



August 31, 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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Whether they'll 'fess' up to it or not, kids like a pat on the back...especially from their parents. Looking for great ideas to encourage your own great kid? Here are a few suggestions I found online: (I would like to give proper attribution for the 'borrowed' suggestions, but author unknown.)

A can-do attitude

Sometimes the biggest accomplishments are just showing up—for the big game, their very first concert or an all-school assembly. Let your little individual know it takes guts to meet those challenges, and you're sure proud of their never-give-up approach to life. Remind them of a specific success (or even a failure) and how their effort will serve them later in life.

A nice surprise

Nothing delights a child more than an unexpected card from Mom under the pillow or tucked into a brand-new book in their backpack. Include messages like "Awesome effort on your algebra test" or "I knew you could do it!" or "Aren't you proud of yourself? I sure am." These confidence boosters are worth their weight in hugs and kisses.

Special delivery

For all their hard work and good behavior, send them on a mission of recognition. Hide their favorite candy, a thoughtful card or a small gift in the mailbox and ask them to bring in the mail that day. With a beaming smile and a happy heart, you'll know right away you've made their day.

It's the little things

Create a whole lot of motivation by rewarding everyday good deeds like entering the spelling bee, tutoring another student or just having the courage to be themselves. Give a surprise high five in the form of skip-a-day-of-chores coupons, their favorite dinners or special time set aside for just the two of you to recap the day and set goals for tomorrow.

Pictured right: Mayson Johnson (little brother) hoped to stow away in Landyn's backpack (big brother), but got caught. Everyone has separation issues when heading back to school – not just Mom and Dad leaving their children at school for a new year. These adorable boys are the sons of Kaleb Johnson (EMS Supervisor).



Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Agriculture

- Networked with local media - Radio programs for WCAB & WGTM, Extension Column. Farmers Market ad preparation for Foothills News Journal.
- Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Council.
- Program coordination for Polk-Rutherford Landscape/Nursery Industry
- with Polk Extension Center.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Completed training in Living Healthy curriculum.
- Prepared end-of-month reports.
- Continued work on post evaluations of summer programs.

Airport

The Airport sold 438.6 gallons of 100LL to 20 aircraft and 786.0 gallons of Jet A to 3 aircraft last week.

PHOTO:

A "civilian" Cessna 337 painted up as an Air Force O-2 Skymaster on the ramp at the airport. The O-2 was developed in the late 60's to serve as a Forward Air Control platform for the military.



Board of Elections

Staff this week reviewed new directives from the State on Logic and Accuracy Testing and mock election procedures. We have received approval for the small municipalities to use traditional paper ballots for the November election. Staff held a registration drive at Isothermal Community College on Wednesday.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved in meetings, webinars, and projects making for a very busy week. Monday began with several department head meetings.

Tuesday consisted of discussions with individual department heads, in addition to appointments with citizens and various other meetings. County Manager Garrison enjoyed meeting Mr. McEnnerney and learning more about the Rutherford County Arts Council. Commissioner Mike Benfield and staff held an Airport Strategic Planning Meeting. Chairman Bryan King, Vice Chairman Alan Toney and the Manager attended the *Rails to Trails Celebration* held at the Bechtler Mint Site on Tuesday evening (pictures on page 16).

