



June 1, 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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Veteran Services

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught *Eat Smart Move More Take Control* class.
- Attended *Partnership For Children Executive Committee* meeting.
- Facilitated *Community Health Council* meeting.
- Taught *Nutrition for Parents @ Spindale Elementary*.
- Prepared materials for *Color Me Healthy* parent program at Forest City Dunbar Elementary.

Airport

The Airport sold 1,074.3 gallons of 100LL and 1,284.0 gallons of Jet A last week.



SKY 4 helicopter for News 4 (WYFF) stopped in for fuel last week as it was covering The Assault On Mount Mitchell.

The Airport hosted a field day for another group of kids from The Carver Center.



Board of Elections

The office staff has been working with the other counties in our district to order required election forms as a group to get a reduced rate. We are working with vendors to get the cost of all generic forms down. The Director met with the Democratic Party Chairman to go over how election officials are appointed and to start the process for the recruitment and appointment of judges for the upcoming two-year term.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were engaged in another active week of numerous meetings, lunches, and various other events. The County Manager and Commissioner Benfield had tours of Greyrock Development and Queen's Gap guided by Danny Searcy, Director of Projects and Planning and David Odom of Odom Engineering. County Manager Garrison also enjoyed an Economic Development tour directed by Matt Blackwell while becoming more familiar with the territory and potential opportunities. Bryan King, chairman of the Board of Commissioners remembered the sacrifices of others as he spoke at the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday in Forest City. The Manager and Commissioners gathered to continue preparation regarding the agenda for the upcoming Board of Commissioners' meeting on Monday, June 1st. The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of many calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meetings with various Department Heads.



Economic Development



This week, the Economic Development Department took the County Manager on a tour of available buildings and sites to provide insight into what product Rutherford County has to offer to incoming and existing business and industry. Economic Development staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reach-

ing out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and continuing work on the redesign of the Economic Development website and creation of a website to promote and market Gateway West Commerce Park. This week's schedule also included existing industry visits to Tanner Companies and Southeastern Rack Company.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- conducted one origin and cause fire investigation and followed up on other open investigations.
- worked on new radio programming templates for the VIPER radios.
- responded to a search for a missing person who was found quickly by law enforcement personnel.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Richard Dills (Animal Control). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Blake Bostic (Planning) and Lois Poole (Library). We want to congratulate Lois on her upcoming retirement and thank her for the years of dedicated service she has provided to Rutherford County.



The week started off with everyone celebrating Memorial Day. A big extended thank you to our Military personnel.

The Director and HR Specialist attended training on the new software for the new dental/life insurance carrier.

Current vacancies are: part-time Transit and EMS. Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

June is Safety Awareness Month. Reminders and safety tips will be sent out throughout the month. Please take advantage of reviewing safety videos with your staff this month. Videos may be checked out from the Human Resource Department. **Information on “Partnership for Children” is included on pages 4, 5 and 6.**

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended a several interdepartmental meetings and continue to work on FY15-16 budget. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Information Technology

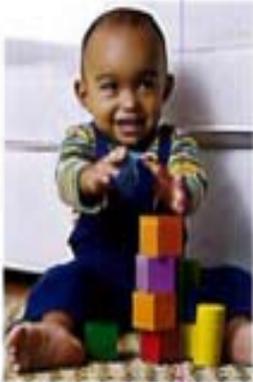
The IT Department Director and staff continue to offer the best service possible while distributing the workload evenly among the staff. Director Jai Doherty has been involved in several interdepartmental meetings. If you have **ANY** trouble reaching your support technician, please call or email Jai Doherty at 828-287-6071 or jai.doherty@rutherfordcountync.gov. Continue to use TrackIt to submit work orders, preferably by email at trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov. Please put IT, VOIP, or Maintenance in the subject line.





PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF THE FOOTHILLS

investing in early childhood

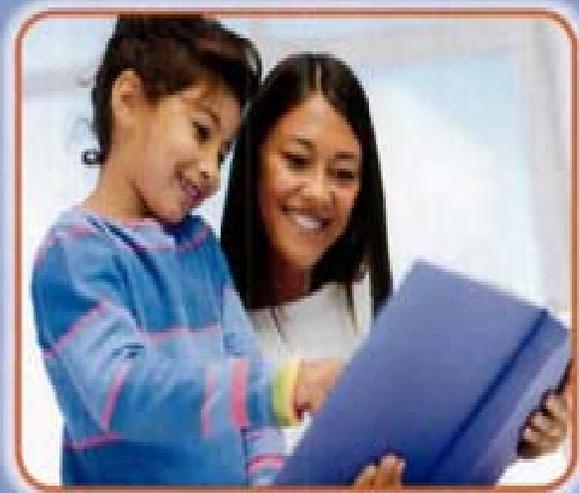


We build a strong foundation for children's learning and development by strengthening families, the early education system and the community.

