



February 15, 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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Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

The County Director attended all elementary schools, recognizing winners. **Pictured:** Farm City 4th graders poster contest



Agriculture/Coop Extension continued from page 1

Jeff Bradley, County Director and Rutherford County Cattlemen attended Southern Farm Show in Raleigh (pictured below).



Family and Consumer Programming:

- participated in a nutrition webinar featuring new research on food buying habits
- taught Living Healthy with Diabetes class at the Senior Center.
- taught Color Me Healthy preschool nutrition classes at Forrest Hunt Elementary and Carver Center.
- met with Family Resources staff to discuss Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

4-H members were recognized at an annual 4-H Achievement program on February 1, 2016. 4-H members were recognized for their work during the 2015 year, including 4-H Projects, presentations, and other activities.

Outstanding 4-H Member Awards went to: Zaida Cilone (Young Junior), Tela Swafford (Junior), Clayton Cilone (Young Senior), and Savannah Bell (Senior).

The Horizon Award went to Emily Gibson. Cloverbud Awards went to Rowan Maishman and Emma Sisk.

Project Champions were: Zaida Cilone, Melody Maishman, Emily Gibson, Brooklyn Breedlove, Madison Breedlove, Keelen Ruppe, Savannah Bell, Joah Bickley, Clayton Cilone, Autumn Corbin, Emma Cobin, Odina Corbin, Tela Swafford,

The "I Dare You" Leadership Award was presented to Savannah Bell.

The Presidential Service Awards presented to youth for their Community Service hours in 2015 went to: Clayton Cilone, Savannah Bell, Tela Swafford, Odina Corbin, Emma Corbin, Autumn Corbin, Brooklyn Breedlove, Madison Breedlove, Mackenzie Malone. These youth contributed 1,069 hours (combined) of community service to helping others and making their world a better place.

Board of Elections

The March Primary was thrown into a chaos on Friday when two congressional districts were declared unconstitutional and all congressional elections were put on hold until the districts are redrawn. The State is appealing the decision but our office has been told at this time to continue forward with the election as we normally would. We are in the process of testing the equipment which is not normally done during cold weather! Manuals and PowerPoint's are being prepared for the beginning of poll worker training next week. In the first nine days of February we have processed 98 new voters and 508 changes of information.

Pictured right is testing equipment.



Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department has written 45 permits this week totaling \$595,634 worth of work, two of which are new houses. We have issued five Certificates of Occupancy, and are continuing to review plans for the new solar farm on Ferry Road. We have conducted 131 inspections. Caleb is still recovering from his knee surgery and plans to return to work on Monday. We also excited to have a new inspector starting on that same day!

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager, Commissioners, and staff were very involved in a number of 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 County Manager also met with the County Attorney regarding various projects.

The Chairman and County Manager met with the Rural Economic Development for a roundtable discussion regarding development of a "tool-box" of best practices for rural elected officials, rural Chambers of Commerce and economic developers to use to improve prosperity for all North Carolinians. All of the research and information gained from the meetings will be compiled and put into a report from the NC Chamber Foundation detailing the rural challenge.

This week, a productive meeting was held in regards to the architectural work for the jail addition. Also, Vice Chairman Alan Toney and County Manager had a Farmer's Market meeting with several board members to discuss future plans. Rails to Trails Committee gathered at the Commissioners' Room on Wednesday. Chairman King and Manager Garrison attended an event at ICC Foundation Performing Arts Center announcing Rutherford County as a Work Ready Community. Chairman King accepted the certificate on behalf of the county (**pictured on page 4**). Commissioner Michael Benfield attended a LEADERSHOP which consisted of a two-day Essentials of Municipal Government, including a LeaderShop for Veteran Elected Officials. Topics were about leading change.

