



May 18, 2015

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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Veteran Services

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught *Eat Smart Move More Take Control* class.
- Taught *Introduction to Food Preservation* workshop.
- Assisted with *West District 4-H Activity Day*.
- Facilitated *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* Support Group.

Pictured right: Youth in the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* program learning about NC rocks and minerals.



Farmer's Market:

The Rutherford County Farmers Market is in "bloom" with a huge assortment of hanging baskets, bedding flowers, starter vegetables, as well as trees, bushes and items to complement your outdoor areas! Stop by and see us for crafted birdhouses, handmade wood decorations, soap, cut flower arrangements, loads of fresh fruits and vegetables, locally raised eggs and meats and yes, we do have locally grown strawberries! You need to be early as these beauties go fast! Saturday hours are 8:00 a.m. to noon - it's the place to be on Saturday mornings! For more info, be sure to check us out on Facebook: Farmers Market of Rutherford County.



Brenda Watson
Rutherford County Farmers Market Manager

Airport

The airport sold 874.2 gallons of 100LL and 491.0 gallons of Jet A this week.

Aircraft pictured to right: **1954 Piper L-21B Super Cub**

It was built for the military as a liaison aircraft. It stopped for fuel as it was passing through on its way from *Sun N Fun* in Florida where it won an award in the military liaison category.



Aircraft pictured to left:

1969 Bell OH-58 Helicopter “Skywalker”

The Sheriff’s Department Air Support Unit flies and maintains Skywalker. Chief Pilot Randy Patterson volunteers his time to fly the helicopter, along with other deputies like Max Gee, who serve as tactical flight officers. These gentlemen were recently featured in the Daily Courier. A special thanks to them for their continued service assisting the Sheriff’s Department and all law enforcement, fire, emergency management and search and rescue units at the local, state and federal levels.

Building Inspections

Pictured: International Center at the Tryon Equestrian Center

Due to its size, this is the building that Rutherford County Inspectors are inspecting for the Polk County building inspections office.



Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) will host the first “**Saturday Night Lights**” Grand Prix event of the 2015 season, showcasing the \$50,000 Tryon Grand Prix, this Saturday, May 16 in the George H. Morris Stadium.



Gates open to the public at 5 p.m. and competition begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission and parking for the events are free. The “Saturday Night Lights” series will continue throughout the remainder of the Tryon Spring Series (May 16- June 7) and will resume during the four weeks of the Tryon Summer Series competition (June 24-July 19). The venue is immediately located off of Highway 74 at 4066 Pea Ridge Road (exit 170) in Mill Spring, N.C.



The highly anticipated “Saturday Night Lights” series creates an exciting and action-packed atmosphere for visitors and spectators, while offering free entertainment like live band, face painting, air-brushed tattoos, magician, jugglers, Venetian carousel rides, and performances by Fettuccine Brothers and the Asheville Aerial Artists. Onsite restaurants and shopping also available making it a perfect way to enjoy Saturday nights with family and friends. The series brings together the best riders in the sport, each vying to take the top prize, creating a truly memorable night of great competition for audiences and competitors alike. Admission and parking are free.

Board of Elections

We received information this week of another possible ABC referendum for the ballot this November. Staff are continuing to process forms from the November election and clipping signatures. The Director has met with several members from the political parties with questions on appointments.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were engaged in another active week of numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events, including Special Board of Commissioners' Meeting where the FY15-16

Budget was discussed. Additional special budget review meetings will be held May 19th, 20th, and 21st. Midweek, the County Manager had discussion meetings on several projects and also enjoyed a Building Inspections Tour guided by Director Jason Ruff. Several staff members attended the ARC 2015 Strategic Planning Listening Session held on May 15 in Forest City. The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of many calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation



for various responsibilities and meetings with various Department Heads.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended the Appalachian Regional Commission Strategic Planning Session at the Carolina Event and Conference Center, and distributed the minutes and agenda for the upcoming EDC Board meeting. Staff continues to follow up on multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines. They are working on marketing and advertising efforts including print media and website updates. This week's schedule also included existing industry visits to Heritage Classic Wovens, Thieman Manufacturing Technologies, and Team Air.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Conducted a fire origin and cause investigation.
- Responded to two reports of missing persons.
- Conducted follow-ups on fire investigations.
- Attended several meetings and assisted several fire departments on emergency calls.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director attended the a special Commissioners' meeting Wednesday evening. The Assistant Director met with Public Works to continue reviewing Vehicle Replacement Plan. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Specialist conducted the monthly orientation. The Director attended a webinar on performance evaluations, attended a Special meeting of the Board of Commissioners, met with several department heads and employees and met with a representative from the League of Municipalities.

Current vacancies are:

- Part-time Transit
- Part-time TDA
- EMS
- Library Associate.

Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.



June is Safety Awareness Month! Reminders and safety tips will be sent out throughout the month. Please take advantage of reviewing safety videos with your staff this month. Videos may be checked out from the Human Resource Department.

Information Technology

Help welcome our new Information Technology Director, **Jai Doherty**. Jai took over the IT reins this month, and with his pool of knowledge and extensive experience, the County will continue to benefit under his direction.



The IT Department is in a reorganizing period, and your department's designated support technician may be moving to cover other departments. The intent is to provide each department with the best service possible while distributing the workload evenly amongst the IT staff. Please have patience and an open mind as IT staff works through challenges that may arise. Some of our individual office locations will also be changing along with some phone numbers. If you have **ANY** trouble reaching your support technician, please call or email Jai Doherty at 828-287-6071 or jai.doherty@rutherfordcountync.gov

Jill Wilson is hard at work making sure that TrackIt is up to date with the correct person who will be servicing your department. Continue to use TrackIt to submit work orders, preferably by email at trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov. Please put either IT, VOIP, or Maintenance in the subject line.

Library

Library Director:

The director worked on grants for all three libraries and attended a Library Fundraising Summit in Charlotte.

Youth Services Librarian:

The children of Story Time had fun with pancakes this week, and will continue the "food" theme with pizza next week. Outreach was at Spindale Elementary School, with numerous special tours, story times, and library readings scheduled through the end of school. Decorations and activities are being produced and are starting to go up for the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story," and will be each Tuesday from June 16 through July 28. Next week's Report will include the detailed schedule.

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Library celebrated Mothers' Day with a Moms' Time Out program. Moms were treated to chocolate-dipped strawberries and chamomile tea, while learning about natural remedies to reduce

Library continued from page 4

stress. Meanwhile in the Children's Area, the librarian read stories about all kinds of moms and helped kids create their own Mothers' Day cards. Joy Sharp applied for a grant for special events educational programming, and a scholarship to attend the Association for Small and Rural Libraries conference. She also participated in a webinar on advanced Excel Spreadsheet and proctored an exam for a local student. The library also began work on a summer film series of POV documentaries available from PBS that will begin in June. New signage paid for by the Friends of the Library was ordered for the Children's Area.

Public Works and Planning

As temperatures rise so have the daily demands and tempo of work in the County garage. We have had an increase in troubleshooting electrical/computer issues in vehicles. We have completed automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with N.C. vehicle safety inspections. Thanks to the garage supervisor and mechanics who work very hard to keep the County's vehicles in such great mechanical condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy as well in completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance and the demands of groundskeeping. Thanks to all the maintenance staff for their hard work. Planning and Projects has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and paperwork.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is still working August motor vehicle renewals and handled 47 VTS assists. The office answered 546 phone calls and assisted 261 customers. We completed three plat reviews, two pre-permits and answered one Data Request. Appraisers completed 148 building permits and 649 field reviews. A total of 40 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 43 straits, 1 estate, 19 new accounts, 3 merges, 7 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created two new maps. The GIS website had 162,474 hits and 113,806 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned two new addresses. Part-time maintenance workers completed maintenance on nine road signs. Three appeals were received and five letters were mailed back out. The PUV program assisted seven program members and mailed out five letters. Staff processed three exclusions/deferments and mailed out seven listing letters. We had four releases and four discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 12 by credit card, 31 by website and 5 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 1 attachment, 166 bank drafts and 14 newspaper items. Staff completed 26 gross receipts/occupancy taxes, 4 payment plans and processed 48 items mailed in. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 156 tax payments.

