



March 7, 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to

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SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Airport

The Airport sold 267.40 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 129 gallons of Jet-A. Additional revenue included \$150.00 in hanger fees and \$25.97 in cash sales. 100-LL fuel is currently priced at \$5.31 per gallon and Jet-A is priced at \$4.99 per gallon. A delivery of 8,000 gallons of Jet A was received.

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections office has been proofing ballot information, preparing legal ads and verifying poll workers now that filing has ended. The Board met on Tuesday, March 4th to review its budget and to approve dates and times for absentee meetings. The Board also approved moving the polling place for the Haynes precinct to the Chase High School Library and staff completed an accessibility survey and took pictures of the new polling location on Wednesday. Candidates are meeting daily with staff to submit their Organizational Campaign Finance reports and submit Statement of Economic Interest reports where required.

Clerk to the Board

On Monday, March 3, County Commissioners had a special meeting at 5:00 PM and the regularly scheduled County Commissioners' Meeting at 6:00 PM. Click the following to view actions taken by the Board at the regular meeting. [M:\2014\20140303\20140303 Action Minutes.doc](#)

The Clerk and the Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer were part of another Granicus webinar at the County Office Building. Commissioner Eckler attended a Smart Start Meeting. The Administrative Assistant/Public Information Clerk assisted the Community Project Grant team in processing the applications received, prepared information packets for upcoming meetings, continued work flow on public records request and continued to push public information messages through the County's two social media sites: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Cooperative Extension

The Cooperative Extension Director hosted and presented at the first of a 4-session grazing clinic for producers from Cleveland, McDowell, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk Counties. He also held the annual Rutherford County Cattlemen's Association meeting with over 180 in attendance. The Director also continued to assist clients with technical advice through phone calls, emails, office visits, and site visits.

The Family and Consumer Sciences staff met with farmers market vendors, attended the Partnership for Children board meeting, participated in joint staff training with Polk and Cleveland counties and taught "Steps to Health" nutrition at Ellenboro Elementary.

The Extension Agent attended a Farmers Market Committee Meeting, EMGV (Extension Master Gardener Volunteer) Training, networked with ICC on sustainable agriculture program development, made preparations for Spring Garden School (March 15, 2014), prepared for an Extended Season/Hoop House Workshop, networked with Rutherford County Schools (Media Specialists), Rutherford County Farm Bureau, and Rutherford Soil & Water on the 2014 Agriculture Literacy Program for 2nd grade students and attended the Rutherford County Farm Bureau Board Meeting. A total of 169 contacts were made.

The 2014 Rutherford County 4-H Small Fruit Sale will continue until March 15th. Click [here](#) for more information and for an order form.

County Manager

The County Manager held meetings with staff from Planning and Public Works, Solid Waste, Airport, Economic Development Commission and Revenue. He attended a special meeting of the Commissioners' held March 3rd, the monthly Board of Commissioners' meeting, Community Health Council meeting and a Health Department budget meeting. He also coordinated with Department heads in preparation for another winter weather event and met with the Director from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce.

Economic Development

The Executive Director met with Stonecutter Corporation to discuss current economic development opportunities; attended and participated in the County Commissioners Meeting; participated in a webinar to review economic development client management software; met with Sherry Lavender to review proposed investments for the calculation of project incentives; conducted a staff meeting with EDC staff; worked with staff to begin development of the FY 14-15 budget; worked with staff to prepare IDF grant documents on behalf of the Town of Spindale; attended a grant meeting at Isothermal Community College; met with engineers completing the county-wide sewer study; and followed up with industrial prospects.

The Project Administrator worked with non-traditional lending sources to understand opportunities and to plan a Lunch and Learn Seminar; provided additional requested materials for grant support needs on existing industry expansion projects; researched existing fiber infrastructure for existing locations and provided written follow-up information for existing industry visits and scheduled upcoming visits.

The Economic Development Assistant sent out the completed Golden Leaf Foundation documentation; worked on the monthly building permits report; worked on the departmental budgeting request forms; assisted in preparing an IDF grant application; completed and submitted the monthly safety report; reviewed local incentive payments to be included in the budget forecast; and addressed and mailed out over 400 copies of the 2013 annual report.

