

May 2, 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.

Department Directory

[Agriculture/Cooperative Extension](#)

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[County Manager](#)

[County Commissioners](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Emergency Medical Services](#)

[Fire Marshal](#)

[Finance](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Transit](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

Airport

The Airport sold 344.0 gallons of Jet A to 3 aircraft and 376.1 gallons of 100LL to 19 aircraft last week.



A Hughes 369D helicopter on the ramp for fuel.

Board of Elections

Tuesday this week the courts ruled that all of the legislation that was passed in 2013 regarding Voter ID and other election changes is constitutional and will be completely in effect after our June Primary. We are currently beginning the logic and accuracy testing for the election equipment for the June Primary. The Director is completing her third week working with the State Board and other Directors to develop business rules for our new software.

County Manager and Commissioners

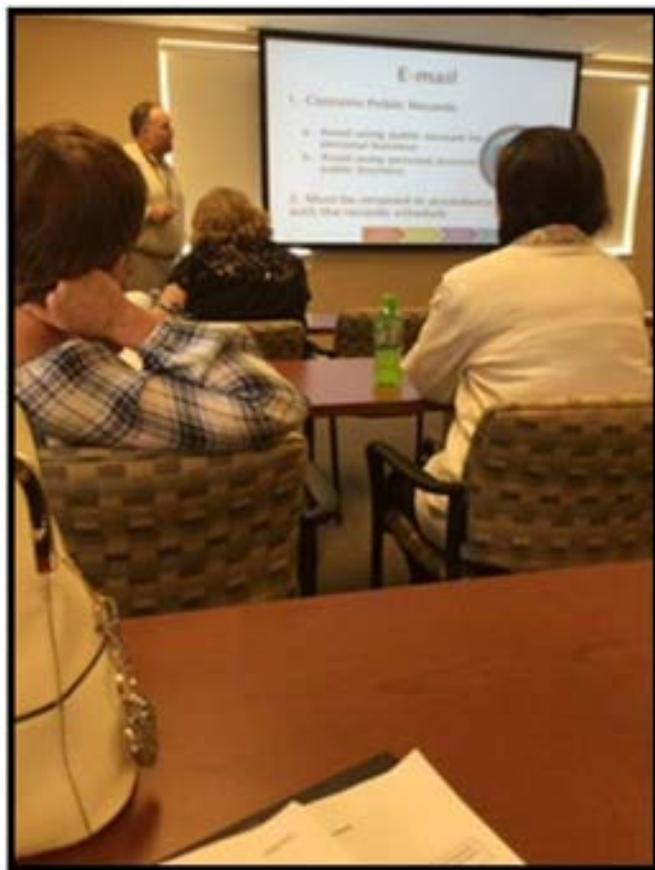
The following are several events and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved this week:

- Budget Review and Discussion Meetings
- Telephone Conference discussing Rural Internet Grants
- Meetings with several County departments, including Planning and Projects, Economic Development, Transit, and Finance
- Quarterly Department Head Meeting
- County Attorney meeting regarding various projects
- Broad River Water Authority Board Meeting
- Continued preparation for the upcoming Board of Commissioners' Meeting on May 2, 2016
- Webinar - NCACC Manager's Weekly Legislative Update

County Manager Steve Garrison gave the welcome at the Spring District Day hosted by the Extension & Community Association. Commissioner Mike Benfield served on the Equalization and Review Board. Commissioner Eddie Holland was involved with the Relay for Life Survivors' Dinner hosted by the Florence Baptist Church. Chairman King and Vice Chairman Toney had meetings at the office with several individuals discussing various issues. Kim Aldridge attended a workshop in Asheville which focused on *Managing Public Records*. **(Pictured right.)**

Department Heads gathered on Wednesday for their quarterly meeting, and topics discussed were *Departmental Facebook Page*, *Mission Vision and Value*, *Public Record Information*, *FY2016-17 Budget Information*, and *Round Table Sharing*.

The week continued with additional duties, consisting of numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meeting with citizens.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department hosted a meeting with members from Convergent who have begun conducting Feasibility Study interviews in the county and have continued to schedule interviews for the coming weeks. The Department also worked closely with Department of Commerce, Golden LEAF representatives, industry allies, the County Manager and the Finance Department on current and existing projects. Work on marketing and advertising efforts to promote Rutherford County and economic development product continued.