Programs and Services...

MotherLearn

MotherLearn is a Literacy Adult Education Program for qualified mothers. Early childhood teachers provide quality care for children ages birth through five, while their mothers are attending GED/Adult Ed classes. The program includes parenting education and parent-and-child time at each session. Transportation is provided. (Rutherford)



Even Start

Even Start is a comprehensive family literacy program that includes child care, adult literacy and parenting education. The program focuses on the educational needs of the whole family.

It supports the philosophy that the educational attainment of children and their parents is interrelated, and that improving the literacy skills of parents results in a positive effect on the educational experiences of their children. (Rutherford)

Nurse Family Partnership

This is an intensive, home-visiting program that links a nurse with a first-time, expectant mom. The mom and new baby are supported with a comprehensive health and parenting education program until the child is two years old. (Rutherford, Polk, McDowell)

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Partnership for Children of the Foothills provides the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) to children living in Polk, Rutherford and McDowell Counties, aged birth to five years. The DPIL offers an opportunity to prepare children for kindergarten by exposing them to the concepts of print, encouraging child/parent reading and increasing early literacy activities in the home, thereby stimulating the child's interest in reading and learning. Participating children receive an age appropriate book each month, mailed directly to the child from the time of registration until age five. The books are chosen by a national book selection team on the basis of theme and age-appropriateness and distributed by the Dollywood Foundation. Upon enrollment of each child, the Partnership supplies the parent with information on early literacy practices.



Families and Schools Together® (FAST)

FAST provides family-centered evenings that include a meal, fun family time, parent support groups and children's activities. Families with one child ages 3-5 are eligible to participate. (McDowell)

Circle of Parents

Circle of Parents is a parent support group that is parent-led. The groups meet weekly. Families work toward the common goal of building family strengths in the areas of family management, communication, nurturing, and positive discipline. Child care is provided. (McDowell)



Growing Happy, Healthy Children...



Healthy Smiles Preschool Dental Program

Healthy Smiles is a federally-funded oral health project that includes dental screenings, education, and case management for referrals, restorative dental services and effective dental homes. A healthy mouth leads to a happy, healthy child that is ready to learn and grow. Additional Dental Assistance, provided through the McDowell United Fund helps keep children birth to age 18 free from dental pain through financial assistance based on income eligibility. (McDowell, Rutherford, Polk)



For Early Childhood Educators...

Through the Partnership's **Quality Enhancement Project**, the program staff offer the following services for early childhood educators working in licensed childcare facilities serving birth to five year olds in Rutherford, Polk and McDowell counties: (1) Visits to licensed childcare centers and family childcare homes; (2) Through observation, consultation and individualized onsite training, offer support to centers and homes preparing for Environmental Rating Scale assessment; (3) Provide technical assistance in assessing and implementing enhancements to outdoor learning environments; (4) Provide training, coaching and modeling as needed or requested for onsite, one-on-one assistance; (5) Coordinate training opportunities for child care staff, including workshop series, which provide inservice credits to participants; (6) Distribute schedules of training dates, locations and topic information to early childhood educators and post these on the partnership website. The Quality Enhancement staff may also provide assistance to part-day unlicensed child care programs.

The **Child Care WAGES** project provides eligible child care professionals with education-based supplements. Supplements are issued to teachers, directors, and family child care providers based on education attained. Research shows children benefit from stable relationships with well-educated teachers (Rutherford, Polk).



Child Care Center Enhancements

Licensed child care centers and family child care homes serving subsidized children that obtain 4-5 stars may be eligible for financial support. The program helps support high-quality child care facilities that serve low-income children. In Rutherford and Polk, the program is administered by DSS. In McDowell, it is administered by Southwestern Child Development. (McDowell, Rutherford, Polk)

Quality Support Bonus

This project provides quarterly facility bonuses to licensed 4 and 5 star rated early childhood programs in McDowell County. The bonus is based upon star level and the number of slots available for infants and toddlers up to 36 months of age. The purpose of the bonus is to support the continued efforts to provide high quality care to families and supplement the high cost of providing infant/toddler care. (McDowell)

Child Care Assistance for Parents...

Childcare Vouchers

These vouchers are available for families who meet eligibility guidelines. This program assists low-income families in paying for high-quality child care so parents or guardians can work or attend school. In Rutherford and Polk, contact the Department of Social Services. In McDowell, contact Southwestern Child Development. (McDowell, Rutherford, Polk)

Serving Rutherford, Polk and McDowell Counties

Main Office Mailing Address:

338 Withrow Road • Suite B • Forest City, NC 28043

Main Office Phone (Rutherford):

828.245.8673 • Fax 828.245.8473

McDowell Office Address: 54 College Drive • Marion NC 28752

McDowell Office Phone: 828.659.0460

www.pfcfoothills.org

www.facebook.com/pfcfoothills

Library

Library Director:

The Director continued to work toward creating more space in a space limited building, finished submitting invoices for May, and taught the second Facebook computer class at the library on Thursday. Please join us at the County Library on Callahan-Koon Rd on Friday, June 5th from 11:00 – 1:30pm to celebrate with Lois Poole. Lois is retiring from the County Library after 28 years of service. **More information on page 8.**

Circulation Manager:

Staff members have been busy rearranging computer stations, furniture, books, and CDs to make the best use of available space for the library's expanding collections

Youth Services Librarian:

Although Story Time has officially ended for the school year, Spindale Elementary came to the Library on Wednesday for a special session along with a tour explaining how to find books. In between preparing for Summer Reading and Super Science Saturday, the Children's Librarian attended a webinar on engaging and empowering parents when they bring their children to the library.

This week's Super Science Saturday is "The Human Dynamo." Participants will have the opportunity to get up-close and personal with a human body by learning about the digestive, muscular, and skeletal systems. KidSenses will be bringing a life-size "Stuffee" doll that unzips and spills its insides, and will also learn how the respiratory system works using real lungs. The program begins at 11:00 at the Rutherford County Library. For more information, contact Jeannie at 287-6116.

Mountains Branch:

The Branch Manager and Assistant Librarian have been busy going through boxes and boxes of donations for the Friends of the Library Book Sale July 24th and 25th. The book sale promises to be a good one, with many like-new books and movies in every genre. Joy Sharp began inventory on the collection, working through several holdings codes. Joy and Angie processed a new series of Easy Reader Biographies for the collection. Joy and Angie worked on promoting and encouraging sign-up for two new computer classes starting at Mountains Branch in June, Computer Basics and Online Job Searching. The library also began planning and promoting a new film and discussion series of POV films. The first film, "Ping Pong" will be shown June 11.



You're
Invited!

Please join us for a

RETIREMENT PARTY

honoring

LOIS POOLE

Friday, June 5, 2015

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Rutherford County Library

255 Callahan-Koon Road

Spindale

Public Works and Planning

The County Garage completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of N.C. vehicle safety inspections. The garage supervisor and mechanics work very hard to keep such a large fleet in great condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance and groundskeeping. Thanks to all the maintenance staff for their hard work. Planning and Projects has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and paperwork.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department handled 40 VTS assists. The office answered 393 phone calls and assisted 268 customers. We completed one project, two pre-permits and answered eight Data Requests. Appraisers completed 332 field reviews. A total of 79 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 65 straights, 4 estates, 33 new accounts, 4 splits, and 2 acreage adjustments. GIS created seven new maps. The GIS website had 141,012 hits and 95,981 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 5 new addresses and updated 68 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers completed maintenance on nine road signs. The PUV program mailed four letters, and assisted six program members. Staff processed four exclusions/deferments. Electronic payments consisted of 19 by credit card, 16 by website and 1 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 2 attachments and 10 newspaper items. Staff completed 29 gross receipts/occupancy taxes, 3 payment plans and processed 5 bankruptcy issues. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 137 tax payments. 27 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center's new Walking Club met on Tuesday and will be walking together at 8:45 a.m. each Tuesday morning. The seniors also enjoyed Bingo on Tuesday morning and Corn Hole that afternoon. On Wednesday the Center had "Use It or Lose It". The seniors are encouraged to increase their mental sharpness by continually learning new things. Learning encourages the growth of brain cells. We also encourage seniors to engage in thinking games as well as learning new skills and hobbies to continually keep the brain functioning and alert. Studies show that the brain requires a consistent workout to stay sharp just like the body does to stay strong. Barbara took a group on Wednesday for a shopping trip to Shelby and lunch at Pizza Inn. The Senior Center hosted the Diabetic Support Group on Thursday. Anita Phillips, RN and Diabetes Educator from Rutherford Regional lead this support group with a discussion on "Diabetes and How It Impacts Your Eyes."

