



April 25, 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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Agriculture/Cooperative Extension

The Rutherford County Farmers Market will open the 2016 season on Saturday, April 23, 8:00 a.m. at the Farmers Market shelter located at 172 Depot Street, Forest City. Open weekly Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 to noon! Make plans to stop by Saturday to visit with your favorite vendors and get the first picks of local produce for this season! Thanks to each of you for your continued interest in the Market!

*Brenda Watson, Farmers Market Manager
828-287-6080*



Staff activities:

- Extension Column – weekly in Daily Courier
- Taught Better Food Better Health nutrition class.
- Taught Cooking with Herbs workshop.
- Conducted monthly radio program.
- Assisted ECA in planning district event.
- Attended Preschool Health Advisory meeting.
- Worked with Carver Center to plan school garden.

Last week entire Cooperative Extension staff (Jeff, Tracy, Cynthia, Karen and Carol), along with many volunteers, hosted “Speedway to Healthy” for all 4th graders in Rutherford County Public Schools.

PHOTOS on page 2.

Quotes from “Speedway to Healthy” volunteers (copied from Facebook):

“I had a lot of fun teaching the kids about the heart ♥. It was such a great idea to teach all of these kids about the body. Y’all did such a great job setting all of this up and making it happen! 😊”

“Thanks to Tracy and Cynthia for bringing this great opportunity to the county.”

“I really enjoyed that day to volunteer! I had a lot of fun and so glad y’all do take the time to teach kids what they need to know!”



Airport

The Airport sold 844.0 gallons of Jet A to 3 aircraft and 518.9 gallons of 100LL last week.



A Lear 45 based in Knoxville, TN brought several businessmen to Rutherford County last week.

Board of Elections

Elections staff have sent out 290 ballots for the June 7, 2016 primary election. This election will have a Republican primary for US House District 10 and a Nonpartisan Primary for NC Supreme Court Associate Justice. All voters that requested an absentee ballot by mail for the March primary were automatically sent another ballot for the June Primary.

The Director has been involved with online meetings with the State Board regarding the business rules for a new software system.

County Manager and Commissioners

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

- Pangaea Board Meeting
- Meetings with several County departments, including Planning and Projects, Economic Development, Finance, Veteran Services, and TDA.
- Budget Review Meetings
- Child Abuse Awareness Event - Chairman Bryan King presented and read the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation for Rutherford County.
- Lutz Foundation Scholarship Interviews
- ARC Grant discussion
- Webinar - Planning For County Budgets
- ICC Soccer Complex Master Plan Vision Meeting
- County Attorney meeting regarding various projects
- Queens Gap Public Forum

Other County meetings and events included: Forest City, Spindale and Chimney Rock Town Council meetings; IPDC Division 13 SPOT discussion meeting; Senior Center Advisory Board meeting; and Town of Bostic Lincoln Day. Several staff attended *2016 Rules of Procedure and Liability* workshop that was held on Wednesday in Shelby. On Thursday, department heads were on the schedule to attend either a morning or afternoon session of *Identifying Substance Abuse* at the Rutherford County Office Auditorium.

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 Todd Laughter/Sheriff's Department, Kristie King/wife of Commissioner King, and Jordan and Lindsay Chapman/Sheriff's Department for the recent loss of your dear family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Commissioner Alan Toney was involved with the Troop 120 Eagle Scout Court of Honor. His son, Alex, and three other young men received honors. Commissioner Eddie Holland presented awards from the County.

Pictured left to right: Congratulations to Alex Toney, Jaden Bostic, Scott Culler (father works for County Maintenance), and Brandon Bailey for their accomplishments! Also, special recognition to the parents for their influence and training while their sons were achieving the Eagle Scout rank.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended numerous meetings with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, responded to an industrial RFI, and hosted an industrial site visit. Staff continues to be busy preparing for the Economic Development Feasibility Study, including scheduling participants for interviews with Convergent. This week's schedule also incorporated following up with the Department of Commerce and industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests.

See Press Release on page 5.

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. The Director attended several interdepartmental budget meetings and continues to work with County Manager in budget meetings. The Director and Assistant attended a County Budget Planning webinar on Tuesday.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- received and reviewed fire service district budgets for submission to Finance.
- completed additional Emergency Management Performance Grant activities.
- assisted with manpower on several woods fires.
- attended the Western North Carolina Firefighters Association meeting.
- assisted Keith Conover with NC Information Technology with a town of vertical assets in Rutherford County.
- participated in a statewide emergency exercise.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director attended several departmental meetings this week and conducted interviews for the part time TDA position along with Interim Director Don Cason. NCACC representative Craig Sappenfield conducted training for department heads/supervisors on the topic "Identifying Substance Abuse." The Director also attended a training "I Second that Motion and When Lawyers Attack" focusing on Procedural Rules/Liability issues sponsored by the School of Government.

