



March 9, 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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### Daylight Saving Time

kicks in this weekend, a sure sign that Spring is on its way!  
At 2 a.m. local time on March 8,  
clocks will "spring forward" one hour.

### Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

#### Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught Color Me Healthy to preschoolers at Head Start
- Taught Living Healthy with Diabetes at Senior Center
- Chaired Community Health Council meeting
- Taught Better Food Better Health for Latino parents and children

### Airport

The Rutherford County Airport sold 224.8 gallons of 100LL and 248.0 gallons of Jet A fuel. Director and staff also participated in the various meetings and calls regarding weather and other business related topics.

### Board of Elections

The director has been busy working on the budget for the upcoming year. During the week, our office processed 9 new voters, 54 changes of information and mailed 105 verification and confirmation cards. The staff also mailed 432 NCOA (National Change of Address) mailings. The staff was busy moving and condensing items in storage to allow transit to store some items temporarily. The office has also begun to scan Authorization to Vote forms from the previous election.

## Clerk to the Board

Rutherford County Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday prior to their regular monthly meeting. Between meetings, newly appointed County Manager Steve Garrison was administered the oath of office by The Honorable Robert Martelle.

On Tuesday, Commissioners attended a WAVE breakfast at Larkins on the Lake in Lake Lure. Also on Tuesday, Chairman King met with Board of Education Superintendent Janet Mason.

On Friday County Commissioners will begin their goals setting session facilitated by Carl Classen. This will continue into Saturday morning. Commissioners will discuss and set goals for the coming year for Rutherford County

## County Manager

The Interim County Manager's week included several conference calls, decisions, performance evaluations, departmental meetings, discussions and conference calls. He also participated in a well-attended breakfast at Lake Lure with several town and county officials. The week continued with additional duties, including luncheons, interoffice meetings, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meeting with citizens.

Midweek, Department Heads said farewell to the out-going manager, Carl Classen, for his outstanding success and service to the county over the past several years **(photos pictured on p. 9)**. As most of you know, Carl Classen is retiring as County Manager, during which time he has proved to be an irreplaceable asset to our county. He has agreed to serve as Interim County Manager for several more days until the newly elected manager, Steve Garrison, begins work on March 16, 2015.



On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman Bryan King presented an appreciation plaque to Carl Classen, at the County Commissioners' meeting on March 2, 2015 (pictured to the right).



Steven Garrison was sworn in as Rutherford County Manager on March 2, 2015 by Judge Robert Martelle in the presence of the Interim County Manager, County Commissioners, Clerk to the Board, several staff employees and citizens.

## Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department finalized the 2014 Annual Report and prepared for printing and distribution; began budget preparations, and started negotiations for website design. The department continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and evaluating the progress of site development activities at Gateway West Commerce Park. This week's schedule also included an existing industry visit with Horsehead Metal Products and Meritor.

## Finance

The Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. Budget packages have been distributed to the departments and are due back to the Finance Office by March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Director and Assistant attended classes in Raleigh-Durham.

## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Attended the County Commissioners' Meeting to request a call for a public hearing on fire service district boundary relocations and to provide an overview of the South Mountains Regional Mitigation Plan.
- Conducted one origin and cause fire investigation.
- Assisted fire departments on several emergency calls.
- Assisted fire departments in completing grant applications.
- Processed reports from local industry regarding on site hazardous materials.
- Attended law enforcement in-service.
- Attended various other meetings.

## Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director, along with respective Department Heads, conducted interviews for the Economic Specialist position and the EMS Billing Specialist. The Director attended the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Steven Garrison took the Oath of Office during this meeting. Interviews for the Building Inspections and TDA positions will be conducted next week. The HR Department helped host a reception for Carl Classen on Thursday. Carl has been an asset to the County and will be greatly missed by all. The Director attended the JCPC meeting and a ACA webinar. Current vacancies are Economic Development Specialist, Billing Specialist, and Code Inspector. Apply at [Rutherfordcountync.gov](http://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.



### **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.



## Information Technology

Congratulations, Rhonda Owens, IT Director, on your upcoming retirement! You have been a great asset to the county and we will miss you very much.

**IT Director's #1 achievement.....**Mr. Holland using his iPad during the Commissioners' Meeting on March 2nd! (pictured to the right)



## Library

### **Library Director:**

April Young did site visits at the branch libraries to discuss building problems and to answer any questions staff had regarding new library policies. She has continued to work on sorting books for the upcoming book sale March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, April spoke with different news outlets in Rutherford County to beef up advertisement of library events.

### **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. The afternoon will feature speaker Michael Hill, who will discuss his upcoming book project, The North Carolina Civil War Atlas, and self-taught musician John Mason, who will play songs from the Civil War Era on his hammered dulcimer. History trunks containing items from the Civil War era will be on display for browsing. This event is free to the public and open to all ages. It is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Library of America, and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

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:**

Story Time is back in full swing after the inclement weather closings by studying penguins. We'll continue our theme of "wild animals" by talking about kangaroos next week. Outreach programs were at Little Red School and The Carver Center.

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 32 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.

### **Mountains Branch:**

The Friends of the Library hosted a reception to welcome new branch librarian, Joy Sharp on Friday afternoon. Approximately 35 neighbors came out to say hello and share refreshments. Joy Sharp firmed up plans with the Lake Lure Classical Academy art teacher to deliver student art projects to the library for display in the Community Meeting Room and Children's area. The art work will be on display beginning next week. Joy also arranged to work with an LLCA student wishing to volunteer at the library, and Angie Turner supervised a community service worker in straightening and alphabetizing Easy books and videos.