Social Services

A Pinwheel Planting Event, sponsored by DSS and the Rutherford County Clerk of Court's Office, was held on the Courthouse lawn on Friday, May 22nd. The purpose of the event was to draw attention to the importance of child abuse prevention. Speakers for the event included District Attorney, Ted Bell; Rutherford County Sheriff, Chris Francis; Family Resources of Rutherford County Director, Sherry Bright; and District Court Judge, Laura Powell. The Children's Choir of Mt. Zion AME Church provided music, and children from the community planted the pinwheels. During the event, the Rutherford County CCPT/CFPT presented Helen White a plaque for her many years of service as Chairman of the CFPT. Helen will retire from the Rutherford/Polk/McDowell District Health Department at the end of this month with more than thirty of service. Many community patrons contributed to the event, as well as, hard work from DSS staff and the Clerk's office (**pictures on page 10**). The DSS Board held the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 20th. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board approved changes to the Unclaimed Body Policy, and heard legislative updates, as well as, an update on NC FAST and the Northwood System.



Soil & Water

Admin/Education Specialist:

- completed and submitted end of year reports
- worked on District Meeting information
- sent Notices

Ag Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week preparing end of the year reports
- completed spot checks

Solid Waste

Customers 273

Hauls from convenience sites 49

Loads shipped to Lenoir 23

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3

Tire customers 23

The Solid Waste staff has been busy this week playing catch up from Memorial Day. Transfer station staff continues to process the MSW and recycling while trying to wrap electronics for a May pickup. The company that accepts the electronics will not be picking up any loads during the month of June due to inventory.



Staff helped Assistant Finance Director clean out additional waste from the old Shiloh gym (**pictured left**).

Bush hogging continues at the south landfill (**pictured below**).

The director has been working on material for July's Commissioners Meeting and also met with Assistant Finance Director, Raeann Turner, on a budget review. Shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance on the equipment and trucks while continuing to redo the bed of the dump truck. C&D staff has been busy especially dealing with the dust.

Staff received great news in letter form that two substantial grants were awarded for next year's recycling.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 8

Closed Cases 3

Pictures taken yes

Citations written 0

Community service workers 5

Community service reports 1

State notified for clean up 2

Please continue to recycle!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS is pleased to announce that they have 1,045 likes to their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RCEMS). EMS was able to engage the community this past Saturday at Wal-Mart for their Wellness Event. Citizens stopped by to receive free blood pressure and blood glucose tests. Individuals could also practice hands only CPR and receive literature on a variety of safety and medical topics. Safe Kids also partnered with EMS and provided free child car seat checks (pictures below).

| TYPE | CURRENT WEEK | WEEKLY AVG |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Emergency Calls | 170 | 168 |
| Convalescent Calls | 54 | 59 |

Transit Department:

Our weekly statistics are down slightly due to the Memorial Day holiday. Transit is in the process of hiring several additional drivers as demand continues to rise for services. Transit is also wrapping up their 5-year plan through NCDOT and hopes to present it to County Commissioners in July.

| TYPE | CURRENT WEEK | WEEKLY AVG |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Total Miles | 7,195 | 10,056 |
| # of Local Trips | 835 | 1,149 |
| # of Out of County Trips | 42 | 81 |
| # Unduplicated Passengers | 178 | 241 |
| Total Revenue | \$9,478 | \$15,385 |



Veterans Services

It was a great Memorial Day celebration in Forest City. A special thanks to all that attended.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Mail In | 63 |
| Fax | 117 |
| Mail Out | 64 |
| Phone Calls In/Out | 138 |
| Veteran Contacts | 335 |



Upcoming Events.....

If you would like to assist with any of these events, call Jeanette Bosgra, Finance Dept., 828-287-6211.

DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Give \$30 and reward yourself with dressing down on Fridays!

April to June 2015

Call Brooke Watson for further details at 828-287-6061.

RELAY FOR LIFE COMMUNITY EVENT

Date: Friday, **June 5, 2015**

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Forest City Parks and Recreation

Special Recognition - page 14

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**

Steve Garrison, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

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Special Recognition

*Proud parents, Ashley and Detective Chadd Murray of the Sheriff 's Department, announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, London Amelia Murray.
Birthdate: 5.26.15
Weight: 9 lbs.
Height: 20 1/2 inches*

Congratulations Chadd and Ashley!



Always hard at work!

Our Commissioners, Chairman Bryan King and Vice-Chairman Alan Toney, meeting over lunch.