The annual blood drive is scheduled for May 11th. Please contact the HR department to schedule a time to donate. **FLYER on page 7.**

Our Relay Book Sale has grown. We have many, many books from well known authors. Drop by the County office building and check out (pardon the pun) our inventory. All books are donation only. Thank you to our many contributors!

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

Photos and letter from the Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership on **page 6.**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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www.rutherfordncedc.com



For Immediate Release – April 21, 2016

US Precision Construction, LLC Selects Rutherford County

FOREST CITY, NC – On April 21, 2016 Governor Pat McCrory announced that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority approved, under the State’s Building Reuse program, a \$500,000 grant awarded to Rutherford County to support the reuse of the manufacturing building located at 2015 Hwy 221 South in Forest City by US Precision Construction, LLC. Rutherford County will soon see 100 new jobs as US Precision Construction, LLC plans to make over \$6.5 million in capital investment.

US Precision Construction, LLC is a member controlled company of Tryon Equestrian Partners, LLC, which owns and operates Tryon International Equestrian Center and Tryon Resort. The precision engineered and constructed product made by US Precision Construction, LLC will include fully fabricated residential living units and commercial structures to be used for retail, hotels, single family and multi- family units.

Rutherford County Commission Chairman Bryan King said, “I am pleased to welcome US Precision Construction, LLC to Rutherford County and the opportunity that this company brings to provide diversity to our workforce and community. The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners looks forward to working with US Precision Construction, LLC to build a lifelong partnership.”

This project, code named Speedy, was made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant. The Rutherford County Board of Commissioners authorized the County Manager to negotiate a local incentive agreement in the amount not to exceed \$25,000 to provide the local match for the North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Grant. In addition, Rutherford County has submitted a grant request to the GoldenLEAF Economic Development Catalyst program for additional support of this project.

“On behalf of the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission, I want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to US Precision Construction, LLC for choosing to locate its operations in Rutherford County,” said Mike Gavin, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. “I also want to thank Governor Pat McCrory, Dr. Patricia Mitchell and the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the NC Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the GoldenLEAF Foundation, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, County Manager Steve Garrison, and the Rutherford County Economic Development staff for all their efforts in securing this project.”

The mission of Rutherford County Economic Development is to alleviate unemployment and underemployment within, and stimulate the economic development of Rutherford County and its several municipalities by fostering and promoting business and industry, developing commerce and trade, and inducing the location of manufacturing, assembly, and commercial enterprises in Rutherford County. 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, Rutherford County is well positioned for continued growth.

http://www.rutherfordncedc.com/newsdetail_T9_R103.php

56th Annual NC Department of Labor Safety Awards Banquet



Dear Debra,

I would like to thank you for attending the 2016 Safety Awards Banquet hosted by the Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership. This year's event was a very enjoyable evening celebrating safety in the workplace. Each of you are encouraged to continue promoting workplace safety throughout 2016.

I would like to thank Commissioner Berry and the North Carolina Department of Labor staff for recognizing private and public firms that achieve and maintain good safety records and for their participation in planning and delivering another successful banquet.

I would also like to thank Personnel Services Unlimited for their sponsorship of this year's banquet and for their continued support of business and industry throughout our region.

Sincerely,

Matt Blackwell

Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership

matt@ccedp.com



Debra Conner - Human Resources
Cherri Berry - NCDOL

Matt Blackwell - Cleveland Co EDP

Robin Hensley - Revenue Dept.
Cherri Berry - NCDOL



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

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Library

Joy Sharp - Mountains Branch enjoyed a visit from Chimney Rock State Park when they brought some Rock-in' Reptiles and Epic Amphibians to visit. The kids loved getting up close with turtles and snakes. Our "Libraries are Community Partners" Food Drive was very successful and we are so grateful to our patrons for donating 125 pounds of food and cleaning supplies to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach to help feed our community. Joy Sharp helped patrons with reference searches and computer work. She also ordered and cataloged new items and sorted through lots and lots of donations. Mountains Branch is very grateful to our Friends of the Library for providing us with a wonderful new picnic table for our staff and patrons and a new book cart to assist our wonderful volunteers when shelving books.

Maria Davis – An Adult Coloring Session was held on Thursday.

Al Lovelace from Lovelace Financial will be here next week to host a seminar "Overcoming Retirement Challenges." See ad below or go to www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org for more information.