## Public Works and Planning

The severe weather over the past couple of weeks has created an extremely heavy demand for our department. The garage has installed and removed snow-studded tires on emergency vehicles multiple times in addition to a large number of service calls for vehicle problems triggered by the cold temps. The ice and snow in two consecutive weeks caused the maintenance crews to clear sidewalks, steps and parking areas with shoveling, ice-melt and a lot of elbow grease.



Many thanks to all these guys for their tireless effort and dedication despite the weather and to make safe what would otherwise be very dangerous conditions. In addition to all of the work in preparing for bad weather and clearing it away, we have been extremely busy repairing heating issues and mending a few frozen waterlines.

Meanwhile, we completed final preparations for multiple agenda items to go before the Commissioners for their March meeting. We continue to be active guiding the improvement process in Greyrock as well as Queens Gap.

## Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 34.50
Real Estate	10,975.00
Marriages	480.00
Vital statistics	2,160.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,649.50</b>

## Revenue Department

**The Revenue Department** started 5044 June motor vehicle renewals and handled 52 VTS assists. The office answered 525 phone calls and assisted 294 customers. We completed 1 plat review and 5 pre-permits. Appraisers completed 188 field reviews. A total of 68 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 55 straits, 10 estates, 38 new accounts, 1 merge and 8 splits. GIS created 4 new maps. The GIS website had 149,948 hits and 104,548 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 18 new addresses and updated 100 addresses with new owner information. 15 appeals and 8 listing forms were received and 11 letters was mailed back out. The PUV program assisted 2 program members. Staff processed 6 exclusions/deferments and 4 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 29 by credit card, 131 by website and 32 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 31 prepays and 6 newspaper items. Staff completed 3 gross receipts/occupancy tax, processed 75 items mailed in and 12 bankruptcy issues. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 283 tax payments. 39 new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

## Senior Center

Barbara Hill, Activity & Senior Games Coordinator, gave an overview of the Senior Games program on Monday. She explained the SilverArts, Performing Arts, and the Sporting Events. A new age category of "50-54" has been added this year. The last day to register for the 2015 Rutherford County Senior Games is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, we had our first "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. On Thursday, Joey Revis, Social Worker Coordinator with Hospice, gave a special presentation on Advanced Care Planning. He discussed the various types of advance directives such as the Living Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Five Wishes and how to create them. 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 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Upcoming:**

Registration for the 2015 Senior Games will end on Friday, March 6. 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. Cost is \$12 and \$10 for a 1<sup>st</sup> time participant. Registration cost includes a t-shirt and covers all the events in all categories of Senior Games. The dates of the events are as follows:

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

## Soil & Water

Soil and Water staff:

- attended the Area 1 Spring Meeting.
- attended the District Board Meeting.
- worked on District Budget.

Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on Watershed vendor maintenance information.
- completed District Agenda and meeting folders.
- attended the County School Board meeting to watch the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Wetlands PowerPoint winners present the inspiration message and share a Conservation Lesson.
- presented an Enviroscope education lesson for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at R-S Middle School.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- Best Management Practice planning and field visits.

## Solid Waste

**The solid waste department stats for this week:**

- Served 256 customers
- Hauled 46 loads from convenience centers
- Shipped 26 loads to Lenoir
- Shipped 2 recycling trailers
- 29 tire customers

**Please continue to recycle!**

Please continue to recycle both commingled items and textiles. Both new recycling services are doing great.

**Solid Waste continued from page 6**

The Solid Waste Department has had an active week. The director started the week with meetings at the old Caroleen Bank with Assistant Finance Director dealing with surplus property. Also, the director had a mandatory pre-bid proposal meeting at the old Edwards Property dealing with the removal of the trees. Unfortunately, no perspective bidders attended the meeting. We will begin the next process which is tree removal. Next the director attended several meetings: the weekly meeting with Interim County Manager and Planning and Projects Director, County Commissioners meeting, and budget review meeting. Staff has been busy helping out the Town of Spindale with a grant application with the state for recycling roll out carts. Staff has also completed our grants and have submitted them to the state. We have started the removal of the debris from the Edwards house property. Staff continues to perform everyday job duties while assisting on other projects. Shop staff continues to work on servicing equipment and repairing some items at convenience centers. We have contacted Republic Services to start the contract process for our new hauling contract. We want to welcome Brandon Campbell as a new employee to the solid waste department. The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer's report is as follows:

- Active cases 11
- Closed cases 5
- Letters written 0
- Cameras up at locations 1
- Community service workers 4
- Community service reports 1

## Edward House Demolition



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

EMS has transferred dispatching of non-emergency transports to Transit's dispatcher starting this past Monday. This is allowing EMS to utilize software already implemented at Transit. EMS also interviewed applicants for the Medical Billing Specialist position.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	154	168
Convalescent Calls	64	47

### Transit Department:

Transit's numbers below are from Wednesday-Tuesday each week. Transit was closed on Wednesday during this past week for snow, plus out of county trips were cancelled on two other days due to weather issues. Even though revenue is down due to the closures, expenditures will also be down by not running operations. Director also completed the FY 15-16 Budget Request packet for Transit.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	8,301	9,566
# of Local Trips	878	881
# of Out of County Trips	57	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	200	238
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$12,056</b>	<b>\$14,549</b>

## Veterans Services

<b>Mail In</b>	49
<b>Fax</b>	55
<b>Mail Out</b>	68
<b>Phone Calls In/Out</b>	86
<b>Veteran Contacts</b>	140

#### *County Commissioners*

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

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



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# *Special Recognition*

**Department Heads extending their farewells to County Manager, Carl Classen.**

