



March 23, 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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Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught Color Me Healthy nutrition for preschoolers.
- Taught Living Healthy with Diabetes class.
- Assisted ECA club at monthly meeting.
- Taught Better Food Better Health Latino class.
- Attended nutrition seminar

Airport

The Rutherford County Airport pumped 381.7 gallons of 100LL and 1,046.0 gallons of Jet A this week.

The Rutherford County Airport was proud to have retired General Chuck Boyd stop by this week. General Boyd was flying to a ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans when he stopped in for fuel. General Boyd flew F-100s and F-105s in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He was shot down on April 22, 1966 on his 105th mission and spent 2,488 days as a prisoner of war. He was released on February 12, 1973 as part of Operation Homecoming. General Boyd was the only P.O.W. to reach the four-star rank and retired in 1985.



Building Inspections

Building Inspections has had another great start to the month of March. Our department has issued 104 permits totaling \$33,175 in fees. This includes seven new house starts Lake Lure Classical Academy, Pilgrims Way fellowship hall, Dollar General in Harris and a lumber storage facility at Gilkey Lumber. The project value of these permits totals over \$9.6 million dollars. \$7.58 million in Commercial projects and \$2.1 in Residential and other projects. Our inspectors have also been very busy in the field with 342 inspections in the two week period as well as conducting multiple plan reviews for proposed future commercial projects. Several commercial projects that getting well under way is Lake Lure Classical Academy, the Sterling Oaks Apartment complex and Dollar General in Harris. Furthermore, our Director has been involved in the ongoing review process for the AEO Waste Solidification facility, conducting interviews for the vacant Building/Fire Inspector position, final budget preparations, continued work on the proposed Development Services Project with the Planning Director and making preparations for our upcoming quarterly contractor meeting scheduled for April. Several of our Inspectors and the Director have also been attending continuing education classes as required by the state. Congratulations are also in order for Shane Dotson as he completed his certification as a Level III Mechanical Inspector.

Board of Elections

The Director has been busy working on agendas and documents for the NCADE conference on March 30th and 31st in Winston-Salem and also attended a meeting with the County Manager. A new system was implemented this week to allow easier upload of documents to the State Board's secure FTP site. Staff is working with IT and maintenance to set-up new scanners for the SEIMS system. A meeting was held with a Treasurer for a candidate campaign to assist in closing their account.

Clerk to the Board

County Commissioners and staff welcomed new County Manager Steve Garrison on Monday. After some get-acquainted meetings, it is back to business with a new leader. On Tuesday, Commissioners welcomed Saszy Shearz by attending a grand opening and ribbon cutting. Commissioner Benfield attended a Comprehensive Transportation Planning meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Tuesday night the Board of Commissioners changed hats and met as the Airport Authority. Staff participated in webinars on the Granicus software utilized in our offices.

County Manager



The new County Manager, Steve Garrison, hit the ground running his first week on the job. After meeting with all the Department Heads the first part of the week, budget meetings with each department filled the latter part of the week. "It has been a great first week," new County Manager said as the week wound down. Mr. Garrison also stated that Interim County Manager, Carl Classen, and Department Heads have been very helpful in bringing him up to speed in their areas of responsibility. A special thanks to Danny Searcy for his excellent 'tour guide' services on Friday as he showed Mr. Garrison the location of several Departments and various highlights in the county.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department met with the new County Manager, participated in the monthly EDC Board Meeting, and attended multiple meetings to include an existing industry meeting and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Director's Meeting. The department continues to be busy preparing the budget for the coming fiscal year, following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and contacting vendors for pricing on promotional items. This week's schedule also included initiating contracts for the development of a new website for Gateway West Commerce Park and the redesign of the Economic Development website, as well as a contract for the development of print advertisements in an international economic development publication to promote Rutherford County and Gateway West Commerce Park.

(Recent Media Release)

Family Preservation Services of NC Expands Their Footprint in Rutherford County

Rutherford County Economic Development is pleased to announce that as a result of recent new contracts, the potential for additional contracts and to meet increased demand for services in the county, Family Preservation Services of NC will expand their footprint in Rutherford County.

