



March 28, 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.

What's Inside

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[Cooperative Extension](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Finance](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

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

[Veteran Services](#)

[SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[Airport](#)

The Airport sold 468 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 100 gallons of Jet A. Pre-paid customer fuel sales totaled 1,519 gallons.

[Board of Elections](#)

The Election Director, Board Chairman and staff attended State Board of Elections training in Cary for three days this week. They have started the process of testing the voting equipment which will take at least two weeks and are about to recruit the last few poll workers.

[Building Inspections](#)

The Building Inspections Department has issued 71 permits totaling \$8,986 in fees and inspectors have conducted 266 inspections, including several final inspections at Horsehead. Staff began bi-annual school inspections with the fire inspector and building inspector. The Director has continued to work on the Airport obstruction clearing issues as well as preparing the 2014-15 budget. The Department has scheduled a code [seminar/conference](#) for all local electricians and general contractors to be held April 3.

[Clerk to the Board](#)

Commissioner Owens attended a CRT meeting at the Department of Social Services on Tuesday. The Clerk has spent much of the week preparing items for the agenda for April 7.

The Administrative Assistant/Public Information Clerk began development of two PR/Marketing efforts, assisted the Clerk to the Board in records maintenance, submitted minutes to the Division of Archives and continued research into contemporary media options for the County. Additionally, she met with the Manager and Solid Waste staff to discuss the many internal programs dedicated to recycling and waste management and began planning the public education component of them.

Cooperative Extension

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

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff facilitated a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group, taught a nutrition program at the Carver Center for parents, taught Steps to Health nutrition for 2nd grade at Ellenboro Elementary and met with the Extension & Community Association.

County Manager

The County Manager attended meetings with the NC DOT Division of Aviation, the County's Litter Initiative Team, and with staff from the Rutherford Arts Council, School System and Rutherford Regional Health System. The Manager spent a majority of the week in meetings with Department Heads, Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director regarding budgets. He also held his weekly meeting with the County Attorney.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Executive Director worked with the County Attorney on the development of Economic Development Agreements in response to the recent announcements of Team Air, Bonita Pioneer and the soon to be announced expansion plans for Project APPI ; attended the Work, Grow, Thrive Lunch and Learn seminar; worked with EDC staff to complete and submit a Building Reuse grant application for Project Cowbell; attended the Business Sciences Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting; and attended the bid opening for the upcoming water line improvement project in support of the proposed expansion plans of Project APPI.



The Project Administrator finalized details for and attended [Lunch and Learn Seminar](#) on Non-traditional Lending Opportunities for Existing Business; networked with NC Department of Commerce for some existing industry support visits; worked on existing industry visit updates and schedules; discussed assistance programs with USDA and Commerce Finance Center and attended the Community Connections Team "Working Together" meeting.

The Economic Development Assistant continued to work with the Revenue Department to secure tax values necessary for budgeting incentives payments due in FY 14-15; assisted in collecting, assembling and submitting a Building Reuse Grant application for Project Cowbell; began receiving and sorting year end documentation required from businesses for incentives reporting and contacted vendors to update forms required by the accounting department.

Finance

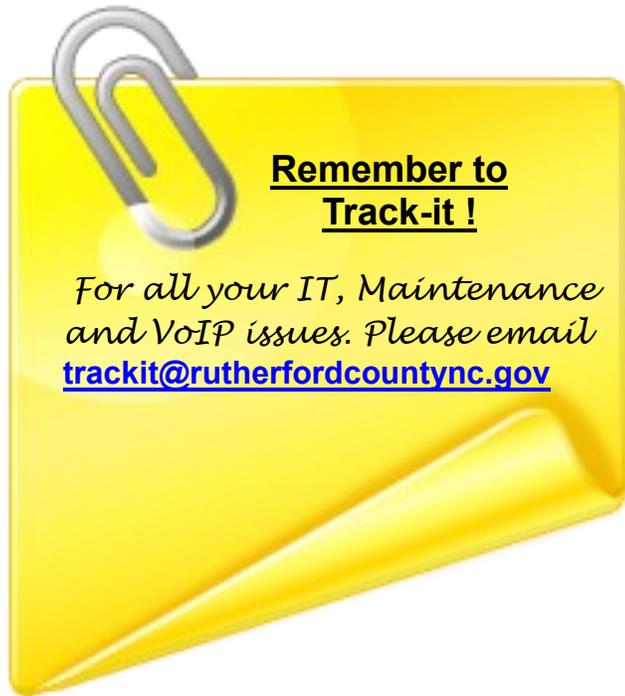
The Finance Department Director, Assistant Director and County Manager have continued to meet this week with the County departments for further discussion or clarification of their 2014-2015 budget requests. The Director and Assistant will continue to work closely with the Manager to develop a balanced recommended budget in the upcoming weeks. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director attended the North Carolina Emergency Management All Hazards Conference, coordinated service checks for all of the fire departments' Automated External Defibrillators and attended various other meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome Elaine Conner (DSS), Ciera Whitesides (DSS), Sheila Bailey (DSS), Lucy Gutierrez (DSS), Stephanie Mashburn (DSS), Nicholas Marlow (Detention), James Mode (Sheriff), Julie Hartzog (pt TDA), Karen Robinson (pt TDA), and Merry Bearden (pt TDA). The Director attended a meeting with Finance Director Paula Roach and Transportation Director Kerry Giles, and met with Craig Sappenfield of NCACC to review training opportunities. The Director also toured 7 convenience centers with James Kilgo and Tony Bumgarner to meet with employees and be familiar with how the sites are attended. The HR Assistant attended a Lunch and Learn sponsored by Economic Development. Relay has kicked off with dress down days and a Relay auction. Thank you to everyone who helps with this worthy cause.