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

Rutherford County - NCWorks Certified Work Ready Community

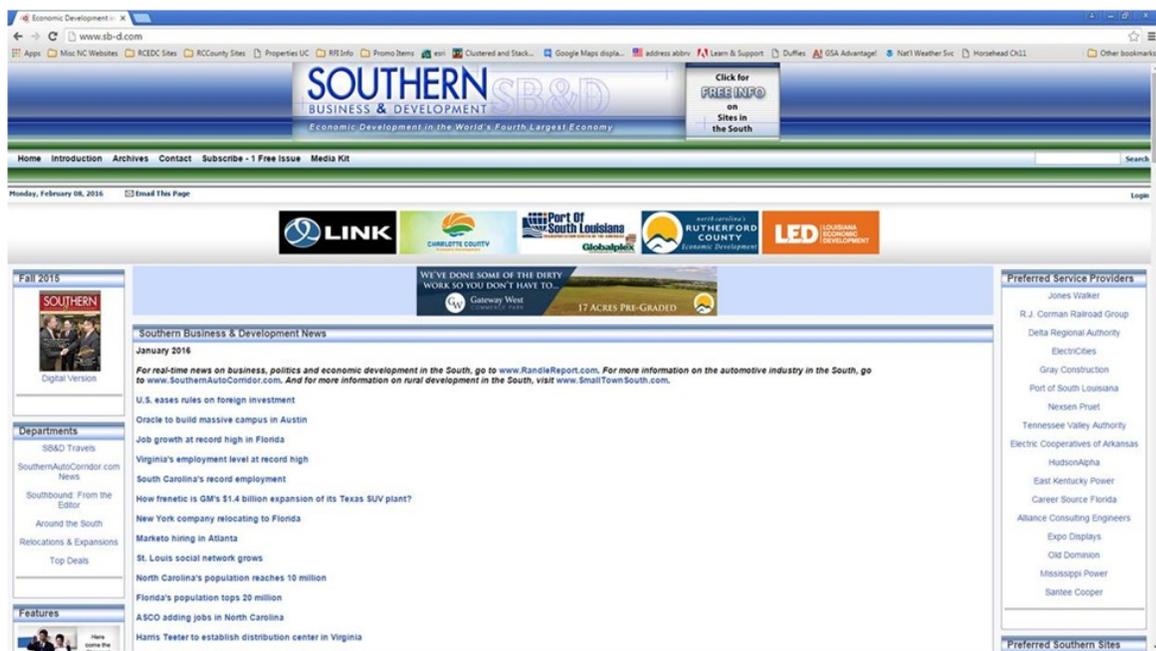


An announcement event was held February 10th at the ICC Foundation Performing Arts Center lobby recognizing Rutherford County for becoming a certified Work-Ready Community. County Manager Steve Garrison was in attendance, along with Chairman Bryan King who accepted the certificate on behalf of the county .

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department participated in miscellaneous meetings with county departments and industry allies, in addition to attending the NC Chamber meeting held at Trelleborg, as well as the NCWorks Certified Work Ready Community celebration held at Isothermal Community College. Staff continues to follow up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, preparing for the monthly EDC Board Meeting, working with industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and updating content on the EDC and Gateway West Commerce Park websites. This week's schedule also included digital advertisements for Rutherford County EDC and Gateway West Commerce Park going live on Southern Business & Development's Website, www.SB-D.com.

Below is a screen shot of our EDC logo and banner ad. NOTE: When visiting the SB&D's website, the ads rotate, so you may need to refresh your browser a few times to have our logo/banner ad appear.



In addition to the online advertising, print advertisements have been arranged for SB&D's upcoming Winter 2016 to be published late March/early April, and Summer 2016 to be published late September/early October issues.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- participated in a regional exercise with Rutherford, Polk McDowell County Health Department.
- assisted fire departments with grant applications.
- attended various meetings.
- participated in North Carolina Emergency Management Association committee activities.
- received a portable message board purchased with Homeland Security funding.

