



January 25, 2016

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](#)

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

County Extension Director - Jeff Bradley

- Chaired Partnership for Children executive committee meeting.
- Chaired Community Health Council meeting.
- Conducted Achievement Program for Extension & Community Association.
- Prepared educational programs for January.
- Attended informational session on the Connect NC bond.
- Taught Living Healthy with Diabetes class.
- Taught Color Me Healthy for preschool children.
- Led planning team meeting for upcoming nutrition project.
- Met with agency leaders to discuss kinship care program.

Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department has conducted 118 inspections in the past week and has issued three permits for new houses in the same time-frame.

The Director has been working with the County Manager on various airport issues. Staff met with Terry Foxx, NFIP Planner for the Risk Management Section of the NC Dept of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management to discuss various flood plain issues and maps. Staff met with a local engineer to discuss a flood-prone property in Ellenboro.

Staff also has been working diligently with a local engineer regarding a commercial renovation in flood prone property in Chimney Rock

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were engaged in another active week of numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events. Meetings with several department heads were on the schedule this week, including Planning and Projects and EDC. The Rutherford County Planning Commission met on Tuesday morning with the agenda including discussions, updates, and maps on Solar Development Ordinance and projects, Greyrock, Queens Gap, and communication towers. The monthly conference call with ARC (Applied Sciences Initiative) was on Tuesday's schedule. Interviews for the Veteran's Services Director were held this week.



Staff continued preparation on the agenda for next month's Board of Commissioners' meeting. The manager met with the County Attorney on Wednesday for their weekly meeting. Wednesday was a very action packed day. The quarterly Department Head meeting took place on Wednesday morning. **(Pictured left and additional pictures on page 12.)**

Other meetings on Wednesday included PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) 2016 discussions, RHI Legacy luncheon, and GoToWebinar regarding Grant Funding in Rural Counties. Thursday was full of activity including the Senior Center Advisory Board meeting and SET V Planning Session examining economic data related to our region. Also, Commissioner King and Manager Garrison met with Blue Ridge Community Health.

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 the NCEDA luncheon in Raleigh and met with state allies to follow-up on industrial recruitment and expansion prospects. Staff continues to be busy reaching out to industry representatives and the Department of Commerce to compile information regarding various grant reports and requests, as well as working on marketing and advertising efforts involving online, print, and social media.

This week's schedule also included participating in the monthly EDC Advisory Board meeting and viewing a webinar pertaining to Grant Funding in Rural Counties.

Finance Department

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

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal:

- assisted fire departments with grant applications.
- continued to follow up on fire investigations.
- attended the Western NC Firefighters Association meeting.
- responded to one search for a missing person who was later located by law enforcement.
- participated in emergency management committee meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director conducted interviews for TDA, Veterans, and Register of Deeds. The Director attended the HR Association meeting and the department head meeting. Current vacancies are: Deputy Register of Deeds. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Maria Davis – Marketing and Programming

Maria continues to work on implementing new adult programming. In the coming weeks, we will have:

- Common Sense Couponing, 2/5/16 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Learn how to use coupons to save money on virtually everything. Please call 287-6118 to reserve your spot.
- Valentine Craft, 2/6/16 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Craft open to all ages. Valentine's Scrabble Tile Craft and yarn craft. Free of charge. No signup necessary.
- Meet and Eat Book Club will meet again 2/10/16 at 3:00. Bring an appetizer and be prepared to talk about your current read.
- Adult Coloring Session, 2/17/16 at 4:00 p.m. The newest rage is adult coloring and oh, what fun it is!!!! Join us to color on provided coloring sheets with our markers, crayons, and colored pencils.