Senior Center

The month of May has been designated *Older Americans Month* since 1963. This year, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, the focus is on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others. This year's theme is "Get into the Act!" The Senior Center's May calendar has a wide variety of special programs and speakers, as well as fun games and outings. The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from Carolina Home Care conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. Thirty-nine clients took advantage of this service. Our new Walking Club met on Tuesday and will be walking together at 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday morning. Also on Tuesday, the Lake Lure Cloggers came to the Center and performed. On Wednesday, Gerry Roberts did a presentation on "Flower Arranging". In recognition of Mental Health Month, Becky Brodar and Debbie Kennedy from St. Luke's Hospital came on Thursday to speak on mental health care for seniors. Lastly, the Royal Quartet came on Friday to entertain the seniors with several southern gospel songs.

"MEDICARE 101"

Rutherford County Senior Center (193 Callahan Koon Rd, Spindale) will host **"Medicare 101"** at the Senior Center on **Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m.**

Catherine Palmer, Western Regional Manager for Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), will be the speaker. This **free**, after hours informational program is a valuable resource for everyone (*no matter your age*) interested in learning about

MEDICARE and EXTRA HELP/LOW INCOME SUBSIDY.

Sheriff's Department
Sheriff's Office Monthly Report
April 2015



Calls for Service	4438
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	196/191
Domestic Calls	224
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	52/44.0Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served	257
Exparte's Served	20
Evictions	12
Animals Pickup/Surrender	189
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	113
Animal Control Calls for Service	217
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	163/23
Pill Drop Collections:	4,160Doses Units
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	184
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	178
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	71
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	2/1.0Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	179/13.0Man Hrs.
New Part-time effective 4/20/2015: Amanda Toney/Detention	
New Part-time effective 4/29/2015: Amber Vance/Telecommunicator	

Social Services

Adult and Children's Services staff completed Co-Pilot training the week of May 27. This completes the training phase of the Northwoods Case Management System implementation. The staff enjoyed an afternoon break of pizza and dessert on Wednesday, hosted by Northwoods. Many shared the learning experience that they have had with Northwoods, and despite several challenges, everyone feels good about the system and recognizes the many advantages that it offers to the staff and the families that we serve. Northwoods also hosted a dinner for supervisory and management staff at Barley's in Spindale on Wednesday evening. At the DSS Board Meeting earlier in April, Social Work Program Manager, Amanda McGee, shared with the Board ways that the new system will enhance the protection of families and children.



A pinwheel planting event will be held on the Courthouse lawn on May 22, 2015, to bring attention to child abuse prevention. April was Child Abuse Prevention Month, but due to delays in getting the materials shipped, the event was planned for May. May is Foster Care month, which recognizes the needs of the children and youth in Foster Care, and is an opportunity to show gratitude to foster, adoptive, and group home parents. If you know a Foster Care provider, please thank them for the tremendous work that they do. Interested in being a foster parent? There will be a table set up at the pinwheel event with recruitment information. Please encourage anyone you know to contact Angela Black at the department if they are interested in learning more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

Income Maintenance Administrator, Kandi Bridges, and Supervisors, Cheryl Heatherly and Bobbie Walker, attended the Statewide Work Support Strategies Conference in Greensboro on April 28 and 29. The Work Support Strategies initiative resulted from a grant that North Carolina and five other states received in 2012 with the opportunity to design, test, and implement more effective, streamlined, and integrated approaches to delivering key supports for low-income working families, including health coverage, nutrition benefits, and child care subsidies. This initiative has offered many innovated ways to administer services and has had much impact on the NC FAST System implementation.

Over the past two weeks, the Director has attended numerous meetings including the More at Four Advisory Board meeting, the Community Health Council meeting, and along with other Department Heads, the Vehicle Replacement meeting for budget planning. DSS Fiscal Officer, Pam Price, and the Director participated in the monthly statewide DSS Fiscal conference call, and several staff members attended the retirement reception for Rhonda Owens, retiring IT Director, on Thursday.

The annual report of the Community Child Protection Team (CCPT)/Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) was presented at the Commissioners' Meeting by the Director, who serves as the Chair of the CCPT, and Helen White, with the R/P/M Health Department, who serves as Chair of the CFPT. The CCPT/CFPT held its regular May meeting on Tuesday of this week.

DSS welcomes our newest employees:

Children's Services	Economic Services
Chasity McPeters,	Paula Riggs
Jovan Baccus	Jenny Wheeler
Shynese Jones	Melanie Byers
Jennifer Atchley	

Soil & Water

Admin/Education Specialist worked on:

- End of year reports
- District meeting minutes
- Supervisor travel reimbursement.

Ag Cost Share Technician:

- worked on finalizing this year's contracts
- inspecting BMP's for payment.