Finance Department

The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and began working on the upcoming payroll. Budget packages are distributed and due back to Finance on March 7th. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director met with several department heads this week, continued receiving performance review information, received HR budget forms for FY2016-17, conducted a phone conference with Becky Veazy and conducted interviews.

The HR Specialist conducted the monthly new hire orientation. Welcome new hires, Mark Hudson, Jr, (p/t EMS), Jessica Keever (DSS), Donald Christianson (p/t Sheriff), Meghan McAuliffe (p/t EMS), and Tracy Ray (DSS). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Janet Solomon (retired DSS), Wayne Guffey (retired Sheriff), --Congratulations on your Retirement! Vickie Fenner (DSS), Heather Kennedy (DSS), Joy Chapman (DSS), and Robert Laney, Jr. (Sheriff). Employment opportunities are Director of Tourism Authority. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

We wish everyone a Happy Valentines Day!

Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health Department

Clinical Updates

In an effort to raise Cervical Cancer awareness, the Rutherford County Health Department continues to motivate and encouraging women to have their Pap Test. At the Health Department, we offer free or low-cost cervical cancer screening and follow-up to eligible women up to 64 years of age.



Remember, EARLY detection is your BEST protection! According to North Carolina's State Center for Health Statistics, nearly 386 women in North Carolina were diagnosed with Cervical Cancer in 2015 and 125 died of the disease. It is estimated that half of those deaths are due to lack of screening. When cervical cancer is discovered early, it is one of the most treatable cancers.

Environmental Health

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District has partnered with the NC Radon program and is continuing to provide FREE short-term radon test kits while supplies last. A limited supply of radon test kits are still available locally at the Rutherford County Health Department Environmental Health Office at 221 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale, NC 28160 from 8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in obtaining a kit is encouraged to come by. Should you need additional assistance please call 828-287-6317 or visit www.ncradon.org.

Each year upwards to 22,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer. Roughly 54 percent of those diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer are expected to live no more than five years after diagnosis.



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.

Haynes Library: Our weekly storytime is growing. Also, we have three home school groups that use our Library twice a week for lessons. We hosted the kindergarten class from Cliffside this week also. We also proctored test for two students.

Mountains Library hosted the Genealogy Club this week, as well as a Kids Valentine CrafterNoon. Joy Sharp continued to work on an online Grant Writing 101 course. She also made contacts to arrange for a speaker for the next Genealogy Club meeting. Angie Turner assisted a patron with online job applications, and worked on an updated list of DVD titles.

Rutherford County Library now has 1040, 1040-A, and 1040-EZ Forms and Instructions available in the lobby for patrons to pick up. To request other federal tax forms, please visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-3676. The North Carolina Department of Revenue is no longer sending tax forms to public libraries. To request state tax forms, please visit www.dornrc.com/forms/order.html or call 1-877-252-3052. April Young, Library Director, continues to work on the fiscal budget for next year. Maria Davis, Marketing, continues to work on programming. The Valentine's Day Craft was a success with approximately 10 people participating (**pictured below**).



of Directors to familiarize them with what we have to offer. Also gained approval for the placement for one of the Little Libraries donated by Rutherford County Woodworkers and the Visual Arts Guild.

The February Book Sale begins Thursday, February 11 and runs through Saturday, February 13. Come on out for all your book needs! Our next activity is an Adult Coloring Session on Wednesday, February 17 at 4:00. All materials will be provided.

Revenue Department

Go live on the new CAMA system should be next week. If you delays when looking at property on the web-site just bear with us through the change.

Farragut has been in the office doing some last minute spot training with the appraisal staff before we go live next week.

One staff member will be in school this week in Hickory at the IAAO 551 class on valuation of machinery and equipment.

Collection's has issued 100 garnishments are working on several IN REM or in-house foreclosures. The appraisal department has been out working on informal appeals this week along with some of the December permits.

Transfer department has printed 58 deeds for January. They had to stop this process so Farragut could get a good file for transferring data.

