



April 11, 2016

Weekly Report

Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Board of Elections

This week Debbie is at the State Board of Elections office in Raleigh attending meetings and focus groups to help prepare the business rules for the states new software systems. Staff continues to process new registrations and changes to voter registrations, as well as prepare for the next election in June.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has had another busy week with 60 permits issued—9 of those being new cell towers valued at \$1,195,000. We also issued three new house permits and ten Certificates of Occupancy with one of those being the Tryon Equestrian Center's International Center (**pictured below**)! We have been inspecting the International Center since July, 2014, in the absence of a Level III inspector in Polk County. We also finalized the Amethyst Solar Farm on US 221 S. We have conducted 182 inspections over the course of the week; we have released 11 permanent and 6 temp



electrical services to their respective power companies. We have been doing a great deal of studying as of late with the 2014 NEC (Electrical Code) going into effect on April 1.

Cooperative Extension

Jeff Bradley, Tracy Davis, Cynthia Robbins:

- Assisted with the shipment of three tractor trailer loads of cattle marketed through the Mountain Cattle Alliance. These loads valued at \$200,000 (**pictured right and below**).
- Held the annual meeting of the Rutherford County Cattle-men's Association with nearly 200 in attendance.
- Presented an educational program at the WNC Area Beef Conference in Canton, NC FOR WNC beef cattle producers.
- Participated in a pasture management training for agency personnel to help assist producers with grazing plans.
- Continued to assist clients with technical problems through office visits, phone calls, emails, and farm visits.
- Taught Better Food Better Health nutrition classes and Cook Smart classes.
- Chaired Partnership for Children board meeting and Community Health Council meeting.
- Prepared for next week's Speedway to Healthy exhibit.



County Manager and Commissioners

The following are several activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved this week:

- Board of Commissioners' Meeting on Monday evening
- Airport Authority Meeting Monday evening
- Several department heads, including Planning and Projects, Economic Development, and Veteran Services.
- County Attorney meeting regarding various projects
- East High School tour and a work/luncheon to discuss budget with the Board of Education.
- Region C County Managers and IPDC Executive Director, Scott Dadson, met on Tuesday morning.
- Community Health Council meeting
- Budget meeting with ICC
- Rutherfordton Town Council meeting

Commissioner Benfield and Commissioner Holland attended the Volunteer Rutherford Banquet at Florence Baptist Church. Vice Chairman Toney traveled to Concord for the NCACC District Meeting. Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney attended the TDA Luncheon/Retreat on Thursday. Manager Garrison met with the TDA and HR directors on Thursday. Debra Conner and Kim Aldridge were engaged in the JCPC board meeting on Thursday afternoon. Chairman King, Manager Garrison, and Finance Director Paula Roach gathered for a meeting with Smoky Mountain Mental Health to discuss their Community and Capital Reinvestment Plan. The County Manager joined a representative from Congressman McHenry's office on Friday to review the past year's accomplishments and future plans.

The week continued with additional duties, consisting of numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meeting with citizens.

The County Manager, Commissioners and staff want to express our sympathy to Corporal Eric Hester, Cynthia Robbins, Kathy Kaylor, and Mary Street for the recent loss of your dear family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to two industrial RFIs and conducted an industrial site visit. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, communicating with the Department of Commerce regarding various grant reports and requests, and updating unemployment figures on the EDC website using data from the NC Department of Commerce press release. This week's agenda also included attending the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners' Meeting as well as numerous meetings and conference calls with county departments and industry allies.

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. The Director attended several interdepartmental budget meetings. The Assistant Director attended training in Chapel Hill.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- responded to a structure fire for a origin and cause investigation.
- conducted follow-ups on open cases.
- worked on fire service district budgets.
- completed additional Emergency Management Performance Grant activities.
- attended Commissioners meeting to present for a public hearing on changes in fire protection service districts.
- participated in a rating inspection of the Ellenboro Fire Department conducted by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.

The Director attended:

- regularly scheduled County Board meeting
- Gardner Webb Job Fair, along with Paula Roach and Jai Doherty.
 - JCPC monthly meeting
 - NCACC webinar.



We want to wish Kim Aldridge a very happy birthday as she is turning 29 again. Happy Birthday, Kim (**pictured right**)!

