



June 29, 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.*

### Department Directory

[Agriculture/Cooperative Extension](#)

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Finance](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Transportation Services \(EMS/Transit\)](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

### Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

#### Family and Consumer Sciences

- Taught food preservation workshop.
- Completed mid-year reports.
- Made preparations for upcoming summer youth programs.

### Airport

The airport sold 475.6 gallons of 100LL and 1000.0 gallons of Jet A last week.



A Dassault Falcon 2000 landed here last week for fuel, on its way to Texas (pictured left).



An Air Tractor agricultural spray plane taking off to go to work from the Rutherford County Airport (pictured right).

### Board of Elections

A team of six technicians were here this week to perform the annual maintenance on the election equipment. They battled the heat down at the Evans Building for two days to get us ready for the November election. The Director travelled to Asheville on Thursday for a Users Group Meeting and completed a request to the State for the use of traditional paper ballots for the small municipalities this November. The formal request for two ABC referenda issues was received from the town of Rutherfordton and processed.

## County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners stayed very busy with an active week of numerous meetings, lunches, and various other events. Several departmental meetings were on the weekly schedule, including Planning and Projects, Economic Development, Solids, Human Resources and meetings with the County Attorney. Manager Garrison attended the Broad River Authority board meeting on Tuesday.

On Thursday morning, the Manager attended a class at ICC where our 911 Communications Department was hosting a class, “*A Victim’s Plea Meeting Expectations*”. Nathan Lee was the motivational speaker and is founder and President of the *Denise Amber Lee Foundation*. He brought together the details and elements of the Denise Amber Lee tragedy.



(Nathan’s wife, Denise, was kidnapped, brutally raped and murdered.) A positive and uplifting presentation helped employees and students learn of obvious failures the day of Ms. Lee’s tragedy to the more in depth concepts such as leadership, hiring, teamwork, training, and encouraging employees in a communications center **(pictured left and below)**.

The week continued with interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.



## **Economic Development**

The Economic Development Department followed-up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, 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 researching information to aid in the marketing and advertising of Rutherford County and the economic development product, including Gateway West Commerce Park.

## **Finance**

The Finance Office continues working to close out the fiscal year and prepare for the new year. The Finance Officer and Assistant Director attended a NCDOT webinar for PartnerConnect and several other interdepartmental meetings. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

## **Fire Marshal/Emergency Management**

Fire Marshal and staff:

- assisted fire departments with several calls for service.
- performed maintenance on equipment.
- assisted GIS with hydrant location information in Sandy Mush area.
- participated in emergency management training.

## **Human Resources**

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director met with NCACC representatives this week. The Director and HR Specialist have been working on the enrollment process for July. Department enrollments went well and employee changes will be effective July 1, 2015. Current vacancies are: Building Inspections, IT Analyst, and part time Transit, Cooperative Extension and EMS. Apply at [Rutherfordcountync.gov](http://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.

Stay ahead of the heat and stay hydrated.

## Library

### **Library Director:**

The Director worked on materials for the CMC meeting. She also sorted through donations and packed up materials to save for the next book sale. The Director spent time reading over the State Library's contributions to the County Library system as well as the County's approved budget.

### **Circulation Manager:**

Stephanie Long received notification this week of her acceptance as a participant in the 2015 PLA Results Boot Camp to be held in August in Nashville, Tennessee. During this intensive library management training program, attendees will learn how to develop goals that reflect local service priorities and select effective activities to respond to those priorities.

### **IT Librarian:**

The library has been awarded an LSTA grant to create a makerspace at the main location in Spindale. For those not familiar with the concept, a makerspace can be "any area where people gather to make and create. These spaces often include 3D printers, but do not necessarily have to. In makerspaces, people share supplies, skills, and ideas, and often work together on projects. Makerspaces grew out of maker culture--a group of people dedicated to craftsmanship and creation. Makerism focuses on DIY projects, and makers value creation by individuals or small groups rather than bulk production. In general, makerism is also a culture of creation over consumption." The makerspace idea has been adopted by libraries, both large and small, all around the country. Our makerspace will have areas for working with a 3D printer, digital photography/video, painting, weaving, and electronics. Library staff is beginning the process of planning classes and creating a schedule for both open lab times and timeslots for individual use. A "grand opening" is also being planned for late August/early September.

