



February 9, 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

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Taught Color Me Healthy for preschoolers at Carver Center
- Attended Partnership for Children board meeting
- Chaired Community Health Council monthly meeting
- Conducted training for Extension & Community Association members
- Prepared upcoming programs

Agriculture

- EMGV Training Session- Tree Fruit/Small Fruit
- Preparations for Spring Garden School slated for March 14, 2015.
- Preparation for Rutherford Bee School - Program on AHB & Extension Apiary Resources



Airport

Number of gallons, by type of fuel, that was pumped at the airport last week:

- Jet A = 346.0 gallons
- 100LL = 317.0 gallons

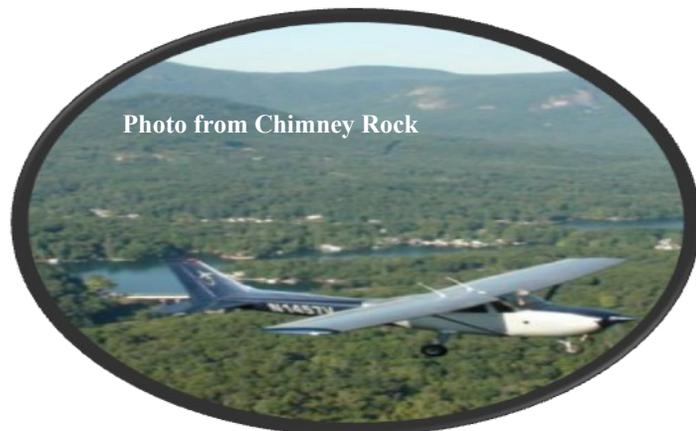


Photo from Chimney Rock

Board of Elections

Election Staff has almost completed the processing of the list maintenance for this year and have begun auditing fourth quarter reports. The Director continues to work on correcting addresses between the state and counties GIS systems and a Board meeting was held on this past Tuesday.

County Manager



The County Manager's week began with day-to-day operations, meetings with Rail to Trails, Planning and Projects, Economic Development and the County Commissioners' Meeting. The week continued with additional duties, including numerous luncheons, interoffice meetings, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meeting with citizens. The manager traveled to Durham, NC for the NCCCMA meeting the latter part of the week. A number of calls were addressed, as well as conference calls. The County Manager extends his appreciation for a great county team!

Rutherford Regional Auxiliary gave a very generous gift of \$21,450 to the county designated for paving a portion of the Rail to Trails!



Clerk to the Board

The County Commissioners began their week with two meetings – a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2 and their regular meeting at 6:00 p.m..

The Board held a special meeting on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Benfield serving as Airport Authority Chairman had a meeting at the Airport on Wednesday afternoon.

A special meeting is planned for February 12 (Thursday) at 4:30 p.m. at the County Office Building.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department finalized content for the 2014 Annual Report and provided project administration and evaluated progress of site development activities at Gateway West Commerce Park. The department continues to be busy reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities and attending various meetings, including the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners meeting as well as an airport development meeting. This week's schedule also included an existing industry visit with Trelleborg Coated Systems US, Inc.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended Monday's Commissioner meeting and several interdepartmental meetings. The County received notice from Fitch Rating Agency this week affirming the County's 2006 and 2008 GOs and 2011 LOBs. Thanks again to Carl Classen and members of the management team participating in the rating review and providing information – Matt Blackwell, Econ Dev; Danny Searcy, Planning/Publ Wks; Jason Ruff, Bldg Insp, Sherry Lavender, Rev Dept and RaeAnn Turner, Finance. The Finance Director attended the NC Cash Management Trust's Regional Advisory Meeting Thursday. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

- The Fire Marshal traveled to Raleigh attending an Emergency Management Forum
- Attended monthly Emergency Management Response Team meeting
- Met with Office of State Fire Marshal rating inspector to review fire insurance maps
- Assisted several fire departments with documents needed for loans and grant applications
- Deputy Fire Marshal continued work on a fire department resource manual
- Assisted DSS with a shelter survey
- Fire Marshal attended various other meetings and training

Information Technology

The IT office has been busy setting up the cameras in the Courthouse for viewing, working on more MDT replacements. We will be putting together a form so when new MDTs are needed, we have a check list of the items that are needed to be purchased. (Example: Is it a new MDT or a replacement? Do we need new antennas, modems, new software or is this just a replacement that only needs a machine?) We will put that under the employee portal so when Emergency Services place the order, there will be a form to fill out and attach to a Trackit order. This will inform Mel to have the package here and ready for installation when the new vehicle is received.

Cameras are still giving issues, so we are looking into more robust computers that are used to watch multiple cameras. We have upgraded to a better software to manage those cameras displays. We are also looking into more data storage and whether it is more cost effective to go cloud-based or in-house. Either way it is an expensive solution but a high priority.

