



May 30, 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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Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was initiated to honor the soldiers for the Union and Confederate armies who died during the American Civil War. In 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday, and was given the floating date of the last Monday in May.

Some of the most common Memorial Day traditions that are practiced in the United States today include:

- Every Memorial Day, the U.S. flag is quickly raised to the tops of flagpoles, slowly lowered to half-mast, and then raised again to full height at noon. The time at half-mast is meant to honor the million-plus fallen U.S. soldiers who have died for their country over the years. Re-raising the flag is meant to symbolize the resolve of the living to carry on the fight for freedom so that the nation's heroes will not have died in vain.
- It is very common to visit cemeteries, particularly military cemeteries, at this time of year to decorate the graves. Small American flags, flowers, and wreaths are commonly placed by the tombstones.
- On the U.S. Capitol Building's West Lawn, a Memorial Day concert is held annually.
- There are literally thousands of Memorial Day parades all across the country in cities small and large.
- Many will wear or display red poppies on this day as a symbol of fallen soldiers. This tradition grew out of the famous poem by Canadian John McCrae known as *In Flanders Fields*, which he was inspired to write upon seeing red poppies growing over the graves of World War I soldiers. You may well hear this poem's opening lines quoted on Memorial Day:

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row."



Remember those who served...all gave some, and some gave all!

Agriculture/Cooperative Extension

Reported by Jeff Bradley, Tracy Davis, and Cynthia Robbins

- Orientation for summer intern.
- Assisted 4-H'er in developing foods presentation.
- Taught Take Control nutrition class.
- Attended training for summer nutrition program.
- Taught food preservation workshop.
- Assisted 4-H'er with developing a presentation.
- Taped monthly radio program.
- Submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier.
- Attended Extension Master Food Volunteer agents' training.

Airport

The Airport sold 532.0 gallons of Jet A to 3 aircraft and 387.4 gallons of 100LL to 8 aircraft last week.



PHOTO:
A Pilatus PC-7 trainer on the ramp at Rutherford County.

Board of Elections

This week the Director continued working on a panel with the State Board to document the business rules for the new software system. A Board meeting was held on Tuesday to approve absentee applications. One-Stop early voting will be held started on Thursday at our office only and the dates and hours can be found here: [http://rutherfordcountync.gov/_fileUploads/files/one-stop%20hours_Congressional_2016\(3\).pdf](http://rutherfordcountync.gov/_fileUploads/files/one-stop%20hours_Congressional_2016(3).pdf)

Building Inspections

Over the past week, Building Inspections has issued 44 permits with 1 new house start and has conducted 171 inspections with 5 of those resulting in Certificates of Occupancy. We are continuing to work with the Town of Rutherfordton on getting all the nursing home routine fire inspections completed.

County Manager and Commissioners

The following are several events and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved over the last few days:

- Meetings with several County departments, including Planning and Projects, Economic Development, Building Inspections, and Finance.
- Relay for Life
- EMS Appreciation Breakfast
- County Attorney meeting regarding various projects
- Broad River Board meeting
- Mayors/Managers Meeting held in Lake Lure this quarter
- Smoky County Commissioner Advisory Board meeting
- NCACC Peer Review Task meeting
- Firemen's Training Center meeting
- IPDC Economic Development discussion
- Webinar - NCACC Manager's Weekly Legislative Update
- Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival

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 responded to an industrial RFI. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, and communicating with the Department of Commerce regarding various grant reports and requests. This week's agenda also included attending numerous meetings and conference calls with county departments and industry allies.

SEE PRESS RELEASE on page 4 on Site Readiness Program.



Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. Director Paula Roach attended several interdepartmental meetings. Finance staff attended State Retirement meeting in Lake Lure (*pictured left*).

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- conducted one origin and cause fire investigation and followed up on open cases.
- participated in disaster preparedness regional meeting held in Caldwell County.
- attended worker's compensation training class.
- met with ICC representatives, architect and other County officials regarding plans for the emergency services training center.
- attended other meetings and training.



Duke Energy selects Rutherford County location for Site Readiness Program

RALEIGH, NC – Duke Energy has selected eight North Carolina properties for participation in this year’s Site Readiness Program to prepare them for business and industrial development.

