



July 27, 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.**

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### Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

#### Family and Consumer Sciences

- completed follow-up from summer day camp.
- taught food preservation classes for adults and youth.
- conducted nutrition program for church group.
- attended monthly meeting of Extension & Community Association.

#### Agriculture

Assisted with consumer and commercial agriculture requests. Master Gardener Training - Rutherford Extension Master Gardener, Nancy Milleman conducted training session on 'How to Hybridize', sharing her work with daylily hybridization. **Rutherford County Gardening Calendars** are now ready and will be available for sale through the Rutherford Extension Center (**pictured right**). Great for new residents and those interested in learning more about gardening! Cost \$7. Rainwater harvesting system was recently installed to assist in reducing storm-water runoff and enhancing water conservation methods. The rainwater will be utilized for Cooperative Extension's 'Demonstration & Teaching Gardens,' the WIC Children's Garden, and the Rutherford County Community Garden. Thanks to Rutherford Soil & Water and the Community Conservation Assistance Program in making the cistern possible.



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**Photo of Cistern Installation:** (Left to right) Brandon Higgins-Rutherford Soil & Water, Phillip Melton-Rutherford Health Dept., Jeff Bradley-Cooperative Extension

## Airport

The Airport sold 1,492.0 gallons of 100LL to 28 aircraft and 1,917.0 gallons of Jet A to 9 aircraft last week.



### **Photo:**

New Airport part-time employee, Tim Newton, filling up an aircraft on his first day on the job. Welcome aboard, Tim!

## Board of Elections

A flurry of candidates filed in the last days bringing our total of municipal candidates to 32. Staff have been busy with campaign finance reports and proofing the ballot information for these candidates.

On Tuesday, our Board was sworn in for a two-year term and elected Chairman, Gail Parton and Secretary, Margaret Helton (pictured right).



## County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were involved in several events and numerous departmental meetings. The beginning of the week the Manager met with Economic Development director, Matt Blackwell and Projects and Planning director, Danny Searcy. Several town council meetings were held throughout the week. Commissioner Benfield, along with Manager Garrison and Director Randy Patterson, were involved with the Airport Authority Board meeting which met Tuesday evening. Midweek, the Manager met with a representative from Senator Tillis' office. Toward the end of the week, there was a meeting with county managers from Polk and Cleveland counties. The week concluded with several additional departmental meetings, project discussions, appointments, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

## Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department followed-up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, assisted the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce with commercial development recruitment activities, and attended various internal meetings with other county departments and industry allies. Economic Development staff continues to be busy reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and working on marketing and advertising efforts including increasing our social media presence. The Economic Development team also conducted a familiarization tour of available buildings and sites to gather product specific information and photos for the development of future marketing materials and client development initiatives.

## Finance

The Finance Director attended several departmental meetings. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- have responded to two searches for missing persons who were found safely.
- responded to a mobile home fire for an origin and cause investigation.
- responded to assist Polk County with a large structure fire in Tryon.
- worked with GIS to prepare maps for a fire district expansion.
- responded to some open burning complaints.
- attended Sheriff's Office training.
- participated in an Emergency Operations Center web based exercise.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Interviews have been completed for Building Inspections and Information Technology. We wish to welcome back Vicki Edwards in IT, and welcome aboard Mike Sheridan (IT) and Cory Hill (Building Inspections). Employment will begin in August. Current vacancies are Program Manager. Apply at [Rutherfordcountync.gov](http://Rutherfordcountync.gov) or 289 North Main Street. As the summer continues to heat up, remember to stay hydrated!! Here are a few good tips:

### **Heat and sun**

Summer is the hardest season on our bodies and the season that we spend the most time outside. Spending too much time in the heat, combined with physical activity, can quickly lead to dehydration and heat stroke. Taking frequent breaks to drink water and resting in shade can prevent serious repercussions. If you begin to feel confused, have a headache or experience nausea, get somewhere to cool off immediately. If you are inside with no air conditioning, be sure to keep a flow of air constant with fans and open windows and doors. And don't forget to put sunscreen on children—and yourself—as you spend time in the sun.

### **Pets**

Even though we have a tendency to believe that a pet's furry coat protects them from extreme heat and cold, that's simply not true. Pets are at risk for many of the same summer hazards as humans. Keep pets on leashes and don't leave your pet unattended for periods of time outdoors. If your pet stays outdoors, be sure to provide them plenty of water and a shady place to cool off.