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. The Director attended several interdepartmental budget meetings and continues to work with County Manager in budget meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- conducted two origin and cause investigations.
- attended Sheriff's Office training for re-certification.
- attended various meetings including quarterly Department Head meeting.
- followed up on several investigative cases.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Specialist attended a SHP phone conference and attended interview sessions for a part-time TDA position along with Don Cason.

Welcome new hires Renata Wilkins (DSS), Teresa Baynard (p/t Detention), Christopher Gullede (EMS), Rock Smith (EMS), and Newton Shelton (Sheriff).

Employees leaving the service of Rutherford County are Brian Wittenburg (EMS), Robert Burnett (Maintenance), Richard Dills (Sheriff), Jeremy Gregg (911), Susan Wilson Taylor (DSS) and Jason Harrill (Building Inspections).

The annual blood drive is scheduled for May 11th. Our goal is 45 pints which means we need approximately 57 people to sign up. Currently we have 48 people enrolled. Thank you for your participation in this much needed event. Please contact the HR department to schedule a time to donate. **Flyer on page 4**

Employment opportunities are Tourism Authority Director, and Building Code Enforcement Officer. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.



BLOOD DRIVE

Rutherford County Government

Wednesday, May 11th

11:00 am – 3:30 pm

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD!

Please contact Debra Conner at
287-6145 to schedule your appointment today!

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

© 2013 The American National Red Cross

Library

Stephanie Long - The Circulation Manager, IT Specialist, and the Library Director attended a meeting with Dr. Robert Burgin to discuss the best ways to implement and market the library's recently-developed 5-year Strategic Plan.

The library now has several of The Great Courses on audio available for checkout. Topics include Old Testament, New Testament, Great World Religions, Mindfulness, Natural Healing, Public Speaking, Entrepreneurship, Nutrition, and Human Behavior.

April Young - The library director attended several meetings this week. In addition, she worked on upcoming book sale materials and cataloging new library materials. The director and Maria Davis hosted a booth at the Bostic-Lincoln festival to promote the County Library System. Look for us at the upcoming Mayfest in Rutherfordton on May 7th.

Maria Davis – In honor of Smart Money Week, Al Lovelace from Lovelace Financial hosted “Overcoming Retirement Challenges.” He met with a few patrons and discussed the challenges of retirement.

Maria visited the Whitehouse Community Club for a Library Outreach Program. She did an overview of what Rutherford County Libraries has to offer the community. **(Flyer on page 6.)** Maria also secured written agreement for Whitehouse Community Club to host a Little Library.

We are awaiting written agreements from several other sites concerning the Little Libraries and hope to have all six in place very soon.

We have a VERY special and unique Adult Coloring session coming up on May 4, 2016. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages listed below for more information.

www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org

www.facebook.com/rutherfordcountylibrary

If you have an idea for a program at the Library to occur during normal operating hours or in the evenings, please call Maria Davis, Rutherford County Library, Marketing and Programming Coordinator, 828-287-6118.



Rutherford County Library System

transforms lives everyday by providing access to technology, early literacy programs and career development resources to the local community. Here's a look at how many lives we've touched in the past year and we've got even more planned for this year!

RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARIES ARE LEARNING CENTERS

Last year
473 Library programs
were attended by **6,631**



Libraries
offered:



330
Early
literacy
programs

137
Programs
for
teens
and
adults

6 Workforce
development
programs



RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARIES ARE TECHNOLOGY HUBS

Access

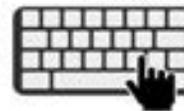


17,010 Wi-Fi
sessions



26,416
Computer uses

Assistance



18
Technology
classes
offered



39,232
Technology
questions
answered

RUTHERFORD COUNTY LIBRARIES PROVIDE ACCESS TO THOUSANDS OF RESOURCES

88,087 LIBRARY VISITS



155,500 ITEMS CIRCULATED



A Rutherford County Library Card gets you access to over 333,904 items including e-books, audio books, movies, music and much more! You can access library materials 24/7! Download eBooks, stream films, or learn a language all through the library's website.

Senior Center

Director Angela Ezell attended Module VI at the Ann Johnson Institute for Senior Center Management in Winston-Salem this week.

The Senior Center wrapped up the Senior Games sporting events on Monday with archery for men and women. The Closing Gala/Athletic Awards will be on Friday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m., to celebrate and recognize the seniors who participated in Senior Games for their dedication and commitment to a healthy active lifestyle.

Larry Gregg, Rutherford County's NC Senior Tar Heel Delegate, spoke on Thursday about the Legislative Priorities for 2016:

- Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding
- Uniform Adult Guardianship
- Strengthen and Fund NC's Adult Protective Services Program
- Preserve or Restore Optional Medicaid Services
- Sustain and Expand Project C.A.R.E.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. May 2, 9, 16, and 23



Sheriff's Department



OUR NEW ARRIVAL

Lilah Rayne Cope

APRIL 26, 2016
7 POUNDS, 7 OUNCES * 18 INCHES

Proud parents,
Logan Cope (RPD),
Amanda Young (Forest City Dunbar School)
and
'proudest' grandparents,
Alan Greene (RS Central) and Julie Greene (Sheriff's Dept.)



OUR NEW ARRIVAL

Logan Makinlee

APRIL 22, 2016
7 POUNDS, 6 OUNCES * 19 INCHES

Proud parents,
Detective Brian Gooch and Sara Gooch

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL RECEIVE AWARD

Members of the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office were recognized by the Region C Board at their yearly banquet and received a Region C Award.

Region C is comprised of law enforcement agencies from Rutherford, Polk, McDowell and Cleveland Counties. The Region-C banquet recognized officers and civilians for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Receiving a Region C Award were:

Cpl. Robert Martin received the Region C award for G.R.E.A.T. Officer of the year.

Cpl. Eric Hester received the Region C award for G.R.E.A.T. Officer of the year.

911 Telecommunicator Candie Lancaster received the Shirley Scruggs Award presented by the Forest City Masonic Lodge. Mrs. Lancaster received this award based upon her professionalism as a dispatcher.

The awards were presented by Lt. Leon Godlock (Rutherford County Sheriff's Office) and Lt. Tammy Aldridge (Director of 911 Communications).

A BIG thank you to Big Springs Baptist Church and members who helped make the Annual Awards a success.

Others who received an award:

Law Enforcement Executive of the Year – Captain Ricky Crisp (McDowell County Sheriff's Office)

Uniformed Officer of the year - Mark C Beddingfield (Tryon PD)

Investigator of the year- Det. Scott Brown (Shelby Police Department)

G.R.E.A.T. Officer of the Year- Steve Hensley (McDowell County Sheriff's Office)

Administrative Assistant of the Year- Kelly Hamby (Columbus PD)

Rookie Officer of the Year- Alexandra R. Michael (Forest City PD)

Herbert Scruggs Award- Lt. Jacob Hoyle (Forest City PD)

Shirley Scruggs Award- Blake Arledge (Tryon PD)

Richard Corley Award- David Jackson (Polk Co.)

Special Award -Shelby PD

For full details, [view this message on the web](#)



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on a Farmland Preservation Display for the Chase FFA Alumni Farm Day.
- attended the Department Head Quarterly Meeting.
- worked on updates to the Farmland Preservation Ordinance.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- worked on Highly Erodible Lands plans.
- met with landowners.
- worked on scheduling No-Till Drill and BMP Planning.

Solid Waste

Customers served 388

Loads hauled from convenience centers 63

Loads shipped to Lenoir 35

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire Customers 30

The director attended the department head meeting. The director also continued to work on reports, purchase orders and the budget.

The office staff has been busy helping customers while continuing to work on daily reports and providing information to the director.

The transfer station staff has been busy processing the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy processing the C&D tonnages coming in while also hauling dirt for cover.

The airport crew continues to perform the mowing and bush hogging tasks. Wes Scarlett is here this week testing the water wells around the central and south landfills. Also, staff participated in a training session with the NCDOC to update everyone's inmate certifications.

The shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance on the equipment and vehicles while fixing items that have broke. Also, we have an issue with a hot water heater in which the maintenance department is handling. Thanks to everybody for their help.

Please continue to recycle!!!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Director and Operations Manager attended the quarterly department head meeting on Wednesday. Administration has spent a lot of time this week on analytics specific to response times, fixed costs, and improving clinical charting. Staff are also developing a customer satisfaction with Survey Monkey that we will roll out in the next month. The monthly random drug/alcohol test was also completed.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	167	168
Convalescent Calls	14	59

Transit Department:

Transit has expanded our Free Food Shuttle service starting this week. We expanded beyond our Tuesday Free Shuttle to Stainless Ministries and Friday Free Shuttle to Wal-Mart to now include Free Shuttle service to Aldi's on Monday's, J's Salvage on Wednesday's and Save-a-Lot on Thursday's. These additions were derived from passenger requests for additional options for grocery shopping. **(Flyer on page 12.)** Operations Manager discussed this new service on Radio WCAB with Jim Bishop on Tuesday morning..

Operations Manager attended the Food and Nutrition Gathering at The Foundation hosted by the RHI Legacy Foundation to brain storm ways to best use food and nutrition resources that are available to the citizens. Transit was there to represent possible solutions to the logistics of providing transportation to anyone that may need this service.

Operations Manager met with Veterans Director to discuss ways that Transit may be a resource for transportation for veterans that may benefit from our services. Director and Operations Manager attended Quarterly Department Heads meeting with County Manager.

Transit Director received notification from NCDOT that Rutherford County Transit would be receiving a 40% increase the proposed 5 year state budget in funding for FY 17-18 thru FY 21-22. This increase is performance based and is a recognition of Rutherford County having one of the best running and most efficient transit agencies.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,824	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,045	881
# of Out of County Trips	76	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	218	238
Total Revenue	\$16,010	\$14,549



FREE GROCERY SHUTTLE SERVICE

Monday: Aldi's

Tuesday: Stainless Food Pantry

Wednesday: J's Salvage

Thursday: Save-A-Lot

Friday: Walmart

There is no cost to ride. Shuttle runs daily in the mornings.
Schedule is subject to change based on level of ridership and funding.

Call 287-6142 to Schedule a Ride

Veteran Services

Mail In	109
Mail Out	30
Fax	140
Phone Calls In/Out	75
Veteran Contacts	145

Director Susan Hall spoke at the Kiwanis Club luncheon sharing plans that she is developing for our veterans.

To all female veterans, please contact Director Susan Hall at 828-287-6064 if you are interested in attending the NC Women Veterans Summit & Expo on May 25, 2016 in Raleigh, NC.

EMPOWER. ENRICH. EDUCATE.
SHARING STORIES, MAKING HISTORY
women.nc4vets.com

2016

NC Women Veterans Summit & Expo
MCKIMMON CENTER, NCSU
1101 GORMAN ST. RALEIGH, NC 27606 **WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**

ONSITE ASSISTANCE / BRING DD214:
VA ASSISTANCE / HEALTHCARE / eBENEFITS / VET CENTER
EDUCATION & TRAINING / VA HOME LOANS / BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTED BY **NC4VETS**
www.nc4vets.com | 844-564-VETS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERAN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

@NC4VETS
NC4VETS



County News



2016 Relay Rutherford County Employees Team

- **Friday, May 13th:** Sweet Frog fundraiser from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **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.
- **Monday, May 23rd:** Zaxby's fundraiser from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Upcoming Events:

- **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 or at the public trailhead at 10 am. If you have never been on this beautiful trail, this is a great opportunity. Come join us!!
- **Sunday 5/1:** Let's Talk Turkey - 2 p.m. at *South Mountains State Park*. Learn about wild turkeys.
- **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!
- **Sunday, May 22nd: ROC Clear Creek Trail Hike** - This trail is part of South Mountains State Park and will be a 2-mile, strenuous hike. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 8:30 a.m. to carpool.

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

[Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails

MayFest Arts & Crafts Festival

May 7, 2016

Rutherfordton's annual spring festival, MayFest, starts at 8:00 a.m. with the 2016 Gears and Gables ride benefiting the Rutherford Housing Partnership. Spectators can watch the riders take off for a 24, 41 or 62-mile route through scenic views of Rutherford County.

Main Street opens at 9:00 am with arts and crafts vendors, exhibits and interactive booths. Many of our downtown merchants will add to your shopping pleasure with special sales and amazing finds. Try local flavors at multiple food tents or cool off with fresh squeezed lemonade. Live entertainment includes 'Girl Interrupted' and 'ClevCo', plus dance presentations and old fashioned dunking booths. Kids will have fun inside "Play Land", an activity center with inflatables, rock climbing walls and pony rides. Families will also enjoy the mechanical rides, face painting and more in front of KidSenses Children's Museum.