Reminder from the director:

Please have all IT requests to me by February 9th for the new budget year. Mark your priorities so I have something from which to base recommendations. If you are submitting a second request on an item, please mark accordingly so I can give it high priority.

I will send out a list of all approved capital items at the beginning of the new budget year. I have been told that some are not aware from year to year what has been approved in the IT budget without calling so it will be good to have a list. This year when I receive my final budget, I will send out that list to each department head.

Continue to use Trackit. Email trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov with IT, Maintenance, or VoIP in the subject line.

The director attended a public records workshop last week. Please remember to mark all confidential emails with 'CONF' in the subject line so when the legal department reviews, it will pinpoint documents that need an extra look before release.

IT Director attended the 911 grant meeting to discuss building a new 911 center.

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 County Commissioners' Meeting and 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 has continued to prepare budget materials and sort through donated books. In addition, April met with the Director of the Polk County library to discuss the vision they both share for the libraries in our communities. April has started working on two grants for the coming year and amended one grant that was already received by the library. April has worked closely with Stephanie Long on planning a Civil War program to be presented at the County Library in late March. Information about the final plans for the program will follow in the near future.

Library Children's Department: The children of Story Time closed their lessons about different types of weather by studying the wind and kites this week. Next week we'll talk about Valentine's Day. Outreach was at Rutherfordton and Mt. Vernon Elementary Schools.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m., The Hub Teen Center will host Mr. Skip Watts with the College Foundation of North Carolina. Mr. Watts will be leading a workshop for teens and their parents on filing the **FAFSA** forms for Federal college grants and loans. It is free and open to anyone who needs to know all there is to know about paying for college. **Please help spread the word! See flier on following page for details.**

Circulation Manager: On Monday, February 2nd, Stephanie Long attended a meeting with the Library Director, IT Specialist, and Children's Librarian to brainstorm ideas for a possible Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) grant.



FAFSA WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Rutherford County Library

255 Callahan-Koon Rd., Spindale
(next to the Health Department)

Brought to you by:



Everything you need to know about
filing for FAFSA
and Federal College Loans

FREE !

For More Information, contact
Jeannie at 828-287-6116



Public Works and Planning

The last week has been extremely demanding as we made final preparations for multiple agenda items to go before the Commissioners Monday. There were 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've participated in a 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 DaVeré are coordinating with the County for appropriate cleanup.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department handled 78 VTS assists. The office answered 934 phone calls, assisted 511 customers and answered 3 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 75 building permits and 256 field reviews. A total of 47 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 33 straits and 13 estates. GIS created 8 new maps and the GIS website had 180,907 hits and 118,989 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 5 new addresses, and updated 103 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance staff completed maintenance on 13 road signs. 43 appeals and 156 listing forms were received and 75 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed out 7 letters, and assisted 2 program members. Staff processed 64 exclusions/deferments and 9 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 29 by credit card, 65 by website and 7 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 36 overpayments, 9 payment plans, processed 241 items mailed in, and 11 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 196 tax payments. 29 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

In recognition of President's Day, the "Use It or Lose It" on Tuesday consisted of fun facts, trivia games, puzzles and interesting stories about our past presidents. The Senior Center celebrated Black History Month on

Wednesday with a tribute to Maya Angelou. February is also American Heart Month. We will be wearing red on Friday to raise awareness and educating women about the risk of heart disease and the number one killer of women. Our Senior Games Committee will also meet on Friday. Registration for the 2015 Senior Games will be held from February 23-March 6.



Senior Center. continued from page 6

Upcoming: The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program began 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

Sheriff's Department

As a result from Monday's County Commissioners' Meeting, the Animal Control budget was increased by \$8,230, which reflects a 3.7% increase.



Social Services

Work continues toward the implementation of the Northwood Case Management System for social work services. Major training will conclude on March 11, and Northwood staff will be in the office until March 27th to offer support. During this time, they will troubleshoot problems, accompany staff in the field, and sit with them in the office to offer individual support. This system will allow staff to get real time information, see needed documentation, and complete paperwork in the system while in the field. Income Maintenance management continues to be proactive during the implementation of Medicaid into the NC FAST System. There have been some delays in benefits due to various glitches in the system, but we have staff dedicated to troubleshooting problems and trying to resolve them as soon as possible. Staff also collaborate with medical providers and pharmacies to ensure that citizens are able to get the care and medication that they need. Kudos to all of the dedicated Income Maintenance staff, who have had to develop new skill sets due to the drastic change in the way their job must be performed, and for working many hours of overtime to make the system successful in Rutherford County. Last Tuesday, the final DSS Leadership Development Program session and graduation was held at the County Annex. Participants shared their personal experience from the program and shared what benefits they gained from the year long class. County Manager, Carl Classen, was the guest speaker, and spoke to the class about issues effecting the county. The fourteen participants were presented certificates and enjoyed a pizza lunch. The next year long class will begin in January, 2016.