## Library

### **Library Director:**

The Director spent the week going over numbers for the State Library report and the quarterly Board of Trustees report. She started a report outlining the success of a recent State Library Technology grant focused on Computer Training and Outreach for the public. The Director helped with this week's MakerCamp and sorted through books donated for an upcoming book sale.

### **Marketing/Outreach Coordinator:**

Week 2 of MakerCamp was even better than Week 1! The 10 campers made pianos using bananas and a MakeyMakey. They had a great time seeing what objects would conduct enough electricity to make music. They also painted their own T-shirts with the MakerCamp logo (pictured left).



### **Youth Services Librarian:**

Magician Bill Grimsley entertained almost 300 patrons at this week's Summer Reading Program, encouraging them to continue to read even though the Program ends with next week's Celebration Party. Mr. Bill Swope, a Marine Veteran, will speak to the children about his military experiences next Tuesday, wrapping up the "Every Hero Has a Story" theme. Attendees at the event will receive their certificates and incentive prizes provided by the Rutherford County Library

Society and Friends of the Mountains Library. On Saturday, July 25 at 11:00 at the Rutherford County Library, Super Science Saturday will present "Super Sonic Light Speed," a KidSenses demonstration on light and sound. The program is free and open to the public.

### **Haynes Branch Library:**

The Haynes Branch Manager and Assistant spent the better part of the week sorting through donated books for the Fall Book Sale. In addition, the staff proctored one student and checked the shelves to make sure books were in the correct order. The Haynes Branch had 77 patrons attend this week's Summer Reading Program featuring the Magician.

### **Mountains Branch:**

Joy Sharp continued working with donations for the Friends Book Sale and processing new titles for our collection. She worked on publicity for programming at the library. Mountains Branch hosted a Summer Reading Program (pictured right) and two Computer Classes. We also kicked off our Summertime Celebration Arts & Literacy Series with a visit from folk singers and recording artists, Phil & Gaye Johnson.



## Public Works and Planning

We consistently keep up high tempo operations despite the heat and demands on all facets of our department: Garage, Maintenance, Grounds keeping, Planning and Project management. All of our guys work very hard and are dedicated to getting the job done and keeping all of the County's vehicles, facilities, parks and projects in good condition. Meanwhile, the director has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections budget coordination, goals review and necessary paperwork, as well as meeting with the Planning Board, Manager and local vendors. Thanks to all the maintenance and garage staff for their hard work!

## Register of Deeds

<b>Transaction Group</b>	<b>Cash</b>
Copies	\$ 53.00
Real Estate	19,492.00
Marriages	660.00
Certified Vitals Copies	2,330.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,535.00</b>

## Revenue Department

**The Revenue Department** is currently working 4671 October motor vehicle renewals and handled 29 VTS assists this week. The office answered 486 phone calls and assisted 266 customers. We completed 4 plat reviews, 3 pre-permits and answered 2 data requests. Appraisers completed 126 building permits and 44 field reviews. A total of 45 new documents were recorded and 25 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 19 straights and 1 estate. GIS created 9 new maps. The GIS website had 154,487 hits and 108,141 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 5 new addresses and updated 36 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 10 road signs. 39 listing forms were received and 10 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program assisted 3 program members. Staff processed 2 exclusions/deferments. Electronic payments consisted of 6 by credit card, 12 by website and 3 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 15 debt setoff, and 7 newspaper items. Staff completed 3 gross receipts, 61 occupancy taxes, 4 payment plans, 178 bank drafts, 22 bankruptcy issues and 67 bankruptcy payments. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 185 tax payments. Fifty-one new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center celebrated "Christmas in July" this week. We started the week on Monday with a Center favorite of Christmas Bingo and the Recipe Club met to share their favorite Christmas recipes. On Tuesday, we had Christmas craft time making Christmas ornaments from old puzzle pieces. The seniors also enjoyed baking Christmas cookies and making Christmas kabobs on Wednesday and Thursday. Lastly, on Thursday we sponsored an intergenerational event of *Bowling with the Grandkids* at Autumn Lanes.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:45 on July 27 August 3, 10, 17, 31

## Soil & Water

### **The Admin/Education Specialist**

- worked on the District Annual Report.
- working on District and Watershed Meeting Notices
- preparing for the office move

### **The Agriculture Cost Share Technician**

- spent the week meeting with land owners
- preparing for watershed maintenance bids meeting
- preparing for office move

## Solid Waste

Customers served 374

Loads hauled from convenience centers 59

MSW loads shipped to Lenoir 32

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 29

The Solid Waste staff continues to be busy with yearend reports for the state and every day job duties. The director met with the County Manager on House Bill 765. This bill deals with electronics recycling. Also, the director met with Duke Power on a right of way easement at Pea Ridge Convenience Center. The staff at the transfer station continues to process the MSW and recycling. We are in the process of palletizing the electronics (**pictured right**). Staff in C&D continues to handle all the construction and demolition while beginning the next phase for animal disposal. Truck drivers continue to be busy with pickups from the centers and other special projects, including taking a container to the garage for metal. Staff is working on executing the recycling grants for this year and working on new contracts with County Attorney for the new recycling vendors.



