



February 22, 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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Did You Know????
Did You Know????



February 22nd is “National Cook a Sweet Potato Day”

Five food facts about sweet potatoes:

1. Sweet potatoes are the 6th most important food crop in the world.
2. Asia accounts for 90% of the world consumption of sweet potatoes.
3. George Washington Carver helped to develop the primary adhesive used for postage stamps from the mucilage (sticky film) of sweet potatoes.
4. Sweet potatoes are actually tuberous roots which are considered one of the worlds most nutritious foods in the vegetable kingdom.
5. Despite the physical similarities of yams and sweet potatoes, they actually are not even closely related. Yams are actually closely related to grasses and lilies.

So how can you celebrate? Well, you can simply go out to eat and hope that they have something on the menu that includes sweet potatoes, or of course, there is my secret Sweet Potato Pie recipe that is always my husband’s birthday request!

Kim Aldridge



Board of Elections

The elections office has been very busy processing new registrations and changes. The last day to register and vote at the polls on Election Day and the last day to make changes to your voter information is this Friday, February 19th. Work continues on testing the equipment and training poll workers. Hopefully, we will soon get direction on how to handle the Congressional Primary elections.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 25 permits, two of those are new house starts (Habitat for Humanity is starting a new house at their Hopeview Estates subdivision in Spindale) and conducted 117 inspections during the past week. We have issued 5 Certificates of Occupancy and welcomed one new inspector to the staff—Joey Turubiarte. Joey has a great deal of plumbing experience. We also welcome Caleb back after his knee surgery! The Director has been working on the upcoming year's budget and we are continuing plan review (along with the Planning Department) on a new solar farm.

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.

Mayors and Managers, along with other county leaders, met on Thursday for the quarterly meeting hosted by the town of Forest City. A special thanks to Town Manager John Condrey, Mayor Dennis Tarlton, and staff for a superb job organizing and hosting the meeting.



County Manager Steve Garrison, Vice Chairman Alan Toney, Danny Searcy, Director of Planning and Projects, and James Kilgo, Director of Solid Waste were among county leader attendees.

Manager Garrison delivered an effective PowerPoint presentation touching on strategic planning with goals of improving the quality of life in our towns, county and region (pictured above and left).



County Manager and Commissioners continued from page 2

The Economic Development Commission met on Wednesday. Also, a Grant Opportunities meeting was scheduled on Wednesday at IPDC. The ARC Grant Committee gathered on Tuesday for the monthly implementation conference call. On Wednesday, the Manager met with the Health Department director to discuss the Health Center budget.

Several monthly council meetings were this week, including Forest City, Spindale, and Chimney Rock.

County Manager, Commissioners and staff extend condolences to Jai (IT Department) and Katie Doherty (Revenue Department) in the passing of their son, Drew. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to an industrial RFI and held the monthly EDC Board Meeting at the County Annex.

Staff continues to be busy working with the Department of Commerce and existing industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests, and working on marketing and advertising efforts including increasing our social media presence.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- responded to assist Spindale Fire Department with a structure fire.
- responded to two missing person searches.
- participated in law enforcement training.
- monitored weather conditions for Monday and made appropriate preparations.
- assisted several citizens with concerns about flooding.
- continued to assist fire department with State grant applications.

Finance Department

The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and 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 and HR Specialist attended the HR Association meeting where the topic was “New Rules for OSHA”. The Director met with Ms. Susan Hall, the new Director of the Veterans Office on Wednesday. A reception will be planned to officially introduce Ms. Hall to County staff. Employment opportunities are Director of Tourism Authority. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Stephanie Long, Circulation Manager continues to work on shifting books from the County Library to the Haynes Library, ordering AV materials for all libraries in addition to working with the staff group on the Strategic Planning document.

April Young, Director continues to work on library budget, order new materials for all three libraries, and process Large Print books that were purchased with funds donated from the Chase Lions Club to the Haynes library,

Kenneth Odom, Technology Resources Librarian: Maker Monday continues to go well and Teen Tech Thursday continues to grow in the number of attendees. The Middle School Maker Club created 2 new Stop Motion videos that will be available soon on the library website. The 3D Design and Print contest winners are as follows: 1st Place Jessica Davey with her model of Harry the Dragon, 2nd Place Clayton Cilone with his model of Bookworm, and 3rd Place Isaac Salyers with his model of Rocket Ship. Prize money was generously donated by the Library Society of Rutherford County Library.

Maria Davis, Marketing and Programming Coordinator continues to research and add adult programming. Our next scheduled program is Common Sense Couponing on February 29 at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This class was done at the beginning of February and was such a success we have added a second class. Beginning work on the Adult Summer Reading Program that will be the first ever at Rutherford County Library. Stay tuned for more information as we get all the details ironed out. Please remember to let me know if you have any ideas for adult programming at the Library or if you have a special talent you would be willing to share at the Library.