Employment opportunities are Tourism Authority Director, and TDA part-time seasonal worker. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.



BLOOD DRIVE

Rutherford County Government

Wednesday, May 11th

11:00 am – 3:30 pm

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD!

Please contact Debra Conner at
287-6145 to schedule your appointment today!

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

© 2013 The American National Red Cross

Information Technology



Vicki Edwards, IT Systems Analyst, showing off her new ‘grand-puppy’! Six weeks old, weight and height unknown, but absolutely adorable. Also, since Vicki just picked him up on Wednesday, puppy is still nameless....Cutie Pie would fit real well!

Public Works and Planning

The garage has completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with N.C. vehicle safety inspections in addition to reviewing inventory - thanks to the garage supervisor and mechanics who work very hard to keep the County’s vehicles in such great mechanical condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy as well in completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance in addition to the growing demands of groundskeeping. Thanks to all the maintenance staff for their hard work. Planning and Projects has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and paperwork regarding the following: preparation for the April Commissioners meeting, follow up research from planning board activity, budget preparation and submittal and revisions, Capital Facilities planning updates and funding research, met onsite with Polk staff of the Tryon Equestrian in support of growing infrastructure planning, Rail Trail improvements as well as planning for future funding sources. Also, we have been researching grant opportunities for the County’s historical and recreational properties. Last but not least, we’ve scheduled site inspections on the Duke Energy Ash Landfill expansion, AEO project, solar farms, Greyrock, Queens Gap.

Please see page 6 for information on vehicle registration shared from the Garage regarding *House Bill 97 - Registration Late Fee Law*.

Revenue Department

The department would like for you to keep Debbie Hill in your thoughts and prayers on Friday when she has minor surgery. We hope you have a speedy recovery, Debbie. Staff continues to work with Farragut on the conversion of information from the old system. system.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	546
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	13
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	33
Total Taxes Collected	\$122,058.58
Collected Prepayments	\$2,478.14



FVI: Garage

PAT McCrory
Governor

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

March 4, 2016

Re: House Bill 97- Registration Late Fee Law

Dear Registered Owner,

This letter is to inform you of the new law regarding changes in the late fees being charged for an expired license plate registration. The new law is recorded in N.C.G.S. 20-88.03. It becomes effective July 1, 2016.

The law states that in addition to the applicable fees required under this Article for registration of a motor vehicle and any interest assessed under G.S. 105-330.4, the Division shall charge a late fee according to the following schedule to a person, business, or local, state and federal government agency that pays the required registration fee after the registration's expiration date:

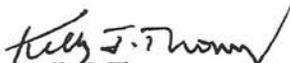
- (1) If the registration has been expired for less than one month, a late fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
- (2) If the registration has been expired for one month or greater, but less than two months, a late fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- (3) If the registration has been expired for two months or greater, a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Also, as described in N.C.G.S 20-99, an expired renewal sticker is defined as a registration of a vehicle that is renewed by means of a registration renewal sticker that expires at midnight on the last day of the month designated on the sticker. It is lawful, however, to operate the vehicle on a highway until midnight on the fifteenth day of the month following the month in which the sticker expired.

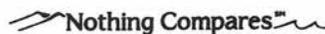
Please direct any questions to Julie Gilchrist at 919-861-3131.

Thank you for your support to the citizens of North Carolina and to the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles.

Very respectfully,


Kelly J. Thomas
Commissioner

KJT/jsg

Nothing Compares™

Senior Center

The Center hosted the Senior Performing Arts Follies last Friday night. Robert Judd won the “Best-Over-All Blue Ribbon” and will compete at the state level in September. During the week, we provided the seniors the opportunity to practice sporting events for Senior Games before the official games start. On Friday we had a fun walk and balloon release and then the Opening Gala for the Senior Games. This special ceremony began with special music from Mrs. Summey’s third grade class from Spindale Elementary and then the Lighting of the Torch ceremony. We have 90 seniors that are competing in the sporting events this year. The sporting events will continue through April 25.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on April 11, 18, & 25

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program began on Thursday, February 4th. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 50 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 15th. Remember to bring the following:

Picture ID

Proof of Social Security number(s) for yourself and ALL dependents

Copy of 2014 tax return(s)

