



January 11, 2015

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.

Department Directory

[Agriculture/Cooperative Extension](#)

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[County Manager](#)

[County Commissioners](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Emergency Medical Services](#)

[Fire Marshal](#)

[Finance](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Transit](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

Airport

The airport sold 1,028.0 gallons of Jet A to 4 aircraft and 334.80 gallons of 100LL to 12 aircraft last week.

Rain, 300 foot overcast, and visibility down to 1/2 mile, doesn't stop this King Air from flying!



A Bell 407 helicopter stopping in for fuel.

County Manager and Commissioners

With Christmas and New Year holidays, the work weeks were rather short, but remained full of activity. The County Manager and Commissioners were in and out of the office accomplishing numerous and varied duties. Several department heads were on vacation and rescheduled meetings with the manager after Christmas. Manager Garrison met with the Broad River Water Authority for their board meeting the Tuesday before Christmas. Staff continued preparation on the agenda for the Board of Commissioners' meeting which met this past Monday evening. The manager met with IPDC on Wednesday. The Community Health Council meeting was also on Wednesday afternoon. The HR director and Deputy Clerk attended the JCPC board meeting on Thursday. Individually, the Commissioners were involved in several calls, events and meetings during the week. Chairman King, Commissioner Benfield, Airport Director Randy Patterson and Manager Garrison, along with several others, met with the new DOA Regional Consultant Andrew Folz on Thursday afternoon.



A very special happy birthday to our Clerk to the Board, Hazel Haynes (**pictured left middle** with Kim Aldridge and Debra Conner). As County Manager, Steve Garrison, so truthfully wrote on Monday, January 4th, "Please join me today in sending out a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hazel. Hazel, you truly are the glue that holds our operations together and we appreciate all that you do for the county and the public we serve."

The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of calls, public relations, and preparation for various responsibilities and meetings.

The County Manager and Commissioners wish you a happy and healthy New Year and sincerely hope that 2016 will bring a blessed and prosperous year!

Board of Elections

Over the last several weeks, candidate filing has ended and all required campaign finance reports have been submitted by the candidates or treasurers. We have submitted to the State Board and received approval for our one-stop early voting locations and hours for the March Primary election.

The lights in our office and the Emergency Management/Fire Marshall office were replaced through an energy efficiency program with Duke Power. A crew came in one morning and replaced all of the fluorescents with LED lights which really brightened up our spaces and will save the county money very quickly (**pictured right**). Thanks to the Public Works and Planning Department for setting this up.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended numerous meetings with county departments and industry allies, and followed up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects. 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. Our department also updated unemployment figures and charts, as well as the top 25 companies on the EDC website using data from the NC Department of Commerce and AccessNC Websites.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- presented evidence to Grand Jury on felony fire cases.
- attended monthly Commissioners meeting.
- began work on regional Assistance to Firefighters grant application.
- participated in local emergency management response team meeting.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome aboard new hires: Paul Robbins (Detention), Amber Vance (911), Christopher Wilson (Sheriff), Apryl Tessener (Finance), and Michael Nanny (Senior Center). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Marie Champion (retired Veterans), Cathy Ellenburg (retired Revenue) and Ron Simpson (retired Detention). We wish you all the best in your retirement. The HR Director attended the Board of Commissioners meeting and a JCPC meeting this week. The Director also set on an interview panel for EMS. Reminder to all departments—Performance Reviews are due by Friday, January 8th.

Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director and Veterans Service Officer. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

We wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year and thank you for all you do to make this wonderful county even better!

Library

Technology Resources Librarian – Kenneth Odom - The voting stage of the 3D design contest begins on Thursday, January 7th. The teens have been hard at work on their designs and have created really impressive objects. Stop by the main library on Callahan Koon Road or visit our Facebook Page beginning this Thursday to view and vote for your favorite. The three teens with the most votes will receive cash prizes (provided by the Rutherford County Library Society).

The DBU Makerspace is starting the year off with a new offering for adult makers! Maker Mondays began January 4th and run from 4 - 8 p.m. Kenneth will be on hand to assist with learning how to use the various equipment and supplies, but the Makerspace will also be available for individuals or groups to work independently on their own projects. It is important to note that the main area of the library, including the front entrance, will close at the library's normal time of 5:30pm. Anyone arriving after that will need to use the staff entrance to access the Makerspace (signs will be posted on the library's main entrance).



Children and Youth Services Librarian – Nicole Morse: This week the Children's Librarian launched an all new line-up of programming for children across all 3 county libraries. Story times have been split into two separate groups with ages 2-3 now attending the Little Readers Story Time and ages 4-6 attending Preschool Story Time. Teens will now have after school programs as well. Teen Tuesdays will take place at the Haynes Branch Library. Teenagers will be able to play video games and participate in special weekly projects. Teen Tech Thursdays will take place in the County Library Makerspace. This program will allow teenagers to explore the many different aspects of the Makerspace by choosing projects they want to explore.



Programming and Marketing – Maria Davis: This week the Programming and Marketing Coordinator held an ACA Navigation Workshop hosted by Jake Yochem from Pisgah Legal Services where he spoke to patrons about how to register for insurance through the exchange and gave out information regarding Pisgah Legal Services and the help they provide with insurance.

We are gearing up for Nathan Garnett to present a seminar on Optimizing Your Money in the New Year and Making Better Financial Decision on January 11, 2016. Nathan will present at Mountains Branch at 1:00, Haynes Branch at 3:00 and County Library at 5:30. Nathan will offer advice on Investment Fundamentals, Types of Retirement Accounts, Ways of Protecting Your Wealth, When to Hire or Fire Your Advisor, and a Question and Answer Session. No signups are required for this seminar. Feel free to drop by any of sessions that fit your time schedule.

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 will be our first meeting of the *Meet and Eat Book Club!* This book club is a little different in that each person will discuss the individual book they are reading at the time. We will try to convince the rest of the members to read our chosen book at some time. We will be munching on appetizers brought by the book club members. We will meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:00. Feel free to join us!

Library Director – April Young: The Director worked on monthly and quarterly reports, materials for the quarterly Trustees meeting, attended the Board of Commissioners meeting and finished staff evaluations. We received approval from the Commissioners regarding Library Amnesty Month for February. (More information on page 9.)

Revenue Department

Happy New Year!!! The Revenue Department hit the ground running since January 2nd. We have been collecting taxes, training on a new software system, and listing real & personal properties. If you call the Tax Office and do not get someone right away, please leave a message and we will return your call. Due to high call volume it may take a little while to answer your message.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	608
Info/Data Requests	4
Website Hits	159,562
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	16
Deeds Recorded	14
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	30
Total Taxes Collected	\$9,105,817.46

Kathy Ellenburg retired from the Revenue Department in December with 30 years of service to the county. Kathy, we wish you the best and have fun with your grandchildren.

Senior Center

The Senior Center started the year off right on Monday with the seniors' favorite activity – Bingo! On Tuesday, we had an activity called “New Year’s Reflections”. The New Year is a great time to look ahead, but it is also a good time to reflect on the previous year. The seniors had an opportunity to write a thank you card to special friends in their life that were helpful and kind to them in 2015. In recognition of Elvis’s birthday week, we had an Elvis “Fun” Day on Wednesday. Maria Davis, with Rutherford County Library, presented a program about the benefits of coloring books for adults on Thursday. Lastly, the Center hosted an activity on Friday, “Book Conversations”, to allow seniors to share a little bit about the recent books they read this winter.

The Rutherford County Senior Center also started two new home delivered routes that are funded by the RHI Legacy Grant. We are also sending out pre-packaged meals on the weekend to our home delivered clients with funding from the Community Foundation of WNC People in Need Grant.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on January 11 & 25

Sheriff’s Department

On 1-7-2016, Sheriff Chris Francis congratulated Sgt. Chadwick Nazelrod for receiving the Advanced Professional Certificate.

The North Carolina Sheriff’s Education and Training Standards Commission awarded Sgt. Nazelrod 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. Nazelrod’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. Nazelrod’s accomplishment, “It is an honor to present Sgt. Nazelrod with the Advanced Professional Certificate. Sgt. Nazelrod continues to demonstrate dedication to his chosen profession”.

Sgt. Nazelrod has over 15 years experience in law enforcement and is currently a Sergeant on the road patrol.



Social Services

The last half of December was a busy one for DSS. There was lots of good food and fellowship during the month as different departments enjoyed goodies, exchanging gifts, and revealing their Secret Santa. Family and Children's Services staff were busy making sure that our children in foster care, our adult wards, and others in DSS custody had a wonderful Christmas. Our county is blessed to have citizens, businesses, churches, and civic groups that generously give so that not only foster children have a wonderful Christmas, but many other families that the agency works with that are in need. We are especially grateful for the hard work that EMS does with the Stuff the Ambulance campaign. These toys go to the children of families that may not have access to other available resources in the county.

The DSS Board met in December and during the meeting reviewed various monthly reports, heard division updates, as well as, legislative updates. There are many changes in the various areas of the agency due to several new bills passed by the General Assembly in 2015, as well as, policy changes. Food and Nutrition Services continue to pay close attention to timeliness due to mandates that the State is under by USDA to increase the timeliness of benefits.

On January 6, the Program Development Steering Committee will meet at DSS for a dinner meeting at 5:30 pm. This group, chaired by Sarah Horne of Preferred Choice Health Care, will help guide and direct the Program Development Plan resulting from a Child Protective Services Process Review conducted in August. Rutherford DSS specifically requested that the State focus the review on the length of time CPS assessments remained open and whether sufficient contact was maintained to ensure safety of children, as well as, other factors. Forty-one records were reviewed by the monitoring team, which consisted of five State reviewers and five Rutherford DSS reviewers. The role of the Steering Committee is to guide the work groups organized around the eight improvement goals. This will include reviewing progress reports and giving strategic feedback for increased improvement. Each work group is chaired by a community co-chair and a DSS co-chair.

Welcome new employees - Mary Carnicle, Casey Matheney, and Adena Widener.

Christmas Party photos.



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- attended the Commissioners Meeting and the District Board Meeting.
- continued working on District Poster and Computer Generated Power Point Contest.
- worked on District Meeting folders and Farmland Preservation Meeting Notices.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- has been working with Ag. Cost Share BMP's and contracts and assisting NRCS with planning.
- attended the District Board Meeting.

Solid Waste

Customers served 361

Loads hauled from Convenience Centers 65

Loads shipped to Lenoir 37

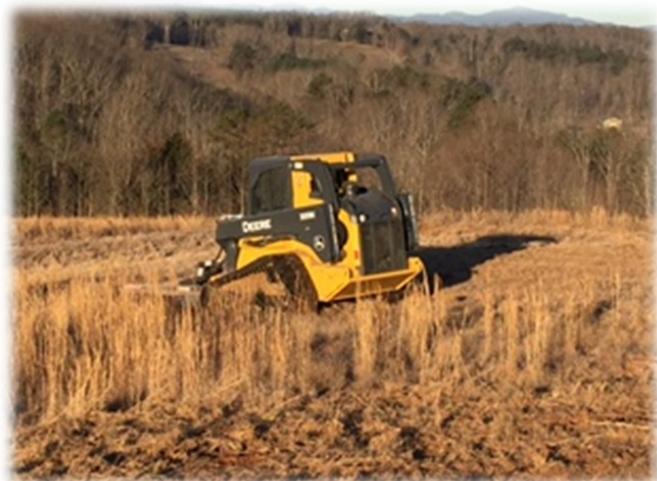
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 13

Community service worker 4

Community service reports 1

The Solid Waste staff has been real busy due to Christmas and New Year's. We have picked up 130 plus containers from the centers since Christmas. The transfer station has been busy processing all of the tonnages coming in on the MSW and recycling side of the transfer station. The shop staff continues to perform oil changes while performing preventative maintenance on all of our equipment. The staff has been preparing our facility for the cold weather. We have received the skid steer loader that was ordered for bushing hogging the steep slopes. Staff has started the process of bush hogging with the new machine (**pictured right and below**). Also, the director has been busy with reports and the possible donation of a vehicle to the solid waste department. The director has worked with Human Resources to start the interviewing process for our open position.



Work at the airport continues to be performed only as needed.

The C&D staff continues to process the tonnages coming in while continuing to haul dirt for cover. The office staff has been busy with billing and reports while processing all the tickets during this busy time. Thanks to all the staff for their hard work during this busy time.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Stuff the Ambulance was a great success with the delivery of over 1,300 toys to DSS to be distributed through social workers to children under protective services. EMS management staff members conducted interviews on Tuesday of this week for a new Training Officer. Supervisors also completed performance evaluations for all full-time employees.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	431	168
Convalescent Calls	88	59

Transit Department:

Transit provided transportation on December 20th for 30 visiting state officials and other local and regional visitors to tour the County landfill and one of the convenience centers. Transit staff would like to thank all of our employees (especially drivers) in their everyday efforts to provide safe and efficient transportation to the citizens of this county. Even though, at the end of the year, we thought we were paddling row boats instead of driving vans. We commend each one of them for their dedication to their job. Our scheduled Federal Compliance Review will be on Wednesday January 13th. Monday January 4, 2016, marked the beginning of our FARE FREE service on the Dollar Bus to run until the end of June. Preliminary results show a uptick in ridership for the first few days. We anticipate this uptick to continue. Please share this Free service to everyone you can. Our desire is to be able to continue this free service beyond June 30th.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	37,322	9,566
# of Local Trips	2,307	881
# of Out of County Trips	135	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	308	238
Total Revenue	\$32,248	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	30
Mail Out	25
Fax	135
Phone Calls In/Out	56
Veteran Contacts	119



County News



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.



The Bostic Christmas Event at the Bostic-Lincoln Center was one of the many Christmas engagements County Manager Steve Garrison attended in December. Pictured with Lydia Clontz, Lincoln Center Director.

**Commissioner Eddie Holland
and family...wishing you all a
very Happy New Year!**



**Gorgeous shots
of the Tryon Equestrian Center**



**(Pictured left, Chairman Bryan King's lovely
daughter, Caroline, with her horse.)**

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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