



February 2, 2015

Weekly Report

A 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

County Extension Director:

- Continued to conduct Agricultural lessons with 4th Graders in various Rutherford County Schools highlighting the importance of agriculture to our everyday lives. These programs are a piece of the Farm/City Program.
- Worked with cattle producers to process cattle for sale on Mountain Cattle Alliance loads in February and March. The Mountain Cattle Alliance in our 4-county region sold and shipped 13 loads in 2014 valued at 1.56 million dollars.
- Met with local group to discuss plans for opening an indoor Farmers' Market to supplement the seasonal outdoor market.
- Provided clients with technical assistance through phone calls, emails, office visits, and farm visits.

4-H Youth Development

- Rutherford County 4-H members celebrated their achievements for 2014 on Saturday, January 24 at the Extension Center.
- A total of 51 project record books were submitted by 4-H members of all ages. Topics ranged from Keeping Honeybees to Sewing, Electricity, Legos, Citizenship, and Community Service.
- Three members were recognized with a Presidential Service Award for completing over 100 community service hours each.
- New County Council officers were installed for 2015.



Agriculture/Cooperative Ext. continued from page 1

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Taught *Color Me Healthy* for preschoolers at Carver Center
- Conducted monthly radio program
- Worked with chair of Chronic Disease committee to prepare for 2015 projects
- Participated in state Extension all-employee webinar
- Hosted West District ECA Leadership Team quarterly meeting
- Completed end-of-month state reports
- Prepared for upcoming programs



Agriculture

- Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings for Rutherford producers
- Working toward completion of Agriculture Innovation & Solutions Center (AISC) Easibility Study
- AISC Committee Meeting
- Attended program with Secretary of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, regarding Historic Preservation Tax Credits
- Facility Assessment for value-added processing center - budget development/equipment needs
- Planning for Regional EMGV Training with Rutherford EMGV's hosting

Board of Elections

Election staff has been testing a new scanner to see if it works well with the State system. Our current scanner has been used for a number of years and we have no back up. Also, this week the Director has been busy preparing for the NC Association of Directors of Elections conference in March.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has had a great start to the new year. Permits and inspections continue to be increasing despite the time of year and weather. The office has issued 140 permits for a total of \$15,860 in fees and conducted 483 inspections. We have also started bi-annual public school inspections. The Director has been working closely with Solid Waste and the NC Health Hazards Control Unit on the asbestos abatement and the demolition of structures on the Edwards Farm near the airport as well as working with NC Emergency Management on revisions to the department flood plain administration procedures. The department continues to conduct inspections at the Tryon Equestrian Center under the inter-local agreement with Polk County. Plan review for the new Lake Lure Classical Academy school building has begun. The Director has also been working with the RPM Health Department and the NCDENR Division of Water Quality on recent code issues.

County Manager

The County Manager's busy week began by way of meetings with IT, Maintenance, Planning and Projects, Capital Facilities Planning Committee, and Economic Development. The week continued with additional duties, including numerous luncheons, meetings, including interoffice, various boards, and one-on-one meetings. A number of calls were addressed, as well as conference calls. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.

Clerk to the Board

The week has been busy as the agendas for the regular and special February 2 meetings, along with preparation of agendas for special meetings on January 29 and February 3.

Chairman Bryan King and Vice Chairman Alan Toney met with county staff to hear updates on Capital Facilities Planning and Economic Development on Monday.

Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney also met with officials of Isothermal Community College on Thursday at noon.

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday evening.

Commissioners Benfield and Holland met with county officials on Friday to discuss economic development at the Airport. Commissioner Benfield is chairman of the Airport Authority and Commissioner Holland is vice chairman.

The Clerk to the Board and the Administrative Assistant/Public Information Coordinator have participated in Granicus webinars this week, received/processed several records request, continued preparation for monthly and special meetings, and various administrative tasks.

