



June 27, 2014

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 list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.*

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Special Announcements

### [Airport](#)

The Airport sold 1,067.30 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 1,057 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 1,145 gallons.

### [Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections staff have been busy for One-stop Voting which will begin on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Staff participated in a mock election to test the state reporting system on Tuesday. The Director attended the Department Head meeting on Wednesday and attended a meeting at Chase High School to discuss ways to improve the polling place there. One candidate filed with the Board of Elections this week.

### [Building Inspections](#)

The Building Inspections Department issued 106 permits over 2 weeks totaling \$14,924 in fees. Inspectors have also conducted 329 inspections including several commercial finals. One of those is the new Dollar general on 221 North. Staff also permitted the renovations for the relocation of Ameri-Dial and the Director has been in discussion with Polk County Building Inspections about providing assistance on some inspections through an inter-local agreement. The Director has also continued working with Danny Searcy about the potential relocation project.

## Clerk to the Board

Commissioners Eckler and Holland met with the County Manager on Monday. On Tuesday, Commissioners Lovelace, Owens and Richard attended meetings with the County Manager and the Commissioners met as the Airport Authority. Commissioner Eckler attended the Grassroots meeting on Thursday at the County Office Building. Commissioners Eckler and Holland attended the Grand Opening celebration of the Farmers Market on Saturday, June 20.

The Clerk to the Board was out of the office this week. The Deputy Clerk served in her place. A majority of the week was spent preparing for the June 23 and 24 special meetings. The agenda was completed on Friday, distributed and notices delivered. Two public information requests were received and processed. Five e-media pieces were pushed out to the public. Work continues to finalize the sign replacement program for Solid Waste.

Staff at the County Office Building enjoyed a great fundraiser lunch provided by the Cooperative Extension office on Friday.



## Cooperative Extension

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff taught a Cooking with Herbs workshop; met with facilitator of Community Health Council; met with Farmers Market Board; and completed mid-year Extension reports.

## County Manager

The County Manager began the week with a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Monday. On Tuesday, he continued meetings on the budget and attended the Joint Sewer Systems Study meeting at Isothermal Community College. Wednesday led with a Department Head meeting and was followed with the County Manager attending an event for the Tryon Equestrian Center. Thursday included meetings with Big Air, Commissioner Richard, Information Technology staff and the Smoky Mountain Center Board. The County Manager attended the NC 911 Board meeting in Hendersonville on Friday.

## Economic Development

The Executive Director attended the Board of Commissioner's meeting; reviewed Building Reuse grant award letters received from the Department of Commerce and distributed them for execution; attended the NCEDA annual conference; responded to a request for additional information for an industrial prospect; met with a Chamber of Commerce marketing representative for an upcoming article; worked with staff to package promotional materials; and continued researching infrastructure needs in the county.

The Project Administrator met with an existing industry to offer assistance to the new management team and to introduce the team to allies and resource programs available; and attended the NCEDA annual conference.

The Economic Development Assistant prepared and submitted an existing grants overview for an existing industry; assisted the Executive Director in preparing a response to NC Department of Commerce requesting additional information for an industrial prospect; packed documents for archiving; and worked on assembling and packaging promotional information for distribution at the airport.

## Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioners' meeting Monday evening. The Assistant Director attended the Joint Sewer Study meeting. The Director continues to work closely with the Department Heads to close out the current year. The Finance Director attended the E911 Board Meeting in Hendersonville. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

*Sheriff Francis demonstrates  
compressions at  
Kids-n-Cops Day.*



## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director met with Motorola representatives to discuss radio programming for the 800MHz radios that were received through various grants; attended a Disaster Preparedness Regional meeting in Caldwell County; worked with Polk County Emergency Management to develop a mutual aid agreement between Counties; assisted the Sheriff's Office and Hickory Nut Gorge Rescue in the rescue of a canine from the Broad River; and transported the fire safety house to Fairfield Mountains Fire Department for a child fire safety event.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hire Andrew Parker (p/t Detention) and Lisa Hass (p/t Detention). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Tia Scruggs (DSS), Aaron Keever (Detention), Jill Humphries (DSS), and Carolyn Jamerson, Senior Center (Happy Retirement). The Director attended meetings with several employees and department heads and attended the monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The Director along with Angela Ezell conducted interviews for the Nutrition Site Manager. On Wednesday, a departmental staff meeting was held and the HR Director showed a "Driven to Distraction" video. This video is a good training tool to remind everyone how easily it is to get distracted while driving and how easy an accident can happen. On Friday, staff attended a retirement reception for Carolyn Jamerson. Current job openings are Tax Certification Specialist and p/t Economic Development secretary. View county website to apply. A Wellness Fair is being

## Information Technology

Information Technology closed 82 orders this week. Weekly updates for tax and exchange projects continues. The training room at the Revenue department is about 1/2 way complete and staff are using it. If you need a training room with computers, call IT to schedule your meeting at the Rutherford Center Training Room (RCTR) or at the Revenue Department Training Room (RDTR). Both rooms will have 12 computers (currently 6 in each), an overhead projector, and laptop. The RCTR has a printer in the room and the RDTR has printers in the office area. Both areas have a large conference room table for meetings, if needed. The Sheriff's department and the Revenue department have been giving the new room a good workout and everything seems to be working fine. Staff have been talking to the web designer/host, Sturgis WebServices, about taking over the hosting of the TDA website and staff are working with them to put occupancy tax collections online. Don't forget to use Trackit for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs, [trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov) with

## Library

**County Library:** The Director attended a department head meeting this week, worked with Lois Poole and Paula Roach (Finance) on the interim 2014-2015 budget issues and continued to add records from the Old Tryon Genealogical Library to the CMC database.

**Library IT:** Kenneth is working on an updated design for the library's web site. The update will make the web site easier to use on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. The new design should go live in a few weeks. He also met with the School Media Specialist from Chase Middle to discuss the availability of ebooks and the strengths/weaknesses of products that are offered by various ebook vendors.

**Miss Jeannie:** The Summer Reading Program continues to be a great success with the children from all three libraries. The attendance for this week's program was 290. Ventriloquist Steve Brogan kept the audience laughing while encouraging them to participate and read. Skipping the week of the Fourth, the next program will be July 8 with Noah's Landing Traveling Exotic Petting Zoo. Here's your chance to learn about and pet animals such as an armadillo, a capuchin monkey, a legless lizard, and a fennec fox. Shows are at 9:30 a.m. at Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at Rutherford County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at Mountains Branch Library. When not preparing for or conducting the Summer Reading Program, the Children's Librarian has been rearranging the Juvenile Non-Fiction section to provide more space.



*Steve Brogan, Ventriloquist*



*Great times at the Library!*



## 2014 Rutherford County Libraries Summer Reading Program

Free Programs for ages 2-12  
each Tuesday (except July 4 week)

- 9:30 am Haynes Branch Library (141 N. Main St.,  
Henrietta 288-4039)  
12:30 pm Rutherford County Library (255 Callahan-  
Koon Rd, Spindale 287-6115)  
3:30 pm Mountains Branch Library (150 Bill's  
Creek Road, Lake Lure 287-6392)

- June 17 Vicky Town—Nationally-known Comedic Storyteller and “Parents’  
Choice” Award Winner ([www.vickytown.com](http://www.vickytown.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—Teens’ Comedy Improv Workshop at Rutherford  
County Library
- June 24 Steve Brogan—Ventriloquist ([www.stevebrogan.com](http://www.stevebrogan.com))
- July 1 No Program
- July 8 Noah’s Landing Traveling Zoo with numerous exotic animals  
([www.noahslanding2x2.com](http://www.noahslanding2x2.com))
- July 15 Zelnik the Magician ([www.zelnikthemagician.com](http://www.zelnikthemagician.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—“Tales From Beyond” Magic Show for Teens at  
Rutherford County Library
- July 22 Mad Science Stage Show ([www.madscience.org](http://www.madscience.org))
- July 29 Summer Reading Celebration Party with program by Miss Jeannie

### Summer Reading Club

*Reading is vital to the Summer Reading Program. Set your own goals. Get a Contract and Reading Record at the library and return by July 22. Read at or above your level and to preschoolers. Write titles completed on the Record. Certificates and prizes to be awarded at the final program July 29.*



## Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department is seeing many A/C calls due to the hot and very dry. Staff have also experienced a surge in other service orders for plumbing and electrical calls. Maintenance has had a hard and hot week with 70 work order repairs. Staff completed the repair work to the rooftop chiller at the detention center and are obtaining quotes for replacing the ground unit chiller. The garage has been awfully busy with multiple preventative maintenance service calls, repairs, tire service calls and many inspections along with a rebuild. Planning and Projects continue working with regulatory agencies regarding the violations in Queens Gap and an accidental demolition of historical outbuildings at the Biggerstaff property. Staff have also been investigating complaints from a neighbor to Greyrock regarding streams. However, good progress has been made with the Community project and final adjustments to the budget. The planning board met this week, hearing updates for the solar farm, Queens Gap, Greyrock, Community grants and approving additional lots inside Vista at Bill's Creek subdivision.

## Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 12 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$44, processed 192 real estate records with \$14,649 received in cash, and processed 118 vitals, receiving \$1,830. A total of 322 transactions were made with a total of \$16,523 in cash received.

## Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 480 phone calls and assisted 203 citizens who came in to the office (4 being PUV). 50 deeds were recorded and 73 were transferred. 8 estates were transferred and 36 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 5 splits, 1 merge, 6 acreage adjustments, 3 data requests and created 2 new maps. 6 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 93 addressees was updated. Appraisers completed 435 field reviews and 47 permit reviews. Electronic payments consisted of 5 by credit/debit, 33 by website, and 2 by phone. 90 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 15 garnishments, 2 attachments, 4 employee list, 2 Debt Setoff and 5 intent letters. 16 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 16 overpayments, 3 plat reviews, 6 pre-permits, 13 bankruptcy payments/issues, 17 VTS issues, 26 prepaids, 9 payment plans, 15 newspapers items, 3 discoveries, 7 releases, and 1 refund. 169 pieces of mail were received and processed. 7 PUV letters were mailed out. We are getting ready to finish up the year and have already exceeded last year's collection rate.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted "Doughnuts for Dads" on Monday in recognition of Father's Day. A group of seniors also enjoyed a trip to Sweet Frogs for some frozen yogurt on Monday afternoon. On Tuesday, we had "Lemonade & Laughs". The staff provided the lemonade and the seniors shared funny jokes and stories with the group. The seniors traveled to Rutherford Regional's Jewelry Sale on Wednesday to support the Auxiliary's fundraising event. The seniors participated in one of the Center's favorite activities on Thursday—Chair Volleyball. This is a fun activity that provides exercise as well. The Senior Center will host our summer dance on Friday night from 7:00-10:00 p.m. The doors will open at 6:45 p.m. and the cost is \$5.00 per person. Rusty & Chiquita Collins and Band will be playing some of your favorite tunes!

## Grand Opening at the Farmers Market.



## Social Services

DSS Income Maintenance staff continues to plan for the further implementation of Medicaid in the NC FAST System. The Director and Income Maintenance Supervisors attended the regular weekly NC FAST Conference call held on Wednesday. In addition to the weekly conference calls, staff hold numerous trainings and meetings each week to stay updated on the ever changing issues related to the system. On Tuesday, the Director and Managers met with Darrell Renfro, one of two state Local Support Managers. These are new positions established by the NC Division of Social Services to work with counties on various issues and be available to assist and advise when needed. Mr. Renfro stated that State DSS Director, Wayne Black, wants to be aware of local needs and issues, and these positions are one way to give counties more State support, as well as keep him informed about local needs. On Tuesday afternoon, the Director and Program Manager attended a meeting with representatives from the various law enforcement agencies, the DA's Office, and Family Resources concerning the Child Advocacy Center, and other issues related to Child Protective Services. On Wednesday, the Director attended the County Department Head meeting and the NC FAST Conference Call, as well as, conduct the monthly agency supervisor's meeting. The Leadership Development Group met on Thursday at the Rutherfordton Learning Center at the old Rutherfordton Elementary School. One activity of the day included a walking tour of Rutherfordton lead by County Historian, Robin Lattimore.

## Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department's Admin/Education Specialist and District Technician attended the Department Head Meeting and the Rutherford USDA StrikeForce Initiative meeting. The Admin/Education Specialist also worked on District Board and Farmland meeting notices and education information and plans. The Soil and Water Technician spent the week working with NRCS to assist in planning and conservation payments. He also attended several webinars on pasture management.

## Solid Waste



The landfill served 327 customers, hauled 63 loads from convenience centers, sent out 32 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The director attended the Commissioner's Meeting, department head meeting and worked with Deputy Finance Officer on the working budget. The staff sent out an electronics shipment also this week. Also the textile recycling company has picked up three loads of clothing from the landfill. The staff has been busy closing out the recycling grant and signing the new one for next budget year. The shop staff have been replacing the guide rails at centers and working on a solution for the compactor that is down. The landfill has a crew working on cleaning the grounds around the Avondale site. All other staff have been performing everyday job duties while preparing for the end of the

year.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

- Active cases 12
- Center cases 2
- Citations written 0
- Letters sent 1
- Community service workers 5
- Community service report 1

***Please remember to recycle and also be looking for new textile bins that will be appearing at convenience centers soon.***

## Tourism Development Authority

The TDA Director was on vacation most of the week but the TDA still held several marketing strategy meetings to capture emerging tourism markets, met with the Rutherfordton Town Manager, and put together 2014-15 committee plans.

## Transportation Services

**EMS:** This week EMS Personnel responded to 201 emergency calls and 59 convalescent calls. The Director completed several public information requests. The Medicaid Cost Settlement was received at \$138,000 more than expected. Staff have been closing out year-end expenditures. Director and Operations Manager attended a department head meeting. Contracts were sent to Hickory Nut Gorge Rescue and Rutherford County Rescue with a required return date of August 31, 2014. Staff participated in the Kids-N-Cops event on Friday from 9-12. They are “Keeping the Beat by Staying Alive” by teach kids chest compression CPR. This is the kick-off event for the public relations campaign that will continue over the next 12 months. It is EMS’ goal to increase the number of citizens who know and are willing to provide chest compression CPR during a cardiac arrest.

**Transit:** Transit drove 9,253 miles, completed 1,251 local trips and 66 out of county trips, transported 263 unduplicated passengers and collected \$14,903 in revenue. The trend is continuing with the use of the MDT’s that Transit is able to transport more citizens while driving fewer miles. Transit has also been advertising their new Deviated Fixed Route schedule which is a bus stop based route through Rutherfordton, Spindale and Forest City. Transit was also able to cancel their contract for GPS service through their radios because it is now included in the MDT’s that were installed. Administration submitted an application for the Innovations in Government Awards through the Harvard Kennedy School. The application is for the Food Pantry Shuttle Service Transit started last year.

## Veteran Services

The Veterans Services Office had 64 mail-ins, 247 facsimiles, 79 mail-outs, 64 telephone contacts, and 180 veteran contacts.

The Marine Corp League had a booth at the Kids-n-Cops event on Friday, June 27.

### *County Commissioners*

**William Eckler, Chairman**      **Julius Owens**  
**Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman**      **Roger Richard**  
**Greg Lovelace**

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

