



January 18, 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 1379.0 gallons of Jet A to 5 aircraft and 519.3 gallons of 100LL to 21 aircraft.



Photo:
A 2007 Lear 45 taking fuel at Rutherford County Airport.

Building Inspections

Building has continued despite the colder temps. The Building Inspections Department has had four new houses started in the last week with greater than total 10,000 SF and project valuations of approximately \$836,000.

All general, plumbing, mechanical, and fire sprinkler contractor licenses expired on the last day in December, so staff is busy checking for renewed licenses as permits are being issued.

We are doing approximately 30 inspections a day, marking a normal decline in the winter months.

Board of Elections

Our office has hosted one of two webinars for our Chief Judges on the new standardized procedures at the polls for the March election. With the new voter identification requirements, there are a lot of changes coming for the poll workers. The Director began delivery of posters and information cards to the western part of the county on the new ID rules. Candidates that have open campaign finance accounts from previous years were notified to turn in their end of the year reports. Ballots have been approved and work has begun on preparing for equipment testing.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were in and out of the office accomplishing numerous and varied duties. Meetings with several department heads were on the schedule this week, including Planning and Projects and EDC. NCSU Coop Extension hosted a meeting in Hendersonville regarding Connect NC bonds which Manager Garrison and Jeff Bradley, Ag/Coop Extension Director, attended on Monday morning. Staff continued preparation on the agenda for next month's Board of Commissioners' meeting. Rails to Trails Committee met on Wednesday. The manager met with the County Attorney on Wednesday for their weekly meeting. Interviews for the Veteran's Services Director were scheduled on Thursday. The Law Enforcement CIT Graduation was held on Friday evening. As the week progressed, 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 attended numerous meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, working with industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines and file the appropriate reports, and working on marketing and advertising efforts involving online and print media. This week's schedule also included preparing for the upcoming EDC Board meeting.

Finance Department



Rutherford County Finance Department welcomes Apryl Tessener as the new Deputy Finance Director. Ms. Tessener began on December 21, 2015.

The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal:

- conducted one origin and cause investigation.
- attended NC Emergency Management forum held in McDowell County.
- worked on several Assistance to Firefighters grants.

Deputy Fire Marshal

- attended a class on evidence room management.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director had several meetings this week including a phone conference with Becky Veazy (MAPs Group).

The Director, along with James Kilgo and Tony Bumgarner, conducted interviews for the Solid Waste Utility Worker, conducted interviews, along with Wesley Alexander, for a part time TDA position, and conducted interviews, along with Steve Garrison, for the Veteran Service Officer position.

The HR Specialist conducted the monthly new hire orientation. Current vacancies are: Deputy Register of Deeds. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Haynes Branch – Deb Womack: Haynes is open for business and have lots of new things going on. Come visit us. We have restarted our children's programs. We had Nathan Garnett, a financial adviser, give a presentation on financial advice and investing. We will be starting a Book Club & Discussion Group in February, Call and sign up for Fun and Food.

Mountains Branch – Joy Sharp: Mountains Branch Library hosted brand new programs to start out the New Year. Our new crafting program, "Creatives" is held each Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. Artists and crafters meet to work on their individual projects and offer advice and guidance. A great place to explore your creative side. Mountains Branch also offered a Financial Health seminar with financial advisor, Nathan Garnett. The library's Genealogy Club met this week, as well. Library Manager, Joy Sharp, began implementing two new grants from the Hickory Nut Gorge Foundation and began an online class in Library Grants 101.

Rutherford County Library – Maria Davis: The Meet & Eat Book Club starts Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 3:00 and will continue every 2nd Tuesday of each month. Jake Yochem from Pisgah Legal Services led seminars on the ACA at County on January 7, 2016. Jake spent time working with our patrons on how to navigate the ACA websites and what help is out there for lower income families. Nathan Garnett from Edward Jones hosted seminars at all three branches on January 11, 2016 concerning Personal Finance and Maximizing your Money in the New Year. Nathan had some interesting tips for us and may be back around tax time. I "traveled" to the Senior Center and had a blast doing an Adult Coloring Session with about 10-12 Seniors. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and hopefully, I will be invited back. Coloring really is a stress reliever!!! The Senior Center has also shown interest in a Genealogy class and I am hoping to put something together for them soon. We have "Common Sense Couponing" coming up February 5, 2016 @ 3:00. Sharon Rooks will show us how to get started saving money. Please call to sign up if you are interested. If 3:00 doesn't work for you, we may have a later class on another day if enough interest is shown. We will also host an

Library continued from page 3

Adult Coloring Session here at the Library February 17, 2016 @ 4:00. I will have coloring sheets, crayons, markers, and colored pencils available, or you may bring your own. This is all the rage right now and I can see why! Please give me a call at 287-6118 if you have any questions or ideas on Adult Programming!

