



March 28, 2016

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.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal (Passover) Full Moon, falling on or after the Spring Equinox (March 21). The Paschal Full Moon can vary as much as two days from the date of the actual full moon, with dates ranging from March 21 to April 18. As a result, Easter dates can range from March 22 through April 25. **NOW YOU KNOW!**

You may remember walking up the sidewalk to church on Easter morning with your family. Mom wore a hat, Dad was in a suit, and the children had on their finest Spring clothes. Others remember searching for eggs and candy, then tearing into an Easter basket brimming with treats. Whatever your memories, Easter is a time of renewal and awakening. It is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life! Easter (Resurrection Sunday) is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred three days after his crucifixion by Romans at Calvary. Give thanks for the resurrection of Christ, and **may your heart be filled with joy and peace this Easter!**



Board of Elections

Canvass was held on Tuesday to finalize the election results for the Primary Election. A total of 14021 voters voted making this one of the largest primaries in the last twenty years. A record number of provisional ballots were cast also in this election. Now our staff has over 1200 registrations and changes to process before we start preparing for the next Primary election in June.

County Manager and Commissioners

Although the week was cut short, due to the holiday on Friday, the County Manager, Commissioners, and staff stayed very involved in a number of meetings, luncheons, and various other events. Meetings with several department heads were on the schedule this week, including Planning and Projects, Library Director and Economic Development. The County Manager also met with the County Attorney regarding various projects.

Forest City and Spindale held Town Council meetings this past Monday evening. Broad River Water Authority met this past Tuesday evening for their monthly board meeting.

Individual Department Head budget meetings filled this week's schedule preparing for the new fiscal year. Commissioners and County Manager held agenda review meetings in preparation for the upcoming Board of Commissioners' meeting on April 4th following Spring Break.

As the week progressed, the Commissioners, Manager, and staff were involved with additional duties, consisting of calls, public relations, and preparation for various responsibilities and meetings.

Last weekend was a big event for **Caroline King, daughter of Chairman Bryan King**. She and Harry performed well, and placed third in the PRO-AM Derby at the Equestrian Center. How exciting and joyful for a thirteen year old teenager competing in a field of adults who have been training longer than she has been alive! Daddy's grateful for his daughter's smiles **(pictured right)**.



A very special thank you to **Vice Chairman and Mrs. Alan Toney** for the beautiful collection of the most delicious Easter cookie bars. There were so many comments and compliments on how scrumptious and yummy each cookie bar tasted. Your thoughtfulness and kindness to the County Office staff is appreciated more than words can say **(pictured left)**.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended the Town of Forest City Commissioners' Meeting and held numerous meetings and conference calls with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, and working with the Department of Commerce regarding various grant reports and requests.

This week's agenda also included assembling and preparing documentation for the upcoming monthly County Board of Commissioners' Meeting and working with the Revenue Department to obtain tax valuations for FY '16-17 budget forecasting purposes.

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental budget meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal:

- attended N.C. Emergency Management Spring Conference.
- attended law enforcement in-service.
- responded to several wild land fires to provide assistance with equipment and manpower.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.

The Director, along with Clerk to the Board, attended a meeting in Salisbury, *Engaging Women in Public Service*. The event sought to foster a network of women working in NC local government management through networking and hands-on skill building.

The Director attended budget meetings with department heads. Employment opportunities are Tourism Authority Director. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Nicole Morse, Children and Youth Librarian: On Monday Nicole attended a Summer Reading workshop in Catawba County. The workshop focused on how to plan a successful Summer Reading program around this year's theme, On Your Mark! Get Set! Read! Planning continues for this summer's program as well as a special STEM program that will take place this summer at the Haynes Branch Library for children 8-12 years of age, thanks to a special grant from Duke Energy. The Haynes Branch Library also hosted its second Teen Tuesday event with extended hours. Teens are able to gather after school for video games, movies, snacks and a craft project.

Maria Davis, Programming and Marketing: This week, Maria was a guest judge for the Senior Games at the Senior Center for Literary Arts and Adult Coloring. She had to make some pretty hard decisions as all the entrants were amazing. Maria also did outreach at Golden Valley Community Clubhouse and the Forest City Masonic Lodge. She presented a slideshow concerning all activities and amenities of the Rutherford County Library System. Maria also worked with Kenneth and Nicole to plan activities for Spring Break in the Makerspace and throughout the library.

Joy Sharp, Mountains Branch Librarian: Joy Sharp and Angie Turner both participated in webinars this week. Joy was involved in new Juvenile Fiction Titles and Angie was in new Juvenile Non-Fiction Titles. Joy attended a staff meeting at the main library, and then shared new library website and NC Live resources with staff and volunteers. She also sent information on the resources to local schools. Angie and Joy both processed new items and donations for the collection.

April Young, Director: The Director processed new books, purchased new materials, researched new equipment, and started to prepare for the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting in April. In addition, she attended a State Library Directors' Summit in Wilmington and enjoyed hearing about new library trends across the state.

Public Works and Planning

Maintenance has been working diligently on work orders and Spring preventative maintenance tasks to include sprucing up mulch beds and preparing for summer season of growth. Meanwhile, the garage has been installing push-bars on the front of several new patrol cars in addition to keeping up with the servicing of a demanding fleet. The Director, Operations Manager and Project Manager have been gathering estimates and putting the final budget package together. In addition, they have been involved in multiple meetings to include meeting with Manager and RHI Legacy; met in Morganton with National Parks Services; met in Marion with EDC and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) regarding funding opportunities. In addition, other duties include:

- research and reporting to include preparation for planning board meeting.
- budget work focused on capital facilities planning and building requests.
- vehicle replacement planning.
- solar development ordinance and projects.
- met with Rail trail committee
- EMS driveway design changes per NCDOT.
- updates on Greyrock, Queens Gap, Solar development, Community Projects Grants, Grassroots Grant, and Communication tower/antennae.

Revenue Department

Collections, as of March, has taken 316 prepayments which means a total of \$98,379.68 have been collected. At billing, all prepayments are applied before the bills are printed. If anyone is interested in prepayments, please contact Alice Baber in Collections at 287-6216.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	530
<u>Information/Data Requests</u>	12
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	104
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	19
Total Taxes Collected	\$139,827.64

Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health Department

March is National Nutrition Month! The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District and The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics urges everyone to "Savor the Flavor of Eating Right."



As part of this public education campaign, on Friday, March 18, 2016, the Rutherford County Health Department WIC Office hosted a taste testing, "Savor the Flavor – Africa & America" from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. During the tasting, samples were prepared with WIC foods, and National Nutrition Month items and educational materials were handed out to participants along with a few recipes (**pictured left**).

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District encourages good nutrition and an overall healthy lifestyle. Kim Keever, Registered Dietitian with the Rutherford-Polk-

McDowell Health District WIC office states, "Making changes to eating patterns can be overwhelming. Small shifts in food choices over the course of a week, a day, or even a meal, can make a big difference while helping change feel manageable."

The RPM Health District would like to recognize our Registered Dietitians, Kim Keever and Christy Black. As the nation's food and nutrition experts, registered dietitian nutritionists are committed to improving the health of their patients and community.

A little more from Kim: "I was born in Morgantown, WV. I am married and have two daughters ages 5 and 7. I completed both Undergraduate and Graduate degrees at West Virginia University, as well as my dietetic internship there too. I've been working as a Registered Dietitian since July 2002 and at the Rutherford County Health Department for about seven years. I enjoy working with the community and the families at the health department. In my spare time I love to run and spend time with my family."



A little more from Christy: "I graduated from Western Carolina University (a long time ago, before they changed the road through campus). I am married and my husband and I have 3 boys. I have been a Registered Dietitian for 24 years, but did not work for about 9 years to stay at home with the boys. I have spent most of my time working in long-term care and in public health. I have worked at this health department for 1 year, and am excited about working in WIC again."