The Board will meet for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 2 at 6:00 PM. A special meeting will be held on Monday at 5:00 PM.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Department made final preparations for and conducted an industrial prospect site visit. The department continues to be busy working on content for the 2014 Annual Report, following-up on multiple recruitment activities, attending various meetings, and reviewing the progress of grading at Gateway West Commerce Park. This week's schedule also involved a BR&E visit with Timken.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. Bids have been received for the FY14-15 Vehicle Lease Purchase Financing and have been submitted for approval at next week's Commissioners Meeting. The Finance Director attended the School of Government Capital Planning at Financing Course in Chapel Hill. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. W-2s have been distributed to the departments for all full-time staff and those for part-time or inactive employees have been mailed. The Finance Office would like to welcome Holly Kever to our team.



Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

- Responded to several woods fires and a structure fire to provide assistance in suppression efforts.
- Prepared documents for the expansion of the Danielstown fire service district.
- The Deputy Fire Marshal continued work on developing a resource inventory of fire department equipment, attended various meetings and performed maintenance on equipment.



Human Resources

Human Resource Director:

- held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.
- met with Solid Waste Director James Kilgo
- attended a staff meeting to review IT/Maintenance/HR needs for the upcoming budget year
- assisted with JCPC monitoring of Psychological Services
- attended a Special Board meeting

Job postings:

Part-time van driver/Transit
Part-time technician/Airport
County Manager

See postings and apply @ rutherfordcountync.gov.

On behalf of the Human Resource Department, Debra Conner thanks each employee for their dedication to Rutherford County.

Library

Library Director:

April attended a Library Consortium meeting and a Library Board of Trustee. In addition to firming up Maintenance and IT budget requests, April welcomed a new Branch Librarian, Joy Sharp, to Mountains Branch. And of course, there is the ongoing task of sorting through the weekly donations of books for the book sale.

Library IT:

We are exploring options for starting the library's first ever book club and we'd love to hear from all of you. Would you be interested in participating in a book club? Do you have a preference of doing it online or in person (or some combination of the two)? Feel free to comment on Facebook, send us a private message, or just stop by the library to find out more!

Haynes Branch:

Haynes did an outreach program at Cliffside School for 4th & 5th graders on Monday the 26th there were 46 students involved in the program. Library staff talked to the students about the services offered at the Library and handed out fliers about local resources and websites; focused mostly on NCLive and research resources.

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Branch Library welcomed a new Branch Librarian this month, Joy Sharp (*pictured on right*). Joy came onboard in the wake of April Young's promotion to Library Director. Joy was the former Children's Librarian and Youth Services Coordinator for Polk County.

"I am very passionate about the benefits and need for a strong public library system," says Joy. "Working in this community, with its diverse population, is really special. My goal is always to get EVERYONE in the community taking advantage of all the library has to offer."

Thanks to a generous gift from the Friends of the Library and the efforts of the Maintenance Department, Mountains Branch recently installed a new sliding shelving system for

their growing DVD collection. The shelving is a great improvement for housing all the DVD's in one place.



Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 81.75
Document stamps	6,263.00
Marriages	240.00
Recording fees	6,218.00
Vital statistics	750.00
Total	\$13,552.75