Family Preservation Services of NC is a behavioral healthcare company that provides a full array of community and office based behavioral and substance abuse services in 13 regions throughout North Carolina and has been in operation for 14 years. The company will lease 6,000 square feet of vacant retail space in Rutherfordton and will re-purpose the unit to allow for office space conducive to providing both office and community based services.

This project was made possible in part by a grant in the amount of \$122,190 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority under the Rural Healthcare Program in support of the Family Preservation Services of NC expansion project. The company plans to create 13 jobs and invest more than \$320,000. Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$44,400. The Rutherford County average annual wage is \$31,347.

Rutherford County Commission Chairman Bryan King said, "We want to thank Family Preservation Services of NC for their investment in Rutherford County and their confidence in our citizens whom they will employ. Rutherford County is very pro business and we look forward to assisting any company that is looking for a great place to locate or expand".

Rutherfordton Mayor Dancy stated, "On behalf of the Rutherfordton Town Council, we want to thank Family Preservation Services for their continued investment in our community. Today's announced new jobs provide an excellent opportunity for the citizens in our town."

"On behalf of the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission I want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Family Preservation Services of NC for choosing to retain and expand their operations in Rutherford County," said Terry Hines, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. "I also want to thank the NC Department of Commerce Rural Infrastructure Authority, the Town of Rutherfordton, the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners, the County Manager and the Rutherford County Economic Development staff for all of their efforts in working with the company on this project."

The mission of Rutherford County Economic Development is to retain and recruit new jobs and investment to the county for both industrial and commercial development. Rutherford County has a population of 67,810 and is centrally located between Charlotte, NC, Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC. With a strong infrastructure system including roads, water, sewer and fiber, the county is well positioned for growth as the economy continues to improve.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Attended a budget meeting and an introductory meeting with new County Manager
- Sent out invitation to various agencies for a planning meeting regarding an upcoming tabletop exercise
- Met with training ground committee and architect to discuss the progress of the emergency services training facility
- Transported generator/light tower to Buncombe County for use in a search exercise
- Scheduled an inspection with Office of State Fire Marshal for the newly constructed Shiloh-Danielstown-Oakland substation located on W.V. Thompson Road
- Attended various other meeting and training

Finance

The Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. Budget packages have begun to be reviewed by the Finance Office. The Director and Assistant Director met with the County Manager and several departments to discuss their requests. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week. We wish Carl Classen the best on his retirement!

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. WELCOME Steve Garrison. As is custom for Rutherford County, we welcomed Steve with open arms and then gave him a budget to balance. We wish the very best to Carl and his family and envy him for retiring to the beach. Carl will be greatly missed and has been a huge asset. The Director held several meetings with various department heads, attended the HR Association meeting, attended budget meetings, and was part of the SECU review panel for scholarships. The Director and HR Specialist attended webinars regarding ACA compliance as well as updates from NCACC.

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

The IT Department is getting ready for major changes, new positions and new staff member(s). All of your requests have gone into the IT budget and are awaiting approval. If you have something you requested for which you want to make one last push, please let me know so I can give it more justification during budget talks next week. Peter has been working very hard on the RightFax software upgrading and back running, so please let him know if you have any other issues. It is so very important that we use Trackit for our IT, Maintenance, and VoIP issues. This helps so much when it comes budget time and we are justifying new positions. When using the online work order entry, please make sure to select your department name for all IT support issues. Select Maintenance only when you have maintenance issues, and select VoIP when you have phone issues. If you are using the email service, put IT or Maintenance or VoIP in the subject line and those too will be routed to the proper tech.

The Director had six requests for new door security and eight requests for cameras in next year's budget. If you would like to change to a card key entry system and use a camera security system, please let the IT Director know immediately.

Library

Library Director:

April attended a meeting with the Library Society to discuss upcoming events and plan movie days at the library. Keep your eyes out in the coming month for Free Movie Showings @ the Library! Our staff meeting this month was very productive. All staff completed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd level Technology Competencies recommended for library staff by the State Library. Staff also participated in role playing exercises to enhance patron service interactions. We are looking forward to the Spring Book Sale next week: Thursday and Friday from 9-5 and Saturday 9-12 (*more information on p. 5*).



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 to 5:00 pm.

Library continued from page 4

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.