Click [here](#) to read the most recent media releases about [new businesses](#) coming to Rutherford County.

Finance

The Finance Office has begun to receive the departmental requests for FY14-15 and has scheduled upcoming meetings with the Departments and County Manager for further discussion or clarification. The Finance Director and the Assistant Director attended the Spring Finance Officer's Conference sponsored by the School of Government.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal prepared for and attended County Commissioners meeting to make a presentation on Fire Protection Service District changes and request funds for a Public Safety Training Facility. Staff continued work with GIS and the County Attorney on information required for a public hearing on Fire Protection Service Districts. The Fire Marshal worked on department budget requests and attended various meetings.

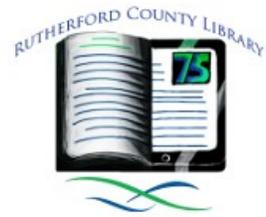
Human Resources

The Human Resource Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome Elvis Kennison (DSS), Jennifer Evers (DSS), Melissa Hamrick (DSS), Philip Anders (DSS) and Laura Temple (911). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Andrew Harris (Airport). The Director attended several meetings this week regarding personnel issues and budget concerns; as well as, attended the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Director conducted interviews for part time positions at the Airport and the TDA office. The Director also met with Lorraine Rodriguez, 401k Representative for Rutherford County. Congratulations to Alan Young on his transfer from Detention to Courthouse Security Officer.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Department has completed 82 work orders this week. They continue to work on the caller id problem with AT&T and Avaya. Departments are encouraged to send the IT Director their budget requests for new employees' phones for the next fiscal year. When a department hires a new position, plan on around \$1000 for a new phone and around \$1,600 for a new desktop/laptop, IT needs to know about all new positions each year so these monies can be budgeted. Phone accessory requests have been entered into the budget for next year so hopefully those can be fulfilled by August. IT staff are getting a count on the final numbers for desktop and laptop replacements so they will be in touch with effected department personnel that are on the list when they are ready to replace. Staff has moved 6 computers out of the Rutherford Center and are making another training room at the Revenue Department. IT staff will be creating new calendars for the new training facilities very soon. The Director will probably create one calendar per department that has rooms or cars available for other departmental usage. This will not include the Garage and how Larry schedules his cars, this will be like the calendar we use at the County Office Building for the Commissioners' Room and Car, and the kitchen. Guidelines will be sent out on how to identify events and what the calendar names are as soon as they are completed. Department heads are asked to send Rhonda Owens information about your conference room to include location, size, and any equipment present.

Library



The Library's end of month report is as follows:

- 6,636 patron visits
- 95 new registrations
- 248 attending children's programs
- 3,245 copies and forms made
- 2,732 reference questions answered
- 193 patrons needing assistance with computers

Items Checked Out

- 10,268 books
- 735 books on CD's
- 4,883 DVDs
- 1,087 magazines and newspapers

Electronic Resources

- 807 E & audio books downloaded
- 129 music downloads
- 1 African American Heritage search
- 5 Rocket Languages used
- 201 Ancestry.com searches

Items added to the collection: 397

Items deleted from the collection: 379

Internet usage: 2,073

Wireless usage: 1,063

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department garage had 10 preventative maintenance service calls, 16 repairs, five tire service calls and eight other repairs/inspections. Maintenance completed 23 work orders and repairs and grounds keeping of all County facilities and grounds. Replacement of the Emergency 911 Communications center backup generator has begun this week. Review of the building requests from department heads has begun along with prioritizing and estimating the cost of these requests. The Director, Project Manager and GIS staff presented data for the Library's Board of Directors to aid their decision regarding possible relocation of the Haynes Library. In addition, they prepared and presented data to the Board of County Commissioners during their regular meeting from the Preservation Master Plan of the Biggerstaff's Old Fields (hanging tree) property, the Ruth School and Hines/Mid-Atlantic Rd waterline expansion. The Commissioners asked the Staff to obtain cost estimates on these projects in addition to the Southeastern EMS and potential library and they have started that process. Staff continue to work with IPDC in gathering information and attended training for NC DENR's CDBG projects and process. They are working on the bid package for the improvements to the Rail Trail, and expect to put that out for bids soon. We continue managing the improvements and progress on several addition projects and planning

Greyrock: Paving for Project 7, 3B, part of 8 & all of 9 is continuing and is nearly completed. The project is weather dependent now to finish. Project 8 is now completed and stoned. Project 10 staking is complete and clearing is underway

Queens Gap: Project 1 is moving forward well now that the weather is turning. The 48" culvert was installed yesterday and the road is graded to that location. Project 3 will advertise this week and bids will open on March 27th.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made seven copies resulting in cash receipts of \$42.25, processed 203 real estate records with \$9,877.00 received in cash and processed 150 vitals, receiving \$1,950.00.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 771 phone calls, and assisted 292 citizens who came in to the office (7 being PUV). 38 deeds were recorded and 70 were transferred. 37 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed seven splits, one merge, five acreage adjustments and created 11 new maps. Seven new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 55 addressees was updated. The GIS website had 172,237 hits and 102,451 successful searches. Appraisers completed 831 field reviews and 86 building permits. Electronic payments consisted of 99 by credit/debit, 214 by website, and 43 by phone. 665 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Staff enforced collection action consisting of five Debt Setoff, and 19 garnishments. 18 Deeds were certified. Staff worked nine discoveries, 20 releases, and five refunds. 200 pieces of mail were received and processed. 5031 motor vehicles renewals continue to be processed.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted a seminar for “Overcoming the Challenges of Hearing Loss”. This program was presented by Cynthia Harmon, HHSS, and focused on helping people learn strategies for better communications during group activities or family gatherings. Kim Keever, MS RD LDN, presented a program on the “Importance of Good Nutrition”.

It time to start preparing for the upcoming Senior Games. Registration will be from March 3-14. Seniors must be registered by the March 14th deadline in order to participate in any aspect of the 2014 Senior Games (SilverArts, Performing Arts, or the Sporting Events).

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program is being offered at the Senior Center. This service is for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 60 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays through April 11th.

Social Services

The Social Services Department received an Area Agency on Aging representative that conducted an audit on the Title III In Home Aide Program, which is funded with Home and Community Block Grant (HCCBG) funds. Several DSS representatives met with the IT Director, Telecommunications Coordinator, and the Planning and Maintenance Director to begin preparations for DSS obtaining additional space at the Rutherford Center. A meeting was held with service supervisors that will be effected by this acquisition of space. Interviews were conducted by the Director and the Income Maintenance Manager on Wednesday for Income Maintenance lead worker and supervisor vacancies. The Director attended the Partnership for Children of the Foothills board meeting, the Community Health Council meeting at Rutherford Hospital. Along with the Income Maintenance Manager, the Director met with representatives from the hospital and Blue Ridge Health Center to discuss how the hard launch of Medicaid in NC FAST will effect Medicaid consumers and Medicaid service providers in the county, and how the needs of consumers might be met when benefits are delayed. Also, the Director and Fiscal Officer participated in the monthly statewide fiscal conference call.

Social Services continued

In Child Protective Services, the regular weekly critical case staffing was held on Tuesday; and on Wednesday, staff from Cleveland County DSS came to the agency to discuss a case that Rutherford DSS is providing them assistance with. The Family and Children's Services Division has initiated a "staff-driven" Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Program. This is a new initiative led by and is comprised of social workers who are interested in working together to drive steady improvements into the practice and documentation elements of the Family and Children's Services System of Care, improve morale through a focus on staff empowerment, practice integrity and improve positive long-term client outcomes. Local DSS agencies and the State have developed a partnership with the Children's Home Society (CHS) in which they will provide assistance in recruiting adoptive homes for children ages nine to seventeen. Cases involving children in this target group will be staffed monthly with CHS. Rutherford and Cleveland Counties have a combined total of nine referral slots.