Duke Energy’s award-winning endeavor identifies high-quality industrial sites in its service areas then collaborates with county leaders and local economic development professionals to develop a strategy for providing water, sewer, natural gas and electricity to the parcels.

Among the eight properties selected to participate in Duke Energy’s Site Readiness Program is the **Wade Matheny Farm** site in **Rutherford County**. This 153-acre site located next to Forest City is adjacent to the US 74 Bypass with excellent access to both I-85 and I-26. The site also offers the potential for rail service.

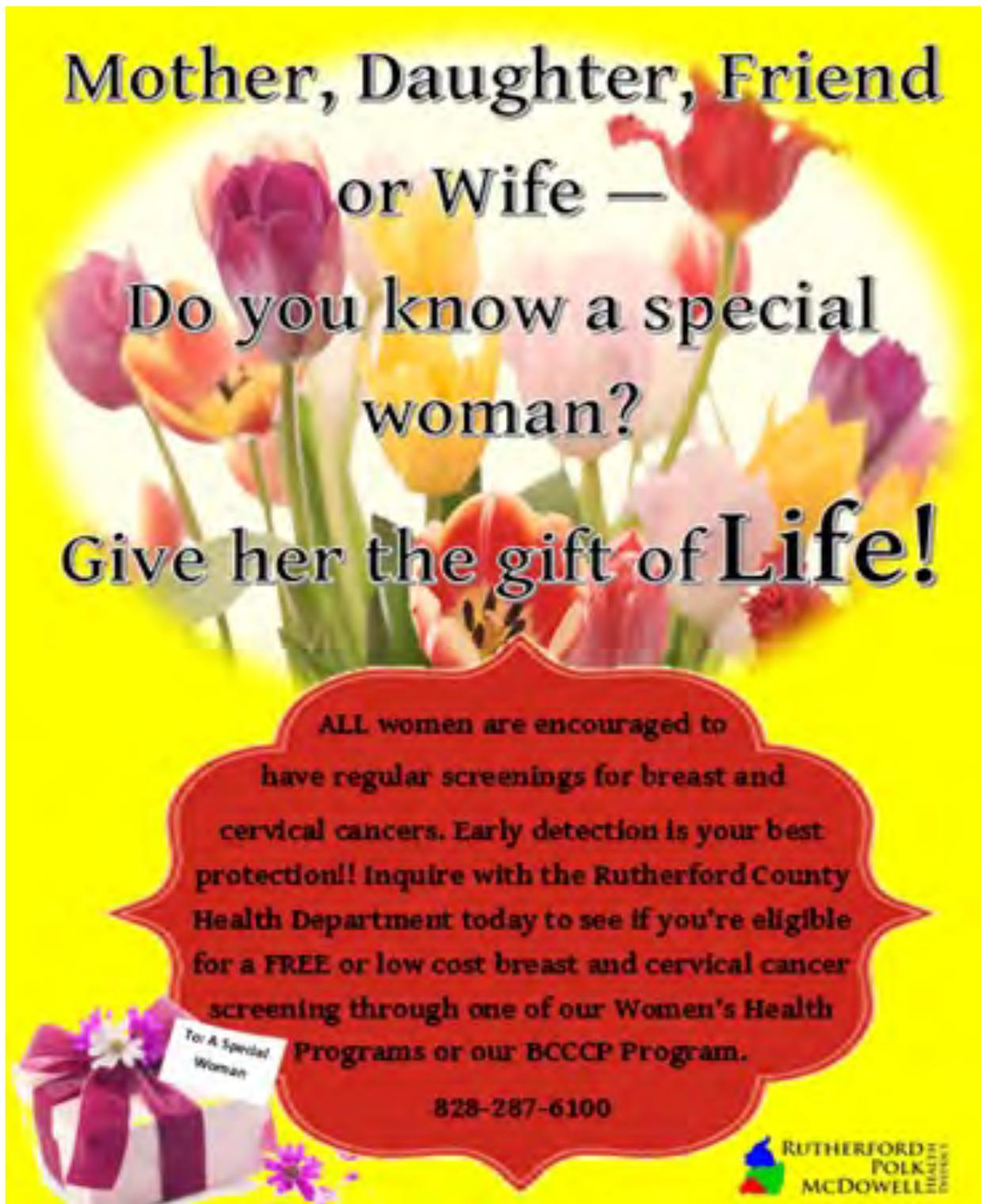
Rutherford County Economic Development appreciates the opportunity to partner with Duke Energy for this economic development initiative.

[Click here to view Duke Energy's Press Release in its entirety](#)

“Rutherford County has benefited in the past from Duke's building readiness and site readiness programs. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Duke to examine and promote our properties,” said Tom Johnson, interim executive director, Rutherford County Economic Development. “Duke’s engagement in the rural parts of North Carolina is unique and very much appreciated and more specifically this program directly led to the location of a \$500,000,000 project a few years ago.”

Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health Department

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District is encouraging ALL women to have regular screenings for breast and cervical cancers. As we know, early detection is your best protection!! (*Please see flyer below that provides more information.)



**Mother, Daughter, Friend
or Wife —**

**Do you know a special
woman?**

Give her the gift of Life!

**ALL women are encouraged to
have regular screenings for breast and
cervical cancers. Early detection is your best
protection!! Inquire with the Rutherford County
Health Department today to see if you're eligible
for a FREE or low cost breast and cervical cancer
screening through one of our Women's Health
Programs or our BCCCP Program.**

828-287-6100

**RUTHERFORD
POLK
MCDOWELL
HEALTH
DISTRICT**

The Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District participated in Red Nose Day, which took place on Thursday, May 26, 2016. Red Nose Day is a national event with the purpose of using fun to raise money for

poverty-stricken children. In honor of the event, employees of the Health District came together and donated to an organization in our community that helps those in need. We collected non-perishable frozen food items during the month of May and these will be given to Sisters in Christ Restoration and Recovery Ministry

in Spindale. Employees were asked to wear Red in honor of such a special day. (Flyer below is what we used to advertise.)



Get ready to FUN-raise!

**The RPM Management Team
Is Proudly Supporting**

**Red Nose Day
May 26, 2016**

Fighting Childhood Hunger

Please consider donating any type of non-perishable or frozen food item that will be given to the Sisters in Christ Ministry in Spindale. We would like to collect 1 item every day! We are also taking cash donations, spare change donations to support this effort.

We will take donations up to May 26th.

Please join us as we wear RED on the 26th and for those who participate will be permitted to wear jeans on Friday May 20 and Friday May 27

**Thank You For Helping Us
Fight Childhood
Hunger!**

rednoseday.org



Human Resources

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

Welcome aboard new hires Michelle Wood (DSS), Kayley Hargett (TDA), Kim Austin (EMS), and Samantha Velez (DSS).

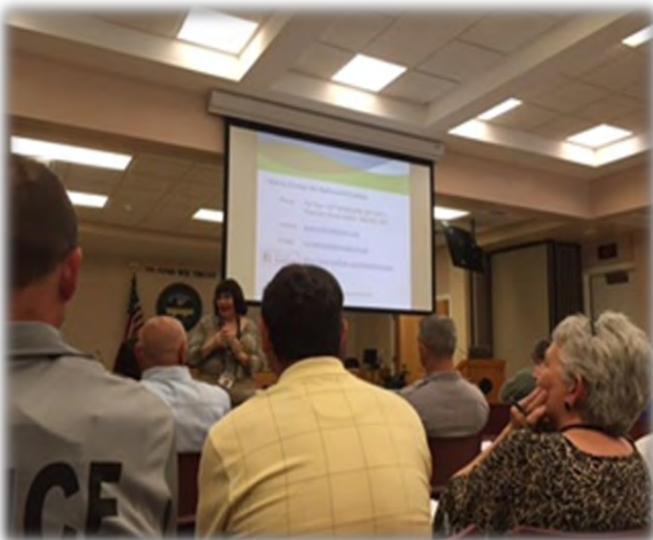
Also welcome Alan Toney, Jr., as he completes a summer internship with the County Administration staff (*pictured right*).

Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Kim Logan (Revenue), Melanie Hunt (DSS), Patsy Brown (DSS), Dorothy Medford (DSS), Donald Gowan (Solid Waste), and Debra Blanton (Maintenance).

The Director attended several meetings with employees and department heads this week, attended a NC Retirement Systems meeting at Lake Lure (*photos below*), and attended a DOL webinar regarding the new FLSA rules.