Thank you to all the staff for working so hard to make the January listing period a smooth process.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	465
<u>Information/Data Requests</u>	2
<u>Website Hits</u>	159,497
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	8
Deeds Recorded	58
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	26

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from Carolina Home Care conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. Forty-two clients took advantage of this service. The Senior Center hosted the fifth 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. In recognition of National Chocolate Month, the seniors baked chocolate cookies and played "Chocolate" Bingo on Tuesday. On Wednesday our Pen Pals met and wrote in their books and made special valentines for the 3rd graders at Spindale Elementary. The seniors also enjoyed craft time on Thursday making a Valentine bracelet and necklace. Lastly, on Friday the Senior Center will host a Valentine's Dance from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Upcoming:

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program began 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

During Random Acts of Kindness Week, reach out to your neighbor and to someone you don't know and make them feel special. Resolve to spread kindness and understanding and to be the best person you can be by participating in simple and random acts of kindness. Some examples include:

- paying for someone else's meal
- volunteering or donating to a local charity
- smile at everyone you pass
- buy something for the person in line behind you
- visit someone who is lonely

The possibilities are endless to help others and to make a positive difference!

Annala Ezell, Director

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's October 2015 Report	
Calls for Service	4,390
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	219/144
Domestic Calls	163
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	36/25.0 Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served	380
Ex parte Served	20
Evictions	12
Animals Pickup/Surrender	131
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	78
Animal Control Calls for Service	369
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	159/28
Pill Drop Collections	16,559 Doses Units/677.5 ml Liquids
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	156
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	181
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	112
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	3/4.0 Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	183/18.0 Man Hrs.
Litter Control Calls/Cases Assigned/Closed	6/9/0
Promotions	
Effective January 4, 2016	
Dep. Bob Davis, Road Patrol	CPL/SRO ICC
Mark Quinn, Detention Officer	Cpl/Detention
Effective February 1, 2016	
Brian Gooch, Cpl/Road Patrol	Detective
New Full-Time	
Effective December 21, 2015	
Chris Wilson	Dep/Road Patrol
Effective January 4, 2016	
Jamor Logan	Detention Officer
Effective January 18, 2016	
Brian Scoggins	Dep/Courthouse Security
Kevin Ruppe	Ptl/Civil
Caleb Buitron	Ptl/Road Patrol
Joseph McComas	Ptl/Road Patrol
Other Changes	
Effective December 31, 2015	
Captain Sonny Chapman	Retired (Congratulations!)
Effective December 28, 2015	
Steven James, Ptl/Road Patrol	Detention Officer
Effective February 1, 2016	
Philip Bailey, Detective	Retired (Congratulations!)
Effective March 1, 2016	
Stephen Ellis, Sgt/Road Patrol	Lateral/Sgt/Warrants

"In God We Trust"

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office is in the process of displaying our Nation's motto, "In God We Trust", on all of its marked patrol vehicles. Due to the generosity of Fairview Baptist Church in Golden Valley, funding for this project is covered and the church stated it would continue to fund as new marked vehicles were added to the fleet.

In light of this project, listed below are a few of the positive comments Rutherford County has received from here and across the nation:



Thought your putting the "In God we trust" motto on your patrol cars was great. I certainly hope that God will protect you all as you perform your duties.

*I don't live anywhere near NC and I am not a religious nut but I had to write to say...
Thank you for standing up for what you believe in! I am so sick of these people changing the values our country was founded on. God bless America
L.
Melbourne, FL*

R.G. (RC resident) called and expressed appreciation to the Commissioners, Law Enforcement staff and County Manager for their support in having the national motto 'In God We Trust' displayed on our buildings and vehicles.