Overcoming Retirement Challenges

Presented by Al Lovelace, Lovelace Financial Group

"I'LL DO IT LATER"

**Tuesday, April 26, 2016
2:00 p.m.**

**Rutherford County Library
255 Callahan Koon Road
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6115**

As a financial professional with Lovelace Group, Inc. and a member of the Rutherfordton community, Al is dedicated to helping individuals and businesses build their financial futures. To stay on top of his career, Al has regularly attended industry training and certification programs.

Al earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. My education, experience and professional affiliations have fostered my practical approach to offering financial products and planning services to my clients.

Retirement can be an exciting adventure, but sometimes, it holds challenges we are not ready to face.

Al Lovelace, Financial Professional, will be here to talk us through some of those challenges.

He will give us information as well as hold a question and answer session.



Public Works and Planning

As temperatures have been on the rise this week, so have the demands on this department. The garage has completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with N.C. vehicle safety inspections in addition to reviewing several vehicle accidents. 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 repairing multiple HVAC units, completing numerous work orders, preventative maintenance in addition to the growing demands of groundskeeping and implementing approved budget improvements. 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 Planning Commission meeting, continued work on the budget and Capital Facilities Plan, grant application for Cliffside Sanitary District and growing infrastructure planning, Rail Trail planning and future fund raising. In addition, we have been researching grant opportunities for the County's historical and recreational properties. Last but not least, we've scheduled site inspections on several solar farm projects, the AEO project, Greyrock, Queens Gap and some minor warranty work at the new Haynes Library.

Tim Culler's (Maintenance) son, Scott, and three other young men received Eagle Scout honors. Congratulations to Scott Culler for his accomplishments! **Pictured on page 3.**

Senior Center

The Senior Center Advisory Board met on Thursday for the quarterly meeting. Square Dance class continues to meet on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. We have had several sporting events again this week for the Senior Games **(pictured)**. The sporting events will continue through April 25. The Closing Gala/Athletic Awards will be on Friday, May 6th, to celebrate and recognize the seniors who participated in Senior Games for their dedication and commitment to a healthy active lifestyle.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on April 25, May 2, 9, 16, and 23



Social Services

The past two weeks have been busy ones for the Department of Social Services. Last week, Children's Services was host to five workers from the NC FAST Office in Raleigh. They followed the processes of the work in Children's Services by observing workers in the field, court, meetings, and basically everything that they do. They were interested in observing our county, primarily because of our use of technology in the field through our Northwoods System. This was in preparation for designing the NC FAST program for Children's Services across the State, which is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017. They prepared many process charts that will be beneficial, not only for NC FAST designers, but for us as well.

Staff were involved in many meetings and conference calls as well. The Community Child Protection Team met on Tuesday of last week, the Director, Fiscal Officer, and the IM Administrator participated in the statewide DSS Director's Conference Call; the Director attended the More at Four Board Meeting; and Luann Butler, Administrative Officer, participated in the Civil Rights Compliance Conference Call. On Thursday, the Director, Fiscal Officer, and Child Support Supervisor participated in a conference call regarding Child Support Incentive Payment; and the IM Administrator and several Supervisors attended an Income Maintenance cluster meeting in McDowell County conducted by the State Operational Support Team. This week, the DSS Board held its regularly monthly meeting on Wednesday; NC FAST staff were in the office to conduct a readiness assessment of the Child Care Subsidy Program's implementation of NC FAST which is scheduled to be completed in early 2017. The Director also attended a Youth Empowerment Board meeting and a Pre-School Health Advisory Committee meeting. Several supervisors attended the Substance Training held at the Annex on Thursday.

Last Friday was the agency's second annual Child Abuse Awareness Event held on the lawn of the courthouse. Several staff members worked extremely hard to make this event successful and meaningful. County

Commissioner, Chairman, Bryan King, presented and read the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation for Rutherford County. There were several community leaders that spoke including Ted Bell, District Attorney; Barry Gold, Director of Partnership for Children of the Foothills; Sherry Bright, Director of Family Resources of Rutherford County; Sheriff, Chris Francis; and District Court Judge, Laura Powell. Kid Senses was also on hand to provide face painting and bubble blowing for the children, and the event ended with the planting of a pinwheel garden. **(Pictured left and below.)**



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on materials for a Soil & Water station at Chimney Rock State Park Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23rd
- Worked on materials for a Farmland Preservation display for Chase Farm Day on April 30th.
- participated in a conference call and worked on updating the Farmland Preservation Ordinance and sending District and Farmland Meeting Notices.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- processed Request for Payment for six plans.
- attended a pre-construction bid meeting for Western NC Stream Initiative.
- inspected BMP installations.

Solid Waste

Customers served 377

Loads hauled from convenience centers 66

Loads shipped to Lenoir 31

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 32

The director has been busy continuing to work on the budget, attended a webinar at the annex, attended the substance abuse session at the annex and continued to work on reports.

The office staff has been busy serving customers and they continue to work on reports and reimbursements.

The transfer station staff continues to process the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy processing the tonnages coming in while continuing to haul dirt for cover.

The Airport staff has been busy mowing grass and weed eating at the airport (**pictured right**). Also, they continue to perform bush hogging. John Bland took the pesticide exam on Thursday.

The shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance on the equipment and vehicles. They have also fixed some issues at the convenience centers. The landfill has received payment for the metal that we recently sold.

Please continue to recycle!!!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Staff received online training this week on ESO (charting software) and some of the new reports and analytics available for our use. Two supervisors also attended Crisis Intervention Training in McDowell County on Wednesday-Friday.



Teddy the Trauma Bear stopped by EMS on Friday night for a visit this morning. He is was attending a 6th grade event with Medic One before he leaves for South Carolina on his flight booked with Regional One helicopter. (Teddy started his cycle in Boston, MA, thanks to some EMS people from Boston EMS. His job is to circulate wherever he can via ambulance trips. Teddy has been all over the country. You can follow him on Facebook.)

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	152	168
Convalescent Calls	21	59



Transit Department:

Operations Manager submitted required 3rd Qtr spreadsheets to NCDOT on completed Minimum Standards Training and also for Incidents/Accidents involving Transit Vehicles. Transit Director attended a webinar designed to help train Non Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) providers with the enrollment process in to NC TRACKS. Further training will be held at a later date. Projected go live date for Direct Billing is set for August 1, 2016. Transit will be assisting the EDC with a transportation request during the week for visiting corporate officials.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,768	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,029	881
# of Out of County Trips	74	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	215	238
Total Revenue	\$15,651	\$14,549

Veteran Services

Director Susan Hall and staff are in training this week at Carolina Beach. Lenova Group Ltd. donated tablets to all 100 counties in attendance.



Photo standing left to right: Beverly Wellborn, Susan Hall, Director Pantano, and a service officer from another county.

Photo below: Beverly Wellborn receiving tablet donated from Lenova.





County News



2016 Relay Rutherford County Employees Team

- **Thursday, April 28th:** Annual Spring Plant Sale (Pick up April 28th at County Office Building. Time to be determined.)
- **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.

PHOTO: Staff members participated in the fund raiser 'Paint It Up' for a night of fun, painting, friends, and refreshment!



Upcoming Events:

- **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.

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

MayFest Arts & Crafts Festival

May 7, 2016

Rutherfordton's annual spring festival, MayFest, starts at 8:00 am with the 2016 Gears and Gables ride benefiting the Rutherford Housing Partnership. Spectators can watch the riders take off for a 24, 41 or 62-mile route through scenic views of Rutherford County.

Main Street opens at 9:00 am with arts and crafts vendors, exhibits and interactive booths. Many of our downtown merchants will add to your shopping pleasure with special sales and amazing finds. Try local flavors at multiple food tents or cool off with fresh squeezed lemonade. Live entertainment includes 'Girl Interrupted' and 'ClevCo', plus dance presentations and old fashioned dunking booths. Kids will have fun inside "Play Land", an activity center with inflatables, rock climbing walls and pony rides. Families will also enjoy the mechanical rides, face painting and more in front of KidSenses Children's Museum.





Saturday, May 7
Downtown Rutherfordton

beginning at First Baptist Church
 246 N. Main St., Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Rutherford Housing Partnership is hosting its 8th annual Gears & Gables cycling ride May 7 in conjunction with downtown Rutherfordton's MayFest celebration. The nonprofit organization provides urgent home repairs for families in need. RHP provides materials and volunteers provide labor.

This year's ride features three new routes, including one 24-mile route for those who want to ease back into the ride season.

Participants can expect scenic, backcountry roads and three moderately hilly routes - 24, 41 and 62 miles - with at least 13 Strava segments identified and ascents of 1,332 feet, 2,018 feet and 3,576, respectively. Routes are available on Connect.Garmin.com or Strava.com.

Register Online Now

Register by April 27 to be guaranteed a free T-shirt. Registration includes SAG support, rest stops & post-ride meal.

Rutherford Outdoor Coalition | www.rutherfordoutdoor.org | (828) 625-9983 ext. 505

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!***]
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