Under the instruction of Tracy Davis at the NC Cooperative Extension, Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) was able to provide their clients with a cooking class on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at no charge to the participants. Olga Carroll, Administrative Assistant with Nurse Family Partnership states, "The focus was teaching our clients simple, easy and quick recipes that can be prepared using WIC foods that support a healthy lifestyle." Tracy helped today's clients prepare Easy Veggie Tuna Mac, Broccoli Apple Salad and Cinnamon Apple Crisp. Clients with the NFP program enjoyed themselves very much. They learned proper food prep techniques and were extremely pleased with the great tasting foods they were made to prepare.

See pictures from Cooking Class on page 6.



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. We have many talented seniors who showcased their art in one or all of these categories (**pictured on page 7**). The SilverArts exhibits were on display this week through Thursday at lunch. The Senior Center's Recipe Club met on Monday and shared their favorite pound cake recipes. Maria Davis with the Rutherford County Library came on Tuesday to have "Trivia Fun" with the seniors. The seniors enjoyed making Easter crafts on Wednesday. Lastly, on Thursday we sponsored the SilverArts Reception and Awards Ceremony.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on March 28

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:

- Performing Arts April 1
- Sporting Events April 8-25

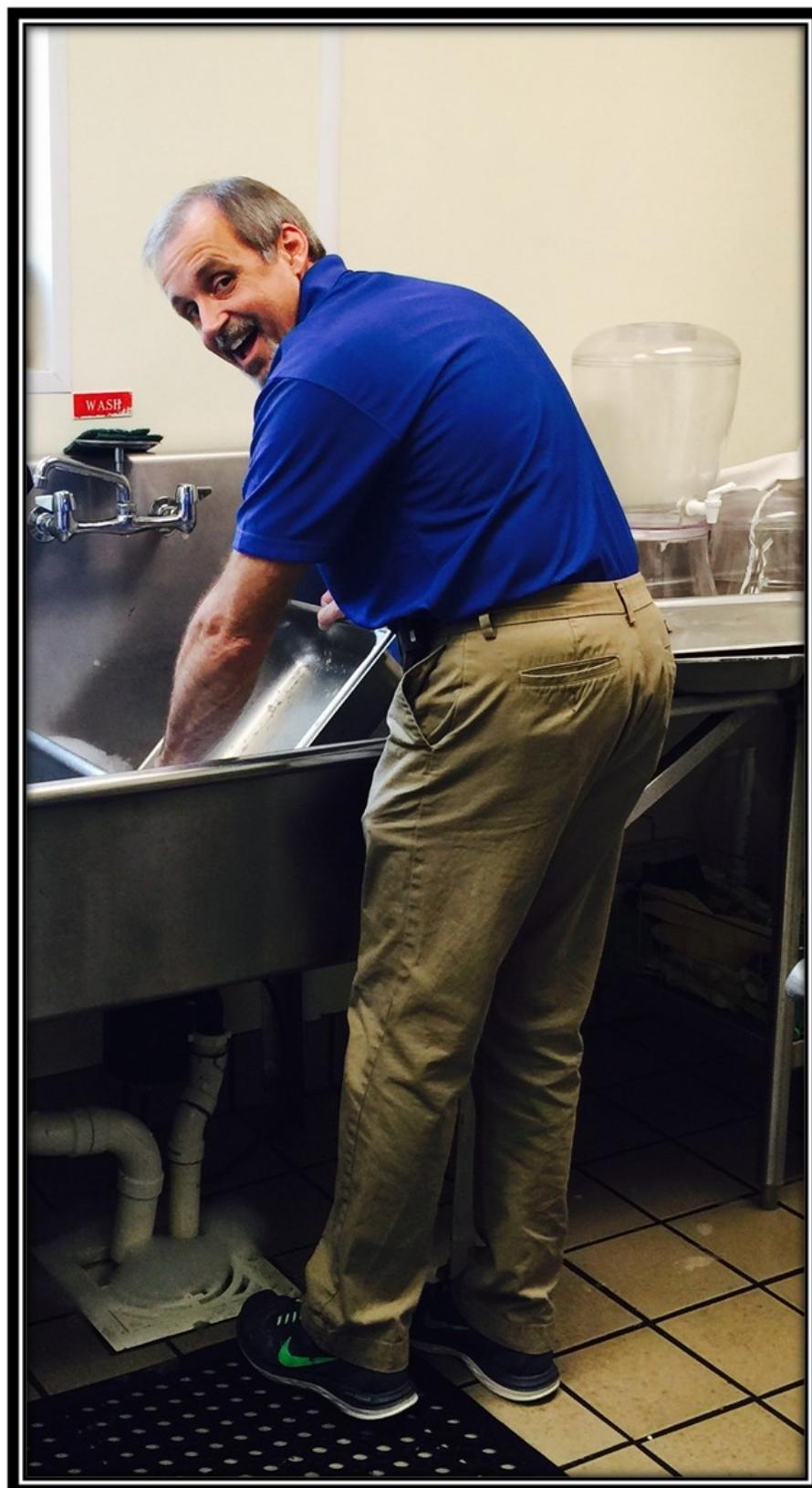
The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program began on Thursday, February 4th. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 50 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 15th. Remember to bring the following:

- Picture ID
- Proof of Social Security number(s) for yourself and ALL dependents
- Copy of 2014 tax return(s)
- All 2015 tax documents
- Bank account information for direct deposit-will need to see an actual check
- Health insurance information-proof of insurance, Form 1095 if received



Social Services

Pictured: "Domesticated" John Carroll washing dishes for a Kiwanis fundraiser at First United Methodist Church on this past Saturday.



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- met with Sunshine Elementary staff to work on the Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant application form.
- attended the Soil & Water and Watershed Budget meeting and attended a Voluntary Agriculture District Workshop in Canton.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- attended the Soil & Water and Watershed Budget meeting.
- met with landowners.
- worked on Best Management Practice planning.

Solid Waste

Customers served 406

Loads hauled from centers 65

Loads shipped to Lenoir 35

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 38

The director has been out of the office this week attending the Carolina Recycling Association Conference in Wilmington. The office staff continues to assist customers while running reports. The transfer station staff is staying busy processing the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff is keeping up with the tonnages coming in. The staff is back at the airport working on the grass.

Our staff was in training regarding the USDA SMART Waste Assistance Grant on Wednesday morning. John Crowder talked to the Convenience Center attendants about Safety, Water Quality, Operations, Customer Service and Recycling (**pictured below**).

Please continue to recycle!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Rutherford County EMS is proud to announce that Aja Fillers and Terri Carswell has successfully completed oral boards and can now function as a EMT Paramedic within our service. Our weekly call numbers are listed below:

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	178	168
Convalescent Calls	20	59

Transit Department:

Transit took delivery of our new 25' replacement vehicle this week. It replaces the previous 25' vehicle that was used on the deviated fixed route. Transit provided free transportation to 10 citizens this week to receive free food at Stainless Ministries. Transit also placed ads for this service in the newspaper, on the radio and on the Community Communicator billboard advertizing this service. Requests for this service continue to increase. Transit Operations Manager met with the Transportation Supervisor of McDowell County DSS to discuss Rutherford County Transit's operational procedures and to share general information as McDowell County moves in direction of operating as a public transportation agency.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,179	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,142	881
# of Out of County Trips	76	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	228	238
Total Revenue	\$16,837	\$14,549

Ellenboro Elementary Career Day

Thanks to our medics Robert Ledbetter, Supervisor Kaleb Johnson, and Bryan Homesly for taking the time to work with these great kids.



Veterans Services

Mail In	104
Mail Out	45
Fax	125
Phone Calls In/Out	107
Veteran Contacts	151



County News



2016 Relay

Rutherford County Employees Team

Here are few of the upcoming fundraisers that we are planning. Please let us know if you would consider being a part of our committee that helps plan and handle fundraisers. All employees are welcome! We are also open to any other ideas/suggestions you may have.

- **Saturday, April 9th** – Shooting Tournament at Bostic Gun Club - **flyer on page 13!**
- **Thursday, April 21st** - Paint It Up (Yes, again by popular demand!) Details to follow.
- **Friday, May 13th** – Sweet Frog fundraiser from 5-9 pm
- **Friday, May 20th** – Relay for Life Event – We will need lots of help with this event so please consider helping with campsite, food or ideas.
- **Late April/Early May** - Spring Plant Sale (More details to follow.)

T Shirts - Long Sleeve T shirts are still available – we have one pink XL and one blue L and two 2XL on hand. L and XL are \$12, 2XL are \$14. Email if interested in these. **See short sleeve shirt order form on page 14.**



RELAY FOR LIFE

SHOOTING FOR A CURE



HANDGUN COMPETITION & SHOTGUN TRAP GAMES



DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 9TH, 2016 9AM-1PM
PLACE: OLD HICKORY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB
GUN CLUB ROAD
BOSTIC, NC 28018



- * **COST: \$5 per SHOOT**
- * **BEGINNERS WELCOME**
- * **BRING YOUR OWN SHOTGUN, PISTOL AND AMMO**
- * **SHOTGUN & PISTOL AMMO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**
- * **HOTDOGS & HAMBURGERS WILL BE FOR SALE**



2016 Relay For Life Team T-Shirt

Order Form

See attached for a picture of the shirt.

Short Sleeve T Shirts in Bright Pink or Carolina Blue

All Orders must be in to Finance by --- March 25, 2016

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

NAME DEPT SIZE QUANTITY COLOR

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4 LIFE

CHANGE LIFE

expo

• healthy lifestyle event •

and

5K RUN

Experience all things
Health & Fitness,
All Under One Roof!

SAT
APR 30
8:00am to 12:00pm
The Foundation Performing Arts
& Conference Center
@ ICC

ENJOY ALL THIS & MORE!

- 5K RUN
- 1 MILE WALK
- VENDORS
- KIDS ZONE
- CARDIO ZONE
- WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE
- HEALTHY EATING STAGE

FREE ADMISSION
AND MUCH MORE!

PRESENTING SPONSOR



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL
HEALTH SYSTEM

EVENT ORGANIZER



CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR



For More Information, Call: 704.214.9799 or www.Change4LifeExpo.com



Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Saturday, March 19th** : ROC group hike to Rumbling Bald in Lake Lure. This is a 1.5-mile, moderate hike with views of the spectacular boulders this area has to offer. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 10 am or the parking lot for the Flowering Bridge in Lake Lure at 10:30 am.



- ◆ **Sunday, March 20th**: ROC workday on the Isothermal Community College trails in Spindale from 10 am to 1 pm. We will be adding more markers to the trails and putting up signs for a new section of the Orange Trail we will be installing.

- ◆ **Sunday, March 20th**: Foothills Conservancy group hike in the South Mountains Gamelands from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. This hike is being led by ROC member, Burwell Byers. RSVP is required for this outing by contacting bwillardpatton@foothillsconservancy.org or 828-437-9930.

- ◆ **Saturday, April 16th**: Rail Trail Clean-up. Meet at the side parking lot of the McDonald's in Spindale at 10 am. ROC will provide trash bags and a few sets of grabbers.

- ◆ **Saturday, April 30th**: ROC group hike to Buffalo Creek Park in Lake Lure. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 9:30 am to carpool. If you have never been on this beautiful trail, this is a great opportunity. Come join us!!



- ◆ **Saturday, May 14th**: ROC Broad River Spring Sweep. We will meet at 9 am and plan to get started by 10 am. These clean-ups are always a ton of fun and you will be helping to ensure that our river stays beautiful!

Email us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 625-9983 ext. 505 if you would like to sign up for any of these workdays or group hikes.

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

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