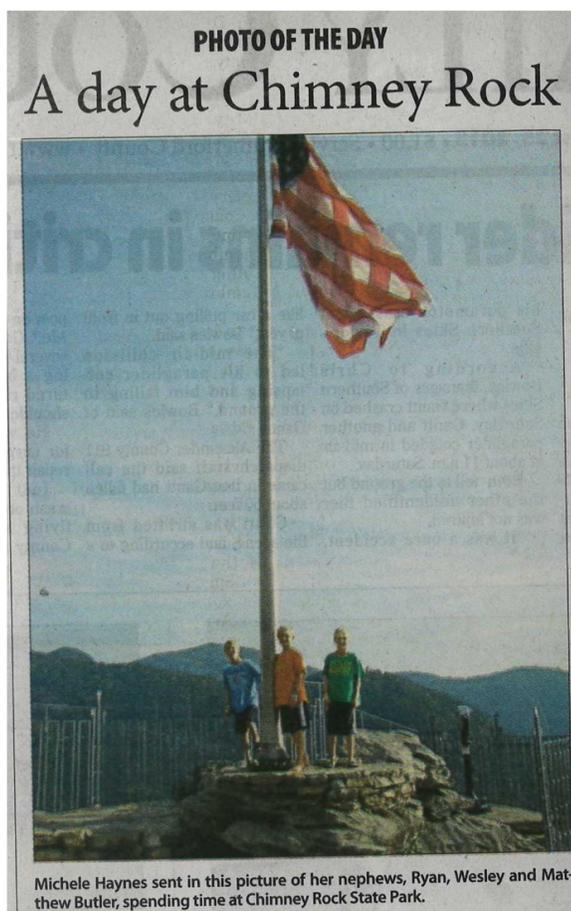


Wednesday consisted of various meetings and office work. Commissioners Benfield and Toney attended the NC Association of County Commissioners' Annual Conference on August 20-23 in Pitt County. **Pictured left** with the Commissioners is our Rutherford County 4 H Club Representative, Savannah Bell, who is also serving as a 2015-2016 page for the Senate and House.

The Clerk to the Board, Hazel Haynes, along with her daughters and grandsons, recently reached the top of Chimney Rock by climbing the 500 steps to the chimney. The boys were thrilled at the 75-mile view overlooking Lake Lure and the Hickory Nut Gorge, and were featured in the Daily Courier (**pictured right**).

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

Best wishes to the County Manager's daughter, Lauren Garrison, and fiancée, Justin, who are starting 'the first day of the rest of their lives' Saturday, August 29th.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended various meetings with county departments and industry allies. Economic Development staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and continuing work on website content and updates.

Finance Department

The Finance Office continues working to close out the fiscal year and prepare for the arrival of the auditors. The Finance Officer and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and begun to work on payroll.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Worked with GIS on fire district expansion project.
- Met with architect and building inspections about the live burn building project.
- Worked on investigations.
- Met with Office of State Fire Marshal staff regarding upcoming department inspections.

Human Resources

The HR staff held several meetings with various employees. The HR Specialist attended the Rails-Trails Celebration on Tuesday. She also facilitated new employee orientation on Thursday. EMS and Transit are currently accepting applications. Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Library

Mountains Branch Library - Joy Sharp worked on building maintenance issues this week, as well as processing lots of new juvenile and easy books donated by the Lake Lure Lion's Club. She ran reports to begin weeding the collection, and compiled a group of patrons and volunteers to participate in the library's 5-year plan. Joy also set a date for a volunteer training session and began the planning process. Computer classes were held on Digital Photos at the library.

County Library:

- Staff attending a PLA Boot Camp this week in TN. Will share more information after they return.
- Staff working on adding new programs to the Library. Suggestions welcome.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 3841 motor vehicle renewals and handled 27 VTS assists. The office answered 623 phone calls and assisted 249 customers. We completed 4 plat reviews and answered 6 data requests. Appraisers completed 60 building permits and 112 field reviews. A total of 54 new documents were recorded and 41 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 62 straights, 2 merges, 4 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 9 new maps. The GIS website had 160,442 hits and 112,719 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 4 new addresses and updated 82 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 11 road signs. The PUV program assisted 31 program members and mailed out 7 letters. Staff processed 5 exclusions/deferments and 2 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 12 by credit card, 73 by website and 25 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 18 newspaper items. Staff completed 4 gross receipts, 66 occupancy taxes, 2 payment plans, 6 bankruptcy issues, 24 bankruptcy payments and processed 1899 items mailed in. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 211 tax payments. 28 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted craft time on Tuesday with a card making class. The seniors made beautiful hand-crafted greeting cards. The Senior Center also offered a trip to the local Farmer's Market on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Ron & Ruth Patten came to the Center to speak about barn quilts. A barn quilt is a large piece of wood that is painted to look like a quilt or block. Even though the name implies that an entire quilt is painted onto the wood, it generally is only a single quilt block. After they are painted, these blocks are hung on the exterior of a barn, house, garage, or other building. Lastly, on Thursday the seniors enjoyed "Use It or Lose It". We encourage seniors to engage in thinking games as well as learning new skills and hobbies to continually keep the brain functioning and alert. Studies show that the brain requires a consistent workout to stay sharp just like the body does to stay strong.

Upcoming:

"The Odd Couple" Play on Friday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$3 each person or 2 for \$5

Zumba at 6:45 on August 31 and September 21

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on District Meeting minutes.
- sending District and Farmland meeting notices.
- worked on getting ready to move to new building.

The Agriculture Cost Share Technician:

- worked with land owners to write conservation plans
- worked on preparation to move to new building
- answered technical service questions from landowners.

Solid Waste

Customers served 345

Loads hauled from convenience centers 52

Loads shipped to Lenoir 31

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 24

The Solid Waste office staff has been busy this week working on county ordinances, setting a new limit for our cash draw, recycling grant and end of year reports. The director held several internal meetings, participated in a webinar, attended the airport strategic planning meeting and investigated a hot load that was sent to Lenoir. Staff also attended the demo of a John Deere skid steer loader at the airport. The transfer station staff continues to process the MSW tonnage, recycling tonnage and continues to wrap the electronics for pick up. The construction and demolition staff continues to handle the tonnages coming in while continuing to haul dirt for cover. The shop staff continues to fix equipment while performing preventative maintenance. The new anti-freeze recycling containers have been delivered to the centers that have recycling compactors (**pictured above**). The new contracts for oil recycling and the used cooking oil have been signed and the vendors will start delivering those items. Work continues to be performed at the airport with grass cutting and bush hogging.



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Employees attended In-service Training this week. A review of HIPAA laws and requirements were covered. Staff attended the RHI Legacy Foundation Grant celebration on Thursday night to receive a grant for their new Community Paramedic program. EMS received an NCACC Excellence in Innovation award for the 911 Cell Phone public awareness campaign. Director also met with the new Emergency Department Director at RRHS, Jason Carney to discuss collaboration between the ED and EMS.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	142	168
Convalescent Calls	57	59

It is our extreme pleasure to congratulate Director Kerry Giles, Director Tammy Aldridge, and staff for being the recipient of the 2015 NCACC Excellence in Innovation Award for the 911 Cell Phone Public Awareness Campaign. They will be recognized at the next County Commissioners' Meeting from among some very strong submissions and more importantly for developing this successful campaign to benefit the county and improve services to citizens.

Transit Department:

Office Coordinator, Anita Campbell attended the ICC Resource Fair on Thursday to distribute literature on transportation services available to students (**pictured right**). The Transit Advisory Board also met for their quarterly meeting and went over the final 5 year plan report; as well as, discussed 25th Anniversary celebration details. Director submitted an update to the \$87,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant that was received for this year, in order to sustain transportation for citizens to the Senior Center each day for lunch.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,522	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,137	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	93	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	243	241
Total Revenue	\$17,786	\$15,385



Veterans Services

Hamburger/Hotdog Cook Out

Save the date!

September 18th, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Veteran's Office

Come join us for a good meal.

Mail In	32
Mail Out	33
Fax	180
Phone Calls In/Out	85
Veteran Contacts	130

Special Recognition

Thermal Belt Rail-Trail of Rutherford County

Recognition of Project Partners

Celebration!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

BECHTLER MINT SITE
342 Gilboa Church Road, Rutherfordon, NC

Everyone is invited!

In the fall of 2014, the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition partnered with the RHI Legacy Foundation to raise funds to continue improving the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail. Many businesses and individuals, including RHI Legacy and Rutherford Regional Health System, worked through the golf tournament to secure funds for trail improvements. Then in the spring, the Rutherford Hospital Auxiliary made a final contribution to help complete the latest improvement project. We now have an additional half mile of paved surface, completing just over two miles of paved trail. These sponsors also enhanced more than five miles of trail with newly compacted gravel surface in addition to mileage markers, stop signs, no-motorized vehicle signs, and benches along the current eight mile stretch of Thermal Belt Rail Trail. Our county's heritage and scenic beauty are showcased along this trail, and preserving the rail corridor has added value to the recreation experience for the citizens and visitors of Rutherford County. For more information regarding the trail, call Danny Searcy 828.287.6300.

This opportunity was made by the following partners:



Pictures from the Rails-Trails Celebration

Pictured right
Chairman Bryan King,
County Commissioner



Pictured left to right
Scott Webber (Spindale Town Manager)
Danny Searcy (Planning Director)
Mickey Bland (Mayor of Spindale)

Manager Garrison and Commissioner Toney in the background (right).



Danny Searcy trying out the portable speakers.



County Manager, Steve Garrison

Honoring WWII Veterans



This week, the General Assembly passed a joint resolution to honor the lives and memories of World War II veterans. Senate Bill 720 is a tribute to the service of those brave individuals. Today, 26,000 WWII Veterans still call North Carolina home. 8,500 North Carolinians who served did not return home.

The following is an excerpt from Senate Bill 720:

"The General Assembly wishes to express its deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to the veterans of World War II and their families for their remarkable contributions and service to the people of North Carolina, the United States of America, and the free world. They held high the torch of freedom and we should be ever mindful that the task of preserving that fragile freedom is now ours."

To read the entire resolution, right click [here](#) and open hyperlink.

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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