



March 14, 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 lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 628.50 gallons of 100-LL fuel. Additional revenue included \$300.00 in hanger fees and \$325.01 in cash sales. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 864 gallons.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections has received and posted all of the Organizational Campaign reports and they have been posted on the website at:

<http://rutherfordcountync.gov/boardofelections/campaignfinancialreports>.

Sample ballots have also been posted to the website at:

<http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/Sample>

A large mailing to all the voters in the Haynes precinct was completed to notify them that their polling place has been changed and staff have begun preparing materials for absentee voting.

[Clerk to the Board](#)

Chairman Eckler attended the Chairman/Mayors'/Managers' Meeting on Thursday at the County Office Building.

An agenda is being readied for the Special County Commissioners' Meeting on March 18th. The Commissioners will discuss goals for the upcoming year and for the future. Two additional items have been added to the agenda. An Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Forest City and a local industrial incentive grant for Project VSC (Trelleborg Coated Systems) will also be discussed.

On Saturday, March 15, 2014 Representative Mike Hager (R-Rutherford) will recognize Mr. Timothy Tesseneer for his heroism in saving the lives of three children while vacationing in Daytona Beach, FL. This event will be held in the County Commissioners' room.

Cooperative Extension

The Cooperative Extension Director attended the annual Rutherford County Cattleman's Association meeting and banquet and continued to assist clients with technical advice through phone calls, emails, office visits and site visits.

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Intern Training continued into week 3 (Entomology/Plant Pathology). The Department participated in Leadership Rutherford, networked on the WNC AgriVentures Grant Award and worked on the relocation of the Farmers Market. Staff are finalizing Agriculture Literacy Program plans with Rutherford County School Media Specialists and the volunteer readers for the county's second grade students. Preparations were made for the Spring Garden School to be held on Saturday, March 15th.

A total of 85 contacts were made this week by Department staff.

County Manager

The County Manager attended meetings regarding the Community Development Block Grant with Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, Public Works/Planning Projects, Solid Waste Projects, Economic Development Projects, VOIP updates, current legal issues with the County Attorney, Rutherfordton Town Revitalization Board, and Plane Werks. He also attended the regular meeting of the Town Managers, Mayors, Board of Commissioners' Chairman on Thursday and the monthly meeting of County Managers in Asheville.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Executive Director attended the weekly review with the County Manager, submitted the FY 14-15 budget request, continued working with attorneys to finalize the local incentives agreement documentation, met with the Town of Spindale Manager to review and finalize an application for an Industrial Development Fund grant, attended the NCEDA conference and took a representative from Duke Energy to meet with Project Nathan representatives to identify and address their upcoming needs.

The Project Administrator attended Opportunity2014 (a networking opportunity to research resources and allies for existing industry), continued planning efforts for an upcoming Lunch & Learn seminar for existing industry on Non-traditional Lending Opportunities, scheduled and conducted existing industry visits and shared follow-up information on requests and met with the SBTDC export official.

The Economic Development Assistant prepared and sent out the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for the upcoming Economic Development Commission Board Meeting, collected and assembled various data and reports for the Executive Director, finalized the FY14-15 budget request documentation, and continued working with both the Finance Department and the Revenue Department to forecast budgeting needs.

Finance

The Finance Department has begun to compile the departmental requests for FY14-15 and will begin meetings next week with the departments and Manager for further discussion or clarification. The Assistant Finance Director met with the Mayors and Managers at their monthly meeting to discuss landfill operations and fees.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal responded to a number of woods and grass fires across the County, completed budget information for Finance Department, continued work on required information for Service District changes and attended various other meetings.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Department welcomes new employee Jeff Murray (p/t Airport). The Director attended several meetings this week regarding personnel issues and budget concerns and has completed the HR budget books. Interviews were conducted and job offers are being extended for part time workers at TDA. The Director and HR Specialist met this week with insurance broker Doug Dunn of EBA.

Library

The Library Director completed and submitted the library's budget for 2014-2015, began work on State Library reports, the Edge Initiative assessment with Kenneth (Library IT Specialist), and continued to work on donated items for the book sale the first week in April.

