



January 19, 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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Enhancing the appearance of the Rutherford County Farmers Market in Forest City, brick mason, Bryan Sommers, works Monday, building columns around the existing post at the outdoor market.

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.



Jeff Bradley

County Extension Director

1. Worked with Cattle producers to begin the process of putting together loads of cattle for the Mountain Cattle Alliance February and March sales
2. Spoke to a 4-county group of Cattlemen at the Shelby Area Beef Conference to promote the Mountain Cattle Alliance
3. Participated in a meeting with Dr. Rich Linton, Dean of NCSU College of Ag and Life Sciences, Dr. Steve Lommel, Dean of NCSU Ag Research, and Dr. Chris Daubert, Dept head of NCSU Food Science to discuss two major agricultural initiatives that could have a profound impact on the economy of North Carolina
4. Met with Tryon Equestrian Center personnel to discuss options for waste management
5. Visited local 4th grade classes to give agricultural lessons as part of our Farm/City Program
6. Met with a group to discuss possible plans for an indoor farmer's market for the upcoming season
7. Continued to assist clients with technical problems through phone calls, email, office visits, and farm visits

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext. continued from page 1

Reporting - Tracy Davis

Family and Consumer Sciences

1. Trained three part-time health educators who will implement nutrition programs for youth and families between January and June 2015.
2. Began teaching Color Me Healthy program each week at Carver Center for 4-year-old Head Start students.
3. Facilitated the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group.
4. Met with McDowell County Health Coalition Director to discuss regional health programs.
5. Held annual Achievement Program for the Extension & Community Association (ECA). ECA members contributed 5,830 hours of volunteer service to the community in 2014.

Cynthia Robbins

4-H Youth Development

Reporting - Jan R. McGuinn

Agriculture

1. Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Planning Session for 2015.
2. Spring Garden School Committee Meeting - Finalizing programming for the March 14th School.
3. Radio Programs with WCAB & WGTM
4. Working toward completion of Agriculture Innovation & Solutions Center Feasibility Study.

Board of Elections

To begin the New Year, the Board of Elections office mailed out over 6800 confirmation cards for their bi-annual list maintenance requirements. These are sent to any registered voter who has not voted in the last two federal elections or had any contact with the office and attempts to verify that they are still at the same address. Director Debbie Bedford has begun a project of researching address points that do not line up between the state and county maps. Staff took part in an online meeting with the State Board on Wednesday and will be travelling to Iredell County for a District meeting on Thursday, January 15th.

Clerk to the Board

December and January have been very exciting months for the County Commissioners' Office. Three new Commissioners were sworn into office on December 1:

- Bryan King, from District 1, elected as the new Chairman for the upcoming year
- Alan Toney, from District 5, elected Vice Chairman
- Michael Benfield from District 4

The new Board members really hit the ground running. Tours to County Departments were conducted to familiarize them with County Government. Two special meetings were held in December, along with a special meeting and a regular meeting in January. Vice Chairman Toney attended *Essentials of County Government* in Winston Salem on January 8 and 9. Chairman King and Commissioner Benfield (who is the Chairman of the Airport Authority) attended *Leading Your Governing Board* and the Legislative Goals Session on January 14 – 16. A special meeting is planned for January 20. The Board is also going through the arduous process of finding a replacement for County Manager Carl Classen who has chosen not to renew his contract.

County Manager

“The County Manager and I, (Hazel Haynes, Clerk to the Board) are proud to announce that Ms. Kim Aldridge has joined the staff as the Administrative Assistant and Public Records Clerk. Kim began her duties on January 5 and has also had a very busy few days. She is beginning the Weekly Report again, along with learning the processes in the office. Please come by and welcome Kim when you are in the County Office Building.



Kim Aldridge

Economic Development

Executive Director

- researched information for two industrial prospect proposals; arranged sites for a prospect
- met with the Rutherfordton Town Manager to review an economic development project
- attended the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners meeting
- conducted an existing industry visit
- checked on the progress of grading at Gateway West Commerce Park
- started work on the Annual Report
- followed up on multiple recruitment opportunities

Economic Development Assistant

- worked with industry officials to secure necessary documentation for year-end grant reporting
- began preparing the year-end documentation for submission to Commerce;
- worked with a company representative to secure additional information requested for a payout application
- submitted additional information to Commerce for two existing payout application requests
- contacted a company official recently awarded a Building Reuse grant to discuss the next action steps necessary in the grant process

Part-Time Economic Development Assistant

- worked on the site comparison project
- began scheduling BR&E visits for the Executive Director
- provided general support for all economic development activities.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and has begun to process payroll for the upcoming week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal, Roger Hollifield, worked with NC Highway Patrol technicians to repair some equipment at the tower site. Began compiling an inventory list of equipment at various fire departments. Worked on grant applications. Continued work on the training ground facility. Attended various meetings.

Human Resources

HR Director, Debra Conner, held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.

Welcome new hires:

Mike Callahan (Detention), Luis Hernandez (Sheriff), William Lancaster (Sheriff), Kimberly Aldridge (Governing Body), Amie Cooper (DSS), Tyrone Ross (p/t Detention), Tyler Greene (Sheriff), Matthew Sparks (p/t 911), and Michael Lee (p/t Detention). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Ben Conner (Airport), Heather Greene (911), Bobby Allen (p/t Detention), John Pealy (p/t Detention), and Kristy Walker (p/t Detention).

The Director attended a meeting with TDA Director Michelle Whitaker, attended a meeting regarding the County Manager search, and conducted interviews for the Branch Librarian. The HR Assistant conducted the monthly orientation for new hires. Staff has been very busy this month with yearly insurance changes. Performance reviews are being processed. We thank each employee for their dedication to Rutherford County. Job postings: part time van driver Transit, part time Airport technician, County Manager, Branch Librarian. See postings and apply @ rutherfordcountync.gov. The United Way campaign for 2015 wrapped up with almost \$3,000 pledged by employees.

Information Technology

The IT department has been busy since the Christmas holidays. We have overseen the installation of 27 cameras in the Courthouse, a new sound system in the two of the three courtrooms, 2 new cameras at the Airport, replacing broken down equipment all over the campus, and installing virtual desktop machines in the Revenue Department. We have also been involved in the data migration of the tax data from Keystone to NCPTS. IT has been in the discussion for the construction of the new EMS station and Library in Henrietta. Since December 22, we have closed 173 TrackIt work orders.

Keep using Track-It for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs. Send your email to trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov with IT, Maintenance, or VoIP in the subject line.

*** Heads up from Director Rhonda Owens***

“There will be another phone upgrade after hours towards the last week of the month. Peter will be letting everyone know closer to the time that phones will be down for a short time, but again, we will give you more information and it will begin after 6 pm.”

Sheriff's Department

DECEMBER 2014

- Calls for Service: 4256
- Warrants Served/Total Arrest: 158/176
- Domestic Calls: 204
- Involuntary Commitments/Hours.: 37/27.25Man Hrs.
- Civil Papers Served: 266
- Exparte's Served: 27
- Evictions: 19
- Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours: 181/15.0Man Hrs.
- Animals Pickup/Surrender: 163
- Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued: 115
- Animal Control Calls for Service: 168
- New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol: 155/23
- Pill Drop Collections: 17,999 Doses Units/2,185.5 ML
- Average Daily Inmate Confinement: 162
- Gun Purchase Permits Issued: 151
- Carry Concealed Permits Issued: 0
- Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours: 4/3.0Man Hrs.

Personnel Actions:

Promotion:

Effective: 12-22-2014

Personnel	Position	Call #
Daniel Edwards, Ptl/Road Patrol/A-Crew	Cpl/Road Patrol/A-Crew	R-418
Tim Martin, Cpl/Interdiction	Sgt/Interdiction	H-101
Chad Nazelrod, Cpl/Road, D-Crew	Sgt/Road, B-Crew	R-414
Josh Padgett, Cpl/Road, A-Crew	Sgt/Road, A-Crew	R-413
Matt Owens, Ptl/Interdiction	Cpl/Interdiction	H-102

Laterals:

Effective: 01-05-2015

Brian Gooch, Cpl/SRO Thomas Jefferson	Cpl/Road Patrol/D-Crew	R-419
Effective: 12-22-2014		
Stephen Ellis, Sgt/Road, A-Crew	Sgt/Road, C-Crew	R-411

New Full-Time:

Effective: 01-05-2015

Luis Hernandez	Cpl/SRO Thomas Jefferson	R-456
Frank Lancaster, Reserve	Ptl/Road Patrol/A-Crew	R-434
Tyler Greene	Ptl/Road Patrol/A-Crew	R-435

Effective: 12-22-2014

Zack Walker	Ptl/Interdiction	H-104
Mike Callahan	Assistant Jail Admin.	D-102

Effective: 12-08-2014

Adrienne Wallace	Detective/D.V.	I-03
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New Part-Time:

Effective: 01-01-2015

Matthew Sparks	Telecommunicator/911	(TBA)
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Effective: 12-17-14

Tyrone Ross	Detention/Med Tech	N/A
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Effective: 12-13-14

Carrie McBrayer	Telecommunicator/911	E-329
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Effective: 12-08-2014

Lori Morris	Forensics	I-13
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Effective: 11-04-2014

Eric Johnson	Detention	(TBA)
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Public Works and Planning

The County garage was extremely busy week keeping County vehicles in great running condition. In fact, this week, they completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of NC vehicle safety inspections. Our maintenance crews have been extremely active as well in completing numerous Trackit work orders and much annual preventative maintenance in preparation for the winter season's bitterly cold temperatures. Meanwhile, we are taking advantage of the timing to accomplish routine maintenance on our equipment and mowers. Planning and projects continue researching capital facilities planning, along with working with the state's energy conversation team, in consideration of possible performance contracting projects jointly with the RC Schools and ICC. Meanwhile, they continue working with the architect and general contractors for the Southeastern EMS, holding construction updates onsite, as well as meeting with internal staff to update them. The architect remains working on the Southeastern Library construction documents and will open bids in January, and present the bid tab to Commissioners during their February business meeting. Additionally, close monitoring and oversight continues for the development of Greyrock and Queens Gap. The Rail Trail Advisory committee maintains working together, and is scheduled to meet this week. Lastly, we continue to coordinate with EDC and NCDOT regarding cleaning up a fill site along Henson Rd. in addition to closing out several grants with ABPP, NPS and NCDOT while exploring new grant opportunities.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department worked 5250 motor vehicle renewals and handled 51 VTS assists. The office answered 848 phone calls and assisted 433 customers. We completed 1 plat review, 2 pre-permits, and answered 4 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 133 building permits and 216 field reviews. Transfers consisted of 29 straits, 4 estates, 2 merges, 4 splits, and 2 acreage adjustments. GIS created 8 new maps. The GIS website had 178,799 hits and 130,761 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 3 new addresses, ordered 17 new road signs, and updated 59 addresses with new owner information. Part time employees completed maintenance on 10 road signs. 4 appeals were filed and 10 listing forms were received. All were processed and 14 letters went back out. The PUV program mailed 7 letters, and assisted 16 program members. Staff processed 15 exclusions/deferments, 31 refunds, and 19 releases. Collection enforcement consisted of 10 prepays, and 4 debt setoff. Staff completed 2 gross receipts, 21 payment plans, processed 713 items mailed in, and 8 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 389 tax payments. Department employees spent time on 82 release/refund issues, and certified 41 deeds for recording purposes.

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-seven clients took advantage of this service. Jane Armstrong, former owner of De-Clutter for Real Life, came to the Center on Tuesday to present "How to De-Clutter Part I: The difference between collecting and hoarding". Jane will be back in February and March to present "Part II: Tips & Techniques for de-cluttering my space" and "Part III: How to set goals when I feel overwhelmed with my things". The Director did a presentation about the Senior Center programs at Timber Ridge Senior Apartment Community on Tuesday afternoon. Nell Bovender shared details about Rutherford Housing Partnership's "Help a Neighbor" campaign on Thursday. Lastly, the Senior Center Advisory Board met on Thursday for their quarterly meeting.

Social Services

This week at DSS the Project Managers for the Northwoods Case Management System for Children's Services are at the office working with staff to finalize the taxonomy and forms design. The Income Maintenance staff continues to work diligently as NC FAST implementation continues. A conference call is held each week to discuss changes in the system and to address problem issues. The Director and DSS Attorney conducted interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday for the newly established legal assistant position. On Tuesday the Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team met at DSS. Child Protective Services cases were reviewed this month. On Thursday child care staff participated in a conference call regarding SEEK. Rutherford County is a pilot county for the SEEK System, which is a statewide card swipe system that would allow the state to track attendance and issue child care subsidy funds. **Hope Bailey**, a social worker in the Adult Services Unit, was selected as **Employee of the Quarter** for the first quarter of 2015. She has been employed with the agency since June 2001.



Hope Bailey

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department reports:

- 252 customers
- hauled 52 loads from convenience centers
- shipped 31 loads to Lenoir
- sent out 2 recycling trailers
- 25 tire customers
-

Director James Kilgo:

- attended the weekly meeting with the County Manager,
- had budget meeting with Raeann Turner in Finance
- participated in a conference call on MSW



Director Kilgo also opened the requests for proposals this week that dealt with the hauling and disposal of Rutherford County's MSW. Staff will begin to review the proposals so a recommendation can be made. Also, staff continues to perform everyday job duties despite the recent rains. Staff remains in force on the work at the airport properties 3, 4 and 5. The director is actively preparing a budgetary number to maintain all the grass at the airport which is properties 1-6. Director Kilgo has been researching information on the removal of the old Edward's house. "We hope to start the removal process within the next week." The new recycling compactors that were installed at Colfax and Avondale Convenience centers are working great. The final stages of negotiations with a vendor to order the signage for all convenience centers are in place.

Please continue to
promote recycling
within your
department.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked with Jeff Bradley, visiting three schools to present Farm City poster awards, and also, presenting a lesson to teach how important agriculture is in our everyday life.
- completed agenda and meeting folders
- attended the Watershed Board meeting and Farmland Preservation meeting

The Ag Cost Share Technician:

- attended the Watershed Commission meeting
- inspected watershed dams
- participated in a teleconference with NRCS
- attended a meeting in Asheville with Resource Institute

Transportation Services

Emergency Management Services: This week, EMS' personnel responded to 199 emergency calls and 69 convalescent calls. EMS has changed to EBS for their billing services who operates out of Goldsboro. EBS and EMS met with multiple nursing home agencies last week to update them on this change. The monthly supervisor's meeting was also held with administrative staff. Congratulation to EMS' three new Field Training Officers: Jennifer Mooney, Tammy McCrory and Phillip Hill. EMS also promoted three paramedics to the Level 2 position. Congratulations to Kayla Wynn, Lindsey Crowder and Josie Craig on this achievement.

Transit Department:

- drove 10,007 miles
- completed 1,092 local trips
- 112 out-of- county trips
- transported 224 unduplicated passengers
- collected \$18,236 in revenue
-

CONGRATULATIONS to driver **Danny McFarland**, selected as **Employee of the Month** for January.

Transit is in the middle of a 5-year strategic plan, working this week with their consultant who met with multiple contract agencies. Director Kerry Giles also attended quarterly RPO meeting and monthly Community Health Council meeting.



Rutherford County's Sheriff's Office 911 Communications has officially launched "Text-to-911," becoming the first county in western North Carolina to make 911 texting available to the public.

"I have witnessed so many positive changes with the advancement of our 911 Communications Center since I began working here in 1995," said Director Lt. Tammy Aldridge. "We are very excited to be able to offer the 'Text-to-911' for those who can't place a voice call."

911 TEXTING NOW AVAILABLE In Rutherford County

CALL IF YOU CAN, ONLY TEXT WHEN YOU CAN'T

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR LOCATION!

Available from the following wireless carriers...

AT&T
Sprint
T-Mobile
Verizon

Rutherford County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Chris Francis
For more information please visit rutherfordcountync.gov/communicationscenter

New Business Cards available RC Sheriff's Office and 911 Communications

**Rutherford County Sheriff's Office
911 Communications**

Text-to-911 is now available in Rutherford County

Always call if you can-ONLY TEXT IF YOU CAN'T!

Currently available from the following Carriers...

AT&T
Sprint
T-Mobile
Verizon

NEVER TEXT AND DRIVE!

How to text 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Enter the numbers "911" in the "To" field;
 - The first text message to 9-1-1 should be brief and contain the location of the emergency and type of help needed;
 - Push the "Send" button.
 - Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 call taker.
 - Text in simple words – do not use abbreviations.
 - Keep text messages brief and concise
- Below are a few things to know if you need to text 9-1-1:**
- Text location information is not equal to current location technology.
 - As with all text messages, 9-1-1 messages can take longer to receive, can get out of order or may not be received.
 - Text-to-9-1-1 is not available if you are roaming.
 - A text or data plan is required to place a text-to-9-1-1
 - If texting to 9-1-1 is not available in your area, or is temporarily unavailable, you will receive a message indicating that texting 9-1-1 is not available and to contact 9-1-1 by other means.
 - Photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1 at this time.
 - Text-to-9-1-1 cannot include more than one person. Do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.

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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