Soil & Water

The Rutherford Soil and Water District held their District Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Solid Waste

The solid waste department stats for this week:

- Served 323 customers
- Hauled 53 loads from convenience centers
- Shipped 27 loads to Lenoir
- Shipped 2 recycling trailers to Conover
- 26 tire customers
- Shipped 1 electronic load



Please continue to recycle!

The director attended the weekly Solid Waste Meeting with Carl, attended the Commissioners Meeting and met with Finance on the existing budget. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties. We have prepared the white goods grant application. We have performed work on the former Owens property removing fences to make it easier to bush hog or cut for hay. We continue to wait on the asbestos company to remove the siding off of the Edwards house so we can start demolition of the house. Inmates continue to pull recyclables at transfer station. Shop staff has been busy this week servicing our trucks and performing other preventative maintenance on equipment.

Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

- Active cases: 11
- Closed cases: 4
- Convenience Center cases: 3
- Pictures taken: yes
- Cameras installed to monitor location: 1
- Letters sent 1
- Community Service workers 7
- Community Service reports 1
- Attended a mandatory training class required by the Sheriff's Department.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS is pleased to announce that Dr. Guy Winker has agreed to serve as our Medical Director, providing medical oversight of all emergency services. He will begin March 1, 2015.

TYPE	CUR- RENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	152	168
Convalescent Calls	51	47

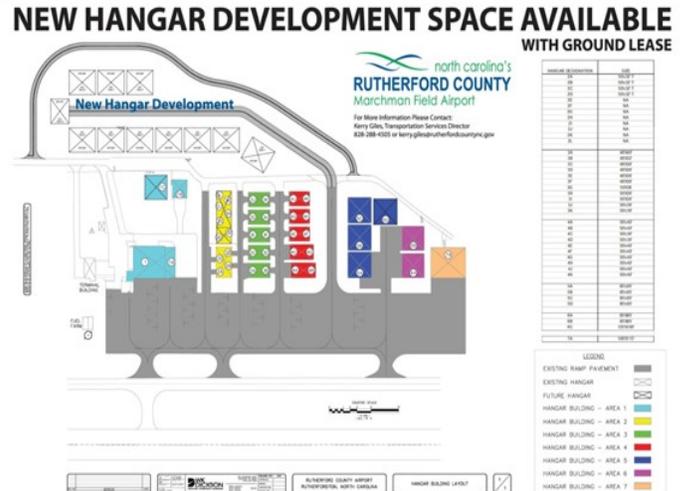
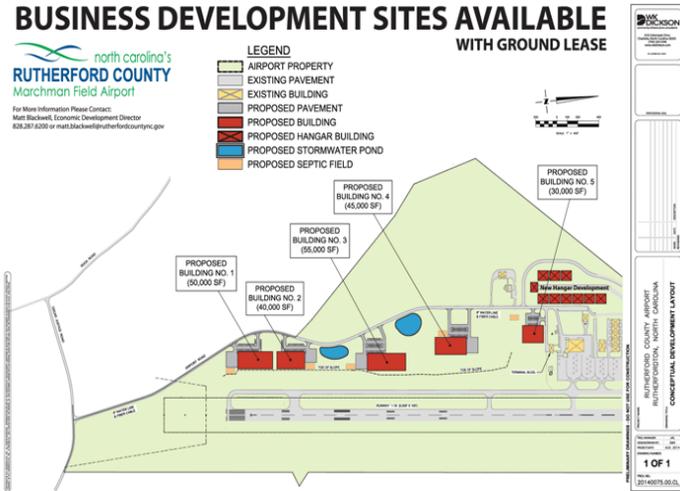
Transit Department:

Transit passed a NCDOT site visit/paper audit this week without any findings. 2nd quarter operational statistics were also provided to NCDOT.

TYPE	CUR- RENT WEEK	WEEKL Y AVG
Total Miles	9,428	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,040	881
# of Out of County Trips	97	66
# Unduplicated Passen- gers	233	238
Total Revenue	\$15,770	\$14,549

Airport:

Development work has begin for both hangar and business park development. Estimated construction costs will be available in time for the next Airport Authority meeting.



Veterans Services

January 28 to February 3, 2015 Activity Report

January 28 to February 3, 2015 Activity Report

Mail In	43
Fax	55
Mail Out	54
Phone Calls In/Out	92
Veteran Contacts	181

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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