*The least I can do is thank you for allowing our nation's motto, 'In God We Trust', be put on our buildings and Sheriff's patrol cars.
Thank you so much.
L.B.
Rutherford County*

Thank you Sheriff Francis for bring attention to the most important statement ever made by a public servant. President Eisenhower recognized that this should be on all currency and had it enacted into law. Thank you for having the courage to remind all of us that our country's motto is IN GOD WE TRUST.
THANKS
L.B.
Lesage, WV 25537

*...and may He keep your officers safe.
Regards,
S.K.
Houston, TX
GeoSystems*

Thank you for allowing our nation's motto be put on our Courthouse. I'm proud to be part of this county.
B.V.
Rutherford County

Sgt. Martin Receives Advanced Professional Certificate

On 2-10-16, Sheriff Chris Francis congratulated Sgt. Tim Martin for receiving the Advanced Professional Certificate.

The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission awarded Sgt. Martin with the Advanced Professional Certification.

The Advanced Professional Certificate is the highest level of professional certification issued by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission to deputy sheriffs.

The Advanced Professional Certificate is awarded to deputies who have completed the required years of service, professional training and continuing education.

In Sgt. Martin's letter recognizing his accomplishment, Attorney General Roy Cooper, wrote, "I extend my most sincere congratulations to you on award of this Advanced Professional Certificate and the honor which it bestows upon you. As a recipient of this prestigious award, you have placed yourself among the "ELITE" of law enforcement officers in the state of North Carolina."

Sheriff Francis commented on Sgt. Martin accomplishment, "It is an honor to present Sgt. Martin with the Advanced Professional Certificate. Sgt. Martin continues to demonstrate dedication to his chosen profession".

Sgt. Martin has over 10 years experience in law enforcement and is currently a Sergeant with the Criminal Interdiction Team.

Contact Information:
LT. LEON GODLOCK
Support Service
828-287-6395

leon.godlock@rutherfordcountync.gov

For full details, [view this message on the web.](#)



Social Services

The Director and other staff attended regularly scheduled meetings including the Community Health Council, NC FAST Conference Call, Economic Services Committee Meeting, and the Statewide DSS Director's Conference Call. DSS Attorney, Josh Howell, attended the DSS Attorney's Conference at the UNC-CH School of Government this week. The Director, Income Maintenance Administrator, and Medicaid Supervisors met



with leadership from Blue Ridge Community Health to discuss placement of a Medicaid eligibility worker at the Rutherford Community Health Center. Law requires that a worker be located at hospitals and federally recognized health centers. The clinic and DSS currently work together to ensure that patients are assisted in applying for Medicaid, but are looking to expand this in the most effective and efficient way.



This week the Director was in Raleigh to attend a State/County Relations Meeting and the statewide DSS Director's meeting. On Tuesday he attended a Lean event regarding the Transitions to Community Living Initiative.



Lean is a set of principles, tools and techniques for improving the operating performance of a business. This event focused on changing the Medicaid County of Origin and how it relates to the Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI), including what is working well, what needs to be improved and what is

missing from this process. TCLI focuses on transitioning mentally ill consumers from facilities to more independent or less restrictive environment.

Last Friday DSS showed support for the Carolina Panthers and their quest to win the Super Bowl by wearing their favorite team shirts (most, of course, were Panther shirts). The Income Maintenance Division also held a soup and chili lunch (**pictured above**).

Revonda Herring, a front desk staff person in Income Maintenance, was named Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2016. Revonda always greets consumers in a friendly and positive manner, and makes every effort to ensure that they get the services that they need (**pictured right**). Thanks Revonda!



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- presented Farm City Poster Contest award at TJCA
- worked on getting District Contest entries ready for the Area judging.
- worked on Watershed Maintenance information
- attended a Cost Share Program Workshop in Waynesville.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- met with land owners to sign contracts.
- worked with IT, GIS, and administrative staff to make EAP's available to dam safety, EMS, and NRCS.
- attended a Cost Share update meeting in Waynesville.