Solid Waste

Customers served 371
Convenience center hauls 61
Loads shipped to Lenoir 30
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2
Tire customers 28

Please continue to recycle!

The director attended a meeting with Steve Garrison, held several internal meeting, and attended the Appalachian Regional Commission strategic planning listening session that was held in Forest City. Also, the director and office staff continue to work on a RFP for oil and antifreeze recycling. Staff continues to perform research to find a vendor that will accept used cooking oil, and continues to work on state grants so we can add more recycling compactors at convenience sites. The Solid Waste Department has put the metal out for bid. These bids are due Friday May 15. The staff was also notified that our electronics recycler will not be picking up electronics during the month of June for inventory purposes so we are busy preparing to send a load before the end of May. Transfer station continues to run smoothly along with C&D. This week the surveyors were on site to perform their yearly survey. Shop staff continues to perform preventive maintenance on equipment. Work continues to be performed at the airport.



The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 11
Closed cases 4
Pictures taken yes
Cameras installed 1
State notified clean up 2
Letters written 0
Citations written 0
Community service workers 4
Community service reports 1



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS staff are getting ready for next week's EMS Appreciation Week. The public is invited to join us for a Tree Planting Ceremony to honor retired Medical Director, Dr. Bobby England. Administrative staff also met this week for their monthly staff meeting. A new schedule has been implemented for the non-emergency division in order to optimize employee's hours with local demand.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	173	168
Convalescent Calls	58	59



Transit Department:

Transit had a site visit assessment from NCDOT in order to be prepared for an upcoming Federal Compliance Audit. Staff also attended a NCDOT webinar on creating a fully allocated cost model for Transit systems. Director attended a Community Health Council meeting, County Comprehensive Transportation Plan meeting and submitted a marketing plan for the Airport.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,671	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,062	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	67	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	210	241

Veterans Services

Mail In	47
Fax	117
Mail Out	107
Phone Calls In/Out	127
Veteran Contacts	245

May Events

Vettes for Vets Car Show was a great success. The all-day event was on May 10th in Forest City and one hundred percent of money collected was donated to help support our military.

- Veterans' Charity Golf Tournament, 5/16/15, Forest City Golf Course
- Memorial Day Ceremony, 5/25/15, Downtown Forest City



County Commissioners

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

Steve Garrison, *County Manager*
Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*

Follow us online!
www.rutherfordcountync.gov



If you would like to assist with any of these events, call Jeanette Bosgra, Finance Dept., 828-287-6211.

WHOOOO loves Baseball? We DO!

Opening game is May 26, 2015

Raffle tickets available to purchase at the game to participate in 50/50 raffle money giveaway!

The first game of the season is quickly approaching! Come and join us and support our local baseball team and our Relay Team! Tickets are \$7 each for Premium seats meaning you will have your seat all game long. **Regular price is \$8!** Send in your number of tickets ordered in your department with \$7 for each ticket. Cash and checks accepted.

For more Information or to purchase tickets contact:

Alma at 828-287-6125 or 828-980-1472
or Brandy Morris at 828-287-6203



DRESS DOWN FRIDAYS

Give \$30 and reward yourself with dressing down on Fridays!

April to June 2015

Call Brooke Watson for further details at 828-287-6061.

RELAY FOR LIFE COMMUNITY EVENT

Date: Friday, **June 5, 2015**

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Forest City Parks and Recreation

*You and 1 guest are invited to attend
The Relay For Life of Rutherford County*

2015 Survivors Dinner

Tuesday, May 26th, 2015

*Florence Baptist Church Life Enrichment Center
201 South Broadway Street, Forest City
6:00 pm*

*All survivors should reserve your place at the dinner
by calling toll free 1-866-227-7798 to register by May 19th.
When prompted press option 3 then 0, if prompted
please leave a message for Tracy Nicholson*

*Please indicate when calling if you are
bringing a guest to the dinner and be prepared
to give your Survivor tee shirt size.
Tee shirts will only be given out at
The Relay For Life Event
on June 5th*

*We do hope you will be able to attend,
and we look forward to seeing you there!*

*Your presence is requested to walk in the
2015 Relay For Life of Rutherford County
Survivors Lap*

*Friday, June 5th, 2015
Forest City Parks & Recreation
Charles Summey Park
Forest City Dunbar Elementary School
6:00 pm*