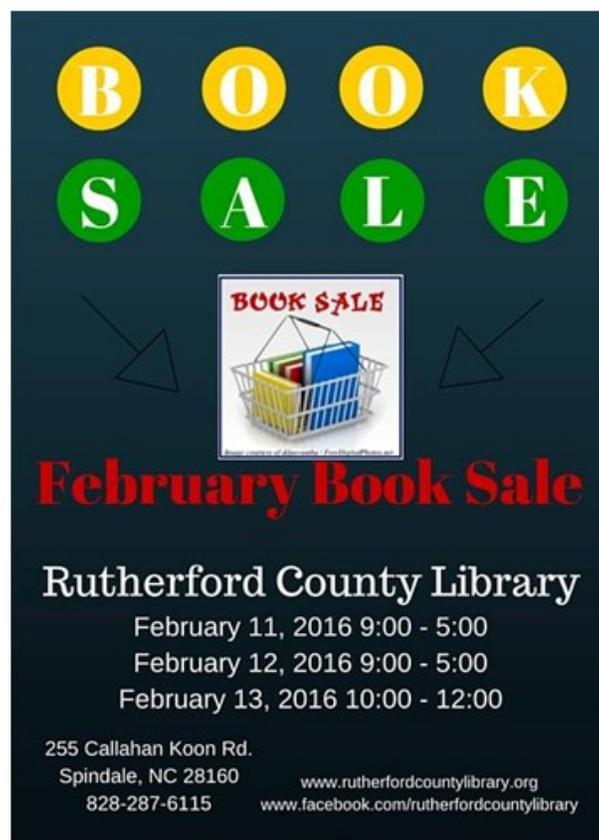
Joy Sharp – Mountains Branch Librarian

Mountains Branch Library celebrated National Popcorn Day with free popcorn-themed book bags, scratch 'n sniff bookmarks, and of course, plenty of pop corn! Our patrons are looking forward to National Pie Day!

In addition to our regular "Creatives" program for adults, we hosted a Kids' Crafternoon after school program where we made bird feeders and enjoyed popcorn and hot chocolate.

Joy Sharp ordered award-winning children's books, as well as some new releases. Joy and Angie catalogued many new items for the collection.

It is time for another **Book Sale!** Our back room is PACKED with books just waiting to go home with Y-O-U!!! February 11 to 13, 2016 at the Rutherford County Library. This is a GREAT time to stock your home or classroom library! Call 828-287-6115 if you have questions



The poster features the words "BOOK SALE" in large, colorful letters (B, O, O, K in yellow; S, A, L, E in green) arranged in a grid. Below the letters is a small image of a shopping basket filled with books, with the words "BOOK SALE" written above it. The background is dark blue. At the bottom, the text "February Book Sale" is written in large red letters, followed by "Rutherford County Library" in white. Below that, the dates and times for the sale are listed: February 11, 2016 9:00 - 5:00; February 12, 2016 9:00 - 5:00; and February 13, 2016 10:00 - 12:00. At the very bottom, the library's address (255 Callahan Koon Rd., Spindale, NC 28160), phone number (828-287-6115), website (www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org), and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rutherfordcountylibrary) are listed.

February Book Sale

Rutherford County Library

February 11, 2016 9:00 - 5:00
February 12, 2016 9:00 - 5:00
February 13, 2016 10:00 - 12:00

255 Callahan Koon Rd.
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6115

www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
www.facebook.com/rutherfordcountylibrary

Public Works and Planning

The Director and Project Manager were involved in multiple meetings, research and reporting to include capital facilities plan funding strategy, vehicle replacement planning, solar development ordinance and projects, Rails to Trails committee, EMS driveway design changes per NCDOT, updates on Greyrock, Queens Gap, Solar development, Community Projects Grants and communication tower/antennae research in addition to preparation for the regular planning board meeting. The garage completed multiple preventative maintenance service calls and repairs to the County's motor vehicle fleet. Maintenance has had a productive week in conducting repairs and preventative maintenance to the County's facilities. In fact, we are currently preparing for winter weather as it threatens.

Revenue Department

Farragut has been in the office doing one on one training with the appraisal and transfer staff. They will be back in several weeks to continue helping with the migration from the old system.

As of this week, office staff has been working on finalizing value issues for the migration. If all goes as planned, the schedule for our second phase rollout will be February 15th. Keep watching for more updates.

Collections will be working on two foreclosures in the Town of Forest City so anyone needing information, please contact Jessica at 287-6181.

We have just heard the S word aka Snow is in the forecast. Stay safe and warm in the coming days. If our office closes, we will have a message on our phone. Please dial 287-6000 for details.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	467
Website Hits	171,068
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	77
Deeds Recorded	24
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	21
Total Taxes Collected	\$307,970.81

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the second class of “Living Healthy with Diabetes” on Tuesday. 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. Sally Dimuzio presented a program on “Healthy Steps” on Thursday. Sally demonstrated the fun and beneficial movement program that is set to music.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on January 25, February 1st and 8th.