Youth Services Librarian:

If you stepped in any of the libraries this week, you would have been in danger of being stampeded by a herd of elephants since the Story Time children had a great time pretending to be pachyderms. Next week, we will be swinging around like monkeys, so come hang with us! Outreach programs were at Sunshine Elementary and The Carver Center. In addition, the Children's Librarian judged the Literary Arts portion of the Senior Center's SilverArts program, attended a staff meeting, and prepared for upcoming programs—including the "Super Science Saturday" scheduled for March 28 at 11:00 (See attached flyer). The first event is "The Sub-Zero Effect," where we'll freeze different things with liquid nitrogen and watch them explode! It's free and open to any school-age child or older preschooler.

Mountains Branch:

Joy Sharp and Angie Turner assisted the Friends of the Library with their Chili Cook Off on Saturday, which was a successful fund raiser for the library. The library also hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in the meeting room. Joy and Angie both assisted patrons with employment searches, helping with online applications and resume creation. Both staff also participated in webinars highlighting new non-fiction titles for spring. Joy also worked with Lake Lure Classical Academy students with their research projects

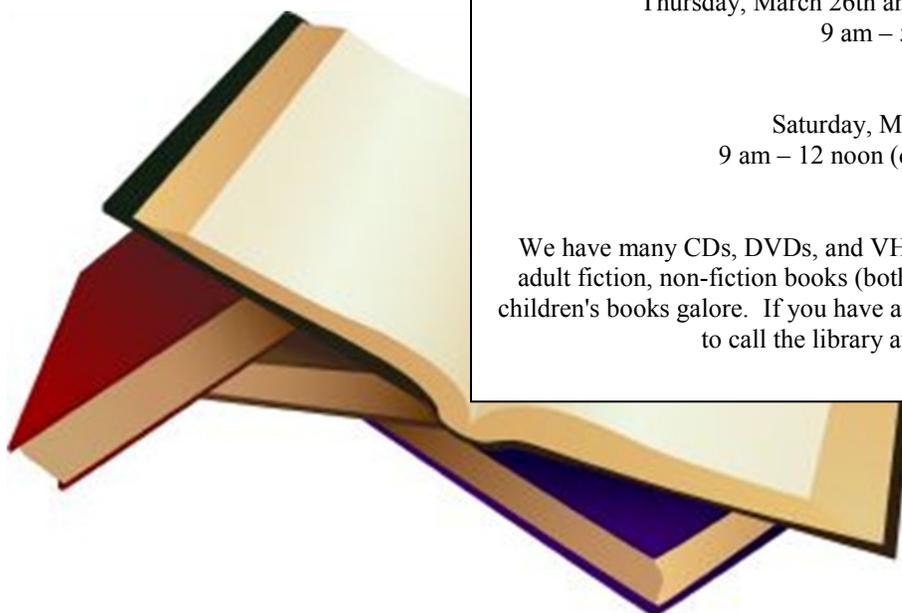
Spring Book Sale - Rutherford County Library

It is time for the annual Spring Book Sale!

Thursday, March 26th and Friday, March 27th
9 am – 5 pm

Saturday, March 28th
9 am – 12 noon (dollar per bag)

We have many CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes. You will also find many adult fiction, non-fiction books (both hardbacks and paperbacks), and children's books galore. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the library at 828-287-6115.



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 a.m. for a FREE SCIENCE PROGRAM !

March 28	Sub Zero Effect (K-12)
April 25	Action Reaction (K-12)
May 30	Human Dynamo (K-5)
June 27	Science Shenanigans (K-12)
July 25	Super Sonic Light Speed (K-5)
August 22	Blast Off Into Physics ((K-12)
September 26	Rainforest Wonders (K-5)
October 24	Spooky Science (K-5)



For more information, contact Jeannie Smith at 287-6116.

Public Works and Planning

This week, the County garage completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of N.C. vehicle safety inspections. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy in completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance and grounds keeping in preparation for Spring growth. Planning and Projects has been extremely over the past week with the following: Rail Trail improvements, Planning Board, Comprehensive Transportation Planning meeting with NCDOT, Greyrock and Queens Gap improvements oversight, meeting with the State's energy office in reviewing the draft RFP for performance contracting, and Capital facilities planning. Meanwhile, we continue working with the architect and general contractors for the Southeastern EMS and Library on contracts and details. The project remains on hold as the soil conditions change with Spring approaching. Lastly, the director met with new manager, Mr. Steve Garrison, to share an overview of all of the services offered through this complex department.

Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 135.00
Real Estate	13,278.00
Marriages	480.00
Vital statistics	1,290.00
Total	\$15,183.00

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department handled 65 VTS assists. The office answered 716 phone calls and assisted 353 customers. We completed three plat reviews, one project, five pre-permits and answered four data requests. Appraisers completed 193 field reviews. A total of 54 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 79 straits, 9 estates, 40 new accounts, 6 splits, and 3 acreage adjustments. GIS created six new maps and the GIS website had 164,193 hits and 113,050 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned five new addresses and updated 77 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 10 road signs. 8 appeal/listings were received and 61 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed 8 letters, and assisted 11 program members. Our office had 10 discoveries this week. Electronic payments consisted of 18 by credit card, 40 by website and 2 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 166 bank drafts, 9 prepays and 8 newspaper items. Staff completed 51 gross receipts/occupancy tax, 2 payment plans and 12 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 273 tax payments. 23 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center continues to have computer assistance with our volunteer, Sandra Boyd, on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30. On Wednesday, we had our third "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.. The Director and Activity Coordinator attended the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management this week. The Senior Center also hosted the SilverArts reception and awards ceremony on Friday. 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.

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



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- visited Pinnacle Elementary to read to Second Grade students for the Agricultural Literacy Program
- prepared for a lesson for Heritage Day at Sunshine Elementary
-

The Ag. Cost Share Technician

- met with land owners
- took soil samples
- worked on watershed dam planning

Solid Waste

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

Customers served 305
Loads hauled from convenience centers 41
Loads shipped to Lenoir 28
Recycling loads sent to Conover 2
Tire customers 32
Electronics trailer sent to Albemarle 1 (26 pallets)

Please continue to recycle!

The director attended a department head meeting and a budget meeting with Steve Garrison. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties. Office staff continues to work on grants and presentations for future conferences. Signs for the landfill and convenience centers have been delivered from one vendor. Staff has installed all of these signs which includes landfill directional signs, operating signs, safety signs and rate signs. Some of the smaller signs for convenience centers have also been installed which includes signs for battery recycling, oil recycling, electronics recycling, safety signs and reserved signs. Also, work is under way to pour a new driveway to the Colfax Convenience center. (*photos pictured below*) The state came by this week to perform our yearly erosion control testing.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Active cases 9
Closed cases 4
Pictures taken 2
Cameras on site 1
Letters written 0
Community service workers 6
Community service reports 1

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





Introducing...

Olivia



Proud parents, Heather and Jody Wright,
announce the birth of their baby girl.
(Heather is Communications Officer in our
911 Communications Department.)
Congratulations Heather and Jody!

March 17, 2015

7 lbs. 10.5 oz.



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS met with the new County Manager and also presented their budget proposal. The new Shift Supervisors' vehicle arrived and was lettered this week. It should be in operation as soon as lights, radio and MDT are installed. Director also attended an Airport Authority meeting.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	164	168
Convalescent Calls	70	47

Transit Department:

Transit met with the new county manager and also presented their budget proposal. The monthly safety meeting was held and driver **Johnnie Wilkerson was named Employee of the Month**. Transit also welcomed three new employees this week: **Paula Hailey, Randy Kanipe and Frank Millwood**.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,795	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,265	881
# of Out of County Trips	106	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	258	238
Total Revenue	\$16,006	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	46
Fax	88
Mail Out	88
Phone Calls In/Out	85
Veteran Contacts	139

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



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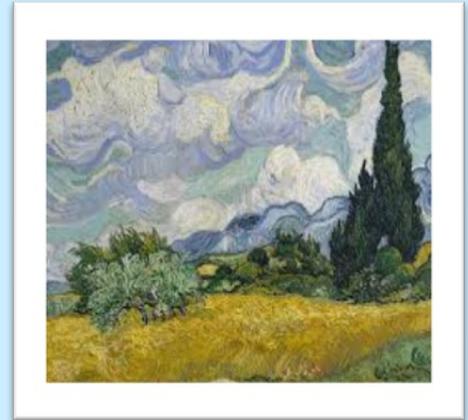
RELAY FOR LIFE



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