Soil & Water

The Soil and Water District Staff attended a Watershed maintenance meeting with Carl Classen and Watershed Commission member Albert Moore. Staff attended the Area 1 Association Spring Meeting held in Fletcher. The Admin/Education Specialist completed the Agenda folders and attended the Farmland Preservation Meeting. Staff continued work on Soil & Water and Watershed 2014-2015 Budget Requests. The Ag Cost Share Technician had a meeting about office relocation sites and his federal credentials. Assisted landowner's with technical assistance visit and information calls. Check out more news about recent activities in the Department on the [Special Highlights](#) page.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Department served 360 customers, hauled 64 loads from convenience centers and shipped 35 loads to Lenoir. The Director attended various meetings this week, including the weekly landfill meeting and a budget review meeting. The landfill staff continues to perform everyday job duties. The mechanics have been busy servicing several trucks and equipment this week. The Director continues to work on the 2014-15 budget. The Litter Control Officer information is as follows:

Active Cases - 6	Convenience Center Cases-4
Citations written - 0	Letters sent - 0
Closed cases - 1	Community Service - 6
Community Service Reports - 1	Pictures Taken - yes

Tourism Development Authority

The Tourism Development Authority Director, Michelle Whitaker, was at the NC Governor's Conference on Tourism this week. She presented on the economic impact of film on local tourism, but more importantly, learning about the latest trends and news of our tourism business, especially in NC. In addition, she is supporting the TAF as they explore with other attending tourism professionals the possibility of a NC Gold Trail. For more information on the conference, please go to: <http://www.nccommerce.com/tourism/events/governors-conference>.

Transportation Services

The Department's EMS personnel responded to 127 emergency calls and 56 convalescent calls. The Director spent the week preparing the 2014-2015 budget for both Emergency and Convalescent Divisions. Administration staff attended meetings with the county attorney, Community Health Council and County Commissioners Meeting. EBS presented a billing proposal and staff worked on a capital grant for the Eaton Corporation.

The Transit Department drove 10,301 miles, completed 1,022 local trips and 72 out of county trips, transported 258 unduplicated passengers and collected \$17,182 in revenue. Transit has been working hard preparing for an NCDOT safety audit next week. The Director has worked on preparing the 2014-2015 budget and the Operations Manager has hired two new part time drivers (Don Campbell and Warren Toms). New hires are finishing their orientation this week. Transit had no safety incidents or violations in past week.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Office staff had 38 mail-in contacts and 82 mail-out contacts. Staff also had 115 telephone interviews and 212 veteran contacts.

*Jai and Katie Doherty "attempted"
to save space this week.*

*Thanks to Debra Conner for
capturing the moment.*





Special Highlights

The R-S Central Land Judging Team received an Award at the Rutherford Soil and Water Conservation District Awards Banquet. The team placed **First in the Federation Land Judging Contest** held in Rutherford County. **Taylor Fier** received an award for being the High Scorer for the Federation Contest. The team placed **First in the Western Region Land Judging Competition** held in Waynesville and also placed **First at the State Level Competition held in Statesville**. The R-S Central Land Judging Team will be competing at the National Land Judging Competition April 28th – May 2nd in Oklahoma City.



Pictured left to right: R-S Central land judging team: Sarah Bearden, Jesse Bland, Taylor Fier, and Chelsea Pruitt. Advisors: Agriculture Teachers Lisa Higgins and Travis Edgerton.



Award winners from the Rutherford Soil and Water Conservation District Awards Banquet are shown here. The theme was “The Living Soil”

Pictured here from left to right are:

- Fourth Grade First Place Poster Winner: Hannah Elliott, Forrest W. Hunt, Teachers-Ms. Henderson and Ms. Powell.
- Fifth Grade First Place Poster Winner: Danielle Logan, Forrest W. Hunt, Teacher-Ms. Cooper.
- Sixth Grade Computer Generated Slide Show: Ben Hutchins, R-S Middle, Teacher-Ms. Phillips.

County Commissioners

William Eckler, *Chairman* Julius Owens
Eddie Holland, *Vice Chairman* Roger Richard
Greg Lovelace

Carl Classen, *County Manager*
Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*
Richard Williams, *County Attorney*



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