Nicole Morse, Youth and Children’s Librarian continued planning the Haynes Branch Summer STEM Program and finalized booking performers for the Summer Reading Program. Story Time at all three branches continues to grow.

Public Works and Planning

The Director and Project Manager were involved in multiple meetings, research and reporting to include planning board meeting, capital facilities planning and building requests, vehicle replacement planning, solar development ordinance and projects, Rail trail committee, EMS driveway design changes per NCDOT, updates on Greyrock, Queens Gap, Solar development, Community Projects Grants, grassroots grant, and communication tower/antennae research in addition to preparation for the regular planning board meeting. The garage completed multiple preventative maintenance service calls and repairs to the County’s motor vehicle fleet in addition to changing studded tires on Emergency vehicles for the icy weather. Maintenance has had a productive week in conducting repairs and preventative maintenance to the County’s facilities as well as dealing with the preparations and response to the wintry weather this past week.

Revenue Department

We are glad everyone got through the bad weather with minor problems. Thanks to all the county employees who worked keeping us safe. Mr. Groundhog says that spring is around the corner.

- Collections processed about 100 enforced actions this week.
- Reminder LAST DAY TO PAY before the outstanding 2015 tax bills are advertized on **Feb 29th**.
- Two from our staff are traveling to Raleigh for future upgrades to the Farragut software system. Farragut will be rolling out billing and collections upgrades. Farragut had pushed out the new CAMA system on Monday. We are now live. Will be doing some final checks before starting transfers next week.
- Appraisal staff has and will be working informal appeals on real property. They are hoping to have this completed by the end of March.
- Once the CAMA system has been completely transferred, GIS will start working on the interphase with mapping. GIS director has had several meetings with various department heads collection information for new layers for the mapping system.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	494
<u>Information/Data Requests</u>	2
<u>Website Hits</u>	164,427
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	48
Deeds Recorded	18
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	30
Total Taxes Collected	\$467,972.61

Senior Center

The Senior Center was closed on Monday and opened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday due to the inclement weather. We served lunch at the main Center on Tuesday. All satellite nutrition sites were closed and pre-packaged meals were delivered to the home-delivered participants. Our “Meet & Eat” group met at the Copper Penny on Tuesday evening. The Senior Center and satellite nutrition sites were closed on Wednesday for a staff training day. Lt. Leon Godlock and Sheriff Chris Francis did a presentation on “Security and Safety Guide”. Judy Earley from Smoky Mountain Center did a presentation on “Stress, Compassion Fatigue, and Burnout”, and Denise Young from the Alzheimer’s Association spoke on “Dementia 101”. On Thursday, we provided a trip to the hospital jewelry sale and had craft time with Bobbi Allen. Lastly, several seniors went on a shopping and lunch trip to Hendersonville on Friday.

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

Sheriff's Department



*Happy
Retirement*

*Rutherford County Sheriff's Office
Cordially invites you to attend a
Retirement reception
In Honor of*

Sgt. Arthur Wayne Guffey

*"Celebrating years of Outstanding Service
to the Citizens of Rutherford County and the Rutherford County
Sheriff's Office"
March 4th, 2016
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Rutherford County Sheriff's Office Conference Room*



911 Communications

Emergency dispatchers received numerous reports of weather related crashes this week due to ice on the roads.



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on District and Farmland Preservation meeting minutes and notices.
- worked on uploading forms to District Share Point site and visiting schools to present Poster Contest awards.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- worked with farmers to write conservation plans
- made one request for payment.
- visited some possible stream projects with NRCS engineer.

Solid Waste

Customers served 279

Loads hauled from convenience centers 44

Loads shipped to Lenoir 27

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3

Tire Customers 17

The director has had an active week working on the budget process, grants and playing catch up from the inclement weather. All the staff has been busy since the inclement weather arrived. The weather slowed down our KRD landfill hauling trucks since they come out of Lenoir. This caused issues for the transfer station for about a day. Once we received the trucks, the transfer station staff has been able to catch up and are processing all the tonnages coming in. The C&D staff has been a little slow this week due to the weather. We have used this time to perform preventative maintenance on equipment and were able to haul dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy performing preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles. Also, the shop staff has been repairing containers that are used at the convenience centers. Work continues to be performed at the airport. The staff at the airport is currently bush hogging and cleaning off the east side of the runway to stay ahead before the growing season arrives. We have helped the Town of Spindale with the grant process for them to obtain roll out carts. The Town of Spindale will begin curb side recycling soon. Hopefully they will see a greater participation in recycling within their town limits.

