applications, and scheduled a meeting regarding "Friends of Honeysuckle Park." Congratulations to Whitney Wilson, daughter of Roger Wilson on her wedding this past weekend.

Register of Deeds:

The Register of Deeds office had an active week with 427 transactions collecting \$19,704.75

Social Services:

DSS staff has been involved in several meetings this week. The Director, Income Maintenance Administrator, and the IT Analyst attended a meeting with the County Manager and the County IT Director to discuss the upcoming changes that NC FAST will bring. Some counties in the state have piloted the program and the agency has been able to learn much about what to expect in terms of loss of productivity, longer wait times, and delayed benefits. Plans to be proactive in avoiding some of these issues or diminishing their effect were shared during the meeting. The Director also attended a meeting, along with some other department heads, to discuss space needs within the county, as well as attended the Community Health Council meeting at Rutherford Regional Health Center. The Director and Program Manager met with the agency Fiscal Officer to discuss changes in IV-E Funding.

Soil and Water:

The Admin/Education Specialist completed the Agenda and information folders for the Farmland Preservation Board Meeting and the District Board Meeting for the September 6th meetings. Specialist will participate as an exhibitor at the Chimney Rock State Park's Stewardship Day on Saturday, September 8th. Water Quality Specialist inspected ongoing

projects, made payments, and manned the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation District area booth at the North Carolina Mountain State Fair. Come see what your state has to offer in historical, agriculture and natural resources Sept. 7th thru Sept. 16th.

Solid Waste:

The Solid Waste Department served 274 customers, hauled 55 loads from centers and shipped 28 loads to Lenoir this past week. The bids were opened for the transfer station; however, they came in above the projected budget. Engineers and staff are working hard to solve this issue. The Solid Waste Director attended several meetings on the transfer station, as well as, completed interviews for the part time scale operator. The Solid Waste Department worked an average of 5 community service workers each day. Work continues with David Garrett on getting the Gas to Green project up and running. Recycling continues for cans and metal from the transfer station and C&D landfill using the inmate program.

Tax:

The Appraisal Department answered 29 phone calls, assisted 8 citizens with the present use program and 7 citizens who came in the office. Appraisers worked 22 permits and 1 review.

GIS/Mapping/Land Records/Addressing assisted 67 taxpayers, answered 95 phone calls, issued 3 pre-permits, and reviewed 3 plats. One project has been completed and two more are currently in progress. Land Records printed 31 newly recorded deeds, transferred 39 deeds and 7 estates, and set up 15 new accounts. GIS completed 2 splits, 1 acreage adjustment, and created 21 maps. One data request has been sent. The Addressing Department assigned 5 new addresses, updated 44 addresses, and installed 8 new road signs. **Tax Collections:** This month staff was presented with 174 deeds for certification with 12 of those having a total of \$6,548.86 worth of delinquent taxes. Of that amount, \$5,568.57 of those taxes have been paid, which brings the yearly total to \$19,571.04 presented with \$15,656.19 of that being paid.

Listing/Billing: Listing completed an edit report after it came to our attention that several parcels did not bill for 2012 due to a computer glitch. Staff discovered the root of the computer glitch and are taking steps with our programmer to ensure that this error does not repeat in the future. Upon reviewing that edit report, staff has completed 12 real property and 6 personal property discoveries totaling \$12082.86 for this week.

Tourism:

TDA is finalizing plans for the NC Cycle event on September 30th and for the 1st annual TDA Alliance Conference. In addition, we are working in partnership on the Bechtler Mine/Mint site, and have another opportunity to help bring the Bechtler press here. We are continuing to work on designs for satellite mobile info sites, as well as beginning development of a promotional video with VisitNC. A new creative campaign has been finalized and we will begin work on renovation plans for the Lake Lure Visitor Center in the upcoming weeks

Transit:

There are no Transit statistics this week due to personnel being out of the office. Two weeks of data will be supplied on the next weekly report. There were no safety violations. The Director received additional training on use of the new vehicle camera system. Transit also hired a new part time driver, Johnnie Wilkerson. She will start on September 10th. Johnnie retired from Rutherford County Schools after driving a school bus for thirty years. We are thrilled to have her come aboard at Transit. Transit also submitted several quarterly reimbursement requests to NCDOT.

Veterans Office:

The staff made 181 veteran contacts this week. They also had 96 telephone interviews, with 56 mailouts for veterans to complete documents and requests for service. The Service Officer continues to meet with Veterans to assist with their needs.

Special Recognition Highlights



**ATTEND THE
FILM PREMIERE!**

GOLD FEVER & the BECHTLER MINT

**See the first screening of the
UNC-TV documentary filmed in
Rutherford County.**

September 29, 7 p.m.

R-S Central H. S. Auditorium

Admission is free.

**The story of Christopher Bechtler's
Mint during the North Carolina
gold rush of the 1830s.**



The Rutherfordton 225th Anniversary & The Bechtler Documentary Committees

Please come join the fun and events as we support **Relay for Life, Friday** September 7 at Forest City/Dunbar Elementary School. Opening ceremony begins at 6:00 pm.



Children's Librarian

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www.rutherfordcountync.gov