



April 4, 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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### Airport



The Airport sold 834.0 gallons of Jet A to 6 aircraft and 409.2 gallons of 100LL to 18 aircraft last week.

**Photos:** Anna (REACH High School Senior) and Philip Lanier (Airport Project Manager with the NC D.O.T. Division of Aviation) pictured

above. Anna is doing her senior project on Careers in Aviation and has been spending time at the airport doing research and being involved in different aspects of aviation (**pictured right**). She is learning about airport design, engineering, and maintenance to airports.



### Board of Elections

Elections staff has been very busy processing registrations and changes, and will be mailing out approximately 1000 voter cards and hundreds of letters this week. Filing has been completed for the June 7<sup>th</sup> Primary and preparation of ballots and coding will begin next week.

## Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 54 permits in the last week, including 2 new house starts. One house in Grey-Rock, which was started in 2008, and has been restarted with permit issued this week. It had been stopped at the “shell” stage and will be completed now that the roads are in. We have issued six permits for new cell towers for AT&T. These will be going in the Duncan Creek, Golden Valley, and Chimney Rock townships. Total project values for the six towers will be \$655,000. We have completed 139 inspections this week. We are nearing completion of the Polk County Tryon Equestrian Center’s International Center.

## Cooperative Extension

The 2016 Rutherford County Farmers Market will be opening soon! Anyone interested in being a vendor at the Market is invited to the Vendors meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at the Cooperative Extension office in Spindale. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last about an hour. Information will be given regarding booth cost, selection of booth, dates and times of Market operations, etc. Booth fee is \$50 for the season or daily booth rental is \$5 per day. The Market season is from April to the first weekend in November. We invite farmers, gardeners and crafters/artisans to join us! For more information, please contact Brenda Watson at 828-287-6080 or email [brenda.watson@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:brenda.watson@rutherfordcountync.gov). Be sure to check us out on Facebook at Farmers Market of Rutherford County, NC for pictures, recipes, gardening tips and events that have been held during the last two years.



Brenda Watson  
Farmers Market Manager  
Rutherford County Farmers Market

## County Manager and Commissioners

Due to Spring break, several staff members were on vacation this week, but the County Manager, Commissioners, and staff stayed involved in a number of calls, meetings, and various other responsibilities and events. Also, staff continued preparation for the upcoming Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

Solid Waste Department conducted training at the County Office this week, and Rodney Wesson continued the second session in System-of-Care training on Thursday.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War was held at the Department of Veteran Services this past Tuesday to recognize, honor and thank our Vietnam veterans, Vietnam Era Veterans and all US Armed Forces who served on active duty during the involvement in Vietnam, November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Commissioner Toney gave a warm and gracious welcome to all and extended a special thanks to the honored guests — our veterans **(pictured left)**. There were over 50 veterans plus their families in attendance. Director Susan Hall and staff did an exceptional job organizing this event. Sponsors included Griffith Rutherford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, VA Service representatives, and other military organizations in Rutherford County. **More pictures of the Commemoration on pages 8-11.**



## Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department scheduled and conducted existing industry visits along with a representative from the Economic Development Partnership of NC (EDPNC).

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 working on marketing and advertising efforts to promote Rutherford County and the economic development product.

## Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental budget meetings.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director and Deputy Clerk to the Board Kim Aldridge attended the Veteran's Ceremony held on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to Susan Hall and everyone else that helped with this event. The ceremony was very touching and honored our veterans in a special way. Not only was I privileged to attend as a County employee, I also had the pleasure of attending with my dad who served two terms in Vietnam. The Director also met with a Gardner Webb student who is interested in the Human Resources field.

Cpl. Eric Hester's (Sheriff's Department) step-dad (Robert Heusinkveld) has passed away. No arrangements have been made at this time. Please keep Cpl. Hester and his family in your prayers.

Please remember Kathy Kaylor, DSS Adoptions Supervisor, and her family in your prayers. Her husband, Steve, passed away unexpectedly Friday, March 25.



Mark your calendars for May 13<sup>th</sup> for the Rutherford County Annual Blood Drive. More information will be sent out regarding this event. The County always impresses the American Red Cross as to the commitment of our employees. Please help us make this year's drive an even bigger success. Be looking for news blast.

Employment opportunities are Tourism Authority Director, and TDA part-time seasonal worker. Apply at [www.rutherfordcountync.gov](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov).

A very special birthday greeting (March 29th) to a very special lady, Director of Human Resources, Debra Conner! The county staff extends their appreciation and gratitude to you for all your service and hard work. Happy Birthday, Debra!

**The lovely Debra is seen holding a basket full of 'flours' from Commissioner Bryan King, owner/president of Lake-side Mills, Spindale.**

## Library

Rutherford County Library  
255 Callahan Koon Rd.  
Spindale, NC 28160

# Spring Break

# Makerspace

## Activities

**Looking for something to do over Spring Break?**

We have different Makerspace activities scheduled Monday—Friday 9:00-5:00.

**All ages welcome!!**

**Monday**    March 28—Electronics—Snap Circuits and Little Bits

**Tuesday**    March 29—Jenga, Battleship, Pictionary, Operation, Monopoly, Who Shook Hook?, Taboo, Trivial Pursuit Family Edition, Apples to Apples, Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?, Phase 10, Uno, Scrabble Slam, Best of TV & Movies

**Wednesday**    March 30—Jigsaw Puzzles

**Thursday**    March 31—Art—painting (oil & acrylic) and drawing

**Friday**        April 1—Legos, K'nex, Lincoln Logs, and Tinker Toys

These FREE activities are open to anyone of any age (under 12 must be accompanied by someone over the age of 16). Please call 828-287-6115 for more information.

- Mountains Branch - Joy Sharp assisted a patron setting up an Affordable Healthcare Account. She also began ordering supplies for circulating backpacks at the library which will encourage library users to explore outdoors.
- Angie Turner and Joy processed new books and donations.
- County – Lots of activities going on this week in the Makerspace and in the library itself. Tie dyed t-shirts is going to be a BIG hit. Pictures to follow next week!!!

## Revenue Department

- Collections working employer list for enforced collection of delinquent taxes.
- If you would like to prepay, call Alice Barber at 287-6216 to ask about arranging this process.
- We have several staff members under the weather due to the weather so hope they are back up to speed soon.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	424
<u>Information/Data Requests</u>	1
<b>County Growth Indicators</b>	
Building Permits Reviewed	15
Deeds Recorded	0
<b>Collections Progress</b>	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	43
Total Taxes Collected	\$102,472.36
Collected Prepayments	\$4,333.93

## Senior Center

The Rutherford County Senior Games promote health and wellness activities through athletic and artistic endeavors for Rutherford County citizens age **50** and better. Seniors compete for awards in their own gender/age category. The dates of the events are as follows:

- **Performing Arts:** April 1 - Be sure to join us Friday night at 7:00 for the Performing Arts Follies. There is a talented line-up of seniors scheduled to provide great entertainment. The event is \$2 and open to the public. Invite a friend and come support the seniors.
- **Sporting Events:** April 8-25

## Social Services



On February 21, Foster Care and Adoption staff participated in Family Finding Training at DSS presented by the Children's Home Society. The training included technical assistance regarding adoption and family finding techniques for securing placement for hard to place children, including those with special needs, behavioral issues, and medically fragile children.

Income Maintenance staff who have been with the agency for one year or less participated in new employee orientation last week. This orientation provides employees with an overview of all of the economic services programs, information about NC FAST and Northwoods, and reviews policies and procedures. Prior to leaving for Easter break, Income Maintenance staff enjoyed a brief egg hunt on Thursday followed by some delicious goodies prepared by all of the staff.

March is Social Worker Appreciation Month and on Monday, Social Services staff enjoyed a delicious breakfast, spent some time getting to know each other better, and enjoyed games and a movie. These staff members work extremely hard and deal with high stress situations on a daily basis. We are truly appreciative of all that they do for this agency and their efforts to protect our county's most vulnerable citizens.

The agency expresses sympathy to Kathy Kaylor, Foster Care and Adoption Supervisor, in the loss of her husband, Steve Kaylor, who passed away unexpectedly last week.



**Pictures are of the Egg Hunt and the *Caring Makes A Difference* logo for the SW Appreciation Month.**

## Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- completed and mailed the Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant Proposal for Sunshine Elementary.
- sent District and Farmland Preservation Meeting Notices.
- worked on information for an educational station at Chimney Rock State Park Earth Day Celebration.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- participated in a Strategy plan webinar, Best Management Planning.
- met landowner for technical assistance.

## Solid Waste

Customers served 373

Loads hauled from convenience centers 68

Loads shipped to Lenoir 36

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 32

The director has been busy playing catch up from last week's CRA conference. Also, the director attended the second presentation on the convenience training and attended a budget meeting with the Finance Director.

The transfer station staff has been busy processing all the MSW and recycling tonnages that have been coming in. The C&D staff continues to process the tonnages coming in while also hauling dirt for cover. We have two employees that are taking the pesticide class and test in Shelby this week. We wish them good luck.

Work continues to be performed at the airport on an as needed basis until the growing season arrives. The shop staff has been repairing and performing preventative maintenance on the equipment and vehicles. Additionally, the shop staff has repaired a couple of items at the convenience centers. Convenience Center employees that did not attend the first training session will be attending the training this week (**pictured below**). The metal has been removed from the landfill and the company has removed all of their equipment.

Please remember to recycle!



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

EMS held oral boards this week through the direction of our Medical Director, Dr. Guy Winker. Staff attended an excellent conference last week on EMS compliance and billing and continues to create new policies and procedures. The conference provided several toolkits to assist in HIPAA compliance, facility contracting and training. Staff are also in the process of updating all current standard operating procedures. EMS will switch billing companies on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to Amerik Medical Billing.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	143	168
Convalescent Calls	24	59

### Transit Department:

Transit staff continues to develop our Title VI plan using template supplied by NCDOT. Director and Operations Manager met with our Mobility Development Specialist who is conducting an onsite visit following our compliance review in January. The visit was to discuss how Transit is doing and to discuss any concerns and / or suggestions that we have as well as success stories to be relayed to the PTD Director. The new LTV is in process of being readied for service on our Deviated Fixed Route. Operations Manager is in process of reviewing approved NCDOT safety training courses for new drivers as well as annual refresher training to be in compliance with new training requirements that go into effect on July 1, 2016.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	8,747	9,566
# of Local Trips	883	881
# of Out of County Trips	72	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	203	238
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$13,359</b>	<b>\$14,549</b>

## Veteran Services

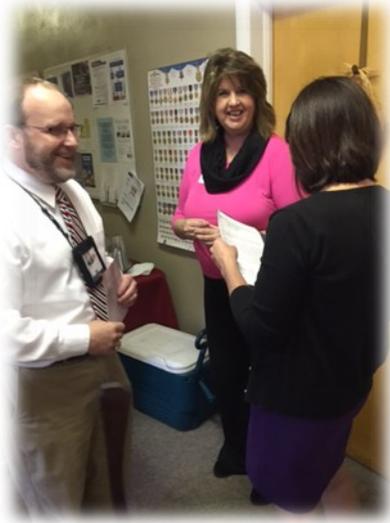
<b>Mail In</b>	64
<b>Mail Out</b>	21
<b>Fax</b>	125
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	60
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	104

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War was held at the Department of Veteran Services on Tuesday, March 29th.*





*Veteran Services continued from pages 8 and 9*





*We would like to express our deepest, heartfelt thanks for all that you did for us concerning the Vietnam celebration. Without all of your help, support and encouragement, the event would not have been a success. It is so humbling to know the effort that you were willing to put forth to assist us, but more importantly to serve the veterans of Rutherford County.*

*We cannot thank you enough.*

*Beverly and Susan*

*Rutherford County Department of Veteran Services*



## County News



# 2016 Relay Rutherford County Employees Team

Here are few of the upcoming fundraisers that we are planning. Please let us know if you would consider being a part of our committee that helps plan and handle fundraisers. All employees are welcome! We are also open to any other ideas/suggestions you may have.

- **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Shooting Tournament at Bostic Gun Club - **flyer on page 13!**
- **Thursday, April 21st** - Paint It Up (Yes, again by popular demand!) Details to follow.
- **Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Sweet Frog fundraiser from 5-9 p.m.
- **Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Relay for Life Event – We will need lots of help with this event so please consider helping with campsite, food or ideas.
- **Late April/Early May** - Spring Plant Sale (More details to follow.)





## RELAY FOR LIFE

## SHOOTING FOR A CURE



HANDGUN COMPETITION & SHOTGUN TRAP GAMES



**DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 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**



# 4 LIFE

CHANGE LIFE

## expo

• healthy lifestyle event •

and

# 5K RUN

Experience all things  
Health & Fitness,  
All Under One Roof!

**SAT**  
**APR 30**  
8:00am to 12:00pm  
The Foundation Performing Arts  
& Conference Center  
@ ICC

ENJOY ALL THIS & MORE!

- 5K RUN
- 1 MILE WALK
- VENDORS
- KIDS ZONE
- CARDIO ZONE
- WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE
- HEALTHY EATING STAGE

FREE ADMISSION  
AND MUCH MORE!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL  
HEALTH SYSTEM

EVENT ORGANIZER



CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR



For More Information, Call: 704.214.9799 or [www.Change4LifeExpo.com](http://www.Change4LifeExpo.com)

An aerial photograph of a baseball field with a green overlay containing event information. The Forest City Owls logo is in the top left, and the words 'OPEN HOUSE' are in large green letters in the top right. The event details are listed in a green box in the center.

**FOREST CITY**  
**Owls**

**OPEN HOUSE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND**  
**1 PM TO 3 PM**

- FREE HOTDOGS & DRINKS
- OWLS GIVEAWAYS
- SINGLE GAME TICKETS ON SALE
- HIT, RUN, & THROW ON THE FIELD
- MEET THE OWNER & FRONT STAFF



**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](mailto: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.**



\*\*\*\*\*



**WARNING:** Whatever you do on April 1<sup>st</sup>, be alert! 😊 **April Fools' Day** is the day for pranks of all kinds, whether they come from friends or family.

**April Fools' Day** is observed throughout the Western world. Practices include sending someone on a "fool's errand," looking for things that don't exist; playing pranks; and trying to get people to believe a false story. **April Fools' Day** is not a religious holiday. It does, however, trace its origins to a pope. The day began, most believe, in 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII decreed the adoption of the "Gregorian calendar" — named after himself — which moved New Year's Day from the end of March to January 1.

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fool's hoaxes. Newspapers, TV stations, and websites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences. In 1957, BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees; numerous viewers were fooled. In 1996, Taco Bell duped people when they announced they were going to purchase the Philadelphia Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, Burger King advertised a "Left-Handed Whopper," and scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.

There will definitely be some merriment and foolishness around, so put your sense of humor into gear and be prepared!

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*

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