April Young – Director: April worked on a Statewide Technology Assessment for the Library, continued to prepare for the quarterly Trustee Meeting and dealt with other ongoing Library business and attending a Western North Carolina Directors Meeting.

Kenneth Odom – Technology Librarian: Maker Monday is off to a running start! We had 11 patrons utilize the DBU Makerspace this past Monday. They worked on the 3D printer, sketched, played games, and used the circle looms to make hats. Anna Robinson was the guest teacher and instructed on the looms. Thanks to Anna for coming to help out! Voting continues through Friday afternoon for the 3D Design and Print Contest. You can vote in person or on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RutherfordCountyLibrary). The five teens that entered the contest have done a FANTASTIC job. Please give me a call at 287-6327 if you have any questions about the Makerspace or weekly computer classes that are held at the County Library.

Nicole Morse – Children and Youth Librarian: New children's programming for 2016 continued this week. The Youth Services Librarian held Story Time at all three county libraries. Teen Tech Thursday was hosted for the first time at the County Library and is off to great start. Teens spent the time working on 3D design skills and building robots. Saturday was the second meeting of the County Library's Middle School Maker Club. The club created a Lego stop-motion animation video titled "The Tale of Larry the Backstabbing Robot". The video can be viewed on the library's webpage.

Public Works and Planning

So far, 2016 has begun with a flurry of demands on the job. We've experienced multiple heating service calls in addition to stopped up sewers, failed equipment at the jail and senior center, improvements necessary at animal control, and many other requests to support county departments. Needless to say, Maintenance has been very busy with calls taking us from Mountains Branch Library to Cliffside this week.

Meanwhile, the garage continues to diligently serve the county through keeping its fleet of 240 vehicles in great repair. We are glad to report that the dedication plaques have been installed on the new EMS and Haynes Library in addition to EMS officially starting services from this new facility. As the spring grass-sewing season arrives, additional landscaping is planned along with the installation of the road side sign for these new facilities.

The Director and Project Manager were involved in multiple meetings including a projects update report, Rail Trail committee, solar development, Community Projects Grants and communication tower/antennae research. In fact, revised watershed protection plans were received this week for the very large proposed solar farm off Chase Highway and Ferry Road; however, the solar permit plans have not been submitted at this time.

We have met with the Manager and Finance Officer to continue work on the capital facilities plan in search of a funding strategy. We've also completed research and cost comparison options toward the County's vehicle replacement plan which continues to receive edits.

Revenue Department

Sherry Lavender sworn in as RC Tax Assessor

Sherry Lavender, Revenue Department Director, was sworn in as Tax Collector and Tax Assessor of Rutherford County, effective January 1, 2016.

Mrs. Lavender solemnly affirmed that she will support and maintain the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, and will faithfully discharge the duties of her office as the Revenue Director of Rutherford County, which is the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor of Rutherford County.

Mrs. Lavender recently completed all of the necessary requirements for certification as a County Assessor in North Carolina.



Sherry Lavender (left) being administered the oath of office by Kim Aldridge, Deputy Clerk (right).

- Farragut representatives are in house this week training the revenue staff on the new CAMA software. They will be here the 13th, 14th, and 15th and then again on the 19th and 20th next week. If you need assistance, please call 828/287-6000.
- The new GIS website is now in test phase and should be rolling out for use in a few months.
- Katie Doherty will travel to Cleveland County on the 21st to pick up the new 2015 Aerial Map from the state. This will be on the new GIS website very soon.
- Several of the collection staff are training on delinquent collections procedures on the new system. With more up-to-date software, the office will be able to better serve your needs. The collections staff will be working 2015 delinquent taxes, and those will be advertised in the next several months.
- Reminder: If you have delinquent taxes collections, we will be glad to help you set up payment plans or bank drafts to get the accounts up-to-date.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	585
Info/Data Requests	6
Website Hits	173,255
County Growth Indicators	
Deeds Recorded	24
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	23
Total Taxes Collected	\$3,116,914.51

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 clients took advantage of this service. The Director also went to the Shingle Hollow Nutrition Site for "Chat with the Director".



On Tuesday, we started our first class of "Living Healthy with Diabetes". 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.

Our Pen Pals met on Wednesday to write an installment in their Pen Pal journal with Spindale Elementary.

Jason Carney, Rutherford Regional Emergency Department Director, came to the Center on Thursday to discuss the emergency room at our local hospital and the many services they provide to the community.

Upcoming:

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

January News Letter

[http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/fileUploads/files/Jan%202016%20News%20Letter\(1\).pdf](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/fileUploads/files/Jan%202016%20News%20Letter(1).pdf)

Senior Center hosting Biscuit Sale

Friday, January 22, 2016
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



Delicious Homemade Sausage or Ham Biscuits

\$2.00 each

Made Fresh In Our Own Kitchen

Call 287-6409 by noon on Thursday, January 21st and pre-order biscuits for your department. They will be hot, fresh, and ready for pickup at the time

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's December 2015 Report	
Calls for Service	4,392
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	224/185
Domestic Calls	165
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	25/26.15 Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served	235
Ex parte Served	28
Evictions	11
Animals Pickup/Surrender	143
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	122
Animal Control Calls for Service	247
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	254/24
Pill Drop Collections	27,678 Doses Units/285.0 ml Liquids
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	171
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	310
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	15
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	3/6.0 Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	186/30.0 Man Hrs.
Litter Control Calls/Cases Assigned/Closed	4/9/6

Introducing Watson Lee McBrayer

Congratulations to proud parents, Jay and Carrie McBrayer (911 Communications), big brother, Blanton, grandparents, and family as they announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Watson Lee.

- *Birthday: January 1, 2016*
 - *Weight: 7 lbs. 7 oz.*
 - *Height: 19"*





Happy Retirement

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

Det. Philip Bailey & Capt. William "Sonny" Chapman

*"Celebrating years of Outstanding Service
to the Citizens of Rutherford County and the Rutherford County
Sheriff's Office"*

January 29th, 2016

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Rutherford County Annex



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on Watershed and Farmland Preservation Meeting Agenda and Meeting folders
- attended the Farmland Preservation Meeting.
- worked with Jeff Bradley with Cooperative Extension for the 4th grade Farm City Assembly at Lake Lure Classical Academy to present a lesson on the Importance of Agriculture in our Everyday Life and to present award checks and Certificates to school poster winner.
- continued working on District Poster and Computer Generated Power Point Contest and District Banquet plans.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- worked with NRCS on contract ranking and field visits
- worked on watershed dam inspections and meeting with farmers to plan conservation practices.

Solid Waste

Customers served 335

Loads hauled from convenience centers 56

Loads shipped to Lenoir 36

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 20

Community service workers 3

Community service report 1

The director has been busy this week conducting interviews, meetings with the county manager and trying to assist in getting the scales fixed at the transfer station and the compactor at Danielstown.

The office staff stayed busy with normal duties along with trying to close out this year's grants.

The transfer station staff has been processing all of the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. Also, they have started back wrapping electronics for shipment since the Christmas rush is over.

The C&D staff continues to process all the tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. The airport work continues as necessary and that crew has almost completed the bush hogging at the central landfill.

The shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance on equipment. Also, they have been involved in trying to fix the scales at the transfer station and the compactor at Danielstown. We are in the process of updating the lighting in the transfer station.

Please continue to recycle!!!!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS Management held their monthly staff meeting on Thursday and discussed goal setting, the new fitness program, and new compliance plan. Staff are in the process of meeting with all the skilled nursing facilities in the county to discuss mandatory compliance on all medical necessity forms. EMS has also posted two new job openings, both for Supervisors. One position is for a Shift Supervisor on the Emergency Division and one for a Supervisor for the Non Emergency Division. Director, Operations Manager and Supervisors completed all performance reviews and submitted them to Human Resources.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	151	168
Convalescent Calls	30	59

Transit Department:

Transit completed a NCDOT compliance review with flying colors. The review was contracted through NCDOT to ensure all transit systems comply with FTA regulations. A huge thank you to Jeff Hill and Anita Campbell for their hard work preparing for this review.



Congratulations to driver Joe Freeman who is our **Employee of the Month** for January (pictured left).

Transit also continues to see an increase in ridership on the Deviated Fixed Route since piloting the Fare Free route on January 1st.

Director and Operations Manager completed all performance reviews and submitted them to Human Resources.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
# of Local Trips	1077	881
# of Out of County Trips	73	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	220	238
Total Revenue	\$16,208	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	32
Mail Out	23
Fax	130
Phone Calls In/Out	65
Veteran Contacts	141



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.

Rail Trail Bench Sponsorship

- The new benches along the Rail Trail can now be sponsored for a \$1000 donation.
- All the money goes to improve local trails and your information will be displayed on a plaque mounted on the bench.

Email us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org for more information.





COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27
9:30AM - 11:30AM

THE FOUNDATION
Isothermal Community College



Join with community leaders to plan for improvements in health and wellness. Review current data, trends and projections for Rutherford County.

RSVP: marjorie.vestal@gmail.com or ycisneros@rpmhd.org

Sponsored by: Rutherford Polk McDowell Health District and the Rutherford Health Council



Paint It Up.... back by popular demand!

Relay for Life Fundraiser

Date/Time: Thursday, February 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Location: County Office Kitchen Auditorium

289 N. Main St., Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Cost: \$20 per person

Includes all materials plus pizza and drinks.

Below is the painting we will be creating!



**Reserve your spot now! Email or send name and payment to
Jeanette Bosgra, Finance Department**

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!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov