



August 3, 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.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Taught "Dehydrating Fruits & Vegetables" class.
- Met with Extension & Community Association district leadership team.
- Completed follow-up and evaluations for July programs.
- Prepared programs for August.

Agriculture

- Networked with local media - radio programs for WCAB & WGTM, Extension Column
- Press Releases for Tomato Field Day & Bioenergy Field Days coming up in August at Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center.
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)- networked with State Farmers Market-Raleigh, and WIC-Raleigh Office.
- Grower Certification Training for FMNP.
- Preparation for (4) Pesticide Training Sessions next week.
- Master Gardener Newsletter bi-monthly newsletter prepared/distributed.

Rutherford County Farmer's Market

Produce for the People!

The Farmers Market of Rutherford County is located in downtown Forest City on Depot Street, adjacent to the Florence Mill. Hours are 8:00 a.m. till Noon, Tuesdays and Saturdays. For more details, check out our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/>



Airport

The Airport sold 699.7 gallons of 100LL to 29 aircraft and 1,117.0 gallons of Jet A to 5 aircraft last week.

Board of Elections

Campaign Reports were due this week for municipal candidates and committees that have kept their accounts open from last year. A number of treasurers have met with staff this week to prepare their reports. The Director attended a District meeting in Salisbury on Thursday.

AB — The Daily Courier, Friday, July 31, 2015 • www.thedigitalcourier.com

If Bill 373 becomes law, elections staff prepared

BY JEAN GORDON
THE DAILY COURIER

FOREST CITY — House Bill 373 will change the Primary Election date in North Carolina from May to March if it passes. The bill was referred to the Rules, Calendar and Operations Committee on Monday, July 27, for the second time since it was introduced. The bill passed its third reading by the Senate on July 21 and returned to the House for further work and to committee.

Filed on March 26, the bill says the 2016 presidential preference primary election will be conducted on March 15, 2016. Debbie Bedford, Rutherford County elections director for Rutherford County, said her staff has been preparing for the



Elections Director Debbie Bedford says her department is ready for the March primary if the bill passes the North Carolina Legislature.

Jean Gordon/
Daily Courier

Nominating petitions must be received by the SBE by Jan. 4, 2016. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the presidential preference primary of each party will be nominated. Each political

national party convention. If the bill passes committee then the full Senate, it will have to head back to the state House for its consideration of the Senate changes. Traditionally, in the

Daily Courier reports:

“Elections staff prepared for early primary if House Bill 373 becomes law”see July 31, 2015 edition.

Director Debbie Bedford pictured.

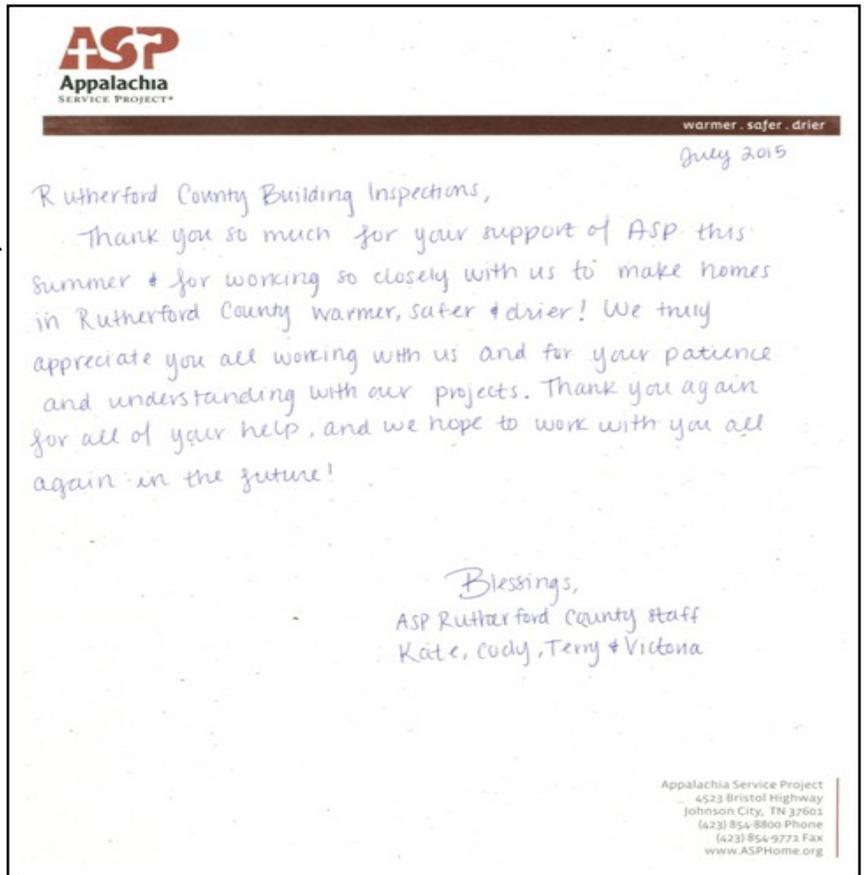
Building Inspections

Building Inspections has been hopping with the warm, dry weather! We have conducted 184 inspections this week and issued 25 permits, totaling \$1.4 million of project cost, with 2 of those being new houses valued at just over \$993,000.

We are reviewing several sets of commercial plans, among those are two church fellowship halls, a sprinkler system replacement for a local nursing home, and a \$5 million solar farm just off 221.

Shane Dotson has just returned from a Plumbing Inspectors conference; Jason Ruff is presently attending a Building Inspectors conference; and Jason Harrill has just completed his Mechanical Level I classes! YAY!

We are sadly bidding farewell to our friends from ASP (**letter from ASP posted to right**). They are a group of volunteers from Tennessee who have built decks and handicap ramps throughout the summer for selected homeowners in need. We had a struggle in the beginning with the change in residential code from that of Tennessee to that of North Carolina, but they did get acclimated to our State's codes and we are in their final week of building. We wish them well!!



County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were involved in several events and numerous departmental meetings. The beginning of the week the Manager met with Economic Development director, Matt Blackwell and Projects and Planning director, Danny Searcy. Manager Garrison was involved with the Broad River Authority Board meeting which met Tuesday evening.

Midweek, the Manager had various meetings with individuals. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Stainless Ministries in Spindale on Wednesday. The Manager and Commissioners gathered to continue preparation regarding the agenda for the upcoming Board of Commissioners' meeting on Monday, August 3rd.

The week concluded with several additional departmental meetings, project discussions, appointments, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

Economic Development

This week the Economic Development staff worked with allies to prepare and submit responses to two RFI and continues to follow-up with multiple recruitment and expansion prospects. The Executive Director attended several meetings including an economic development activities update with the County Manager, a update meeting with the new EDC Chairman and a meeting with the EDC Product Development subcommittee. Staff also prepared and submitted documentation to request the closing of two existing grants for an industry that has met and exceeded their job and investment commitments. The office is also working on marketing and advertising efforts including increasing our social media presence.

Finance

The Finance Office continues working to close out the fiscal year and prepare for the auditors. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and has begun to work on payroll for the upcoming week.

The County has received notification that the County's CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 qualified for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the County's 26th consecutive award. I would like to thank all the ladies of the Finance team which make accomplishments such as this possible!

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Responded to three searches for missing adults that were both located after several hours.
- Conducted one origin and cause investigation.
- Met with Red Cross officials about recruiting volunteers in Rutherford County.
- Continued work on identifying a primary emergency shelter.
- Provided Cleveland County Emergency Management with a light tower for an upcoming event.
- Programmed VIPER radios.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. HR Director along with Jeff Bradley, Coop Director, and Carol Horne, Administrative Assistant conducted interviews for the vacant secretary position. Interviews have also been scheduled for the Project Manager position in Planning. EMS and Transit are currently accepting applications. Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street. The Director and HR Specialist attended training on the new Aon Hewitt system being implemented by the State Health Plan. Many changes ahead on reporting procedures to the State. As the summer continues to heat up, remember to stay hydrated!! Here are a few good tips:

- **Heat and sun**

Summer is the hardest season on our bodies and the season that we spend the most time outside. Spending too much time in the heat, combined with physical activity, can quickly lead to dehydration and heat stroke. Taking frequent breaks to drink water and resting in shade can prevent serious repercussions. If you begin to feel confused, have a headache or experience nausea, get somewhere to cool off immediately. If you are inside with no air conditioning, be sure to keep a flow of air constant with fans and open windows and doors. And don't forget to put sunscreen on children—and yourself—as you spend time in the sun.

- **Pets**

Even though we have a tendency to believe that a pet's furry coat protects them from extreme heat and cold, that's simply not true. Pets are at risk for many of the same summer hazards as humans. Keep pets on leashes and don't leave your pet unattended for periods of time outdoors. If your pet stays outdoors, be sure to provide them plenty of water and a shady place to cool off.

Library

Library Director:

The Director met with Dr. Robert Burgin in preparation for the library's year long strategic planning process. The planning process will result in a 5 year plan the library will use to better serve county residents. In addition, the director attended the quarterly Library Board of Trustees meeting and helped with this week's MakerCamp.

Circulation Manager:

The Outreach Coordinator and Circulation Manager delivered boxes of donated books to the congregational meal sites in Henrietta, Ellenboro, and Shingle Hollow. These books will be available for community members to take home and read. They can then be passed on to someone else or returned to any meal site or local library. A Rutherford County Library patron also took two boxes of donated books to be used in her new Little Free Library which is located in Shiloh.

IT Librarian:

The Maker Camp continues to go well. This week campers made BrushBots using toothbrushes, batteries, and pager motors. The kids then designed and built their own "battle arena" to compete against each other.

The computer classes continue to be popular. Library eBooks and Email Basics had the highest attendance this past month. Participants continue to express how pleased they are to have these short, one time classes to be able to learn or brush up on basic skills.

Library continued from page 4

Marketing/Outreach Coordinator:

Week 3 of Maker Camp was AWESOME! We had 7 campers this week that made Brush Bots and had a First Aid lesson from David Young. David presented the campers with enough first aid supplies to outfit their own mini portable kit and explained what each item was used for and how to make the kit their own by adding items to fit their needs. The campers then practiced making a splint for a broken arm using things close at hand. Thanks to David for being our first Guest Teacher in the brand new Maker Space **(pictured right)**!



Youth Services Librarian:

The Summer Reading Program ended with a BAM and a POW! With the theme of “Every Hero Has a Story,” participants learned about our heroes in the military by listening to Mr. Bill Swope, a 20-year Marine veteran from the Vietnam War. Special thanks to Marie Champion for her assistance in scheduling. The Youth Services Librarian is now in the process of analyzing and evaluating each of the branches. Super Science Saturday was also a success, with the participants learning about the physics of sound and light through experiments utilizing prism refractor glasses, fog and laser machines, and megaphones **(pictured left)**. The next Super Science Saturday is Saturday, August 25 with “Blast off into Physics!”



Mountains Branch:

Mountains Branch finished up their Summer Reading Program on July 28th with certificates and a wrap up party. In addition we enjoyed great attendance for our Summertime Celebration Series visit with J. Creek Cloggers. The librarian and assistant librarian worked with the Friends of the Library on their Book Sale, which was a huge

success in both sales and getting rid of old materials. The librarian met with the director and a strategic consultant and attended the Board of Trustees meeting. Computer classes were given on downloading audio and e-books.

Public Works and Planning

Maintenance has been very busy in completing TrackIT work orders, groundskeeping, HVAC issues, and keeping up with preventative maintenance on equipment. The garage consistently has a high tempo of repair and service activity on a daily basis, in addition to 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 County Manager and other department heads. Planning and Projects continues actively moving the following projects: Southeastern EMS and Library construction, Rail Trail improvements and working with the ad hoc committee, the infrastructure improvements at Greyrock and Queens Gap, the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and the County's Planning Board, in addition to multiple other tasks.

Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 55.00
Real Estate	10,285.00
Marriages	1,020.00
Certified Vitals Copies	2,120.00
Total	\$13,480.00

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 4,671 October motor vehicle renewals and handled 35 VTS assists. The office answered 474 phone calls and assisted 245 customers. We completed two plat reviews and answered four data requests. Appraisers completed 89 building permits and 72 field reviews. A total of 38 new documents were recorded and 29 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 38 straights, 3 merges and 6 splits. GIS created 2 new maps. The GIS website had 167,978 hits and 117,178 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 5 new addresses, and updated 157 addresses with new owner information.

Part-time maintenance workers completed maintenance on seven road signs. The PUV program mailed 5 letters, and assisted 71 program members. Staff processed 2 discoveries, 4 exclusions/deferments and mailed out 9 notice letters. Electronic payments consisted of 4 by credit card, 9 by website. Staff completed 67 occupancy taxes, 1 gross receipt and 11 bankruptcy issues.

In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 122 tax payments. Twenty-six deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Social Services

On July 14 and 15, Child Welfare Staff received Child and Family Team (CFT) Conference Training provided by State training staff on-site at our agency. This provided the initial training for recently hired staff and a refresher for those that had already received the training, as processes and changes have occurred since these meetings were implemented. CFT meetings are required at certain intervals during a Child Welfare case, including during CPS intervention and Foster Care. A CFT meeting is a way to engage and partner with all the people who surround a family and to support the family in building a support network that will eventually sustain them after the case is closed. A CFT meeting is more than a way to simply show respect or “be nice” to the family; it is a way for DSS to share responsibility for protecting children/youth with their families and the community. The Rutherford County Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team met at DSS on July 21. The DSS Board held its regularly monthly meeting on July 22. In addition to regular agenda items, the Board selected Julius Owens as Chairman and Steve Wright as Vice Chairman for 2015-16; held a discussion regarding the appointment of the fifth board member, which is a board appointee; and approved the 2015-16 Energy Programs outreach plan. Mr. Maxey Jolley, whose term on the Board expired, was thanked for his valuable service over the past three years. Amanda McGee, Social Work Program Manager, provided a presentation of many upcoming Federal and State changes in policy in Child Welfare, and the effect that this will have on local staff; and Income Maintenance Manager, Kandi Bridges, provided updates on NC FAST and other issues effecting Economic Services. The Director attended the DSS Director's Association Advocacy Committee meeting via conference call this week. The committee and local DSS agencies continue to advocate for recurring funds for Child Protective Services, no reductions in Adult Services block grant funding, and for a statewide Case Management system for Child Welfare and Adult Services in the upcoming budget. Income Maintenance staff is in the process of gathering information for the North Carolina General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division, which has been directed by the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, as part of Senate Bill 14, to evaluate Medicaid eligibility determination processes in the State.

DSS would like to welcome new employees Courtney Morehead, Brittany Maxwell, and An'Quinette Hodges (all in Economic Services).

Solid Waste

Customers served 356
Loads hauled from centers 58
Loads shipped to Lenoir 31
Recycling loads shipped 2
Tire customers 31

The office staff continues to work on year end information and state reports. We continue to work on the recycling grants. The concrete has been poured at Greenhill and Gilkey Convenience Centers for the new recycling compactors. The director has been busy holding internal meetings with staff, meeting with several vendors and keeping an eye on House Bill 765. The grass has been cut at the airport and we continue to bush hog the area surrounding the runway. Transfer station staff has been very busy this week processing the MSW, recycling and organizing the pallets of electronics that we are holding due to House Bill 765. C&D staff has been busy this week processing the construction and demolition, working with the results of the surveyors and finishing the new animal disposal site. We will begin the bush hogging at the central landfill later this week. Drivers are staying busy emptying the containers at the centers. Shop employees continue to repair equipment while also performing preventative maintenance. Our state inspector stopped by this week for a brief visit.

Please continue to recycle!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS began reviewing applications for the new Medical Billing Technician position. Interviews will begin next week. Staff generated reports for Rutherford Regional in regards to inter-facility transports; as well as, worked with Davita Dialysis to better schedule non-emergency patient transports. The billing department has also sent out over 300 debt set off letters and is in the process of responding the many inquiries. Hearings are available for citizens who wish to discuss their outstanding charges.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	154	168
Convalescent Calls	50	59

Transit Department:

Transit submitted their 4th quarter reimbursement request to NCDOT for the amount of \$90,603. The 2015-2016 NCDOT grant contract was also signed and returned to NCDOT. Transit received the final draft of the Public Transportation 5-year plan and are in the process of final review. The plan will be presented to Commissioners at the September board meeting.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,200	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,157	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	67	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	235	241
Total Revenue	\$14,178	\$15,385

Veterans Services

Operation Home Front Project

Shop at the Dollar Tree....they are collecting school supplies for veteran's school-aged children. Marie Champion, Director, picks up supplies on Mondays and will be handing out to children. Only three weeks to collect so help support the Operation Home Front Project.

Mail In	60
Mail Out	216
Fax	211
Phone Calls In/Out	108
Veteran Contacts	207

Pancake Breakfast



Relay for Life

Fatz Pancake Breakfast tickets are here! The Pancake Breakfast will be on Saturday, August 8th from 8-10 a.m. This is a very profitable fundraiser for Relay for Life and a good time is had by all! We need the following:

- **Employees to sell tickets. Tickets are \$7 each. Let me know how many you would like.**
- **Employees (and others) to buy tickets - \$7 each**
- **Employees (and any others that want to help) to serve and hostess. This is fun, especially if you've always wanted to see how a waiter/waitress feels. ☺**
- **We have put the flyers in some department boxes and would appreciate your help in promoting our fundraiser. Tickets can be purchased at the door also but it helps to sell ahead of time.**

Thank you as always for your support! For more information contact Jeanette Bosgra at 828.287.6211.



north carolina's
**RUTHERFORD
COUNTY**



RUTHERFORD COUNTY
board of elections



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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