Public Works and Planning

The last week has been extremely demanding as we make final preparations for multiple agenda items to go before the Commissioners Monday. There will be several actions regarding Rail Trail improvements and use, along with Bid Tab results for the Southeastern Library, Bid Tab results for the Queens Gap Water service from Bond funding, and an update for the Capital Facilities Planning. In addition, we continue to be active guiding the improvement process in Greyrock, as well as Queens Gap. We participated in a National Park Services seminar which is the primary grant funds source for Overmountain Victory Trail projects such as Gilbertowne and Biggerstaff hanging property. Maintenance crews have been busy with grounds keeping and pruning the County's properties, and will continue to do so throughout the winter season. We have been very busy with preventative maintenance on HVAC as well as conservation efforts. The County's garage stays extremely busy working on vehicle repairs, tire service calls, accidents and the routine maintenance issues along with vehicle safety inspections. Due to delays with the contract vendor, replacing the hydraulic vehicle lift has been delayed until late February. However, despite the extra challenges of working without the primary bay, we have brought oil changes in house and the garage personnel are working very hard. They are doing a fantastic job! Meanwhile, the Southeastern EMS construction project has been delayed due to wet soils. The County attorney has begun to assist with prompting cleanup of Henson Rd. (NCDOT was to place clean fill but unacceptable materials have been included in the dumping.) NCDOT and DaVere are coordinating with the County for appropriate cleanup. Lastly, the Comprehensive Transportation Planning (CTP) met, with NCDOT at the lead and our input proved to be very valuable.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 5264 motor vehicle renewals and handled 62 VTS assists. The office answered 743 phone calls and assisted 537 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews, 3 pre-permits and answered 2 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 139 building permits and 251 field reviews. A total of 26 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 14 straits, 2 splits, and 3 acreage adjustments. GIS created 13 new maps. The GIS website had 179,947 hits and 121,038 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 6 new addresses, and updated 99 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 13 road signs. 54 appeals and 45 listings were received. 30 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program assisted 3 program members. Electronic payments consisted of 22 by credit card, 57 by website and 5 by phone. Staff processed 18 exclusions/deferments, 6 releases and 7 discoveries. Staff completed 2 gross receipts, 1 property bond, processed 123 items mailed in, 15 bankruptcy issues, and 150 bankruptcy payments. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 155 tax payments. 20 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Recipe Club met on Monday at the Senior Center to share their favorite slow cooker recipes. On Tuesday, the Senior Center hosted the first quarter SHIIP (Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program) training for all SHIIP counselors in Rutherford County. Catherine Palmer, Western Region Manager for SHIIP, provided the training. The Senior Center and all satellite sites were closed on Wednesday for staff training. All of our employees are required to have training each year on safety, aging, and job specific issues. Jamie Guillermo, Fire Chief at Spindale Fire Department, provided "Heart Saver First Aid" training, and Dr. Larry Hedgepath provided training on "Aging Issues" such as Alzheimer's, care giving and grief counseling. The seniors enjoyed "Use It or Lose It" on Thursday. 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.

Senior Center. continued from page 6

Upcoming: The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program will begin on Thursday, February 5th. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 60 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 10th. Remember to bring the following:

- Picture ID
- Proof of Social Security number(s) for yourself and ALL dependents
- Copy of 2013 tax return(s)
- All 2014 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

Social Services

The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting at the DSS Office with all five board members in attendance. In addition to the regular agenda items, the Board heard updates on the implementation of the Northwoods Case Management System for Children's Services. They were also made aware of updates on NC FAST, the new state system for Economic Services, and heard about possible legislation creating an independent Medicaid agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. On Thursday, Medicaid Transportation staff participated in the monthly Non-Emergency Medical Transportation call. The Director participated in a conference call on Friday with the other co-chairs of the Director's Association Adult Services Committee. DSS is pleased to announce that Merri Oxley has been selected to fill the newly established staff attorney position. She will be responsible for legal work for all DSS divisions, including Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Guardianship, Child Support and Program Integrity. Mary comes to the agency with many years experience as an attorney in Rutherford County, along with a great deal of legal work for human service agencies. She has been a contract attorney with the agency for several years. Jill Hamrick has been selected to serve as the legal assistant for Merri. Jill is a current employee at DSS, and has been involved in the legal process for Children's Services for several years. Merri and Jill will make a great team, and we are very excited about the opportunity to build the first legal department at DSS which will lower cost and improve the services provided to our consumers.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- attended the IT and Maintenance Budget meeting.
- worked on Watershed paperwork and met with Carl about Watershed paperwork.
- worked with Jeff Bradley to visit Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy to present Farm City poster awards and present a lesson to teach how important agriculture is in our everyday life.
- worked on plans for the District Awards Banquet.

The Ag Cost Share Technician spent the week working with Watershed Commission and County Manager on dam safety plans.

Solid Waste

The solid waste department stats for this week:

- Served 308 customers
- Hauled 56 loads from convenience centers
- Shipped 27 loads to Lenoir
- Shipped 2 recycling trailers to Conover
- 18 tire customers



Please continue to recycle!

The director attended various meetings, including the weekly meeting with Carl, the IT/Maintenance/HR meeting, and met with the HR director several times. The director is preparing information for the Commissioners meeting on Monday. The staff continues to perform everyday job duties. With the help of building inspections, the application for the removal of the Edwards house has been completed, and we will hire the asbestos company to remove the siding. The barns and sheds have been removed already. Next, we continue to perform work at the airport with inmates and community service workers. Textile recycling continues to grow and we will be adding bins next week in Spindale and Forest City at the towns request.

Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

- Active cases 9
- Closed cases 2
- Cameras out 1
- Letters sent 1
- Community Service workers 8
- Community Service reports 1

Transportation Services

Transportation Services:

EMS: This week EMS Personnel responded to 180 emergency calls and 67 convalescent calls. Administration met with IT to order new MDT's for vehicles. New contracts are also being drafted for non-emergency transportation services.

Transit: Transit drove 10,302 miles, completed 1,166 local trips and 111 out of county trips, transported 248 unduplicated passengers and collected \$18,112 in revenue. Administration met with URS consulting on the draft of the five year plan. Transit will also begin a new laundry shuttle service next week.

Airport

New marketing boards are on display at the airport terminal to advertise available hangar and business sites. *(Enlargement on pg 9)*



Rutherford County Transit will provide transportation to laundromats from February-June 2015. Based on usage, service may become a permanent service.

There is no charge for this transportation service.



Please call **287-6142** to set up an appointment.

Service is available Monday-Friday but must be scheduled between 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Laundry must fit safely on your lap and/or in the seat next to you.

Only one additional passenger may ride with you for this service and **MUST** be noted when you schedule your appointment.

Passengers are responsible for the cost of the washers and dryers at the laundromat.

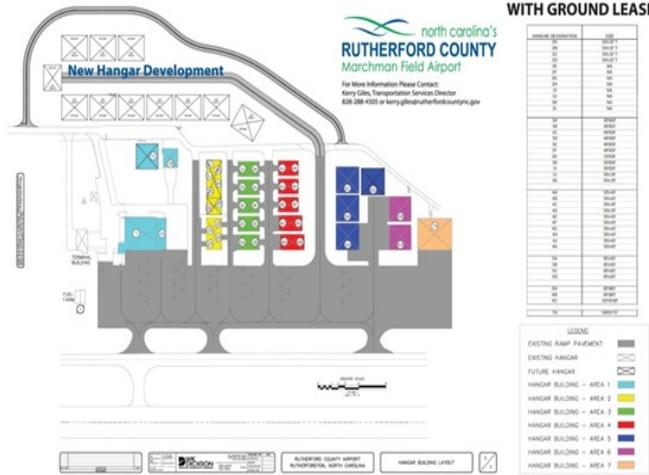
Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours ahead of time or passengers may not be allowed to ride the following month.



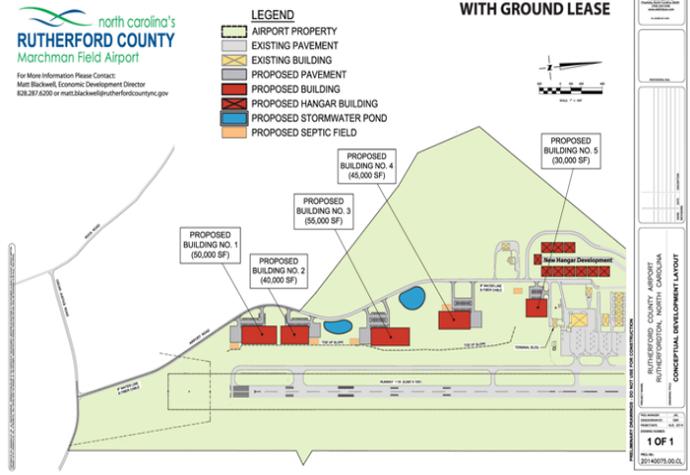
Airport continued:

A new brochure is also being developed per NCDOT Division of Aviation.

NEW HANGAR DEVELOPMENT SPACE AVAILABLE WITH GROUND LEASE



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SITES AVAILABLE WITH GROUND LEASE



Veterans Services

January 21-27, 2015 Activity Report
January 21-27, 2015 Activity Report

Mail In	66
Fax	55
Mail Out	126
Phone Calls In/Out	108
Veteran Contacts	217

County Commissioners

Bryan King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**
Greg Lovelace

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
Richard Williams, County Attorney



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