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program will begin on Thursday, February 4th. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 50 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 15th. Remember to bring the following:

Picture ID

Proof of Social Security number(s) for yourself and ALL dependents

Copy of 2014 tax return(s)

All 2015 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

911 Communications

Rutherford County Call Volume 2015

MONTH	CAD CALLS ENTERED	911 CALLS TAKEN	INCOMING ADMIN	OUTGOING ADMIN	TOTAL ADMIN & 911
JANUARY	8022	3404	7415	2558	13,377
FEBRUARY	7262	3192	7117	2315	12,624
MARCH	8092	3397	7522	2246	13,165
APRIL	8182	3544	7779	2493	13,816
MAY	8877	3859	8057	2628	14,544
JUNE	8698	4030	8151	2723	14,904
JULY	9054	4110	8481	2744	15,335
AUGUST	8933	3945	8233	2718	14,896
SEPTEMBER	8234	3684	7825	2661	14,170
OCTOBER	8113	3613	7549	2513	13,675
NOVEMBER	7687	3591	7054	2592	13,237
DECEMBER	8232	3883	7258	2575	13,716
TOTAL	99,386	44,252	92,441	30,766	167,459

Sheriff's Department

Sgt. Ellis Receives Advanced Professional Certificate

On 1-19-2016, Sheriff Chris Francis congratulated Sgt. Stephen Ellis for receiving the Advanced Professional Certificate. The North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission awarded Sgt. Ellis 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. Ellis' 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. Ellis' accomplishment, "It is an honor to present Sgt. Ellis with the Advanced Professional Certificate. Sgt. Ellis continues to demonstrate dedication to his chosen profession". Sgt. Ellis has over 11 years experience in law enforcement and is currently a Sergeant on the road patrol.

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:

Transit Director and Operations Manager attended meeting with the County Manager at the Annex for all Department Heads.

The new Community Paramedic Quick Response Vehicle was lettered this week and will be in service as soon as the lights and radio are installed.

EMS employees are working on intentional leadership with the development of a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Values and Goals. Director also completed the 2nd quarter statistical analysis for the County Manager. Also, congratulations to **Tammy McCrory** who was promoted to Training Officer this week.



TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	147	168
Convalescent Calls	36	59

Transit Department:

Transit Director and Operations Manager attended meeting with the County Manager at the Annex for all Department Heads. Staff is working on quarterly reimbursements to be submitted to NCDOT. Operations Manger submitted quarterly Training Standards and Quarterly Accident/Incident spreadsheets to NCDOT. Operations Manager met with Board of Elections Director to discuss Transit's ability to assist any citizen whom may need transportation to the local DMV to get their voter ID for upcoming election. Transit employees are working on intentional leadership with the development of a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Values and Goals. Transit employees consider Safety to be one of their top 5 core values and would like to stress to everyone that it is an everyday value but especially now with the predictions of frozen inclement weather to be extra cautious. Always remember that it is better to take your time and get where you're going safely than to possibly not get there at all.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	14,345	9,566
# of Local Trips	926	881
# of Out of County Trips	74	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	210	238
Total Revenue	\$16,073	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	51
Mail Out	28
Fax	135
Phone Calls In/Out	104
Veteran Contacts	130



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.

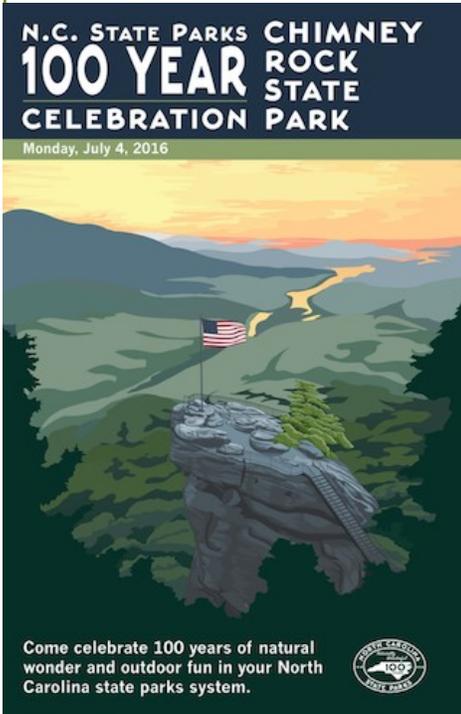
New Year's Day 2016 Lake Lure Polar Plunge

A record-breaking 252 plungers ran into the frigid waters of Lake Lure for the New Year's Day Polar Plunge. Courageous men, women and children ranging in age from 70-years-old down to 4-years-old participated in the annual challenge.