Kenneth and April attended a meeting hosted by the State Library featuring Jason Griffey, library technologist, writer, blogger, and Head of Library Information Technology at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga on Monday at UNC-A. The first session was on mobile and portable technology in libraries. They learned how easy it is to configure multiple tablets (iPad, Kindle, Nexus) simultaneously using the tools and settings already provided. This was a great session focusing on what libraries can do today to help patrons move into a more tech-savvy world. The second session presented ideas and paths that libraries might choose in the near future to stay viable in their communities as technology changes. Jason let everyone experience/experiment with Google Glass, which was very exciting.

Senior Friday at Mountains Library focused on Chinese Medicine and your health with 17 people in attendance. Saturday will be the Friends of the Library's first annual Chili-Cook-off with 14 contestants signed up.

The children of all three libraries, as well as the Pre-K classes at Pinnacle Elementary, enjoyed learning about bugs this week—an introduction to the themes up until Easter. Next week's theme is Ladybugs. In addition, the Children's Librarian completed contracts for the Summer Reading Program and updated the Young Adult Genre List.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 40 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$73.25, processed 241 real estate records with \$10,123.00 received in cash and processed 229 vitals, receiving \$2,890.00. A total of 510 transactions were made with a total of \$13,086.25 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 648 phone calls, and assisted 305 citizens who came in to the office (7 being PUV). 69 deeds were recorded and 65 were transferred. Eight estates were transferred and 29 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed six splits, four acreage adjustments and created two new maps. Three new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 54 addressees was updated. The GIS website had 91,076 hits and 60,103 successful searches. Appraisers completed 434 field reviews and sent 843 value change notices. Electronic payments consisted of 57 by credit/debit, 115 by website, and 37 by phone. 526 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 65 garnishments and 12 attachments. 32 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 32 bank drafts, 20 bankruptcy payments/issues, 10 discoveries, 31 releases, and two refunds. 307 pieces of mail were received and processed. Staff are continuing to work June motor vehicle renewals.

Senior Center

The Senior Center had a visit by the R.N. from Rutherford Regional on Monday to conduct the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. 43 clients took advantage of this service. The Center keeps blood pressure history cards on file and referrals are made by the R.N., when necessary. The Center hosted a "Motorist Awareness Program", which was presented by Sue Hoffman, NC District Educator from the Gold Wing Road Riders. This program trains and educates motorcycle riders, and the Motorist Awareness Division focuses on education to the motorist community. Also, it is time to start preparing for the upcoming Senior Games. Registration ends on March 14th. Seniors must be registered by the March 14th deadline in order to participate in any aspect of the 2014 Senior Games (SilverArts, Performing Arts, or the Sporting Events). Anyone 55 and older can participate. Lastly, the AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program is being offered at the Senior Center. This service is for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 60 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays through April 11th.

Social Services

The Social Services Department is seeing the NC FAST implementation continue as Family and Children's Medicaid is entered into the system. Due to the many issues and glitches in the system, management and staff continue to work with stakeholders in the community to discuss how medical services and prescription medication can be provided to those whose case cannot be processed or is not in NC Tracks, the state Medicaid billing system. On Monday, the Director and Program Manager held a conference call with the DSS attorney regarding a CPS issue; and the attorney also attended a meeting with staff concerning a jurisdiction issue. On Tuesday, several adult service staff and the Director met with representatives from Smokey Mountain Center regarding a family that both agencies are working with and how services can be obtained and provided in the most efficient and effective manner. On Wednesday, the Director was in Raleigh and attended the Adult Services Committee, which he co-chairs, and the Children's Services Committee; and on Thursday, attended the statewide DSS Director's meeting.

Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department staff worked on 2014-2015 Watershed and District Budget and attended the District Board Meeting. The Admin/Education Specialist completed the District Agenda folders, worked on Envirothon registrations for R-S Central and Chase High School teams, attended Keystone training, presented a 5th Grade Honorable Mention poster winner award at Cliffside Elementary and worked on planning and reporting for the Outdoor Environmental Learning Center grants. The Ag Cost Share Technician attended meetings with landowners and visited a stream restoration project site.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department's landfill served 298 customers, hauled 62 loads from convenience centers and shipped 30 loads to Lenoir. The landfill sent out two recycling trailers this week. The Director attended various meetings, including the weekly Solid Waste project updates with the County Manager, budget meeting with Raeann, meeting with David Odom and participated in the Chairman/Mayors/Managers meeting to present on the Solid Waste budget. The staff continues to perform everyday job duties while picking up electronics from the convenience centers. The landfill staff is looking into ideas on how to help the litter problem in the county.

The staff also continues to prepare the presentation staff have been asked to give at the Carolina Recycling Conference in Asheville. This presentation will be on the enhanced recycling the County moved to late last year. The landfill reminds you to please recycle all possible items. If you need help please do not hesitate to call them at 828-287-6125.

Continued

Solid Waste

The Litter Control Officer report is:

- Active cases - 12
- Convenience center cases - 4
- Pictures taken - yes
- Letters sent - none
- Citations written - 0
- Closed cases - 1
- Community service workers - 5
- Community service report - 1

Tourism Development Authority

The TDA continued planning sessions with area stakeholders for the volunteer program. There will be a social for those interested in Volunteering with the TDA on March 18th. The TDA also met with a local stakeholder about interest in guided hikes throughout the County. The TDA is working with County IT and other professionals to continue long-range planning for future improved technology and self-service displays at the Welcome Center. A new county tourism guide has entered the planning and research phase. This guide will serve the Welcome Center and all information points in the County, as well as the State's welcome centers, those who request mailed information, and as our first in-room guide for all lodging facilities within the County. In addition, the TDA will utilize a highly cost-effective printing method for this guide, one we have previously not used. The Wayfinding Master Plan is entering another revision, and further discussions with NCDOT regarding sign specifications for the Cherry Bounce Trail have been held.

Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department's **EMS** personnel responded to 119 emergency calls and 53 convalescent calls. Administration attended the quarterly Peer Review Quality Management meeting. Staff continues to work on distributing materials on the Public Awareness Campaign regarding cell phone use and calling 911. Employees are also working on an internal Get Fit campaign starting in a few weeks. Four employees will participate on Monday in the Active Shooter class and Audit review on Tuesday. Regional Air Medical Service out of Spartanburg is also donating vent tubes to EMS because they are switching to a different ventilator.

Transit drove 10,010 miles, completed 1,001 local trips and 81 out of county trips, transported 281 unduplicated passengers and collected \$17,764 in revenue. Transit did extremely well during a NCDOT safety audit on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Director completed the semi-annual ROAP report for grant funding and also participated in a NCDOT sub-committee meeting regarding statewide training requirements.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Office staff had 49 mail-in contacts and 31 mail-out contacts. Staff also had 129 telephone interviews and 248 veteran contacts.

Help us share this important message.

WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS

Verify Rutherford County

when calling

911
on your
CELL PHONE

Cell phone calls are directed to the nearest cell tower and are not always routed to Rutherford County 911.

Always verify your county and location when calling 911 on your cell phone. 911 dispatchers will identify their county when answering a call.

Should you be connected to a bordering county's 911 Center, they will immediately connect you to Rutherford County 911 to complete your call.



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RUTHERFORD COUNTY

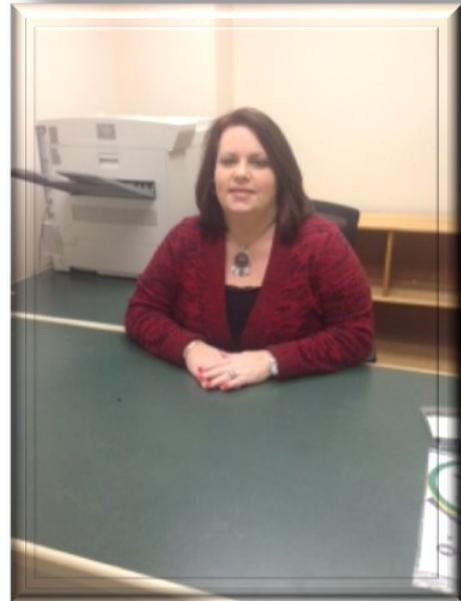


Special Highlights

*The Revenue Department
CONGRATULATES two of its employees
as they move into new roles.*



*Shannon Bradley
Assessment Coordinator*



*Linda Greene
Billing/ Collections Coordinator*

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



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