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RUTHERFORD COUNTY

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Weekly Report

January 26, 2015

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.

Department Directory

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Veteran Services

Agriculture/Cooperative

County Extension Director

1. Continued agricultural lessons with 4th Graders in various Rutherford County Schools, highlighting the importance of agriculture to our everyday lives. These programs are a portion of the Farm/City Program.
2. Working with cattle producers to process cattle for sale on Mountain Cattle Alliance loads in February and March. The Mountain Cattle Alliance in our 4-county region, sold and shipped 13 loads in 2014 valued at 1.56 million dollars.
3.Provided clients with technical assistance through phone calls, emails, office visits, and farm visits.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Began "Color Me Healthy" Nutrition Program for preschoolers at Carver Center
- Conducted annual training for Extension & Community Association
- Submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier
- Met with Agriculture Innovations Committee
- Facilitated the Chronic Disease quarterly meeting
- Prepared upcoming programs including "Better Food Better Health" for adults and "Child Nutrition" for youth.

Color Me Healthy
preschoolers moving & eating healthy

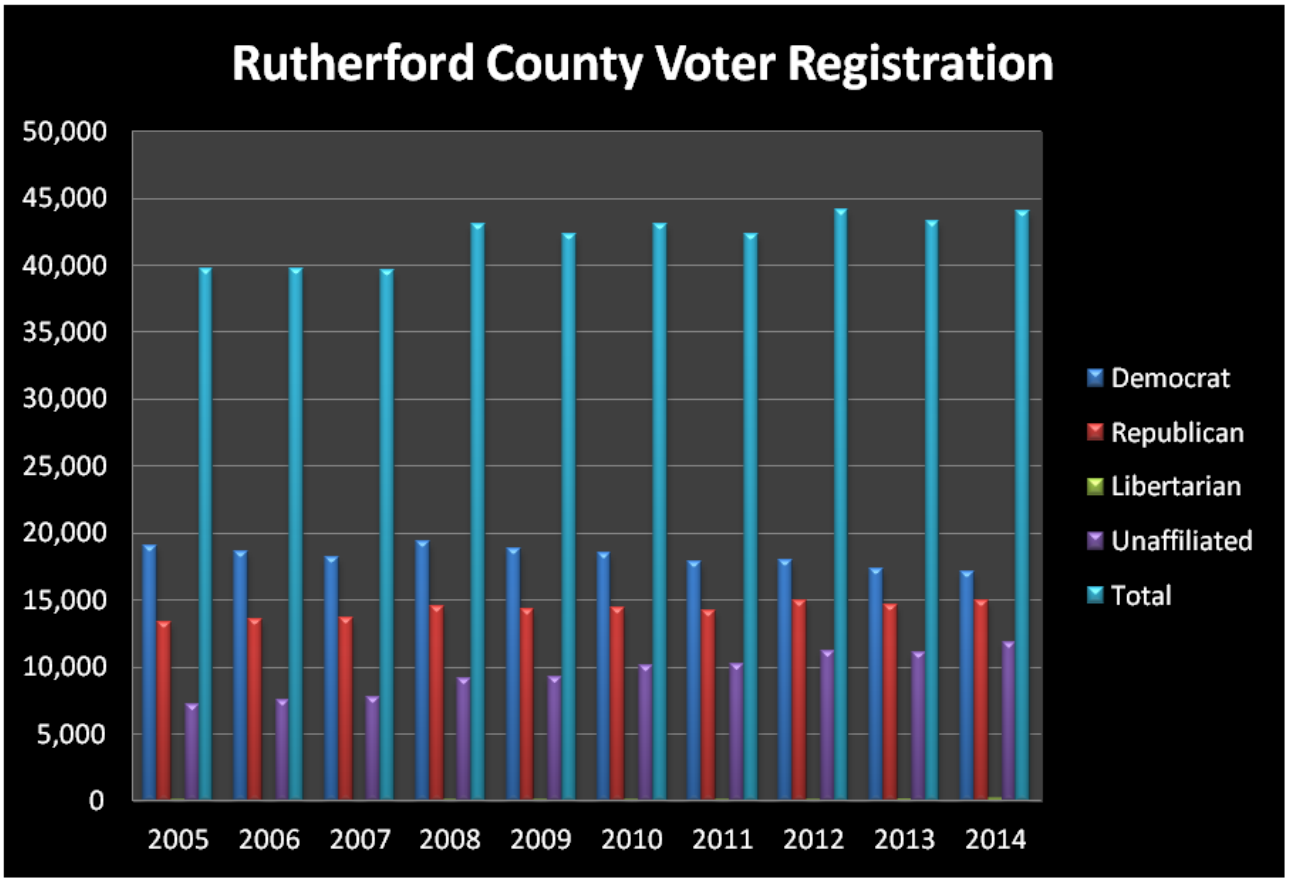
Agriculture/Cooperative Ext. continued from page 1

Agriculture

- Development of Pesticide Training materials for Private Applicator Trainings (Jan. 26 & Feb. 9)
- Development of Rutherford County Gardeners Calendar in conjunction with Extension Master Gardener Volunteers
- Working toward completion of Agriculture Innovation & Solutions Center Feasibility Study. Networking with the Small Business Center (ICC), Food Processing & Manufacturing Initiative (NCSU), College of Design (NCSU)

Board of Elections

This week the Election Staff continues work processing returned list maintenance mailings and correcting addresses within the county. Below you will find a ten year comparison of voter registration in the county showing how political party numbers have changed. Rutherford County has gone from a strongly Democratic county to having both Democratic and Republican parties more evenly represented but showing the most growth in Unaffiliated voters.



Clerk to the Board

Chairman Bryan King and Commissioner Michael Benfield attended sessions in Pinehurst last week that were sponsored by the School of Government and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. On Wednesday, they attended *Leading your Government Board*, and on Thursday and Friday, they attended the Legislative Goals Conference. Chairman King was the voting delegate for this conference.

Vice Chairman Alan Toney attended the Senior Center Advisory Board meeting on Thursday of last week.

County Commissioners held a special meeting on January 20 to hear from Sheriff Chris Francis about requests for his departments. The meeting was recessed so Commissioners could put on their Airport Authority hats. Following the adjournment of the Airport Authority, Commissioners returned to their recessed meeting as County Commissioners.

Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney, along with County Manager Carl Classen, met with School Superintendent Janet Mason and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

Staff participated in several webinars on new or updated software programs.
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County Manager

The County Manager's agenda continues to be extremely busy, including weekly meetings with several department heads, interoffice meetings, various county meetings and conference calls. The Manager's schedule also involved travel, including a trip to Pinehurst, attending sessions sponsored by the School of Government and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.

Economic Development

- Staff traveled to Atlanta to present at an industrial prospect meeting
- Participated in the monthly EDC Board Meeting,
- Researched and made other preparations for an upcoming prospect visit
- Reviewed progress of grading at Gateway West Commerce Park
- Distributed correspondence
- Began work on the 2014 Annual Report
- Followed up on multiple recruitment opportunities

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings, Commissioners Meeting and the TDA Board Meeting. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week. W-2s will be sent out to the Departments late next week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

- Responded to:
  - several fires to assist with manpower
  - a search for a missing person from a rest home facility who was located safely by S.D.O Fire Department personnel
- Assisted several fire departments with grant applications for equipment
- Approval received by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on a joint Hazard Mitigation Plan which Rutherford County is a part
- Attended the Western North Carolina Firefighters Association meeting
- Participated in various other meetings and training

Human Resources

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

Welcome new hires:
Zach Walker (Sheriff), Holly Keever (Finance) Joy Sharp (Branch Librarian) and Deanna McKinney (p/t Library). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Amanda Greene (p/t 911) and Lisa Crisp (EMS).

The Director attended a Special Board meeting and Airport Authority Board meeting on Tuesday. The Director also met with EBA regarding ACA requirements. Performance reviews are still being processed. On behalf of the Human Resource Department, Debra Conner thanks each employee for their dedication to Rutherford County.

Job postings:
Part-time van driver/Transit
Part-time technician/Airport
County Manager
See postings and apply @ rutherfordcountync.gov.

Information Technology

As IT begins working on budget requests, the annual IT/Maintenance/HR budget meeting will be held on January 26th at 10 a.m. This meeting should not last longer than one hour. As usual, please talk with your IT contact about your IT needs. IT director, Rhonda Owens, needs an email from the Department Head stating what you would like to have in your department for the 2015-2016 budget year and anything that should be included in the 5-year IT plan. Rhonda would also like for you to prioritize your needs in the event that she is asked to cut items from the budget request. If you have repeatedly asked for something, and IT has not been able to purchase that item, please mark that as a repeat request. More emphasis can be put on that item. The phone upgrade went very well and IT wants to express their appreciation for your cooperation during this process. IT staff attended a workshop in Chapel Hill at the School of Government regarding Public Records and IT Procurement for IT Professionals. IT has closed 69 TrackIt orders this week.

Library

Library Director:

April has worked on the quarterly report and agenda for the Library Board of Trustee meeting and the agenda for the CMC meeting next week. In addition to welcoming and instructing new part-time front desk staff on library specifics, April also spent time sorting through hundreds of donated books for the book sale and gathering information pertaining to Maintenance and IT issues at all three libraries. We would like to welcome, Susan Laney and Deanna McKinney to the County Library front desk staff!

Children's Department:

Story Time has started back at all the libraries after a 2-week break over Christmas. The children have been learning about different types of weather: snow, rain and rainbows, and next week—sun and shadows. Outreach programs have been at Harris Elementary School. Also, during the past several weeks, the Youth Services Librarian completed updating the Accelerated Reader list of almost 20,000 titles. A hard copy of it is in the Children's Room as well as being posted on the Library's webpage. In addition, all new acquisitions have been marked and coded.

Haynes Branch:

The Cliffside School kindergarten classes visited on Wednesday the 21st. The classes took a tour of the Library and received info about how to use and join the library. We also provided a short story time to the children.

Mountains Branch:

A "Goodbye Party" was held for April Young by the Friends of Mountains Branch Library on Friday the 23rd. She will be greatly missed by all the patrons, volunteers, staff and the friends of the library. Congratulations and best wishes in her new job as Library Director of Rutherford County.

Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Count	Cash
Copies	18	$ 104.75
Real Estate	261	$16,011.00
Vitals	194	$ 2,190.00
Totals	473	$18,305.75

Public Works and Planning

The County garage is extremely busy keeping county vehicles in great running condition. They move forward in completing numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of NC vehicle safety inspections. Maintenance crews remain extremely active in completing numerous TrackIt work orders and much annual preventative maintenance in preparation for the winter season's bitterly cold temperatures. Meanwhile, they 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 continues 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 remains for the development of Greyrock and Queens Gap. Coordination with EDC and NCDOT regarding cleaning up a fill site along Henson Road continues.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is currently working 5250 motor vehicle renewals and handled 50 VTS assists. The office answered 580 phone calls and assisted 380 customers. They completed 1 plat review, 1 pre-permit, and answered 3 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 55 building permits and 227 field reviews. GIS created 7 new maps and the GIS website had 177,637 hits and 128,280 successful searches. E911 updated 8 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance staff completed maintenance on 11 road signs. 5 appeals were filed and 25 listing forms were received. All were processed and 35 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed 5 letters, and assisted 12 program members. Staff processed 19 exclusions/deferments, 10 refunds and 5 discoveries. Collection enforcement consisted of 3 bank attachments, 187 bank drafts and 4 prepays. Staff completed 7 payment plans, and 2 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 315 tax payments. 23 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center has a new volunteer, Sandra Boyd, in the computer lab on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sandra retired from ICC and has 32 years of teaching experience. The Center continues to have computer assistance on Thursdays with volunteer Jim Cole from 12:30-2:00 p.m. The seniors also enjoyed making pinecone bird feeders and going to Meet & Eat at Fat Tracy's on Tuesday. Rita Burch, Director of Hospice, came to the Center on Thursday to give an overview of services provided by Hospice. Lastly, the Senior Center and satellite sites will be closed next week on January 28th for a staff training day.
Upcoming: The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program will begin 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

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

worked with Jeff Bradley visiting two Rutherford County schools to present Farm City poster awards and present a lesson to teach how important agriculture is in our everyday life

worked on announcing poster and slide show contest winners and worked on plans for the District Awards Banquet

The Ag Cost Share Technician:

- had a webinar on cover crops
- worked on a nutrient mgt plan
- assisted NRCS with ranking contracts

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department reports:

- 265 customers
- hauled 56 loads from convenience centers
- shipped 28 loads to Lenoir
- sent out 2 recycling trailers
- 19 tire customers

Director James Kilgo:

- attended the Commissioner's meeting and the Airport Authority meeting
- attended a meeting with County Manager
- had budget meeting with Raeann Turner in Finance

Staff also attended the ERPC meeting. Employees continue to work at the Edwards house removing the old barns. The department is in the process of getting price estimates for the removal of the asbestos siding. Shop employees have been busy fixing the compactor at Danieltown where the floor of the compactor had rusted through. The staff continues to perform everyday job duties and continues to work on a budget for the airport grass mowing. Staff is starting to prepare presentations for future conferences in March and April. Also, staff and the review committee are working on a recommendation for the MSW proposals that were received.

Please continue to recycle!

Tourism Development Authority

This past week the RCTDA had its Executive Committee meeting, attended the Regional Economic and Tourism Session at the Tryon International Equestrian Center and held several vendor and staff meetings. There were approximately 200 guests at the Welcome Center.

Transportation Services

Emergency Management Services:
This week EMS Personnel responded to 189 emergency calls and 69 convalescent calls. EMS Administration met with the new Emergency Department Director at Rutherford Regional. Administration has also begun developing a recruitment package for a new Medical Director.

Transit Department:
Transit operated four days this week with the MLK holiday.

- drove 8,423 miles
- completed 992 local trips
- 78 out-of-county trips
- transported 225 unduplicated passengers
- collected $14,573 in revenue

Administration finalized NCDOT grant submissions for FY 15-16 and also hosted Cleveland County Transit who came to inquire on Rutherford's scheduling and efficiency changes.

Veterans Services

Activity Report
Mail In - 108

- Fax- 222
- Mail Out 162
- Telephone Calls In and Out - 252
- Number of Veteran Contacts - 632

Special Highlights

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

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:
WELL DONE, Hope Bailey Employee of the Quarter !

County Commissioners
Bryan King, *Chairman*
Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman*
Greg Lovelace
Michael Benfield
Eddie Holland

Carl Classen, *County Manager*
Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*
Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

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