Information Technology

The IT Department has completed 94 work orders this week. The budget meeting held with Carl, Paula, and Raeann went well for session one and session two will be next week. Peter continues to work with Avaya on the caller-id issue and will have two technicians here next week to look at the system and figure out what is going on. So, there could be some minimal interruption in the phone system as a result. Staff will let you know if any significant time is needed. The Department now has a hard drive crusher, so all hard drives will be removed and crushed. At that point the equipment will be sold on GovDeals and all the new buyer has to do is purchase a new hard drive.

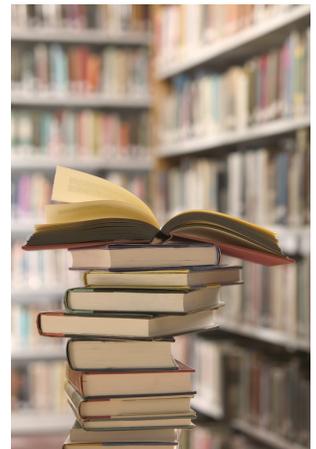
Library

The Library Director met with the CMC consortium, sorted items for the book sale, participated in a national survey promoted by the State Library, cataloged materials from the Genealogical Society Library and served as a judge for the Senior Center literary competition.

The children of Story Time are continuing to learn about bugs by concentrating on bees this week. Outreach programs are scheduled for Ellenboro Elementary School on Friday. The Children's Librarian also served as a judge for the Isothermal Community College Young Poet's Contest. Winning selections will be published in the 2014 Anuran literary magazine.

****COUNTY LIBRARY BOOK SALE****

Thursday - Saturday, April 3rd -5th. For more information see www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org or their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RutherfordCountyLibrary) page at <https://www.facebook.com/RutherfordCountyLibrary>



Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department garage had 8 preventative maintenance service calls, 18 repairs, 2 tire service calls and 6 other repairs/inspections. Maintenance completed 27 work orders and repairs and groundskeeping of all County facilities as the spring growing season breaks through. Replacement of the Emergency 911 Communications center backup generator continues this week with modifications to the sewer system to accommodate this new generator. Budget reviews and building requests from department heads have progressed well and those priorities will be discussed with Finance and the County Manager next week. The Director and Project Manager have worked with the Community Grants committee to review, score and process the applications. A summary and staff recommendation for funding will be in the Commissioners' April agenda packet. Staff continue to work with the Biggerstaff committee on the prioritization of grant applications in addition to following up on the certification application. Other notable projects currently progressing through next steps are CDBG and distressed County granting with IPDC's assistance; Rail Trail improvements will be released for bid this week; the Southern EMS cost estimating, and Ruth School mitigation and shoring up. Lastly, a community meeting was held at Chase High School at 6:00 this evening for questions/answers and information of the Hines/Mid-Atlantic Road water line expansion. Staff continue managing the improvements and progress on several additional projects and planning.

Greyrock: The pavers are finishing paving Projects 7, 3B, part of 8 & all of 9. Project 8 is now completed and stoned. Project 10 clearing is nearing completion.

Queens Gap: Project 1 is continuing to move forward. The large culverts should be delivered in the next week. Project 3 bids will open on March 27th.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 4 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$25.00, processed 261 real estate records with \$17,648.00 received in cash, and processed 110 vitals, receiving \$1,700.00. A total of 375 transactions were made with a total of \$19,373.00 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 694 phone calls and assisted 264 citizens who came in to the office. 44 deeds were recorded and 97 were transferred. 32 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 5 splits, 2 merges, 3 acreage adjustments and created 4 new maps. 3 new E911 addressees were assigned and 1 new road was created. Ownership of 135 addresses was updated. 3 new road signs were installed. The GIS website weekly report is under maintenance so there is nothing to report this week. Appraisers completed 366 field reviews. Electronic payments consisted of 23 by credit/debit, 39 by website, and 14 by phone, but the website had 673 visitors. 286 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 56 Debt Setoff, 120 garnishments, 25 attachments. 18 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 33 overpayments, 10 prepays, 56 bankruptcy payments/issues, 8 discoveries, 28 releases, and 2 refunds. 681 pieces of mail were received and processed. Staff continue working on June motor vehicle renewals.