Multiple media outlets attended and captured many moments from the exciting event.



Join us as we celebrate North Carolina State Park's centennial anniversary with this special documentary featuring Chimney Rock State Park!



"Saving the Best: North Carolina State Parks at 100"

Documentary Viewing Party

Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Lake Lure Town Hall

Join Producer Tom Earnhardt as he hosts a public viewing party for the documentary film. The video pays tribute to the men and women who work and volunteer in the state parks across NC. It honors their efforts as they continue to provide education and recreation for the millions of people who visit each year.

The social event will begin at 7:30 pm with a short history of Chimney Rock State Park followed by the film. Enjoy popcorn, snacks and beverages provided by Chimney Rock Management, LLC and Friends of Chimney Rock State Park.

You can also catch the film on UNC-TV beginning at 8:00 pm.

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 yicisneros@rpmhd.org

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

RUTHERFORD POLK MCDOWELL HEALTH DISTRICT

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

Relay for Life Fundraiser

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

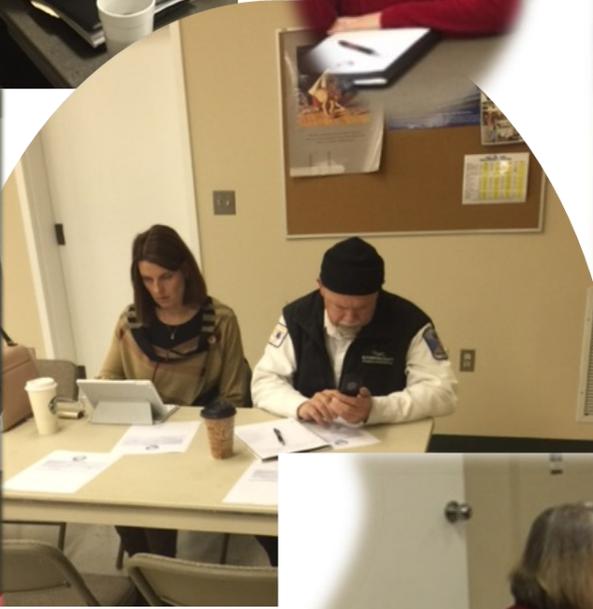
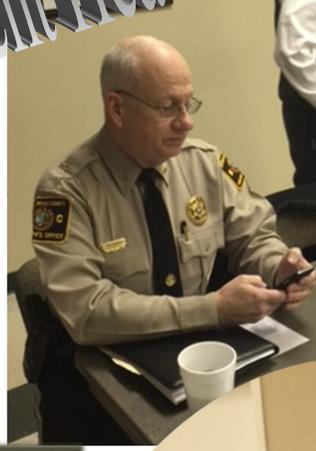
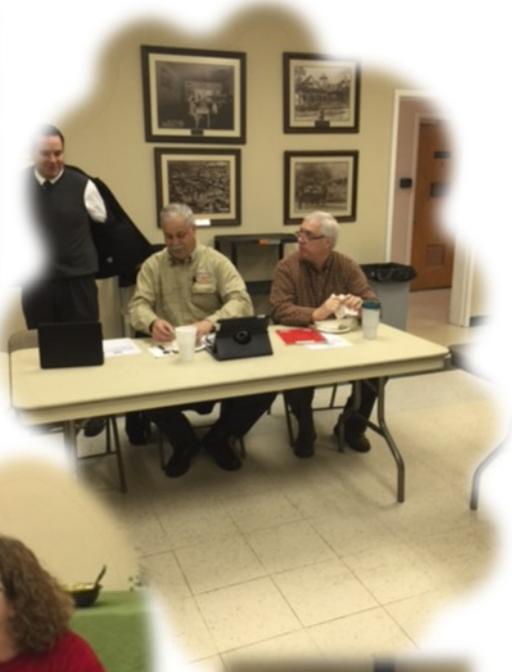
**Location: County Office Kitchen Auditorium
289 N. Main St., Rutherfordton, NC 28139**

Cost: \$20 per person

Includes all materials plus pizza and drinks.

**Any questions contact Alma 287-6125
or Jeanette 287-6211**

Quarterly Department Head Meeting



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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www.rutherfordcountync.gov