The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is now being submitted by the Sheriff department.

Please continue to recycle!!

## *A 'Purr'fect Ending*

To: James Kilgo

Subject: Kitten at the Danieltown Center

I received a phone call around 1:30 today from my friend Cindy Cobb.

She informed me there was a kitten in the recycling container at the Danieltown Center. It was reported the kitten had been crying off and on since 6:00 am but no one had been able to locate him.

I contacted Debbie Andersen, who is a member of Rutherford County Humane Society, and met her at the Center. Debbie contacted Animal Control and they referred her to James Kilgo, the director of Rutherford County Solid Waste. Mr. Kilgo contacted a driver to come move the container to the landfill so it could be dumped and the kitten located.

Once the container was disconnected, it was decided to search through it there, instead of moving it to the landfill. We could all hear him crying but could not locate him.

We had looked underneath the container several times and saw nothing.

It turned out this little kitten, approximately 5 weeks old, was underneath the container, sitting on the railing. After cleaning up our mess, I brought the kitten home with me.

I am so thankful Cindy called me. A big thanks goes out to Rutherford County Humane Society, Debbie Andersen, Rutherford County Solid Waste, James Kilgo, Perry Smith and the driver (whom I did not get his name), Rutherford County Animal Control, and Nancy Houghtelin, Robin Cook Byers and Ann. Thanks guys for your part in this happy ending.

Sincerely,  
Karen Parker



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

EMS conducted their monthly random drug and alcohol test. Interior color and material selections were also made for the new southeast EMS station.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	150	168
Convalescent Calls	60	59

### Transit Department:

Randy Kanipe was selected as Transit's Employee of the Month (pictured right).

Transit received a new Dodge Grand Caravan minivan from a NCDOT grant this week. The vehicle will be used to transport citizens to medical appointments.



TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,335	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,182	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	50	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	234	241
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,186</b>	<b>\$15,385</b>

## Veterans Services

<b>Mail In</b>	52
<b>Mail Out</b>	181
<b>Fax</b>	211
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	49
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	127

# Special Event

**Broad River Alliance, a Waterkeeper Affiliate**

*Kickoff Event*

*Paddle and Picnic*

Sunday, August 2nd is part of the Waterkeeper Alliance “Swimmable Water Weekend” and BRA will be having a group river float, an easy paddle trip from Lake Hauser to the Broad River Greenway. **Bring your boat** and meet at Lake Hauser (1342 Lake Hauser Rd, Mooresboro, 28114) at **10:30 am** to drop off boats; then we will take most of the vehicles down to the Greenway take-out point (126 Broad River Drive, Shelby, 28152). We will then carpool back up to Lake Hauser to start our float.

Depending on the water levels, the trip will take an estimated 3.5 to 4 hours, so **pack a lunch**, drinks, and sun-screen. Let us know if you are planning to join us on the trip and if you have extra boats others could use if they want to join us.

Come swim, paddle and picnic in celebration of our beautiful rivers!

To join contact David at [broadriveralliance@gmail.com](mailto:broadriveralliance@gmail.com) or send a message on the Broad River Alliance facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Broad-River-Alliance/488402688002424>



# **WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE announces** **Broad River Alliance,** **a WATERKEEPER® Affiliate**

## **ABOUT THE WATERBODY**

The Broad River basin encompasses 5,419 square miles within North and South Carolina. Its three major tributaries are the Green, the Second Broad, and the First Broad rivers. The Broad's headwaters and major tributaries originate on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and southern slopes of the South Mountains. The Broad then crosses into South Carolina and makes its way to the Atlantic Ocean. From its spectacular and scenic beginnings in the Hickory Nut Gorge, the Broad River and its tributaries provide water for drinking, industry, and recreation for Rutherford, Polk and Cleveland counties in North Carolina as well as much of South Carolina.

Five Natural Heritage Program (NHP) Priority Areas are found in the basin: the Rollins/South Mountains Natural Area, Hickory Nut Gorge, the Green River Gorge, the Pacolet River Gorge, and Pinnacle Mountain. Lake Lure, Chimney Rock State Park and a portion of Crowders Mountain State Park are also located in the basin. These Significant Natural Heritage Areas provide habitat for more than 100 rare plant and animal species and 24 rare natural communities.

