



December 7, 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 was busy over the Thanksgiving holidays. We sold 3,170.0 gallons of Jet A to 16 aircraft and 1,373.3 gallons of 100LL to 45 aircraft.



A special thanks to Solid Waste employee, John Bland, for replicating and replacing a missing letter on the sign at the entrance to the airport off of Oscar

Justice Road. John and his team have worked tirelessly over the past summer and fall keeping the grounds looking the best they ever have (**pictured above**). Thanks, John!

An Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter stopped by for fuel on its way to Virginia (**pictured right**).



Board of Elections



The 2016 election season kicked off on Tuesday with the opening of filing at Noon. We had five candidates file at our office the first day and will continue filing until December 21st at Noon.

Our website is update after each candidate is processed at: <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/candidates>.

Faye Huskey was our first candidate as she filed for her eighth term as Register of Deeds.

County Manager and Commissioners

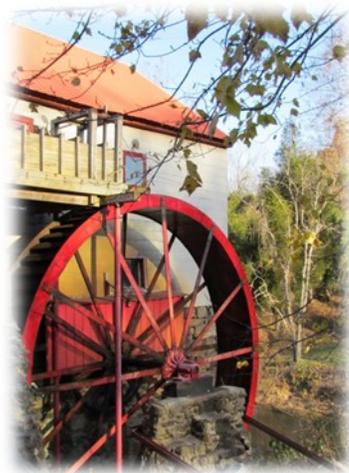
The County Manager's week began with several individual Department Head meetings. Directors from several departments reported plans and projects to the manager.

Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney met with Manager Garrison to review the agenda for the upcoming Board of Commissioners' meeting. The manager also met with Commissioners Benfield, Lovelace, and Holland later in the week to review the agenda.

Additional engagements throughout the week included GIS Mapping discussions, planning meetings, Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new EMS/Library facilities (**pictured right**), JCPC, Fleet Management Enterprise, and Veteran's Luncheon.



A number of calls were addressed, as well as conference calls. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.



Run of the Mills....North Carolina's gristmills help keep state's history and agricultural heritage alive! Our local Rutherford County Mill (Lakeside Mills, **Owner/Commissioner Bryan A. King**) is featured in the 2015-16 Winter issue of *North Carolina Field and Family* magazine, <http://www.calameo.com/read/000420308da4e663b9245>, pages 18-21.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to five industrial inquiries and followed up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects. Staff continues to reach out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines and update internal documents and content for the EDC website and AccessNC. This week's agenda also included attending various internal meetings with individual EDC board members, county departments, and industry allies, as well as an NCEDA luncheon in Raleigh.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- met with Lincoln County officials to discuss our process of establishing fire service districts.
- conducted follow-ups on investigations.
- attended the EMS Station 4 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- participated in NC Emergency Management committee meetings.

Human Resources

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

Welcome aboard new hires Steven James (p/t Sheriff Department), James Sigmon (p/t Fire Marshal), Adena Widener (DSS), Amanda Lane (DSS), Edward Elliott (p/t Convenience Center), Jerry Carter (p/t Convenience Center), Charles Padgett (p/t Convenience Center), Cassandra Matheny (DSS), Karen Gibbs (p/t TDA), Lindsey Lamica (p/t TDA) and Mary Carnicle (DSS).

Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are William Conner (retiree DSS), Anita Hill (Sheriff), Arthur Walker (Transit), and Greta Philbeck (retiree Sheriff). Congratulations to Lt. Lydia Waddell on her promotion to Detention Administrator and to Justin Splawn on his promotion to Assistant Detention Administrator. Congratulations to Steve Hill on his promotion to Interim Building Inspections Director. We thank all county employees for their dedicated service and skill sets they bring to the job each and every day.

This week the HR Director along with the Finance Director completed interviews for the Deputy Finance position.

The director attended a meeting with DSS Director John Carroll, attended the JCPC meeting, attended a KeyDocs webinar and attended a luncheon at the Veterans Office.

Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director, and Solid Waste Mechanic. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Director April Young: This week, Duke Energy approved a grant to benefit the new Haynes Library. This grant will provide technology related programming to teens and tweens throughout the summer of 2016. Programming will focus on math and science as it relates to our environment. On another high note, the Ribbon Cutting on Tuesday afternoon was very well attended and all the library staff appreciates the support given to the library over the last several months. The director also attended a New Directors Summit hosted by the State Library in Raleigh this week.

Circulation Manager Stephanie Long: On Monday and Tuesday, the Circulation Manager assisted in getting the new Haynes Branch Library ready for its Grand Opening on Tuesday afternoon (pictured left). She spent the rest of the week catching up on order requests and getting ready for the upcoming Winter Book Sale.



Mountains Branch Manager Joy Sharp: Angie Turner worked on rearranging the Juvenile shelves to create more space. After weeding and inventory, we have a lot more room for all the exciting new Juvenile fiction, non-fiction and biographies we're getting in! Staff began decorating the library for the holidays, and made plans for a volunteer appreciation drop-in lunch for December. Joy Sharp worked with

volunteers to plan an ornament-making "Crafternoon" for kids in December. She also met with the new President of the Friends of the Mountains Branch Library to prioritize fund raising and support needs. Angie and Joy have applied for NCLA scholarships to take advantage of online staff continuing education courses. Angie and Joy attended the open house for the new Haynes Library

Children and Youth Librarian Nicole Morse: The Youth Services Librarian hosted story time at the County Library on Tuesday morning where children learned all about Dinosaurs. Also this week she continued to travel to the local elementary schools to host outreach story time programs for Pre-K – 1st grade students. Planning has also begun for the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme will be *On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!*

Programming and Marketing Coordinator Maria Davis: The Programming and Marketing Coordinator is diligently working to begin new programming. A Christmas Ornament craft is scheduled for December 5 at County Library and a Financial Literacy Seminar is scheduled at all three branches on January 11. A new Book Club is in the works and we are all very excited about this. February's new program will be one for the books! Keep an eye on our website (www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org) or our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RutherfordCountyLibrary) for upcoming events.

New Programming at the NEW Haynes Branch Library

Miss Nicole will be starting "Teen Thursdays", 3:30 - 5:00 every Thursday for youth in grades 6 -12. Included are games, snacks, video games, crafts, and most of all...FUN! No sign up is needed...just come on in! Call Nicole at 828-287-6116 for more information.

Teen Thursdays

Every Thursday 3:30 - 5:00

6th Grade - 12th Grade
Welcome

Games / Snacks
Video Games /
Crafts

Contact Nicole @ 287-6116
for more information

Haynes Branch Library
2669 Hwy 221A
Mooresboro, NC 28114

Public Works and Planning

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are extremely grateful for the beauty of the County and the privilege to live and work here. Despite the holidays, we've had a very eventful week which culminated with the ribbon cutting and building dedication of the newly constructed Haynes Library and Foothills EMS facilities with a tremendous crowd in excess of 100 in attendance. There are still a few finishing touches left to complete the buildings to include the plaques and signage, however, services will be offered in these new facilities as early as Monday, Dec. 7. The Director and Project Manager were involved in multiple meetings including a projects update report, updates on Greyrock, Queens Gap, Solar development, Community Projects Grants and communication tower/antennae research. In fact, watershed protection plans were reviewed this week for the extremely large proposed solar farm off Chase Highway and Ferry Road; however, the solar permit plans have not been submitted at this time. We continue to work on the capital facilities plan with additions and edits to include a summary of the schools and college data as submitted to the County. Lastly, the garage completed multiple preventative maintenance service calls and 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.

Revenue Department

- Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.
- The Revenue Department would like to say congratulations to Mike Stewart on his retirement on 11/20/2015. We know he will enjoy being home and spending time with his family and especially his granddaughter. Mike you will be missed.
- Revenue Department has been working hard preparing for the year-end processes to close out 2015. 2016 listing forms will be in the mail before we know it.
- Glad to have Linda Green back full time after her surgery. Glad you are feeling better.
- Working on critical numbers and values for the data files to be sent for the CAMA transfer. February 15, 2016 will be the go live date for the CAMA program on the PTS system.
- Reminder: Taxes will need to be paid or in the mail before January 5, 2016 ; interest will be charged after January 5th on the 2015 bills.

Customer Service	
Phone Calls	540
Info/Data Requests	402
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	34
Deeds Recorded	71
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	57
Total Taxes Collected	1,068,525.20

Senior Center

December is a busy month at the Senior Center. We started this week with a special musical performance by Andy Cilone singing Christmas music. The seniors also enjoyed Christmas Bingo and Christmas Cards & Cocoa on Tuesday and Wednesday. The "River Road" band came on Thursday for a Christmas Carol Bluegrass Style Sing-a-long. We ended the week with a Christmas shopping trip to Concord Mills on Friday. We also started a new route for Home Delivered Meals on Tuesday with grant funding we received from RHI Legacy Foundation.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on December 7,14, 21 & 28

Sheriff's Department

CPL. PHILBECK RETIRES

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office honored Cpl. Greta Philbeck with a reception to acknowledge her retirement. Cpl. Philbeck has worked as a bailiff at the Rutherford County Courthouse for the past 16 years.

Sheriff Chris Francis presented Cpl. Philbeck with a plaque and her duty weapon. Sheriff Francis thanked Cpl. Philbeck for her dedicated service to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Rutherford County.

Cpl. Philbeck has over 20 years experience in law enforcement.



Social Services

Energy Assistance Program to Begin December 1

The Rutherford County Department of Social Services will begin administering the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) on December 1, 2015. This is a federally funded, income based, program that offers one time assistance to individuals and families with heating costs. From December 1 to December 31 funds are available for adults aged 60 and older and/or adults receiving services administered by the State Division of Aging and Adult Services. Beginning January 4, 2016 through March 31, 2016, LIEAP funds are available for all persons who meet income guidelines. All benefits are paid directly to the applicant's heating vendor.

Energy Assistance Applications are available at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services, 389 Fairground Road, Spindale, N.C. beginning December 1, 2015.

To obtain an application:

- Call DSS 287-6326 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to request an application be mailed to you. Return by mail or in person.
- Pick up an application at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services. Return by mail or in person.
- Apply in person at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

To avoid wait times, consumers are encouraged to request by mail or pick up applications and return by mail or in person to the agency. Applicants will be contacted by an agency representative to complete the process. For those returning applications, it is imperative that accurate contact information be included.

Please call 287-6326 for more information or to request an application be mailed to you.

Social Services continued from page 6

DSS celebrated Thanksgiving with good food and fellowship. On November 13, the Fairground Road Building had their annual Thanksgiving feast, and on November 24, staff located in the Rutherford Center had their Thanksgiving luncheon. DSS is fortunate to have many wonderful cooks (**pictured right**).



Christmas at DSS was kicked off on Monday of this week as EMS employees delivered the first batch of toys that were collected over the weekend for the Stuff the Ambulance Project sponsored by EMS. The toys collected go to foster care children, and to families who have no other resources to secure presents for their children. Many asked why all families don't sign up for Christmas Cheer or Toys for Tots.



These are great resources, but many families that our agency works with are consumed with problems related to mental illness, addiction, violence, and other social issues and are unable to access these resources for various reasons. It is truly a blessing for staff to be able to provide families with these items. DSS thanks EMS for sponsoring this program and the hard work and dedication that they put into it each year (**pictured left and below**).

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Social Services continued from page 7

The Director, IM Administrator, and Fiscal Officer participated in the monthly statewide DSS Director's Conference Call on Wednesday; the Director met with the County HR Director on Wednesday to discuss changes in FLSA regulations; and several staff attended the Western Regional DSS Director's Meeting in Asheville on Thursday and Friday.

The Director and Adult Services staff participated in a conference call with the State and the LME/MCO's on Wednesday regarding Institutions of Mental Disease, which basically has to do with ensuring that the mandated ratio of mentally ill consumers residing in assisted living facilities is maintained.



On Thursday, Income Maintenance hosted a regional meeting regarding Special Assistance at the County Annex. Ten counties were represented (pictured left and below).

DSS sponsored a Christmas Party for children in DSS custody and their caretakers, including relatives caretakers and foster parents on Thursday evening at Second Baptist Church in Rutherfordton.



More than eighty people were in attendance and one of them was a special visitor from the North Pole. This gathering is a great way to celebrate Christmas with the children and to show appreciation to those that do such a good job caring for them. We'll share some pictures from this event next week.



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- completed the District Meeting agenda and Meeting folders and attended the District Meeting.
- worked on reports for grant funding for Outdoor Environmental Learning Center survey and presented an Enviroscape lesson showing human impact on our natural resources.
- worked with Jeff Bradley with Cooperative Extension for the 4th grade Farm City Assemblies to present a lesson on the Importance of Agriculture in our Everyday Life and to present award checks and certificates to school poster winners (**pictured right and below**).



The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week working on Watershed Emergency Action Plans and attended the District Board Meeting.

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 298
Loads hauled from convenience centers 56
Loads shipped to Lenoir 32
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2
Tire customers 12
Community service workers 6
Community service reports 1

The office staff continues to work on reports and grants. Also, we are preparing to host a state meeting that will highlight all of our improvements in recycling and convenience center design. All of this was done through the state grant program. The transfer station staff continues to process all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. Also, they are working on wrapping electronics for another pickup. The C&D staff has been busy dealing with weather related issues due to the amount of rain. Works continue to be performed at the south landfill and the airport. The shop staff continues to work on compactors and containers while performing preventative maintenance on the equipment and vehicles. The Solid Waste Department has a job opening for a head mechanic.

Please continue to recycle!!!!!!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Stuff the Ambulance Toy Drive is offer of great start at Walmart. In our first weekend we collected 331 toys. EMS is also participating in the Forest City, Rutherfordton, Spindale and Ellenboro parades to promote the toy drive. We greatly appreciate DSS and their employees for helping us with this. The ribbon cutting at Station Four was a great success and we are so thankful for this new, beautiful building.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	159	168
Convalescent Calls	46	59

Transit Department:

Transit welcomes our new part-time driver Donna Holland to our team. She began driving solo on 12/1/15. Transit worked a short week due to Thanksgiving Holidays and the numbers in our second chart reflect the short work week. Staff held their monthly meeting to discuss upcoming plans and events and daily operations. Transit would like to remind everyone again to look out for the safety of the busy shoppers and children as the Christmas Season approaches. Traffic is predicted to be higher due to lower fuel prices so there will be more cars and people out and about which brings on congestion and impatience, so drive to **PROTECT OTHERS**.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,335	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,105	881
# of Out of County Trips	79	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	231	238
Total Revenue	\$18,490	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Toys for Tots boxes have been put out in various places. Please help us fill the boxes this year for the local children.

Mail In	75
Mail Out	176
Fax	105
Phone Calls In/Out	113
Veteran Contacts	289



**Sunday morning at 6 a.m.,
veterans and Director Marie Champion,
buying 'Toys for the Tots'.**



Hometown Celebrations

Christmas in Rutherford County

Holiday Windows Come Alive in
Rutherford County
Rutherfordton Christmas parade to
include living windows, tree lighting ceremony and family activities on December 5th.

Tree Lighting Ceremony: 3:30 p.m.

Magical Windows: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Christmas Parade: 5:00 p.m.



Spindale Christmas Parade and Painted Windows

Downtown Spindale is celebrating the holidays with their *Spindale Christmas Parade*, December 5th at 3:30 p.m. along Main Street. Join us for fire trucks, floats, Santa Claus and jingle bells bringing Christmas cheer to families and loved ones.



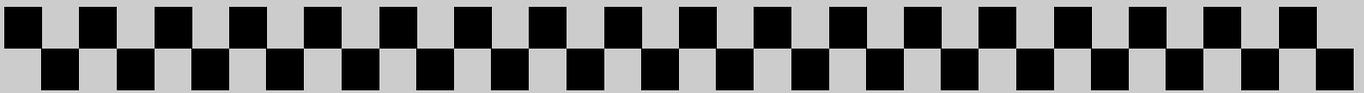
Artists in the making.....County Manager, Steve Garrison, with wife, Tonya, and daughter, Emily, having a great time working with a team of volunteers to paint the storefronts of Spindale for Christmas!

Santa to Climb Down the World's Largest Natural "Chimney"



**Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park
Saturday, December 5th and 12th**

Santa on the Chimney: 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.



Christmas in Chimney Rock Village



Saturday, December 5th

Christmas in Chimney Rock Village: 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lights Shine Bright in Historic Downtown Forest City

November 26th through January 18th



The Annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony and Parade was last week on November 26th, but see below for more 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

••

Santa's Paws

Sundays only, 2-6pm



Ribbon Cutting

Foothills EMS and Haynes Library



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@unitedwayabc.org or 828 239-1045

CO-SPONSORED BY:



United Way of Asheville
and Buncombe County



*Beautiful Rutherford County Courthouse,
image compliments of
County Manager Steve Garrison.*



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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