Senior Center

The Senior Center kicked off the Senior Games events with the SilverArts judging on Monday. SilverArts consists of Visual Arts, Heritage Arts, and Literary Arts. Many talented seniors showcased their art in one or all of these categories. The SilverArts exhibits were on display all this week. The SilverArts Participants Reception and presentation of awards was on Friday. On Tuesday, second graders from Forest City-Dunbar came to do an "Irish Theme" program. 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.

Upcoming Events:



The Center will host a Spring Fling Dance on Friday evening from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The DJ is Pat Nanney and the cost is \$5.00 each.

The Center will host the Senior Performing Arts (The Follies) next Friday night (April 4th) at 7:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and admission is only \$2.00. The Seniors will be competing for the "Best-Over-All Blue Ribbon".

Social Services

The Social Services Department's Income Maintenance staff continues to work diligently as NC FAST implementation continues. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved a waiver for the State to continue entering certain Medicaid applications in the legacy system (EIS) for the remainder of the calendar year in order to allow the State the opportunity to address system glitches and make needed improvements. Income Maintenance Administrator Kandi Bridges, and Supervisors, Susan Epley and Cheryl Heatherly, attended the Work Support Strategies Summit 2014 this week in Greensboro. The goal of the Summit is to provide support and ideas to those staff in local agencies to improve efficiency and develop ideas to enhance the use of existing systems. On Tuesday, the first Care Review Team (CRT) meeting was held at DSS. This is a problem solving/solution finding resource for DSS, schools, DJJ, mental health providers and other agencies to develop solutions for high risk youth with serious mental health issues, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, and behavioral and/or health concerns, and is primarily used to assist in the development of an appropriate plan for the youth. On Tuesday, the Director attended a Partnership for Children of the Foothills subcommittee meeting, attended a conference call for the In Reach Transition workgroup, and met with Fiscal Officer, Pam Price, regarding the 2014-15 budget. Representatives from the KFH Group of Austin, Texas were at the agency on Wednesday to conduct the annual Medicaid Transportation Compliance Review. This is the second year that KFH, who is contracted through the State, has conducted the review. The audit was positive and the auditors were very complimentary of the work of DSS staff. On Thursday, the Director and Fiscal Officer met with the County Manager and Finance Director concerning the 2014-15 budget. Following that meeting, the Director met with the County Manager and the County Attorney concerning a legal matter.

Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department's District Staff attended the Soil & Water and Watershed 2014-2015 Budget Meeting. The Admin/Education Specialist visited Spindale Elementary to read the book The Beeman to four Second grade classes at Forest City Dunbar for the Agriculture Literacy Program., completed the District meeting minutes and mailed meeting notices. Staff also worked on fertilizer pricing changes for the watershed dams and sent information to the contractor. The Ag Cost Share Technician met with contractors for stream stabilization, met with GSA about new location, provided technical assistance to land owner, and attended a Grazing workshop.

Solid Waste

But, won't it just go away?

NO!
It's a long road until it's gone...

Littered neighborhoods have more crime and vandalism

Throwing food on the roadside attracts animals that can cause wrecks...



FRUIT:
3-8 WEEKS TO DECOMPOSE



Unsecured loads can fly out and harm others...
CARDBOARD:
2 MONTHS TO DECOMPOSE

Cigarette butts and other litter can block drains and cause floods...



12 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE

DID YOU KNOW:
* Cigarette butts leach lead, arsenic and cadmium into soil and water!

DID YOU KNOW:
* About 38% of all roadside litter is cigarette butts!

DID YOU KNOW:
* Toxic cigarette butt waste may accidentally be eaten by small children or animals!



Discarded tin cans can kill when pieces of flying metal pierce windshields or tires...
50 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE

Fatal collisions have occurred due to separated tires and other car parts on the road...
50-80 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE



Average U.S. Human Life Expectancy:
ABOUT 80 YEARS



Disposable diapers will generate 1 TON of garbage in 2 years for EACH BABY, or enough garbage to fill Yankee Stadium 15 times EACH YEAR from American babies alone...
450-550 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE

Debris such as plastic bags can blow onto car windshields, startling a driver or impairing his/her view which could cause a wreck...



20 to 1,000 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE

Styrofoam containers and packaging contain toxic chemicals that can hurt humans and wildlife, usually cannot be recycled, and break down into tiny pieces that get into the air and water...

UP TO 1 MILLION YEARS TO DECOMPOSE



Broken glass from bottles can puncture tires and can injure pedestrians, cyclists, inmate work crews and supervisors, clean-up volunteers, pets and wildlife...
1-2 MILLION YEARS TO DECOMPOSE

The Solid Waste Department Landfill served 309 customers, hauled 62 containers from Convenience Centers and shipped 32 loads to Lenoir. James and Tony spent Monday morning showing Debra seven different convenience sites. The Director attended a litter meeting with the County Manager and Steve Nanney. The Director attended a meeting with Debra (HR), had a meeting with a tire representative, and met with Danny Searcy and Jeff Bradley to discuss a water situation at Shiloh. The Director has been busy working on the recycling contract, estimates for the Danieltown fence and septic problems at the Golden Valley Convenience Center. All employees continue to perform everyday job duties. Staff sent out another electronics truck this week and two recycling trucks. The Solid Waste Department has been awarded another grant from the State that will allow them to install two more recycling compactors at the Avondale and Colfax Convenience Sites. We hope to start these projects in July once all paper work is complete. The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer has been busy finishing a presentation for the Carolina Recycling Conference next week. He also installed a camera mount at Golden Valley Convenience Center to help identify who is leaving trash outside the gates over the weekends. The Department had five community services workers this week and the report associated with it was turned in.



Click this [here](#) to view the Governor's Litter Free NC Kick Off announcement.

Tourism Development Authority

The TDA Executive Committee met for an update from the Director. The next board meeting will be April 10. Training continues on part time visitor services staff, and volunteers have begun working with the TDA as well. Staff are planning several upcoming networking events -- the first is April 8th at the Welcome Center. Next week staff will host a familiarization tour of the county for several volunteers, community leaders, and special guests. The TDA is also training on a scheduling and staff training software and creating deadlines for the new in-room guide, set to go out this season.

Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department's **EMS** personnel responded to 145 emergency calls and 45 convalescent calls. Staff spent all day Thursday interviewing potential EMT's for full and part time work. Management reviewed a billing company's proposal, evaluated facility needs at Station 1 in Spindale, and met with the County Manager and Finance to review their budget proposal. A monthly random drug and alcohol test was completed. Administration completed two NACO achievement award submissions for the Stuff the Ambulance toy drive and the 911 Public Awareness Campaign in regards to cell phone use.

Transit: Transit drove 12,672 miles, completed 1,037 local trips and 72 out of county trips, transported 267 unduplicated passengers and collected \$16,237 in revenue. Administration ordered new 7" tablets that will go in all Transit vehicles starting in May. The Director submitted a NACO achievement award submission for the Food Pantry Shuttle Service. Director and Operations Manager also attended a meeting with the County Manager and Finance to discuss Transit's budget proposal for FY 14-15. Rack cards were updated and ordered and will be distributed through the County. The Director also participated in a conference call with NCDOT staff regarding statewide training protocols.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Office Department Head was at a conference this week.

Happy Birthday Debra Conner!





Building Inspections Department to Hold an Informational Meeting for Electrical and Building Contractors



*The Building Inspections Department
of Rutherford County*

cordially invites you to an informational meeting
for electrical and building contractors on
Thursday, April 3rd, beginning at 6 pm,
in the Auditorium of the
RC Office Building
289 N Main St, Rutherfordton.

We will discuss commonly-asked electrical questions, more
frequent code violations, and implementation of the 2014 NEC
(National Electrical Code).

Special Highlights

Captured moments from the EDC's

Lunch and Learn Seminar



WORK, GROW, THRIVE!

Please join us **Tuesday, March 25** for a **FREE** Lunch and Learn Seminar to hear an

INTRODUCTION TO NON-TRADITIONAL LENDING



Enjoy a complimentary lunch as you learn about resources available to fit your capital needs:

- Summary of non-traditional loan products for existing businesses
- What lenders need during the application process
- Tips on how to qualify for loans to meet your needs

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2014

LOCATION: Rutherford County Office Building Auditorium
289 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

PRESENTERS:

- Dale Harrold, Senior Lending Officer – Self-Help Ventures Fund
- Ed Timberlake, Senior Loan Underwriter – The Support Center
- Patrick Doran, Lending Officer – Mountain BizWorks
- Bill Payne, Existing Industry Specialist – NC Dept of Commerce

For more information contact (828) 287-6200

This event is sponsored by Rutherford County Economic Development Commission and The Business Retention and Expansion Program – Work, Grow, Thrive!



County Commissioners

William Eckler, Chairman

Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman

Greg Lovelace

Julius Owens

Roger Richard

Carl Classen, County Manager

Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

Richard Williams, County Attorney



Stay connected!

www.rutherfordcountync.gov