## **ABOUT THE AFFILIATE**

The Broad River Alliance (BRA) is a collection of citizens and organizations working to protect and promote the Broad River Watershed through education, recreation, and stewardship.



**David Caldwell**  
Lawndale,  
North Carolina, US  
Region: South Atlantic





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

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**Waterkeeper Alliance announces new Affiliate program:**

**Broad River Alliance, a Waterkeeper Affiliate to Promote and Protect the Broad River**

The Waterkeeper Alliance Board of Directors approved the BRA, a Waterkeeper Affiliate on June 3, 2015, in efforts to protect and preserve the Broad River Watershed by combining their firsthand knowledge of the waterway with an unwavering commitment to the rights of the community and to the rule of law.

“Waterkeeper Alliance is thrilled to have BRA to be the eyes, ears, and voice for this vital watershed and community,” said Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Waterkeeper Alliance President. “Every community deserves to have swimmable, drinkable and fishable water, and BRA is the right leader to fight for clean water in the region.” BRA, a Waterkeeper Affiliate, will be an advocate for the Broad River and its tributaries, protecting and restoring water quality through community action and enforcement. BRA will work to provide strong advocacy that will result in an improved quality of life for all citizens whether they rely on it for drinking water or recreation, or whether they simply value the rivers’ continued well-being.”

“BRA will have an incredibly important job,” added Marc Yaggi, Executive Director of Waterkeeper Alliance. “Waterkeeper Affiliates defend their communities against anyone who threatens their right to clean water, from law-breaking polluters to irresponsible government officials. Until our public agencies have the means necessary to protect us from polluters, and the will to enforce the law, there will always be a great need for organizations like BRA to fight for our right to clean water.” BRA, a Waterkeeper Affiliate, will work on watershed-related issues from the Broad River Basin in Polk, Rutherford, and Cleveland counties, and parts of surrounding counties that share the Broad River Watershed.

The Broad River Alliance is a group of concerned citizens advocating for cleaner water, awareness and education, improved access, and broadened recreational opportunities within the Broad River Basin. A few examples of work already being done by the Broad River Alliance and other concerned individuals and groups in our river basin:

- Broad River Paddle Club has over 220 members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209805112381451/>
- ROC’s new Broad River Paddle Trail, including new NCWRC canoe accesses. <http://rutherfordoutdoor.org/outdoor-activities/paddling>

- Ron McCollum and other concerned citizen's fight to prevent a planned reservoir on the First Broad River.  
<https://www.facebook.com/stopthereservoir>
- David Caldwell's op-ed published in the Shelby Star and Raleigh News and Observer asking Duke energy to remove the coal ash pond at the steam station in Cliffside, beside the Broad River, and just upstream of the Broad River Greenway:  
<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Documents/BRA/Coal%20ash,%20fish%20tales%20and%20the%20legacy%20we%E2%80%99ll%20leave%20in%20NC%20%20Other%20Views%20%20NewsObserver.com.htm>
- Broad River Greenway and Carolina Thread trails along the Broad and First Broad rivers.  
<http://www.broadrivergreenway.com/>  
<http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org/local-connections/cleveland-county-nc/>
- Sky Conard's work with the Green River Watershed Alliance. This group has a well- developed mission statement and has already received granting for a Green River Watershed Assessment Study.  
<http://www.regionc.org/Planning/Docs/Report%20Green%20River.pdf>
- Clint Calhoun's work with the Upper Broad River Watershed Protection Program and Town of Lake Lure, another well- established organization with a track record of accomplishing water quality conservation and protection.

BRA is being hosted by MountainTrue, an Environmental and Conservation Organization who also hosts the French Broad and Watauga Riverkeeper programs. <http://mountaintrue.org>

Check out BRA activities on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Broad-River-Alliance/488402688002424?ref=bookmarks>

Waterkeeper Alliance is a global movement uniting more than 240 Waterkeeper organizations and Affiliates and focusing citizen advocacy on the issues that affect our waterways, from pollution to climate change. Waterkeepers and Affiliates patrol and protect more than 2 million square miles of rivers, streams and coastlines in the Americas, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. Waterkeeper Alliance was founded in 1999 by veteran Waterkeepers and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Learn more at: [www.waterkeeper.org](http://www.waterkeeper.org) or follow @Waterkeeper on Twitter and Facebook.

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**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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