Solid Waste

Customers served 321

Loads hauled from convenience centers 53

Loads shipped to Lenoir 32

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 30

Community service workers 5

Community service reports 1

The director has been busy this week with the budget process, several meetings with HR and trying to get grants completed for next year. Also the director has been receiving price quotes for the next budget year. The office staff has been busy with normal operating activities while helping with the grants. The transfer station staff has been busy processing the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in while performing early spring cleaning around the transfer station.

Our state inspector has been on site this week to perform our transfer station inspection and everything went well with no violations. The C&D staff has been busy processing the tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy fixing hydraulic lines on the track loader and the parts have arrived for the track hoe. The shop staff has also performed regular preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles. They also had to fix a couple of leaks at the convenience center sites.

The airport staff has been busy dealing with fire ants that are getting into the runway lights and they have also seeded a couple of areas at the central landfill. I have received several compliments this week that deal with how good the airport and convenience centers look. We are setting up a training session for the convenience center staff and the training will be partially covered by a grant. We have been asked to participate in the science expo day at Isothermal Community College in April in which all 6th graders will attend. This is another great way to educate young kids on the importance of recycling. On Thursday the staff will give a local class a tour of the recycling facility.

Please continue to recycle!!!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Director turned in budget requests to HR, IT, Communications and Maintenance. Community Paramedic, Amanda Shires and Director Giles attended the Readmissions Team meeting at RRMC. EMS and RRMC are working in conjunction to target high risk patients that could benefit from follow up care from EMS. EMS is in the process of planning several community and school events to inform citizens of services EMS provides. EMS is pleased to announce several new promotions. Congratulations to Major Phillip Hill who has been named the new Non Emergency Division Supervisor, Captain Tammy McCrory who has been named the new Training Officer and Major Jennifer Mooney who has been named as a new Shift Supervisor.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	116	168
Convalescent Calls	21	59

Transit Department:

Director turned in budget requests to HR, IT, Communications and Maintenance. Community Paramedic, Amanda Shires and Director Giles attended the Readmissions Team meeting at RRMC. EMS and RRMC are working in conjunction to target high risk patients that could benefit from follow up care from EMS. EMS is in the process of planning several community and school events to inform citizens of services EMS provides. EMS is pleased to announce several new promotions. Congratulations to Major Phillip Hill who has been named the new Non Emergency Division Supervisor, Captain Tammy McCrory who has been named the new Training Officer and Major Jennifer Mooney who has been named as a new Shift Supervisor.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,959	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,096	881
# of Out of County Trips	103	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	225	238
Total Revenue	\$17,265	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	36
Mail Out	25
Fax	100
Phone Calls In/Out	56
Veteran Contacts	112



County News



Sunday 2/14:

- ROC Race Series: Run for your Valentine 8k in Forest City
- Winter Bird Hike. 10 am at *Lake James State Park*. The hike will take place on the 2.25-mile Fox Den Loop Trail.
- Valentine's Day Special at *Chimney Rock State Park*: Buy 1 ticket at regular price and your sweetheart gets one free.
- Masked Bandits. 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*. Meet Ranger Amanda at the Visitor Center at 2:00 pm to learn a few myths and legends as well as fun facts about raccoons. All ages welcome!

***Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 20th:

ROC group hike to Bearwallow Mountain. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 10 am or the Ingles in Lake Lure at 10:30 am. Contact trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org to sign up for this hike.

Sunday, February 27th:

ROC Race Series: Box Creek Wilderness 10k in Union Mills. Register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/UnionMills/BoxCreekWilderness5k10kRun>



A HEART'S BLESSING

Join us for lunch and help bless the hearts of children and families in need. Proceeds benefit the PATH Shelter, Noah's House and the Clara Allen Family Center.

Eat-in, take-out or delivery (minimum delivery order required)

February 18th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
First Baptist Church, Forest City

Pre-orders appreciated.

Chick-fil-A Sandwich
Chips
Cookies
Drink
Tea

[CLICK HERE](#) for order form or email shbright_fr@bellsouth.net

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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www.rutherfordcountync.gov

Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor
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