



April 27, 2015

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 Ext.

County Extension Director:

- Gave an Extension presentation to the Leadership Rutherford Group
- Participated in an Interagency training with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NC Dept of Ag, NCSU, Soil and Water Offices, and NC State Cooperative Extension
- Conducted a Record Keeping workshop for farmers to help them understand how important efficient records are in helping them make management decisions on their farm
- Assisted Mountain Cattle Alliance producers in processing cattle for shipment in June
- Continued to assist clients with technical advice through phone calls, emails, office visits, and farm visits

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Participated in NC State leadership development workshop
- Taught *Eat Smart Move Take Control* class
- Attended *NC Safe Plates* food safety training

Airport

The Rutherford County Airport sold 217.9 gallons of 100LL and 982.0 gallons of Jet A fuel last week.

Pictured: Students from Pinnacle Elementary visited the airport on a field trip. A special thanks to Reverend Allen Marsh for talking with the students and showing them his airplane!



Board of Elections



The Board of Elections hosted a focus group for the State Board on Monday, April 20th. Staff and Poll Workers from Caldwell, Buncombe, Mecklenburg and Cherokee counties joined us to review and give feedback on the proposed rules for handling Voter Identification at early voting and at the polls. The Annex was set up as if we were voting so that poll workers could act out the process and ask questions. We also participated in a Webinar from the State on Tuesday, April 21st on voter outreach.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 131 permits totaling \$16,995 in fees for a total of over \$2.8 million in construction value to date in April. Our inspectors have conducted 385 inspections in April, including multiple inspections at various commercial projects: Trellborg, Lake Lure Classical Academy, Dollar General and Tryon Equestrian Center. The Director has been working with multiple other jurisdictions to conduct a study on permit fees in preparation for recommended fee adjustments. The department is also currently planning for the next quarterly contractor meeting to be held mid-May. The Director attended the quarterly Rutherford County Home Builders Association meeting where he gave a report about the current building trends and permit issuance.

Not only is our county fortunate to have high performer, Director Jason Ruff, who continues to do a fantastic job in the Building Inspections Department, but we are privileged to have someone who definitely sets a fashion statement, with 'flair', stylin' in these scarlet trousers! Oh, and please note 'The Fonz' mug! (Photo: compliments of Jai Doherty)



Clerk to the Board

On Monday, Chairman Bryan King and County Manager Steve Garrison met with Isothermal Community College officials Walter Dalton and John Condrey.



On Tuesday morning, Commissioner Benfield chaired the first meeting of the 2015 Board of Equalization and Review. He then chaired the Airport Authority meeting later that day.

Commissioners attended the Law Enforcement Appreciation on Wednesday morning (pictured left), and then met with the Rutherford County Board of Education at RS Middle School (pictured on page 3). The Board of Education presented their annual budget request and then provided a tour of the RS Middle School campus.

Chairman King met with the Lake Lure Town Manager on Thursday.

County Manager

The County Manager's busy week began attending numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events, including meetings with Planning and Projects, Airport Authority, and Information Technology Departments. Budget discussions preparing budget for the coming fiscal year continued. The manager was involved in the Lutz Foundation Scholarship interviews, met with the Board of Education (**pictured below**), and met with the Board of Equalization. He, along with several of the commissioners, attended the Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet hosted by the Rutherford County Republican Party. The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meetings with Department Heads. As the County Manager faces daily challenges, there has been little time for wheel-spinning. His first two months on the job have been extremely busy, but with much positivity and always striving for future growth and development.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department conducted a final inspection of grading activities at Gateway West Commerce Park and attended various meetings, including the Town of Spindale Board of Commissioner's meeting to discuss a possible industry expansion. Economic Development staff continues to be busy preparing website and marketing items promoting Rutherford County and economic development product, following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities, preparing grant applications and reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and updating the contacts database. This week's schedule also included existing industry visits at Eaton Corporation and Lakeside Mills.



Gateway West Commerce Park, Site A – 18 AC pre-graded (Photo taken April 21, 2015)

Finance

The Director was involved in several interdepartmental meetings and continues budget preparations. The Director and Assistant Director attended the Board of Education meeting. The Finance Office processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Conducted one fire origin and cause investigation
- Conducted several interviews
- Followed up on fire cases
- Received and reviewed fire district budgets and forwarded to Finance office
- Monitored severe weather conditions over the past week
- Attended law enforcement training
- Attended various meetings

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director held several meetings with various department heads,

Current vacancies are:

- Part-time Transit
- EMS.

Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Please be watching for email blasts for Relay for Life (**info on page 14**)!

The **Annual County Employee Blood Drive** is scheduled for May 6 from 11:00 am-3:30 pm. Please contact the Human Resources Department to sign up: 828-287-6145. We need 15 more people to meet our goal. Will you be one of them?



EVERY PINT OF BLOOD CAN SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES! REMEMBER, THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE.

Library

Library Director:

The director planned, coordinated, and attended the monthly CMC Library Consortium meeting along with representatives from each of the CMC Libraries. She also catalogued newly acquired material for the Genealogical Library. The director spent time with the acquisition/billing staff member learning the ins/outs of billing and accounting for various vendors working with the library.

Circulation Manager:

On Tuesday, April 21st, Stephanie Long met with representatives from Mountains Branch Library, Spindale Library, Isothermal Community College Library, and Polk County Library to begin the process of updating the CMC Consortium Policy Manual.

Library continued from page 4

IT Librarian:

The library's redesigned web site was launched on Thursday. The new site consolidates information about all three county library locations to a single address (rutherfordcountylibrary.org) and allows for a centralized display of all activities and events. The new site also contains links to a wealth of online resources.

Due to high demand, there will be repeat sessions of the Computer Basics and Internet Basics classes in May. Two new classes, Protecting Your Privacy Online and Facebook Basics, will also be offered. The complete schedule will be:

| Computer Basics | Protecting Your Privacy Online | Internet Basics | Facebook Basics |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| May 5th, 3pm | May 12th, 3pm | May 19th, 3pm | May 26th, 3pm |
| May 7th, 10am | May 14th, 10am | May 21st, 10am | May 28th, 10am |

Each class will last approximately 90 minutes. Sign up for the session that best fits your schedule. Each session covers the same information. There are only six seats per class, so please reserve your seat early by calling the library at 828-287-6115.

Youth Services Librarian:

In recognition of Earth Day, the Story Time children studied gardens and seeds each day, with Outreach programs at NeeNee's Little Learners and Spindale Elementary. Next week's theme is "Vegetables and Fruits." In addition to attending several webinars, the Children's Librarian has been assisting many patrons as they prepare for the Elementary Book Challenge on Thursday, as well as helping with year-end projects and papers and achieving Accelerated Reading quotas.

APRIL 25 PROGRAM at 11:00:
ACTION REACTION
Detonate your mind with an exploding show demonstrating the pure power of chemistry!



Rutherford County Library and KidSenses Children's Museum present

SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAYS!



Come to the Rutherford County Library at 255 Callahan-Koon Rd. in Spindale (next to the Health Department) the last Saturday of every month at 11:00 am, for a **FREE SCIENCE PROGRAM!**

For More information, contact Jeannie Smith at 287-6116

The second "Super Science Saturday" is this week at 11:00 at the Rutherford County Library. KidSenses will present "Action Reaction" and will be exploding things through the power of chemistry (**pictured to left!**)

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Branch observed National Library Week by distributing reusable book bags to all our patrons. We used posters and our outdoor bulletin board to thank the Lake Lure Community for their continued support of the library. The Friends of the Library hosted their April Books & Bites event at the Lake Lure Inn with local author, Rose Senehi. More than 40 people turned out for the luncheon. Joy and Angie continued to work on donations for our collection and the upcoming book sale, adding more than a dozen DVDs from donations to our permanent collection. Angie helped patrons with online job applications and other computer-related issues. Joy finalized plans for the library's Earth Day program for kids.



Rutherford County Library System Announces Partnership with Driving-Tests.org; Innovation in Driving Education, Driving Tests Availability for Patrons

Rutherford County Library System is pleased to announce a new partnership with Driving-Tests.org, one of the nation's top sites for driver's license practice tests. The partnership will strengthen the library's mission to be a vital gateway to information.

Rutherford County Library System is announcing a partnership with Driving-Tests.org, a company dedicated to driver safety and education, to offer free DMV practice tests to library patrons, starting Wednesday, April 22, 2015. The new service includes free tests, written specifically based on the state DMV materials, and is the only site of its kind to include accessibility tools that allow users to hear selections read aloud, make them into MP3s, translate pages into other languages, magnify text, and mask sections of the screen for greater visibility on driving practice tests.

Availability and accessibility is important to the creators of Driving-Tests.org, as the site is designed to help new drivers study state manuals and take driving practice tests based on the real DMV written exams. This partnership allows the Rutherford County Library System to harness the power of Driving-Test.org's specialized practice exams to turn new drivers into safer drivers.

The new program will work as an outreach for several valued groups of patrons, such as teens, those with disabilities, those who participate in the library's programs for seniors and need to take a renewal exam, and patrons at every other stage of life.

"We also have partnerships with hundreds of libraries and schools across the nation, devoted to creating safe drivers," says Driving-Tests.org's founder, Andrei Zakhareuski. "Our partners value information and accessibility – the same values we have, and ones that lead to safer roadways."

For more information on the library, visit www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org, and for their new Driving-Tests.org partner site, please visit rutherford.driving-tests.org.

For more information on bringing Driving-Tests.org and the site's services to your library patrons, visit <http://driving-tests.org/library/>.

Public Works and Planning

The Spring sunshine, after the abundant rainfall recently, has the grass rapidly growing and we are struggling to keep up! So far, it appears that we will be very busy with groundskeeping activities this summer. Maintenance has also been busy in completing TrackIt work orders in addition to keeping up with preventative maintenance and several failed HVAC units. The garage consistently has a high tempo of repair and service activity on a daily basis, NC Safety inspections, and a number of preventative maintenance needs with the County's fleet of vehicles. The director has participated in several meetings with the Commissioners and School Board regarding budget and capital facilities planning. Planning and Projects continues actively moving the following projects forward:

- Performance contracting for the County
- College and Schools
- Construction activities still remain on hold due to the wet soils at the Southeastern EMS and Library site,
- Rail Trail improvements,
- Work with the ad hoc committee
- Infrastructure improvements at Greyrock and Queens Gap
- County Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- County Planning Board in routing their membership recommendation changes to the Commissioners and subsequent Public Hearing scheduled for May 4

The watershed permits have been issued and construction has resumed at AEO industry to be located in Six-points.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is still working 5107 July motor vehicles renewals and handled 44 VTS assists. The office answered 890 phone calls and assisted 331 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews, 3 pre-permits and answered 15 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 93 building permits and 357 field reviews. A total of 11 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 44 straits, 9 estates, 5 splits, and 2 acreage adjustments. GIS created nine new maps. The GIS website had 167,013 hits and 119,609 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 9 new addresses and updated 122 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers installed 10 new roads signs. Two appeals were received and 12 various letters were mailed out. The PUV program assisted six program members. Staff processed 10 exclusions/deferments. We had one refund, seven releases and five discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 25 by credit card, 107 by website and 13 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 163 bank drafts and 5 newspaper items. Staff completed 48 gross receipts/occupancy tax, 4 payment plans, processed 464 items mailed in and 9 bankruptcy issues.

In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 413 tax payments. Thirty-six new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

The Board of Equalization and Review was sworn in this week (pictured to left).



Senior Center

The average number of meals served this week at the Senior Center was 120-125 a day and daily averages for the satellite centers were as follow: Shingle Hollow-18, Henrietta-22, and Ellenboro-26. We provided an average of 25 meals per day to the Adult Day Care. We have added 3 new clients this past week to our Home Delivered meal routes. We served an average of 93 to 98 meals per day to our Home Delivered clients.

Upcoming:

The Senior Games Closing Gala/Athletic Awards Ceremony will be on Friday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate and recognize the seniors who participated in the games for their dedication and commitment to a healthy active lifestyle.

Zumba class: 5:30 p.m. on April 27, May 4, 11 and 18

Sheriff's Department

Rutherford County Law Enforcement was treated to a scrumptious meal and beautifully decorated room on April 22, 2015, hosted by the Rutherford County Republican Party. Over 135 officers were in attendance. Although January 9, 2015 was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D.), we continue to show our support for these brave men and women who selflessly protect and serve our communities to keep our nation safe day after day.



Social Services

The past two weeks have been busy ones for Adult and Children Services staff, as they have been participating in training on Co-Pilot. This is the portion of the new Northwoods case management and document management system that will allow workers to connect with the system while in the field, enter information directly into the system, and print needed documents. The training phrase of the system implementation will be wrapping up at the end of April. Income Maintenance management continues to be proactive during the implementation of Medicaid into the NC FAST System. Although there are still many glitches in the system and issues that need to be addressed, things seem to be improving. Staff has to deal on a daily basis with benefits that have not been issued, cases that do not show up in the provider billing system, and other case specific problems, but these seem to be fewer. The agency is grateful to several of our locally owned pharmacies that have worked with us to ensure that consumers receive needed medication when there are delays caused by the system. Last Wednesday, the DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting. In addition to their regular agenda items, they heard a presentation on Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression Empowering Activities for Seniors) North Carolina by Dr. Mary Lynn Piven with the UNC-CH School of Nursing, and Becky Broder, RN, Community Outreach Coordinator for St. Luke's Hospital Geriatric Psychiatrist Services. The HI-NC Initiative is an evidence based program funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, based at the UNC School of Nursing, and they are coordinating regional implementation in several rural North Carolina Counties. Dr. Piven and two others from UNC-CH were in the office to conduct a two day training with our adult services staff. Becky serves as the coach for our team. This initiative will enable our adult staff to build on their established client relationships and routine home and facility visits to address depression and other basic care concerns. This will involve screening and assessment; education, linkage, and self-management support; and behavioral activation.

Also over the past two weeks, the Director attended the Smart Start Board Meeting; the Director, Social Work Program Manager, and DSS Attorney met with District Attorney, Ted Bell, to discuss DSS and Law Enforcement protocol in DSS/Law Enforcement abuse investigations; the Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team met; staff participated in the Medicaid Transportation monthly conference call; and the Director attended the Rutherford County Schools Health Advisory Committee meeting. Over the past month, all staff have received Safety Training from Det. Phillip Bailey with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department. The training centers around office safety and some of the issues covered include first aid, dealing with violent and hostile consumers, and intruders in the building with firearms and other weapons. This training is very interactive, and the staff have enjoyed it and gained valuable knowledge.

Terrie Reid, an Income Maintenance Caseworker, was selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2015. We congratulate Terrie and appreciate all of her hard work **(pictured left)**.

Office Support and Clerical staff were honored on Wednesday for Administrative Professional Day. Each one was given a vase of spring flowers and a card of thanks. These staff members are a

very important part of our team and are depended upon a great deal to keep things running smoothly. We appreciate all that they do for our agency and for the citizens of Rutherford County.



PINWHEELS: A WAY TO LOOK AT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Pinwheel Garden to Recognize Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Spindale, NC - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Rutherford County Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Rutherford County Clerk of Court's Office, will join thousands of communities throughout North Carolina and the nation in bringing attention to child abuse prevention with a pinwheel garden at the Rutherford County Courthouse. The garden was originally planned for the month of April to coincide with Child Abuse Prevention Month. However, due to a dock workers strike at the port of Los Angeles, the materials for the pinwheel garden are being held in customs and not expected to be released until mid May. Along with many other communities across the nation, the pinwheel garden will be planted later in the year, hopefully by the end of May. "We want to make the best of this situation. Even though there is a delay in planting the garden, this deferral can help the general public understand the role we all play in prevention every day of the year, and the great prevention work going on year round...not just in April," states Social Services Director, John Carroll.



The blue and silver pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse prevention, representing community efforts to provide children with the safe, stable, nurturing relationships needed for healthy development. Plans are being made for pre-school children from local child care centers to assist in planting the garden to represent the successful future to which they look forward. The month of April is a good opportunity for all Rutherford County citizens to learn more about the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect on the child and on the community. Many community agencies, along with local and national media, will be providing educational information. The planting of the pinwheel garden later in the year will be another opportunity to give attention to the issue of child abuse.

All Rutherford County Citizens are encouraged to watch for further information about this upcoming event and make plans to attend. Anyone that has questions or wishing additional information regarding this event may contact the Department of Social Services at 287-6165.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT OPENING YOUR HEART AND HOME TO A

CHILD WHO NEEDS TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CARE?

If so, we would like to invite you to attend our

Foster Parenting Informational Session

to learn about the specific need

for foster and adoptive homes in Rutherford County.

At this session you will also learn about the process for becoming licensed as a foster parent in the state of North Carolina.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 29th, 2015

TIME: 10:30-11:30 AM

WHERE: Rutherford County Library

255 Callahan Koon Road

Spindale, NC 28160

Soil & Water

Admin/Education Specialist worked on:

- a presentation and supplies for Chimney Rock Earth Day Event scheduled for Saturday, April 25th.
- Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant final report.
- 2016 Strategy Plan report.

Ag Cost Share Technician:

- worked with landowners.

Solid Waste

Customers served 238

Loads hauled from convenience centers 51

Loads shipped to Lenoir 27

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 21

The solid waste staff has been busy recovering from all the heavy rain we had over the weekend. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties.

The Director and Recycling Coordinator traveled to Tennessee this week for the 44th Environmental Show of the South. They presented our recycling presentation on Thursday (**pictured right**).

We have an electronics load that will ship out this Friday to ERI. Staff continues to monitor budget and looking at other grant opportunities.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows.

Open cases 6

Closed cases 1

Cameras installed at locations 1

Pictures taken 0

Letters written 2

Community service workers 7

Community service reports 1



Please continue to recycle!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS conducted a monthly employee random drug and alcohol test. The Director submitted a billing projection report and staff began work on EMS Appreciation Week which will be May 17-23. Staff also began writing a grant to the RHI Legacy Foundation to request funds for a new QRV to be used for better response times and community paramedic work.

| TYPE | CURRENT WEEK | WEEKLY AVG |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Emergency Calls | 183 | 168 |
| Convalescent Calls | 49 | 47 |

Transit Department:

Transit submitted 3rd quarter operating statistics to NCDOT. A monthly employee random drug and alcohol test was also conducted. Operations manager is currently applying for a grant through the RHI Legacy Foundation to provide free transportation to cancer patients in Rutherford County.

| TYPE | CURRENT WEEK | WEEKLY AVG |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total Miles | 10,597 | 9,566 |
| # of Local Trips | 1,148 | 881 |
| # of Out of County Trips | 74 | 66 |
| # Unduplicated Passengers | 233 | 238 |
| Total Revenue | \$15,506 | \$14,549 |

Veterans Services

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Mail In | 537 |
| Fax | 109 |
| Mail Out | 55 |
| Phone Calls In/Out | 173 |
| Veteran Contacts | 281 |

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**

Steve Garrison, County Manager
Carl Classen, Interim County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board



Follow us online!
www.rutherfordcountync.gov

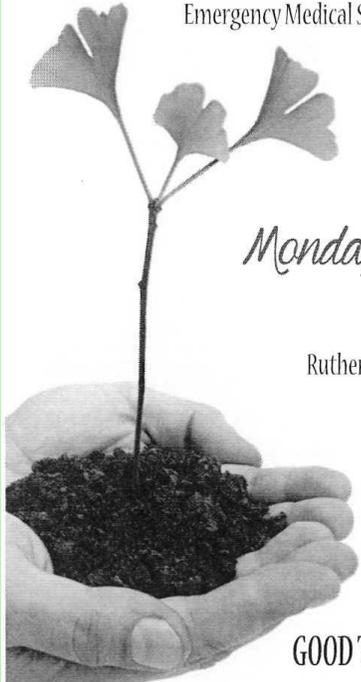
Special Highlights



Second Annual Relay For Life Shooting for a Cure Event: Winners were recently announced by the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office. Shotgun winners: 1st - Jarrett Guffey, 2nd - Jim Davis, 3rd - Mike Cudd; Handgun winners: 1st - Hunter Bennett, 2nd - Justin Moore (pictured above left), 3rd - Eric Johnson. This event raised more than \$1,400 in funds for the American Cancer Society. (Also pictured: Ted Bell and Bill Funderburke.)



Please join us for a
Tree Planting Ceremony
honoring
Dr. Bobby England, MD
for his service as Medical Director
for Rutherford County
Emergency Medical Services



Monday, May 18th
at 2:00 pm
Rutherford County EMS station
339 Callahan Koon Road
Spindale, NC 28160

GOOD THINGS GROW HERE

Introducing... Ava Grace

Congratulations to proud parents, John Bland (Solids Dept) and Rachel Bland (Revenue Dept), announcing the birth of their baby girl, born April 23, 8 lbs. 3 oz.





If you would like to assist with any of these events, call Jeanette Bosgra, Finance Dept., 828-287-6211.

MAYFEST CUPCAKE BOOTH
Celebrating with a family friendly street festival!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2015
 Time: Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 Place: Downtown Rutherfordton



WHOOOO loves Baseball? We DO!

We think the best way to enjoy the first game of the season is to come out and enjoy it with a giving heart!
 Purchase your tickets for \$8 and know that part of that will help in the fight to end cancer.

Opening game is May 26, 2015

Raffle tickets available to purchase at the game to participate in 50/50 raffle money giveaway!

For more Information or to purchase tickets contact:

Alma at 828-287-6125 or 828-980-1472
 or Brandy Morris at 828-287-6203

DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Give \$30 and reward yourself with dressing down on Fridays!

April to June 2015

Call Brooke Watson for further details at 828-287-6061.

RELAY FOR LIFE COMMUNITY EVENT

Date: Friday, June 5, 2015
 Time: 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Place: Forest City Parks and Recreation