TJCA-CFA Ranked among Best High Schools



Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy-CFA again ranks among the top schools in the United States, according to US News & World Report's newly released 2016 rankings of Best High Schools.

The school is ranked 4th among all public schools in North Carolina, 43rd among all public charter schools in the nation, and 124th out of over 21,000 public high schools in the nation.

"The school's high ranking is a tribute to the caliber of our teachers, the support of our families, and the hard work of our students. Our 83 graduates last year were offered more than \$7.6 million in academic scholarships, which is a testament to the quality of their work and the strength of our school's curriculum in preparing them well for college," said Joe Maimone, the school's Headmaster.

Below is the link to the US News report:

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/north-carolina/districts/thomas-jefferson-classical-academy/thomas-jefferson-class-academy-14252>

Governor McCrory Announces New Projects Creating 161 Jobs State Providing \$4.9 Million in Infrastructure Funding

Raleigh, N.C. - Governor Pat McCrory announced today that the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 17 grant and loan requests totaling \$4,905,420. The requests include commitments to create a total of 161 new jobs across the state.

"Business-ready buildings and infrastructure set the stage for job growth," said Governor McCrory. "These investments lay the groundwork for prosperity by providing basic water and sewer systems, access roads and building renovations that businesses need in order to create jobs in North Carolina's smaller communities."

The RIA reviews and approves funding requests for grant and loan programs. The programs are operated by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development team, which is led by Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and Assistant Secretary Patricia Mitchell, CECD. Grants support infrastructure development, building renovation and site improvements. Since its creation by Governor McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013, the Authority has approved approximately \$90 million in awards.

The RIA approved one request under the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program.

Catawba County: A \$671,920 grant to assist with wastewater service and industrial access to Park 1764, a 170-acre Class A Business Park. The park is designed to encourage high-tech, advanced manufacturing, office and R&D operations in Catawba County in order to offset job losses in traditional industries.

The Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account provides grants to units of local government of the 80 most distressed counties in the state. Funds may be used for publicly-owned infrastructure and should be used for projects that are reasonably expected to result in the creation of new jobs. IDF - Utility Account funding is derived from portions of Job Development Investment Grants (JDIG) awarded in Tier 2 and Tier 3 counties.

The RIA approved six loans under the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program:

Town of Forest City (Rutherford County): \$600,000 in support of the reuse of a vacant building by CMI Enterprises, which is opening a 30-worker facility that will make soft trim textiles and fabrication solutions for seats designed for recreational vehicles, buses and trucks, as well as movie theatres and sporting venues. The Florida-based company has been in business since 1984. Funds will be used to improve roofing, electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems. The loan will support a total capital investment of \$2.6 million. ([READ MORE](#))



Western North Carolina Town of Rutherfordton, N.C. Launches Four New Trails

Public invited to ribbon cutting celebration on
Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 4 p.m. in downtown Rutherfordton

RUTHERFORDTON, N.C. (APRIL 29, 2016): Located in western North Carolina, the [Town of Rutherfordton](#) is introducing four new trails just in time for spring strolls and family outings. The four trails include the Gold Mile, Historic Downtown Walking Tour, Kid's Main Street Safari and Purple Martin Greenway. The public is invited to attend a ribbon cutting to officially launch the trails on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 4 p.m. in front of KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum at 172 N. Main Street in downtown Rutherfordton.

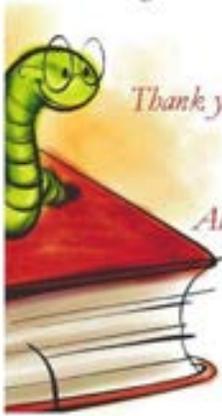
A complete trails brochure is available online at www.RutherfordtonTrails.com.



Relay Book Sale

Hundreds of books have been donated for the sale, including titles by Nicholas Sparks, Jodi Picoult, John Grisham, Danielle Steele, Beverly Lewis, and many more. Shoppers will find cookbooks, kid's books, and religious titles.

Drop by the County Office Building, 289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC, and 'check out' the inventory!



Thank you to our many contributors.

All proceeds will benefit the Relay for Life's fundraising efforts to fight cancer.

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

Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor

828.287.6060