Please continue to recycle!!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS would like to invite all employees to join us for a Retirement Party honoring Shift Supervisor, Cap. Terry Ramsey. Terry has been a paramedic for thirty years with Rutherford County EMS. The party is on Tuesday, February 23rd from 2-4 at the EMS Station in Spindale. EMS was extremely busy on Monday as they assisted citizens during the winter/ice storm. The number of calls below does not reflect the activity during the storm because the numbers are run Sunday-Saturday for the previous week.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	107	168
Convalescent Calls	19	59

Transit Department:

Transit held their monthly safety meeting and cover refresher First Aid training and also held lengthy discussion with employees on our first value Safety and what it means to have this as a core value in our agency. We also recognized all of our Safe Driver awards for 2015. Please help Transit congratulate these drivers in a successful year of safe driving. Their names are listed below with total number of consecutive years of safe driving. Employee of the Month for February is Cindy Denno. Operations Manager led orientation of three new drivers. Please join us in welcoming Daniel McKeown, Scott Lane, and Miles Gunnin as our newest employees. Transit held their quarterly Transit Advisory Board meeting on Thursday. The final report from the NCDOT Federal Compliance Review was discussed, possible new board members were recommended and an update on the Free Fare route was also reviewed.

1 Year: Sandy Bumgarner, Don Campbell, Cindy Denno, Susan Gilliam, Todd Kiser, Warren Toms
 2 Years: Baxter Carpenter, Joe Freeman, Dean Olsen
 3 Years: Lemuel Jimerson, Johnnie Wilkerson
 7 Years: Bill Morris, Rhonda Williams
 8 Years: Earl Crowder, Sarah Lee
 10 Years: James Suber
 16 Years: Theresa Justice
 17 Years: Gail Crawford

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	7,077	9,566
# of Local Trips	839	881
# of Out of County Trips	54	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	194	238
Total Revenue	\$14,034	\$14,549

30 years of service
RETIREMENT
party

TERRY RAMSEY, NREMT-P

Tuesday, February 23rd

2:00-4:00 PM

EMS Spindale Station

339 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale

Veterans Services

Mail In	30
Mail Out	21
Fax	100
Phone Calls In/Out	53
Veteran Contacts	127



County News



Monday 2/15:

Post photo's of your outdoor activities to our ROC Facebook page for a chance to win this month's photo contest prize (a free 8 x 10 old time photo for up to 2 guests from Coffee on the Rocks in Lake Lure)! Limit 1 entry per day. Winner will

be drawn March 1st. Wear your ROC gear and receive double entries!

Tuesday 2/16:

ROC Monthly Meeting. 5:30 pm at Barley's Taproom in Spindale. The room to the right as you walk in is reserved for the meeting. Stop by and hear what is going on with our local trails.

Wednesday 2/17:

Check out Chimney Rock State Park for amazing views of Lake Lure and the surrounding mountains. ROC members get \$2 off admission!

Thursday 2/18:

The new Purple Martin Trail in Rutherfordton can be accessed by parking at Crestview Park and crossing Hwy. 221 to get to the newly paved trail.

Friday 2/19:

The Buffalo Creek Park trail in Lake Lure offers a 3.5 mile loop, a mile-long optional extension trail at the top, and has beautiful views of the mountains to enjoy along the way.

Saturday 2/20:

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.

- Predators of Lake James - 10 a.m. at *Lake James State Park*. Meet Park Ranger Kevin Bischof to learn about some of the predators of Lake James and their adaptations that make them so effective in the hunt for prey.
- Wintergreen Hike - 11 a.m. at *South Mountains State Park*. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the Hemlock Nature Trail and learn about some of the many plant species that stay green all year long.
- Skulls and Skins - 2 p.m. at *South Mountains State Park*. Learn what some mammals at the park eat, where they live, etc.

Sunday 2/21:

- ROC Group Hike up to and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. 8:30 a.m. This will be a 12-mile, strenuous hike with amazing views of the ice formations along the parkway. Meet at the Food Lion in Columbus at 8:30 am to carpool. We will be on the far right near MyGym.
 - Trees Magnified. 10 am at *Lake James State Park*. Join Ranger Kevin Bischof as he leads a group along the trails of Lake James to explore the trees of the forest at a different level. Because the park has a limited number of magnifying loupes, please call 828-584-7728 to reserve your spot.
 - 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!
- Fly Fishing 101. 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*.

***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.

Saturday, February 21st: ROC group hike up to and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This will be a 12-mile, strenuous hike with amazing views of the ice formations along the parkway. Meet at the Food Lion in Columbus at 8:30 am to carpool. We will be to the far right near MyGym. 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>.

**My boss told
me to have
a good day...
So I went
HOME**



Smile
and enjoy
the
weekend
♡

County Manager
Steve Garrison

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, *Chairman*

Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman*

Michael Benfield, Eddie Holland, Greg Lovelace

County Office

Hazel Haynes, *Clerk to Board*

Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

Follow us online!

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Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor

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