All 2015 tax documents

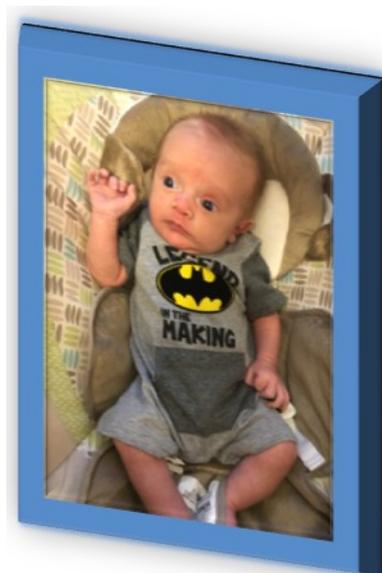
Bank account information for direct deposit-will need to see an actual check

Health insurance information-proof of insurance, Form 1095 if received

Social Services

Planting Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness: See flyer on page 8. Also, we would like to encourage county employees to wear blue on the April 15th for Child Abuse Awareness. Thank you so much for your help. For further information contact Sarah Miller at 828-287-6273.

Grady Olsen Byers (**pictured right**) is home and doing well. Proud mom, Melanie Byers (DSS), and family are very thankful for all the thoughts and prayers for sweet little Grady.



Rutherford County Department of Social Services
and
Partnership for Children of the Foothills

Cordially invite you to join us in
Planting Pinwheels
for
Child Abuse Prevention Awareness
on
Friday, April 15, 2016
at
4:00 PM
on the lawn of the Rutherford County Courthouse

Speakers include:
The Honorable Laura A. Powell - District Court Judge
Mr. Ted Bell - District Attorney
Mr. Chris Francis - Rutherford County Sheriff
Ms. Sherry Bright - Director of Family Resources of Rutherford County

Light Refreshments will be served

Children are welcome at this family friendly event!

Face Painting
Bubble Fun by Kid Senses
and much more!

Door Prizes Include-
Family Pass to Chimney Rock State Park
Golden Tickets to Kid Senses
Passes to Autumn Lanes
Passes to Skates & Stuff

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- completed the Farmland and District Meeting folders and attended the meetings.
- participated in a Strategy Plan and Spot Check teleconference.
- worked on an Agriculture & Environmental presentation for a Leadership Rutherford session.
- worked on information for an educational station at Chimney Rock State Park Earth Day Celebration and a Farmland Preservation display for Chase Farm Day.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- attended a Basics of Pasture planning training in Waynesville.

Solid Waste

- Customers served 251
- Loads hauled from convenience centers 36
- Loads shipped to Lenoir 20
- Recycling loads shipped to Conover 1
- Tire customers 50

The director has been busy working on the budget and attending a budget meeting with Paula. The director also has been working on year end budget and reports.

The transfer station staff has been busy processing all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy handling all the tonnages coming in while excavating in the animal disposal area. Staff has started mowing at the convenience centers this week.

The shop staff has been busy working on equipment while performing preventative maintenance. The crew continues to mow and bush hog at the airport (**pictured right**).

Staff would like to congratulate Nathanael White on passing the pesticide exam he took recently. The office staff has been busy working on reports and budget items while helping customers.



Please continue to recycle!!!!!!!!!!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS staff have worked to mirror the current Transit scheduling database to EMS for their use with convalescent transports. Administration is researching Survey Monkey and others in order to create both customer and employee satisfaction surveys in the coming months. Director presented this week at the County Commissioners meeting, the new Medical ID public awareness campaign; as well as attended the monthly Community Health Council board meeting. EMS' fitness program continues to grow as many employees are taking advantage of the community walking trail directly behind the main EMS station. Employees also plan to plant a vegetable garden in the coming weeks.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	156	168
Convalescent Calls	28	59

Transit Department:

Transit staff has been busy completing NCDOT requirements such as, compiling data for 3rd Qtr Operating Statistics and Reimbursements, the semi-annual ROAP report, and a site visit from NCDOT on April 5th. Cherry Consulting will be leading the training for our employees in Emergency Evacuations and Defensive Driving on April 7-8. Fire Marshall Roger Hollifield and Assistant Fire Marshall Daniel Elliott will conduct fire extinguisher training with Transit employees during this training session. Staff is also working on formatting all Standard Operating Procedures and developing a easily accessible book for easy reference and in electronic format to aid in making additions, corrections, or changes to existing procedures. Transit staff also held our monthly staff meeting to discuss any areas of need and upcoming events that are relevant to Transit operations. Director will host the NC Public Transportation Association's board of directors' meeting on Friday, April 8th in Lake Lure.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,871	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,086	881
# of Out of County Trips	72	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	214	238
Total Revenue	\$14,499	\$14,549

Veteran Services

Mail In	67
Mail Out	150
Fax	125
Phone Calls In/Out	78
Veteran Contacts	135



County News



2016 Relay Rutherford County Em- ployees Team

- **Saturday, April 9th:** Shooting Tournament at Bostic Gun Club, 9 a.m. to 1p.m. (Flyer on page 12.)
- **Thursday, April 21st:** Paint it Up (spaces still available)
- **Monday, April 11th:** Zaxby's fundraiser, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 28th:** Annual Spring Plant Sale (info to follow)
- **Friday, May 13th:** Sweet Frog fundraiser from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **Friday, May 20th:** Relay for Life Event; we will need lots of help with this event, so please consider helping with campsite, food or ideas.
- **Monday, May 23rd:** Zaxby's fundraiser from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- RADA ORDER – Robin Ensley (Tax/Revenue Dept) will be getting another Rada order together. Please let her know if you are interested as she has limited books available.

Short Sleeve T shirts should be back soon – we have ordered some extras so please let us know if interested.

Back by Popular Demand: Relay is hosting a **Book Fair**. Anyone with extra books, who would like to donate to Relay, can bring the books to the County Office Building. This is a great fundraiser, so stop by and see if you are interested in any of the books offered. We have several children's books, as well as numerous hard back books with various topics.





RELAY FOR LIFE

SHOOTING FOR A CURE



HANDGUN COMPETITION & SHOTGUN TRAP GAMES



DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 9TH, 2016 9AM-1PM
PLACE: OLD HICKORY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB
GUN CLUB ROAD
BOSTIC, NC 28018



- * **COST: \$5 per SHOOT**
- * **BEGINNERS WELCOME**
- * **BRING YOUR OWN SHOTGUN, PISTOL AND AMMO**
- * **SHOTGUN & PISTOL AMMO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**
- * **HOTDOGS & HAMBURGERS WILL BE FOR SALE**



Upcoming Events:

• **Saturday, April 16th: ROC Race Series: Miles for Messiah 5K in Forest City. Register online at <http://rutherfordoutdoor.org/outdoor-activities/raceseries/miles-for-messiah>.**

• **Saturday, April 16th:** Rail Trail Clean-up from 11 am to 2 pm. Meet at the side parking lot of the McDonald's in Spindale at 11 am. ROC will provide trash bags and a few sets of grabbers.

• **Saturday, April 30th:** ROC group hike to Buffalo Creek Park in Lake Lure. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 9:30 am to carpool or at the public trailhead at 10 am. If you have never been on this beautiful trail, this is a great opportunity. Come join us!!

• **Saturday, May 14th:** ROC Broad River Spring Sweep. We will meet at 9 am and plan to get started by 10 am. These clean-ups are always a ton of fun and you will be helping to ensure that our river stays beautiful!

Email us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 625-9983 ext. 505 if you would like to sign up for any of the ROC workdays or group hikes.



Click here [Hike Photos](#) for photos from the ROC Group Hike to Rumbling Bald on March 19th. The landscape was beautiful.

More Ways to Participate in ROC:

We need people like you to become trail bosses and river stewards for our local trails and river system.

o **Trail Bosses** walk their section of trail at least once a month, report any issues they see, and help keep their section clean.

o **River Stewards** float their river section once a month and report downed trees and other obstacles that need to be addressed. There is a River Stewards meeting held on the 2nd Thursday of each month to discuss river improvements and plan future clean-ups.



If you are interested in learning more about becoming a trail boss or river steward, contact Dana Bradley at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 625-9983 ext. 505.

[Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails

County Manager

Steve Garrison

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, *Chairman*

Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman*

Michael Benfield, Eddie Holland, Greg Lovelace

County Office

Hazel Haynes, *Clerk to Board*

Richard Williams, *County Attorney*



Follow us online!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov

Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor

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