### **Youth Services Librarian:**

At Tuesday's Summer Reading Program, 311 people showed up to learn about the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit. Special thanks to Officers Mark McCracken and Ace, and to Officers Trey Hooper and Karma for their very informative programs. Next week, Steve Barr will be at Haynes Branch Library at 9:30 a.m., at County Library at 12:30 p.m., and at Mountains Branch Library at 3:30 p.m. teach everyone how to draw cartoons. Steve has written numerous "how-to" drawing books, and everyone who attends will receive pencil and paper to follow along. And then that evening at 6:30 p.m. at the County Library, Steve will be conducting a more in-depth cartooning workshop for ages 10 and up.



to



### Library continued from page 5

The next “Super Science Saturday” is this week at 11:00 a.m. at the County Library. Using audience volunteers, KidSenses Children’s Museum will explore chemistry and physics through numerous experiments in “Science Shenanigans” (pictured right). The free program will last about 45 minutes, and is for ages 3-18 and their parents.

#### **Haynes Branch Library:**

Haynes had their summer reading program on Tuesday at 9:30. The Rutherford County Sheriff’s Dept. sent a canine officer with Sheriff’s dog ACE. Haynes Library had 91 in attendance. We issued new cards to new patrons and attended a CMC meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the County Library.

#### **Mountains Branch:**

Mountains Library worked with county maintenance personnel to remove several old pieces of A/V equipment from our storage space in order to make much needed storage room. We continued our Summer Reading Programs with a visit from K-9 officers. We enrolled several new participants to the Summer Reading Program and added new juvenile registrations to our patron base. The Librarian worked on updating the Volunteer Manual and scheduling training. She also pulled old VHS movies from the collection and continued working on inventory. The librarian promoted library programs through print and social media, and scheduled new programs for the summer. Assistant Librarian, Angie Turner, assisted patrons with job searches and processed lots of donations, adding several new items to our collection.

**JUNE 27 PROGRAM at 11:00:**  
**SCIENCE SHENANIGANS!**

What is science? How can we find it? Get a thrill of a lifetime as we conduct multiple science demonstrations that bring chemistry and physics alive!



Rutherford County Library and  
KidSenses Children’s Museum present

***SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAYS!***



Come to the Rutherford County Library at 255 Callahan-Koon Rd. in Spindale (next to the Health Department) the last Saturday of every month at 11:00 am, for a **FREE SCIENCE PROGRAM !**

For More information, contact Jeannie Smith at 287-6116

#### **Summer Reading Program**

June 30 will be Steve Barr Cartoons ([www.stevebarrcartoons.com](http://www.stevebarrcartoons.com)). You’re not going to want to miss next week’s program – Mr. Steve Barr. Steve is a cartoonist who has published numerous books giving step-by-step instructions on how to draw various things – including superheroes. Everyone who comes will receive a pencil and paper to learn how to draw cartoons. Haynes Branch Library in Henrietta @ 9:30 a.m., Rutherford County Library in Spindale @ 12:30 p.m., and Mountains Branch Library in Lake Lure @ 3:30 p.m.



**Teen Cartoon Workshop:** In-depth drawing workshop on June 30 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Rutherford County Library (next to the Health Dept.) for ages 10 and older. Presented by Steve Barr.

Please contact Jeannie Smith @ 287-6116 for more information.

## 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 all the while being involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and necessary paperwork. We have experienced 6 HVAC major failures constituting replacement this season already, a couple of major roof repair issues, a few challenges for repairs at the jail and animal control facility resulting from State inspections. Also, we continue to operate a little short manned while we advertise for a new project manager soon.

## Revenue Department

The Revenue Department handled 31 VTS assists and is continuing to work September motor vehicle renewals. The office answered 474 phone calls and assisted 225 customers. We completed 4 plat reviews, 3 projects, 2 pre-permits and answered 3 data requests. Appraisers completed 89 building permits and 187 field reviews. A total of 23 new documents were recorded and 11 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 11 straights, 4 merges, 5 splits, and 3 acreage adjustments. GIS created 11 new maps. The GIS website had 151,511 hits and 104,028 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 8 new addresses and updated 14 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 10 road signs. The PUV program assisted 8 program members and mailed out 5 letters. We had 2 discoveries and mailed 10 listing letters. Electronic payments consisted of 4 by credit card, 18 by website and 1 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 13 newspaper items. Staff completed 73 gross receipts/occupancy taxes, 4 payment plans and 177 bank drafts. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 343 tax payments. 20 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center received recertification Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> as a "Center of Excellence" for the next 5 years. In order to achieve this highest of certification, a Senior Center must complete a self-evaluation including data gathered over the previous 5 years, address and correct any recommendations from the previous site visit, and have all the 5 years worth of documentation reviewed on-site by a team from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, UNC-CH School of Social Work's Center for Aging Research and Educational Services (CARES), Area Agency on Aging, senior center staff out of the applicant's region, and the Senior Tar Heel Legislature delegate from Rutherford County, who will decide whether to award re-certification at the level of "Merit" or "Excellence." On Monday the Senior Center hosted "Doughnuts for Dads" in recognition of Father's Day. Our Walking Club met on Tuesday and will be walking together at 8:45 a.m. each Tuesday morning. The seniors also had a trip to the local farmer's market on Tuesday. Dr. Joe Godfrey came on Wednesday to discuss skin cancers and sun safety. The Center sponsored an ice cream shop for seniors and their grandchildren on Thursday (**pictured to left and above right**). Lastly, the Director attended the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) annual coordinators' training conference on Thursday and Friday.



## Soil & Water

The Soil and Water Technician spent the first part of the week working with Cooperative Extension installing a rain catchment system to supply water to the Master Gardner's for irrigation. Soil and Water funded the BMP and worked with Cooperative Extension to install.

## Sheriff's Department

“Protective Services Detail” or “PSDs” is a protective team assigned to protect the security of an individual or group. PSDs are typically made up of military personnel, private security contractors, or law enforcement agents. Congratulations to officers who have completed the 45-hour Protective Services Detail course through Isothermal Community College:



Commissioner Mike Benfield  
Robert Owen  
Jamie Dunn  
Josh McCraw  
Philip Bailey  
Chad Nazelrod  
Marc Duncan  
Jeff Smith

**Pictured in group photo below.**



## **18TH ANNUAL KIDS AND COPS EVENT**



## Solid Waste

The solid waste stats for the week are as follows:

Customers served 344  
Loads hauled from convenience centers 56  
Loads shipped to Lenoir 31  
Recycling Loads shipped out 3  
Tire customers 27



The director has been busy with internal meetings and interviewing for floater positions at the centers. Office staff continues to perform everyday job duties. **Pictured above** are two recycle trailers ready to go. The transfer station continues to process the MSW and recycling. Shop employees continue to perform preventative maintenance on equipment and trucks. Work has been performed at Avondale Convenience Center (**pictured below**), and we have started to cut the airport property at the request of Randy Patterson (**pictured below**). The staff has also submitted two items to the County Clerk's office for the July Commissioners meeting.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 7  
Closed cases 2  
Pictures taken yes  
Citations written 0  
Community service workers 7  
Community service reports 1

Please continue to recycle and remember to take safety precautions during these really hot temperatures.



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

EMS staff participated in Kids-n-Cops last week by demonstrating hands only CPR to children and parents. Staff are also working with the billing company to ensure all revenues are deposited by year end on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	167	168
Convalescent Calls	52	59

### Transit Department:

Transit held their final steering committee meeting for the NCDOT 5 year plan. The plan was presented by URS consultant, Kurt Neufang. Part of the plan included a five-year budget tool which staff will be able to utilize for future planning and growth.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,434	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,068	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	72	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	213	241
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,816</b>	<b>\$15,385</b>

## Veterans Services

### JUNE ACTIVITIES

#### Military Night @ Forest City Owls Game, Saturday, June 27th

<b>Mail In</b>	41
<b>Mail Out</b>	38
<b>Fax</b>	128
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	105
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	206

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*



*Follow us online!*  
[www.rutherfordcountync.gov](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov)