



March 16, 2015

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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A graphic with a green background and a white circular glow containing the text "Happy Saint Patrick's Day" in a decorative font, surrounded by shamrocks.

Did you know? St. Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious celebration occurring annually on **March 17**, the death date of the most commonly-recognized patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick (c. AD 385–461). St. Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity. "Wearing of the green" comes from a 'song of the same name', - which laments United Irishmen supporters being persecuted for wearing green. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the color green and its association with Saint Patrick's Day grew.

Saint Patrick's Day, while not a legal holiday in the United States, is nonetheless widely recognized and observed throughout the country as a celebration of Irish and Irish American culture. Celebrations include prominent displays of the color green, eating and drinking, religious observances, and numerous parades. The holiday has been celebrated on the North American continent since the late eighteenth century. **Forget to wear green on Tuesday, March 17th?** Don't be surprised if you get pinched. This is entirely an American tradition that started in the 1700s. St. Patrick revelers thought wearing green made one invisible to leprechauns. People began pinching those not wearing green as a reminder that leprechauns could sneak up and pinch them for not wearing green. Now you know!

A close-up image of a single green shamrock leaf with a white vein, set against a background of a green field with a path of small green flowers.

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- taught Color Me Healthy nutrition class for preschoolers.
- participated in Local Food Hub webinar.
- facilitated Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group.
- attended Extension & Community Assoc. quarterly council meeting.
- attended Partnership for Children executive committee meeting.
- taught Better Food Better Health Latino program.

Airport

Sold 630.2 gallons of 100LL and 989.0 gallons of Jet A.

Director participated in several meetings, including a special meeting with the Airport Authority to approve a hanger lease transfer.

Board of Elections

The Director and staff attended a district meeting in Statesville to look at currently available Voting equipment, electronic poll books and ADA accessible equipment. A Board meeting was held to review the budget prior to submission. Staff continues to scan all the forms from the November election.

Clerk to the Board

Commissioners had their annual goal setting session over the weekend. Carl Classen facilitated the session as the Board made some important decisions as to how to move Rutherford County forward in the coming year and in future years.

Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney participated in a meeting regarding the Applied Sciences Center on Tuesday. Chairman King also had a meeting with the Isothermal Planning and Development Commission Board of Directors of which he is a member.

Staff is gearing up for the new County Manager, Steve Garrison, who will arrive on Monday. Present Interim Manager Carl Classen will be a part of the transition for several days.



County Commissioners

Left to right - back row:

Michael Benfield

Eddie Holland

Greg Lovelace

Left to right - front row:

Bryan A. King, Chairman

Alan Toney, Vice Chairman

County Manager

Welcome to our new County Manager, Steve Garrison, starting his first week on the job, Monday, March 16th!

A word from County Manager, Steve Garrison: *“As Rutherford County's newly appointed County Manager, I would like to thank our fine Board of Commissioners, county employees and citizens of Rutherford County for their support and confidence in me. We are blessed to have a great community filled with wonderful, hard working individuals who, like me, love Rutherford County and want to make it the best it can be. I look forward to working with you in a continued effort to move Rutherford County toward a bright future, even though we've had some tough economic times. I pledge to do my best to provide the leadership the county needs to offer its citizens lucrative jobs, an excellent education for our children, essential public services and a safe and clean environment.”*



The Interim County Manager, new County Manager and Commissioners met this past weekend, developing future goals for the county. After several hours of sharing ideas, the following were just a few among the many goals discussed:

- capital improvements
- continued advocacy for infrastructure promoting jobs and business opportunities
- economic development
- establishing prioritized capital needs with the Board of Education

Rutherford County's outlook is bright and promising with great opportunities forthcoming.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended a business lunch at Isothermal Community College, met with an engineer regarding an active recruitment project, and distributed the minutes and agenda for the upcoming EDC Board meeting. The department continues to be busy following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities, evaluating the progress of site development activities at Gateway West Commerce Park, and contacting vendors for pricing on promotional items and possible advertising opportunities. This week's schedule also included an existing industry visit with Outdoor Colors, LLC.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- met with Specialized Consulting Service to discuss an initial planning meeting for a winter storm exercise next year.
- completed and turned in budget information.
- responded to a search for a missing Alzheimer's patient who was safely located by fire department personnel.
- attended the EMS Quality Management meeting.
- reviewed and updated several emergency plans.

Finance

The Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. Budget packages have been distributed to the departments and were due back to the Finance Office by March 9th. Nonprofit Funding requests are due back to the Finance Office by March 18th. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week and has begun working on the upcoming payroll.



The Finance Department hosted an ice cream social, Wednesday, in honor of our out-going County Manager, Carl Classen. He will be greatly missed.



Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome to the County Team:

Melanie Greenway (p/t Animal Control)
Lydia Waddell (Detention Center)
Alexandria Rumbaugh (p/t Detention)
Danielle Boone (p/t Detention),
Brandon Campbell (Solid Waste)
Merrimon Oxley (DSS)

Employees who have left the employment of Rutherford County are Clint Houser (Building Inspections), Ronald Jenkins (Sheriff), Greg Cochran (Detention), Lloian Byers (DSS), Kelly Sigmon (911), and Janice Deviney (Transit).

The Director along with respective Department Heads conducted interviews for the Tourism Development Office, Building Inspections, and the Airport Technician. Please be ready to welcome Steve Garrison on board as he will take office Monday, March 16. We are excited to have his talents and skills. Mr. Classen will be greatly missed and a big KUDOS for what he has done for Rutherford County. The Director held several meetings this week. The HR Specialist conducted new hire orientation on Thursday.

Current vacancies are as listed:

Part time Transit
EMS

Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Please be watching for email blasts for Relay for Life. The team is geared up and doing a great job. Ads for RELAY FOR LIFE events are listed on page 11.

Information Technology

In the past week, we have closed forty-one TrackIt orders. The IT department is busy getting ready for big changes again.

Congratulations to Jai Doherty upon being named as IT Director when Rhonda Owens retires in May. Also, congratulations to Peter Gaulin, as he was named Assistant IT Director/Telecommunication Administrator.

Information Technology continued from page 4

More contact information will be sent out as transitions happen so you will know what numbers will reach the correct employees. Remember to use TrackIt for all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs: trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov



Special Thank You:

Thank you to all who came, sent a gift, or sent well wishes to Wesley at his tool shower (pictured at left). He and Rachel had a beautiful shower and received plenty of tools to keep Wesley busy for a long time. Rachel was told not to learn what those tools were because she would end up having to use them.



Library

Library Director:

April has worked on setting up for the coming book sale and gathering information about staffing of other libraries across the state. April sat in on a meeting about using TV whitespaces to send Wi-Fi signals to outlying areas of the county. Planning of future library programs is in full swing.

Circulation Manager:

A program in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War will be presented at the Rutherford County Library on Saturday, March 21st, from 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm. See Facebook for further details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/429422040560376/>



On Tuesday, March 10th, Stephanie Long participated in a webinar entitled "Genealogy Research at the Library: How to Get the Most out of Library Resources". This webinar discussed several useful resources for genealogy research, including Ancestry.com, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (www.familysearch.org), ProQuest Historical Newspapers, and www.findagrave.com. Search strategies to get the most helpful results were also discussed.

A 2014 reproducible federal tax form book is now available behind the front desk at the Rutherford County Library. This book contains Schedules A, B, C, EIC, F, R, SE, & 8812, and Forms 1040NR, 1040-V, 2441, 3903, 4506-T, 4684, 4868, 8822, 8829, 8863, 8949, 8962, 8965, 9465, as well as instructions for these forms. Copies of these forms can be made for patrons at a charge of 15 cents each if they would rather do that than print off of the internet. Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ are still available for patrons to pick up for free in the lobby.

IT Librarian:

Libraries from around the country have been invited to participate in a project using Television White Space to provide Wi-Fi to remote areas as part of their community's disaster planning process. Kenneth met with several county staff and community members to discuss the technology and potential uses in Rutherford County.

Youth Services Librarian:

The Story time topic this week has been kangaroos, with Outreach programs at The Little Red School and at The Carver Center. Next week, the children will be studying "Elephants." In addition, the Youth Services Librarian has been planning and preparing for the upcoming Super Science Saturday and Summer Reading Program, as well as attending a webinar on Graphic Novels.

Library continued from page 5

The Library is pleased to announce a partnership with KidSenses to provide “Super Science Saturdays” the fourth Saturday of every month at 11:00. These exciting, educational experiences in the areas of STEM are free and open to the public. “The Sub-Zero Effect” will be on March 28, and participants will learn what happens when temperatures are below 322 degrees Fahrenheit. Using liquid nitrogen, we’ll shatter a ball, make an explosion, and examine the three states of matter. For more information, contact Jeannie Smith at 287-6116.

Haynes Branch:

The Haynes Branch Library employees are doing continuing ED training weekly online with TLC and the state library. They also provided an outreach presentation on NC authors at the Henrietta meal site.

Mountains Branch:

Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach held their monthly senior program at the library on Friday. Participants enjoyed a finger painting activity which resulted in cheerful spring artwork displayed in the meeting room and at the circulation desk of the library. The branch librarian and assistant librarian viewed a webinar on genealogy research methods in order to assist patrons in their heritage quests. Librarian Joy Sharp then shared the information from the webinar with the library’s Genealogy Club. Joy also spent time in the Children’s Area creating a display area for new Easy Books, and rearranging the Easy Reader collection.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department handled 52 VTS assists. The office answered 653 phone calls and assisted 351 customers. We completed one plat review, five pre-permits, and answered five Data Requests. Appraisers completed 27 building permits and 230 field reviews. Appraisers also reviewed 24 informal appeals. A total of 76 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 59 straits, 27 new accounts, 4 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created two new maps. The GIS website had 168,452 hits and 117,871 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned two new addresses, one new centerlines and updated eight addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance completed maintenance on 10 road signs. 8 appeals and 15 listing forms were received and 18 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed nine letters, and assisted nine program members. Staff processed 14 exclusions/deferments. We had one release and nine discoveries.

Electronic payments consisted of 16 by credit card, 47 by website and 5 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 12 prepays, 15 overpayments, 25 debt setoff and 9 newspaper. Staff completed 17 gross receipts/occupancy tax , 8 payment plans, processed 117 items mailed in and 12 bankruptcy issues. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 257 tax payments. Eighteen new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from Carolina Home Care conducted the Senior Center’s monthly blood pressure checks. 44 clients took advantage of this service. On Wednesday, we had our second “Living Healthy with Diabetes” class. This is a highly participatory workshop offered once a week for a total of 6 weeks. The sessions are designed to build skills in managing the chronic health concerns of diabetes. Our Pen Pals group also met on Wednesday to write in their journals to the Spindale Elementary third grade class. On Thursday, several seniors went on a shopping trip to Hamrick’s. Also, Jennifer Dobbins, RN and Gardner Webb University student discussed the importance of nutrition and activity in disease prevention. Lastly, tax preparation continues to be provided at the Center by the AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program. This is a free tax preparation service 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 10th.

Senior Center continued from page 6

Upcoming:

The Rutherford County Senior Games promote health and wellness activities through athletic and artistic endeavors for Rutherford County citizens age **50** and better. Seniors compete for awards in their own gender/age category. The dates of the events are as follows:

- SilverArts March 16-20
- Performing Arts March 27
- Sporting Events April 2-17



Sheriff's Department

Calls for Service:	3636
Warrants Served/Total Arrest:	168/196
Domestic Calls:	170
Involuntary Commitments/Hours.:	32/32.30 Man Hrs. Civil Papers
Served:	227
Exparte's Served:	17
Evictions:	6
Animals Pickup/Surrender:	113
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued:	83
Animal Control Calls for Service:	169
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol:	153/11
Pill Drop Collections:	2,853 Doses Units
Average Daily Inmate Confinement:	184
Gun Purchase Permits Issued:	175
Carry Concealed Permits Issued:	30
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours:	3/3.0 Man Hrs. Registered Sex
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours:	182/20.0 Man Hrs.

Congratulations to:

Promotion	New Part-time	New Full-time
Mike Callahan, Lt./Detention, effective 3.2.15	Melanie Greenway/Sec. Animal Control, effective 2.24.15	Holly Melton/Detention, effective 2.16.15
Lydia Waddell, F. Sgt/Detention, effective 3.2.15	Danielle Boone/Med Tech. Detention, effective 2.26.15	Matthew Jordan/Detention, effective 2.23.15
	Alexandria Rumbaugh /Detention, effective 2.28.15	Justin Sisk/Detention, effective 3.2.15
		Michael Lee/Detention, effective 3.2.15

Social Services

Work continues toward the implementation of the Northwood Case Management System for social work services. Northwood staff and staff from Alamance County DSS have been in the office over the past several weeks working with staff and providing training and technical assistance. The next phase of implementation will be training and deployment of iPads that workers will use in the field to complete paperwork that will be entered directly into the document management system. All major training will conclude on March 11.

Income Maintenance management continues to be proactive during the implementation of Medicaid into the NC FAST System, and are working hard to meet their March 31 deadlines. This will prove to be a daunting task that will require much hard work, including overtime for staff. The IM Department has, and continues, to be proactive in addressing staffing patterns and work processes as NC FAST presents challenges.

The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 25, with all members attending. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board heard updates on the changes in the Child Support Incentive System, proposed legislation to create an independent Medicaid agency within DHHS, Social Worker Title Protection, and proposed rules for the newly required drug testing for Work First applicants.

The Director, Fiscal Officer, and Program Managers attended the statewide conference call. In addition, the Director attended the inclement weather conference calls and the Community Health Council meeting.

DSS welcomes two new employees in Foster Care Social Workers in the Children's Services Division:

Jovan Baccus
Shynese Jones

They have spent their first week of employment attending mandatory state pre-service training held in Asheville. This four week training is required for all social workers in Children's Services before they can work directly with families.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on 2015-2016 District and Watershed Budget requests.
- worked on an outdoor environmental learning center grant report.
- attended an Agricultural Literacy Planning Meeting.
- attended an Area Envirothon competition for Middle and High School students.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- worked on budget planning.
- worked on watershed dam planning.
- attended a webinar for NRCS forestry planning.



Solid Waste

The solid waste department has had a very busy week. The solid waste department numbers are below:

Customers served 302
Loads hauled from convenience centers 67
Loads shipped to Lenoir 29
Recycling loads sent to Conover 2
Tire customers 27

The director attended the weekly solid waste meeting with Interim County Manager, participated in a conference call and has been working on the possibility of a hazardous waste facility locating to the six points area of the county. Our staff has fielded a lot of calls on the hazardous waste facility. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties. Shop employees have been busy on preventative maintenance and oil changes this week. A portion of the new signage for the convenience centers has arrived and staff will start the changing out process within the next couple of weeks. The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer has been busy helping out with the possibility of the hazardous waste facility and performing his normal job. Numbers are listed below:

Open cases 9
Closed cases 3
Convenience centers cases 2
Pictures taken 1
Cameras out 1
Community service workers 5
Community service reports 1



The Old Edwards house project is moving right along. The house debris has been completely removed from the site and now the staff is starting to work on the trees that are located on the property around the house site. We are waiting on the health department to review the well abandonment so we can finish that process.

We are glad to announce that the Town of Spindale has applied for a grant that will allow them to purchase 96 gallon roll out carts for recycling. Also the Town of Rutherfordton has added two textile recycling bins at Crestview Park. The Town of Bostic has requested a container for commingled recycling which will be delivered soon and they will also be adding two textile bins in the near future.

Please continue to recycle!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS submitted their FY 15-16 county budget. Revenues are starting to pick back up as the transition between billing companies is almost complete. The quarterly Peer Review Committee met with all support agencies this week. Staff also held their monthly management team meeting.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	172	168
Convalescent Calls	79	47

Transit Department:

Transit held an informative meeting with McDowell County transportation to determine if there were any collaborative efforts available between the two systems. Director attended a quarterly board meeting for the NC Public Transportation Association. Staff submitted the FY 15-16 county budget and are also working on a projected five year budget for NCDOT.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,958	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,118	881
# of Out of County Trips	94	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	249	238
Total Revenue	\$15,184	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	42
Fax	88
Mail Out	63
Phone Calls In/Out	98
Veteran Contacts	154

County Commissioners

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

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



Follow us online!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov

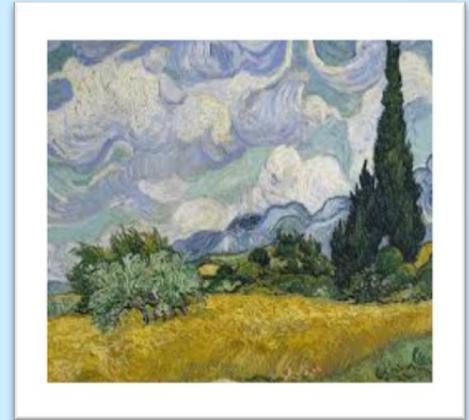
RELAY FOR LIFE



Move over Van Gogh...

ART CLASS

Please join us Friday, March 27th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Annex, 289 N. Main St., Rutherfordton, NC, for an Art Class to benefit **RELAY FOR LIFE**.



- Supplies provided
- Instructor lead
- \$20 per person
- Refreshments served

To insure availability, please pre-register. Call Brandy Greene Morris @ 828-287-6203 or Alma Resendiz @ 287-6126. Friends and children over 10 are welcome.

SHOOTING FOR A CURE!

Handgun Competition
Shotgun Trap Games



Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Place: Old Hickory Rifle and Pistol Club
Gun Club Road, Bostic, NC 28018
Cost: \$5 per shoot

Beginners welcome. Bring your own shotgun, pistol and ammo. Shotgun and pistol ammo will be available for purchase. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be for sale.
Sponsored by: Rutherford Co. Sheriff's Office, Butler's Jewelry and Loan, Old Hickory Rifle & Pistol Club

All proceeds are to benefit **RELAY FOR LIFE**. Come and support a worthy cause!

RELAY FOR LIFE Tee shirts available.
Tee shirts are white with purple design.
All Orders must be in to Finance by April 24, 2015

Call Jeanette Bosgra to place order at 828-287-6211.
Pay now (cash or check to ACS) or pay on delivery
Sizes: Youth S- L \$10.00 Adult S- XL \$10.00 and 2X - 6X \$12.00