



December 14, 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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### Airport

The Airport sold 490.8 gallons of 100LL to 16 aircraft and 910.0 gallons of Jet A to 3 aircraft last week.

#### PHOTO:

**A blast from the past:**

**A USMC McDonnell Douglas AV-8 Harrier takes off from the Rutherford County Airport on its opening day 40 years ago. (21 November 1975)**



### Board of Elections

Filing has been steady over the last week with a total of nine candidates processed as of the close of business on Tuesday. Filing will continue until December 21<sup>st</sup> at noon.

The Board meeting was held on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, the Director spoke to the Leadership Rutherford group.

## County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager's week began with several individual Department Head meetings. Directors from several departments reported plans and projects to the manager.

Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney were re-elected to their respective positions as Chairman and Vice Chairman at the Board of Commissioners Meeting on December 7, 2015 (pictured right).



Chairman King met at WCAB on Tuesday morning for the Commissioners' Meeting Radio Review with Jim Bishop. Also, on December 8th, County Manager Garrison and Chairman King participated in the Leadership Rutherford group, emphasizing government. Leadership Rutherford was organized in 2000 as a county-wide leadership program to provide participants an understanding of the opportunities and challenges within Rutherford County.

For more information on the program, visit [www.leadershiprutherford.com](http://www.leadershiprutherford.com) (pictured left and below).



Additional engagements of the Manager and Commissioners included United Way 'Building a Stronger North Carolina', NCACC Risk Management meeting, TDA, Fire Training Facility meeting, Rails to Trails Committee, STEM Presentation at Foundation Performing Arts Center-ICC, Airport Agenda review, and EDC meeting.

The HR Director and Deputy Clerk sat on the panel of judges for RS Central's Senior Projects. Staff members took part in webinars. A number of calls were addressed, as well as conference calls. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.





*It's beginning to look  
a lot like Christmas  
at the County offices!*



On Wednesday, December 9, 2015, the nation's motto, 'In God We Trust' was placed above the main entrance of the county's historic Courthouse.....



and at the Rutherford County Office Building fronting Main Street.



## Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended various internal meetings with county departments and industry allies, and followed up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects. Staff continues to be busy working with the Department of Commerce and existing industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests, updating content on the EDC website, and increasing our social media presence. This week's agenda also included the Interim Economic Director meeting individually with the County Board of Commissioners.



## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- met with County Manager and other officials to discuss the emergency services training facility.
- attended NC Emergency Management western branch meeting.
- conducted investigative interviews.
- assisted Lake Lure Police with an origin and cause investigation.

Deputy Fire Marshal:

- attended criminal investigation training.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.

The HR Director attended the monthly County Commissioners meeting, worked on the United Way campaign, and assisted RS Central in judging of Senior Projects.

The HR Specialist conducted the monthly orientation. The HR office is moving forward in ACA compliance for 2016; as well as, preparing for the year end changes with Colonial and the State Health Plan.

Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director, and Solid Waste Mechanic. Applicants can apply at [www.rutherfordcountync.gov](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov).

## Public Works and Planning

The garage completed multiple preventative maintenance service calls, repairs, tire service calls and other repairs to the County's motor vehicle fleet. Maintenance has had a productive week in conducting repairs and preventative maintenance to the County's facilities. Meanwhile, Planning and Projects had a busy week with preparations for the Commissioners' meeting. The new library opened this week and EMS station has received a few final touches. The Director and Project Manager have also been involved in multiple meetings including a projects update report, Rail Trail meeting along with multiple site inspections for solar, watershed protection and community project grants. We plan to conduct inspections of the Queens Gap and Greyrock developments over the next week.

## Revenue Department

The Director and staff have reviewed the Revenue Department page on the Rutherford County website and updated forms and information provided for employees and the general public. If anyone has any questions regarding the contents of the page, please call Sherry Lavender at 828-287-6183.

<b>Customer Service</b>	
Phone Calls	341
Info/Data Requests	235
<b>County Growth Indicators</b>	
Building Permits Reviewed	28
Deeds Recorded	58
<b>Collections Progress</b>	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	25
Total Taxes Collected	832,036.99

## Senior Center

The Senior Center enjoyed several special Christmas musical performances this week. Mt. Vernon-Ruth Elementary Kindergarten class, Chase High Jazz Band, Burns Middle School Chorus, and Ellenboro Elementary Kindergarten class came and entertained with Christmas music. These programs serve as part of our intergenerational program goal.

The seniors also went on a trip to Hamrick's of Gaffney and the Outlet Mall on Tuesday to enjoy some Christmas shopping.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 21 & 28

Christmas Reception December 17 at 2:30 p.m.

## Sheriff's Department

Proud grandmother, Shelley Owens (Sheriff's Dept.), shared a gorgeous photo of her beautiful granddaughter, Emily. Emily's dad, Dustin, also is with the Rutherfordton Police Department and her mother, Brittany, is a nurse at Rutherford Regional. Grandpa works as a Deputy Sheriff with the county department also.

A very special thank you to this family for their dedication and service to our county.



# **RETIREMENT CELEBRATION RON SIMPSON**

**WHEN: FRIDAY DECEMBER 18TH  
2015**

**WHERE: CONFERENCE ROOM @ THE  
SHERIFFS OFFICE**

**TIME: 2:00P.M.**



## Soil & Water

### **The Admin/Education Specialist:**

- attended the County Commissioners' Meeting
- attended the Farmland Preservation Meeting.
- worked on District Meeting minutes and reports for grant funding for Outdoor Environmental Learning Center survey.

### **The Ag. Cost Share Technician:**

- spent the week working on contract management and EAP's.

### **Please Note:**

The Rutherford Soil & Water and the USDA Service Center has moved to:  
500 West Street, Suite 2  
Spindale, NC 28160

## Solid Waste

Customers served 339.

Loads hauled from convenience centers 57.

Loads shipped to Lenoir 35

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 27

Community service workers 7

Community service reports 1

The Solid Waste staff has been busy conducting meetings and working on grants. The transfer station staff has been processing the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. Also they are wrapping electronics. The C&D staff is handling the tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. The shop staff continues to work on equipment and performing preventative maintenance.

Solid Waste staff hosted the state requested meeting on recycling this Thursday. There were five members from DENR and around 25 in attendance from surrounding counties to view our operations. Attendees toured Gilkey Convenience Center and the landfill. Special thanks to Transit for helping with transportation.

The Solid Waste staff wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Please remember to recycle!



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

EMS Staff is continuing to collect toys for the Stuff the Ambulance Toy Drive. Toys will be distributed through DSS. Employees are welcome to drop off toys at the EMS station or simply drop one in the box next time you are at Wal-Mart (pictured left and below).



Crews also participated in the Rutherfordton, Spindale, and Ellenboro parades over the past weekend. (Pictured right is EMS Operations Manager, Terry Baynard.)



We have also been conducting interviews for several open paramedic positions. Kaleb Johnson made a presentation on Stuff the Ambulance at the County Commissioners meeting and Director Giles attended a Certified Compliance Officer course this week as well.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	114	168
Convalescent Calls	31	59

### Transit Department:

County Commissioners approved Transit to pilot a FARE FREE deviated fixed route service from January 1 to June 30, 2016. This is our current \$1.00 bus. We encourage all citizens to ride. The higher the ridership the greater chance of this becoming a permanent decision. We are so thankful that we can offer this complimentary service to our citizens. [Click here](#) for a link to our current schedule. Staff also continue to work towards completion of the pre-audit workbook for the Federal Compliance Audit in January.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,851	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,077	881
# of Out of County Trips	70	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	217	238
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$15,217</b>	<b>\$14,549</b>

## Veterans Services

<b>Mail In</b>	12
<b>Mail Out</b>	125
<b>Fax</b>	105
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	52
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	205



Many of us learned about the **Santa Maria** in school as the largest of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his first voyage (pictured right).

Do not confuse with the beautiful **Santa Marie** (Marie Champion, retiring Veterans Service Director, pictured left). 😊

Retirement Party invitation listed below.



## *Retirement Party*

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

*12:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

Please join us for the retirement celebration

honoring the successful career of

**Marie Champion**

Veterans Service Director

Rutherford County Annex Auditorium

289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Christmas in  
Rutherford County



RomanticAsheville.com named Forest City #1 Christmas Town Near Asheville!" Please help us spread the word, and congrats to Amy and the hard work of her team in Forest City! Mark File at Romantic Asheville is one of our media partners who gets incredible online traffic. For the ultimate festive small town experience to get you in the holiday spirit, drive and stroll down Main Street decked out with a million lights for Hometown Holidays in downtown Forest City in Rutherford County. Wrapped around the live oak trees and hanging overhead, the lights shine on from Thanksgiving Night through January 18, 2016. Displays surround the town fountain. The tradition dates back to 1930 when the town hung its first set of lights on two trees. Bundle up with a cup of hot chocolate and hop on a carriage or hayride through the magical display of holiday lights. To see more pictures and read the article by Mark File visit [www.RomanticAsheville.com](http://www.RomanticAsheville.com)

See below for delightful Christmas activities in Forest City:

Santa's House

**Fridays 6-8:30pm; & Saturdays 5-8:30pm**

••

Ice Skating

**Fridays, 6pm-Until; & Saturdays, 5pm-Until**

••

Hayrides

**Fridays only, 6-9pm**

••

Carriage Rides

**Saturdays only, 6-8:30pm**

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Santa's Paws

**Sundays only, 2-6pm**

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL



RUTHERFORD  
POLK  
MCDOWELL HEALTH DISTRICT



COMMUNITY HEALTH  
**FORUM**

WEDNESDAY  
**JANUARY 27**

**9:30-11:30**

**THE FOUNDATION**

ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Join with community leaders to plan for improvements in health and wellness.

Review current data, trends and projections for Rutherford County.

\* Healthy Eating \* Active Living \* Tobacco

\* Substance Abuse Prevention \* Maternal and Infant Health \* Behavioral Health

RSVP: [Marjorie.vestal@gmail.com](mailto:Marjorie.vestal@gmail.com)

Sponsored by: Rutherford Polk McDowell District Health Department and Rutherford Health Council

## RELAY FOR LIFE

We will be selling long sleeve T-shirts in honor and support of our fellow employee, Dawn Lovelace, who is battling cancer. These are available in bright pink or Carolina blue. Please have orders in by Monday, 12/21/15. You may pay now or on delivery. We should have them back right after the first of the year.

We will do a short sleeve T shirt order in the spring prior to the Relay event on 5/20/16. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

*Jeanette Bosgra*

Accountant

Rutherford County Finance

289 N. Main St.

Rutherfordton, NC 28139

[jeanette.bosgra@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:jeanette.bosgra@rutherfordcountync.gov)

(B) (828) 287-6211

(F) (828) 287-6210

**ORDER FORM ON PAGE 14**



2016 Relay For Life Team T-Shirt

*Order Form*

**See attached for a picture of the shirt.**

**Long Sleeve T Shirts in Bright Pink or Carolina Blue**

**All Orders must be in to Finance by --- Dec 21, 2015**

**Pay now (cash or check to ACS) or pay on delivery**

**Sizes -- Youth S- L \$12.00 Adult -- S- XL \$12.00 and 2X - 6X \$14.00**

**NAME                      DEPT                      SIZE                      QUANTITY                      COLOR**

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# UNITED WAY

Join the Discussion

## Building a Stronger North Carolina



Hear an Overview of the North Carolina State Budget Economic Forecast,  
Issues Affecting Your Community and Add Your Voice

**UNITED WAY** will share the story of the economy and NC State and Federal budgets and legislation. Be prepared to answer a few questions and to learn a few facts that you can put into action. Here's a snapshot of what you will expect:

- Overview of the state budget decisions and how the state is addressing the areas of Education, Income and Health.
- Overview of federal legislation and budget decisions - what they mean for nonprofits and the people they serve.
- Regional and local data on the economy and impact of policy decisions
- Tools to make an impact on the issues you care about. Join with others to focus your local advocacy for the greatest result.

Date: Tuesday, December 8th

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (No Registration Necessary)

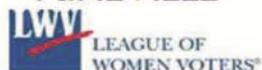
Location: Rutherford County Annex, Commissioner's Meeting Room

Participate through a Live Streaming Process

This goal of this event is to bring together community, business, and nonprofit leaders throughout WNC to hear how the State and Federal governments impact education, income, and health issues in our community.

Questions: Ron Katz at [rkatz@unitedwaysabc.org](mailto:rkatz@unitedwaysabc.org) or 828 239-1045

CO-SPONSORED BY:



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### 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!*

[www.rutherfordcountync.gov](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov)