



February 1, 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 741.0 gallons of Jet A to 4 aircraft and 143.2 gallons of 100LL to 7 aircraft last week.

PHOTO:
Tim is filling a 2009 Cessna 680 "Sovereign" that brought several businessmen into Rutherford County for a meeting



Board of Elections

Preparations for the March Primary are in full swing with legal ads being submitted and absentee by mail beginning. We are completing the recruitment process for poll workers and sending letters to schedule the workers for training.

Registration drives at the high schools have begun and will continue through the next two weeks. Over 2600 verification cards were sent to the voters in Danielstown-Sulphur Springs precinct informing them that their polling place has moved to the SDO Fire Department.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections' staff has written three new house permits in the last week, along with a permit for a distribution warehouse for Broad River Water Authority. We have had a couple of inquiries on upcoming solar farms.

We are also reviewing plans for a church fellowship hall and talking to architects on an upcoming project at a local nursing home. The Director met with the Field Operations Rep for the NC General Contractors Licensing Board to visit locations in our county regarding licensing complaints.

Our newest inspector (Caleb Wilson) had surgery this morning on his knee and we wish him a speedy recovery!

County Manager and Commissioners

Over the past few days, the County Manager, Commissioners, and staff were very involved in implementing plans to protect the health and safety of Rutherford County residents due to inclement weather. We want to extend our thanks to all who ensured that necessary preparedness was made and hazardous conditions were addressed.

It was another active week of numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events. Meetings with several department heads were on the schedule this week, including Planning and Projects and Economic Development. The Commissioners, along with the County Manager and staff, continued preparation on the agenda for the Board of Commissioners' meeting on February 1. Interviews for the Veteran's Services Director continued. The STEP Leadership Team held a reception at Rutherfordton Clubhouse on Monday celebrating accomplishments of their initial grant phase and plans for continued progress. On Tuesday, Smoky Mental Health met with County Manager, Chairman King, Finance director and DSS director. Debra Conner and Kim Aldridge, along with other JCPC board members, participated in the annual monitoring of JCPC programs on Tuesday afternoon. The Community Health Council met with county leaders on Wednesday at ICC to plan for improvements in health and wellness. County staff joined together to congratulate Captain William "Sonny" Chapman and Detective Philip Bailey at their retirement event on Friday.

As the week progressed, the Commissioners and Manager were involved with additional duties, consisting of calls, public relations, and preparation for various responsibilities and meetings.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended numerous meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives and the Department of Commerce to compile information regarding various grant reports and requests, as well as working on marketing and advertising efforts involving online, print, and social media. This week's schedule also included preparing a presentation regarding Rutherford County and the economic development product and presenting it to representatives with the Economic Development Partnership of NC in Cary.

Finance Department

The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal:

- responded to a structure fire for a origin and cause investigation.
- participated in conference calls and planning for winter storm.
- attended reorganization meeting for Rutherford County Firefighters Association.
- attended meeting at Duke Energy regarding their coal ash plan.
- conducted follow up interviews on fire investigations.

Thank you to all firefighters, EMS, Law Enforcement officers, and telecommunicators who responded to distress calls and medical assists during last week's snow storm. (Pictured - Whiteside Road, Rutherfordton)



Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director participated in JCPC monitoring, hosted Liberty National, and was part of panel interviews for EMS. Current vacancies are: Code Enforcement Officer. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library



Rutherford County Libraries Host Amnesty Month in February

Fees will be waived on all overdue books that are returned undamaged and shelf-ready to the library. For those who have already returned borrowed materials but owe outstanding fines, half of these fees will be canceled if payment for the other half is made during the amnesty period.

Library continued from page 3

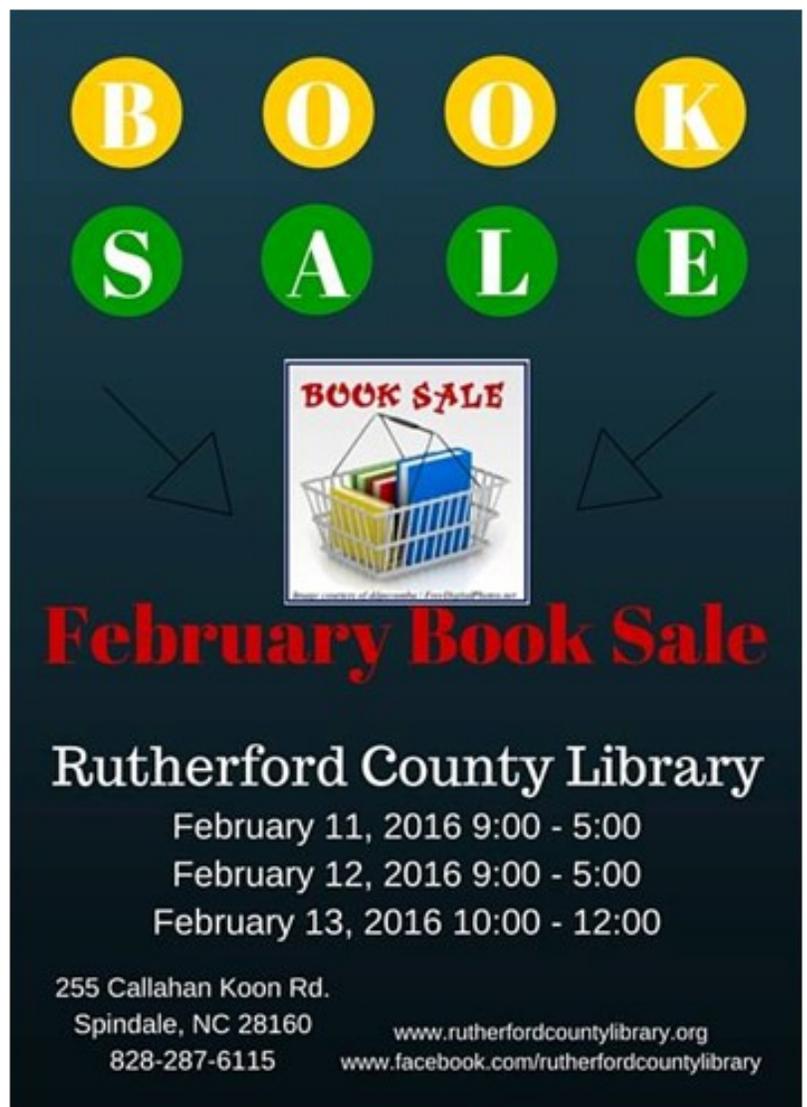
Rutherford County Library – Stephanie Long: On Wednesday, the Circulation Manager met with a representative from Recorded Books to discuss new digital offerings for libraries. On Thursday, the Circulation Manager, along with the rest of the Library Staff Team, met with Dr. Robert Burgin to identify library service priorities based on input from the Community Team and responses to the community survey. The Staff Team also worked on developing goals and objectives for the library's strategic plan. On Friday, the Circulation Manager met with the Library Director and the IT Specialist to finish completing the assessment worksheet of Benchmarks for the Library Edge Initiative.

Mountains Branch Library – Joy Sharp: Branch Manager, Joy Sharp, attended the quarterly Library Board of Trustees meeting, as well as a staff meeting to work on the library's 5-Year Strategic Plan. Joy also added lots of new books and DVDs to our collection. Joy Sharp and Angie Turner registered for online training through the state library system to update NC Live reference skills. The library hosted a Kids' Crafternoon where several types of bird feeders were created.

Rutherford County Library – Maria Davis: Programming continues to grow as new activities are added monthly. If there is anything you would like to see happen at the Library, please call Maria at 287-6118.

- Common Sense Couponing, 2/5/16 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Learn how to use coupons to save money on virtually everything. Please call 287-6118 to reserve your spot.
- Valentine Craft, 2/6/16 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Craft open to all ages. Valentine's Scrabble Tile Craft and yarn craft. Free of charge. No signup necessary.
- Meet and Eat Book Club will meet again 2/10/16 at 3:00. Bring an appetizer and be prepared to talk about your current read.
- Adult Coloring Session, 2/17/16 at 4:00 p.m. The newest rage is adult coloring and oh, what fun it is!!!! Join us to color on provided coloring sheets with our markers, crayons, and colored pencils.

It is time for another **Book Sale!** Our back room is PACKED with books just waiting to go home with Y-O-U!!! February 11 to 13, 2016 at the Rutherford County Library. This is a GREAT time to stock your home or classroom library! Call 828-287-6115 if you have questions.



BOOK SALE

February Book Sale

Rutherford County Library

February 11, 2016 9:00 - 5:00
February 12, 2016 9:00 - 5:00
February 13, 2016 10:00 - 12:00

255 Callahan Koon Rd.
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6115

www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
www.facebook.com/rutherfordcountylibrary

Public Works and Planning

As inclement weather arrived, the Director and Project Manager were busy maintaining safe conditions. Several meetings were planned through the week involving research and reporting to include capital facilities plan funding strategy, vehicle replacement planning, solar development ordinance and projects, updates on several projects, in addition to preparation for the Commissioners' Board meeting on February 1. 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

Thank you to all the county employees that had to get out during the storm. Several of our staff will be working with Farragut on the user acceptance training next week. This will be the next phase before going live with our software transfer.

Reminder: This will be the last week to list personal property on time for the 2016 listing period. Information will be late after January 31st. Contact our office if you have questions. **PERSONAL PROPERTY** includes boats, single-wide mobile homes, untagged motor vehicles, farm equipment used for income, machinery and equipment for a business. **REAL PROPERTY** (house and land) has already been listed.

Collection's has been busy working on bank drafts, arrangements and foreclosures. Also, taxpayers wanting to pay on their 2016 taxes can do so by calling the office and asking about prepayments. The Revenue Department has had many calls asking about information on the Tag and Taxing process. We have had no changes, but **DMV** has increased their charges. Example: Regular registration sticker fees have gone from \$28 to \$36.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	612
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	46
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	18
Total Taxes Collected	\$279,792.89

Senior Center

The Senior Center operated on a delayed schedule on Monday and opened at 10:00 a.m. for activities only. The Senior Center hosted the third class of “Living Healthy with Diabetes” on Tuesday. This is a six week series of workshops that help participants take control of their diabetes rather than it controlling them. Topics include: managing symptoms, communicating more effectively with your doctor and other health care professionals, lessening your frustration, eating healthier & reading nutrition labels, fighting fatigue and pain, making daily tasks easier, and getting more out of life. The seniors also enjoyed craft time on Tuesday making a snowman bracelet and a snowflake ornament. On Wednesday, we had an interactive activity called “M & M Conversations” with discussion on different topics while they enjoyed some M & M’s. The Senior Center also hosted a Biscuit Sale on Thursday that was rescheduled from last Friday due to inclement weather. All proceeds will benefit the Activity department. Seniors also enjoyed one of the Center’s favorite games—a rousing game of chair volleyball (pictured right and below)!



The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program will begin on Thursday, February 4th. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 50 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 15th. Remember to bring the following:

- Picture ID
- Proof of Social Security number(s) for yourself and ALL dependents
- Copy of 2014 tax return(s)
- All 2015 tax documents
- Bank account information for direct deposit-will need to see an actual check
- Health insurance information-proof of insurance, Form 1095 if received



Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on February 1 and 8



Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's 2015 Yearly Report	
Calls for Service	53,570
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	2,663/2,387
Domestic Calls	2,261
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	431/336.45 Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served	3,561
Ex parte Served	270
Evictions	153
Animals Pickup/Surrender	2,235
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	1,660
Animal Control Calls for Service	2,633
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	2,187/245
Pill Drop Collections	64,652.2 Doses Units/7,858.14 ml Liquids
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	172
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	1,838
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	872
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	3/48.0 Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	186/249.0 Man Hrs.
Litter Control Calls/Cases Assigned/Closed	156/137/127

Social Services

2016 is already proving to be a busy year for the Department of Social Services with many changes on the horizon. Numerous interviews have been conducted for vacant positions, and there have been many meetings concerning new projects, initiatives, and changes that are effective for 2016.

Earlier this month, the Director and Mrs. Kandi Bridges, Economic Services Administrator, met with Mr. Laney Honeycutt and Ms. Yanet Cisneros with RPM Health Department concerning McDowell Access to Care & Health (MATCH) Program. They are pursuing a grant to expand the program to Rutherford County. This expansion would allow MATCH to provide CHIP and Medicaid outreach and enrollment services to Rutherford County children and their families.

Mrs. Amanda McGee, Social Work Program Manager, attended a statewide meeting in Raleigh regarding the state Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). North Carolina is currently developing a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in several areas of federal child welfare guidelines. This translates to several policy changes and effects the way that we conduct much of our business. Mrs. McGee is serving on a work group to help develop the PIP.

The Director, Program Manager, and some Adult Services staff attended a meeting in Raleigh about NC FAST (North Carolina Accessing Services Through Technology), a statewide computer. Economic Services is already part of NC FAST and it will begin expanding to social work services later this year beginning with Children's Services.

A meeting was held with Carolina Home Care staff to discuss In Home Aide Services that are contracted out to CHC. The Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team met at DSS on January 19th and the DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on the 20th with all board member in attendance.

On Tuesday of this week, the Director, SW Program Manager, along with the County Manager and Finance Director, met with Smoky Mountain staff to discuss mental health services in Rutherford County. Also this week, DSS staff met with Smoky Mountain staff regarding intensive services that will be offered for children and families on site by Youth Villages. We are excited about these services and believe that it will have a huge impact on reunifying children with their family.

Welcome new employee Mrs. Sarah Miller.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on District Meeting minutes and Notices.
- continued working on plans for the District Awards Banquet.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week preparing contracts.
- met with land owners.
- prepared presentations for the banquet.

Solid Waste

Customers served 210
Loads hauled from convenience centers 30
Loads shipped to Lenoir 23
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2
Tire customers 11
Community service workers 2
Community service reports 1

The Solid Waste Department spent a lot of the week dealing with the inclement weather. Staff scraped and cleaned the landfill, assisted animal control with snow removal, and then moved to the airport to shovel bad areas on the sidewalks. Thanks to all the staff for their hard work during this time.

The director met with the state inspectors at the old Avondale landfill. The director has been busy researching prices for the new budget at the airport. Also, he has been trying to develop a plan for the Solid Waste Department due to the state cuts in funding for the tire and white goods program.

Office staff has assisted customers and worked on reports. The transfer station staff has been busy handling all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. C&D staff continue to work with their tonnages coming in and hauling dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy fixing equipment and performing preventative maintenance. The shop staff began fixing some containers that were in need of repair. We have received a truck donation that will be used by the shop staff. Work continues to be performed at the airport when needed. We would like to welcome Zac Crowder to the Solid Waste staff.

Please remember to recycle!!!!

Tourism Development Authority

Bechtler Snowman with “Mint” Eyes!

(Photos submitted by Taylor Hardin, TDA.)



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Staff worked around the clock covering emergency needs during our winter storm. Employees did an outstanding job in the care they provided, in spite of the circumstances. Several informal meetings have been held to debrief on the winter storm and brainstorm ways to make improvements to our working conditions and response levels. Management conducted numerous interviews for supervisor positions. Director called and visited most of the skilled nursing and assisted living facilities to provide compliance updates. The monthly drug/alcohol random test was conducted.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	157	168
Convalescent Calls	21	59

Transit Department:

Operations Manager and Office Coordinator conducted several job interviews for part-time drivers to fill a vacant positions. Transit Director has submitted required Quarterly OpStat report to NCDOT. The monthly drug/alcohol random test was conducted.

We would like to thank all of our employees for their dedication to their jobs during the snow and ice. Each one was willing to do whatever necessary to provide our services to the citizens and performed the task safely for all passengers that were transported. Transit numbers reflect our loss of two days of operation and the cancellation of trips by our passengers because of weather.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	5,756	9,566
# of Local Trips	667	881
# of Out of County Trips	45	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	175	238
Total Revenue	\$8,850	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	38
Mail Out	26
Fax	135
Phone Calls In/Out	51
Veteran Contacts	83



County News

Paint It Up.... back by popular demand!



Relay for Life Fundraiser

Date/Time: Thursday, February 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Location: County Office Kitchen Auditorium
289 N. Main St., Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Cost: \$20 per person

Includes all materials plus pizza and drinks.

Any questions contact Alma 287-6125 or Jeanette 287-6211

There are a few extra Relay long sleeve T shirts available. Pink 2XL, Blue Large, and two Blue XL. Email if interested. They are \$12 each and \$14 for 2XL. Thanks as always for your support!!

Jeanette Bosgra

Rutherford County Finance

jeanette.bosgra@rutherfordcountync.gov

(828) 287-6211

LIVE FREE, SMOKE-FREE

6-week Smoking Cessation program

Live Free, Smoke Free is a course designed to help participants end addiction to tobacco. This 6-week course meets three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The course incorporates a multi-disciplinary approach addressing the most difficult challenges for those who have decided to quit smoking. Participants will develop new healthy habits to assist them in transitioning to a smoke-free life.

The course is taught by a Smoking Cessation Facilitator certified through the American Lung Association and who is also a Registered Respiratory Therapist and Respiratory Care Practitioner.

Participants will meet weekly with a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist, and exercise will be incorporated into each session.

Physician referalls are **not** required to participate in this program.

Program cost is **\$40** for the entire 6-week course.

Patients will be required to sign a waiver before beginning the program.

The first 6-week course starts Monday, February 1, 2016.

To register, call:
Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab
(828) 286-5053
or
(828) 286-5441



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL
HEALTH SYSTEM

Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab



Sunday 1/31:

ROC group hike to Hawksbill Mountain (2 moderate miles) and Linville Falls (2 moderate/strenuous miles). **Meet at the County Annex in Rutherfordton (229 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 9 am to carpool. To register for this hike, contact Dana at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (864) 324-1188.**

- **Knot Tying 101** 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*.
- **Fly Fishing 101**. 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*.

Saturday, February 6th

Help ROC install a new trail in the Donald Ross Nature Park in Lake Lure. Meet at the Donald Ross parking lot at 12:30 pm. ROC will provide tools. Contact trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org to sign up to help.

Sunday, February 14th

ROC Race Series: Run for your Valentine 8k in Forest City. Register online at <http://rutherfordoutdoor.org/outdoor-activities/raceseries/valentine>.

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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