The HR Specialist met with representatives from EBA, attended the NC Retirement Systems meeting in Lake Lure and attended the DOL webinar.

Employment opportunities are Solid Waste Truck Driver. Apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.



Information Technology

Traffic Summary - BarracudaSF.rutherfordcountync.gov [172.16.10.29]

From 2016-05-16 00:00:00

To 2016-05-22 23:59:00

Inbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Bad Recipient	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Allowed: Tagged	Allowed	Total Received
2016-05-16	2434	91	942	29	19	5	3585	7105
2016-05-17	1528	118	783	21	31	7	3482	5970
2016-05-18	749	99	1026	13	44	5	3316	5252
2016-05-19	2220	129	672	6	29	5	4014	7075
2016-05-20	1344	88	616	7	18	14	3021	5108
2016-05-21	57	45	525	12	15	1	1006	1661
2016-05-22	12	41	427	6	11	1	869	1367
Total	8344	611	4991	94	167	38	19293	33538

Outbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Policy	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Sent	Encrypted	Redirected	Authentication Failure	Total Received
2016-05-16	93	0	38	0	0	1024	7	0	456	1618
2016-05-17	79	0	3	0	0	1075	10	0	572	1739
2016-05-18	59	0	4	0	0	1025	28	0	366	1482
2016-05-19	102	0	38	0	0	1051	5	0	386	1582
2016-05-20	199	0	35	0	0	981	7	0	331	1553
2016-05-21	14	0	39	0	0	186	0	0	258	497
2016-05-22	40	0	0	0	0	367	0	0	152	559
Total	586	0	157	0	0	5709	57	0	2521	9030

Library

Director April Young continues to work with all her staff regarding ongoing projects, programs, grants, and ideas for the Library. April ordered patron requests for books for all three libraries this week and helped sort the Summer Reading Program flyers that are being sent to local schools to advertise the program.

Circulation Manager Stephanie Long processed and cataloged 25 books on CD to send to the Haynes Branch for their new audiobook collection.

Marketing and Programming Coordinator, Maria Davis had another successful Adult Coloring Session on Wednesday at Rutherford County Library. Everyone seems to love sitting down and relaxing while coloring. Maria continues to work on the very first Adult Summer Reading Program at Rutherford County Library. We will have a BINGO-type Challenge Card to that might help pull our patrons out of their “reading comfort zone.” April continues to research ideas and help Maria to pull this together. Drawings will be held for some great prizes donated by local businesses. (If you would like to donate a prize for the Adult Summer Reading Program to highlight your business, please contact Maria at 287-6118.)

An adult college financial aid, college selections, and career tool workshop is in the works. Skip Watson from College Foundation, Inc. will be coming from Raleigh to work with adults who are interested in beginning or finishing their college career. The proposed date is June 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars now to save the date. More information will be coming soon.

Nicole Morse is working hard to bring the Summer Reading Program together for this year. She has her performers/entertainers lined up and we can't wait to be amazed by them. Registration will take place June 14 – June 28, 2016. Stayed tuned for more Summer Reading information! Nicole will be getting flyers out to each elementary school in the county to announce Summer Reading this week. **Flyer on page 11.**

This week is the last week of Preschool Story Time. The children have had a BLAST at Haynes, Mountains, and County Libraries with Miss Nicole!

Kenneth Odom – Allstate Insurance has provided Rutherford County Library with a grant to resupply the DBU Makerspace in order to keep all projects free to the public. We plan to replenish the filament for the 3D printer that stays busy most days, yard for the looms, art supplies, etc. We thank Allstate for their support!

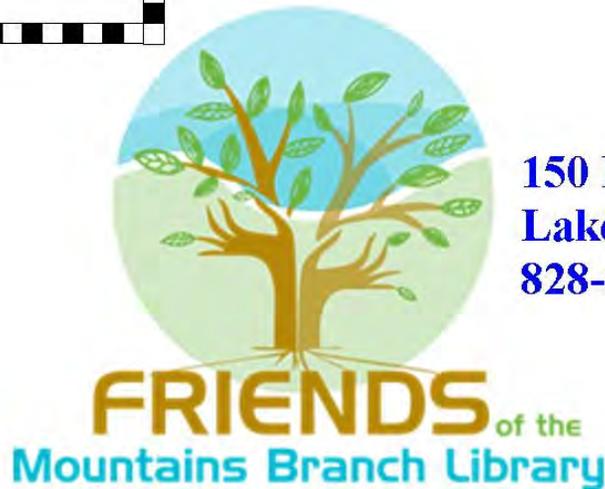
The State Library of North Carolina has awarded Rutherford County Library a grant to purchase 20 Launch Pads from Play Away. These Launch Pads will be available at all 3 libraries for checkout later this summer. The Launch Pads are mainly for children and will be loaded with educational games, but a few of the Launch Pads may be adult oriented.

These products are supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of natural and Cultural Resources.

Joy Sharp has processed lots of new books and Angie Turner is working on an online class sponsored by the State Library. They are continuing to accept book donations for the upcoming Friends Big Book Sale and Cake Auction to be held June 2nd, 3rd, 4th from 10-5. Cake Auction on Saturday June 4th. **Flyer on page 10.**



Thursday, June 2, 2016 10 am—3pm
Friday, June 3, 2016 10 am—3 pm
Saturday, June 4, 2016 10 am—3 pm



150 Bill's Creek Road
Lake Lure, NC 28746
828-287-6392

Saturday, June 4, 2016 10:00 —3:00

Silent Cake Auction will be from 10 -3
...or, if you want to be sure you get your
chosen cake, you may utilize the "Buy Now!"
feature and take your cake home at the "Buy
Now!" selling price.



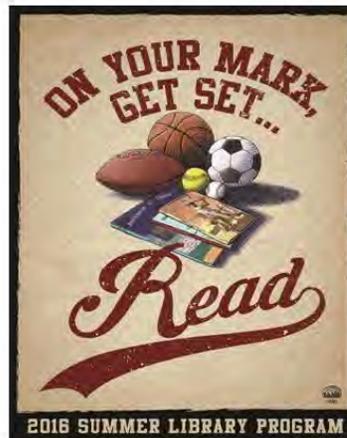
Summer Reading Program Field Day

June 21, 2016
1:00-4:00

Crestview Park,
Rutherfordton

Brought to you by
Rutherford County Library &
Town of Rutherfordton

- Inflatables
- Zumba Party
(Changing Lives Fitness)
- Character Parade
Come dressed in your
favorite costume
(Norris Public Library)
- Bubble Fun
(Mooneyham Public Library)



- Firetruck
- Ambulance
- Hoot -n- Annie
(Forest City Owls)
- Homerun Derby
(Forest City Owls)
- Hula Hoop Fun
(Spindale Public Library)
- Photo Booth
(Mountains Branch Library)

Weekly Summer Programs

June 28, 2016

Soap Bubble Circus

July 12, 2016

Casey Laugh and Learn

July 19, 2016

Didgeridoo Down Under (Australian-themed show—music, science, comedy)

July 26, 2016

Chimney Rock Animals

August 2, 2016

AcroEntertainment (Acrobats)

August 9, 2016

Celebration Party

Mountains Branch Library
150 Bill's Creek Road
Lake Lure, NC 28746
828-287-6392
Tuesdays 9:30 am

Haynes Branch Library
2669 Hwy 221A
Mooresboro, NC 28114
828-288-4039
Tuesdays 12:30 pm

Rutherford County Library
255 Callahan Koon Road
Spindale, NC 28160
828-287-6115
Tuesdays 3:30 pm

You may register your child June 13-28, 2016 at any of the Rutherford County Library Branches or you may register at Field Day.

Library continued from pages 9-11

Did you know that you can receive FREE music lessons through Rutherford County Library? That's right...FREE!! Visit our website (www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org), scroll down, and click on the "ArtistWorks for Libraries" link. You will need your library card number to set up your account as well as an email address. Once you have set up your account, click on the instrument you would like to learn to watch lessons from Grammy and award-winning artists. The lessons go from beginners to intermediates. There is NO COST for this service!! Where else can you get FREE music lessons from nationally recognized artists? Call Maria Davis at 828-287-6115 if you have questions about the FREE ArtistWorks program.

FREE Music Lessons



- Learn at home!
- Learn at your own pace!
- For Beginners to Intermediate!
- Grammy and award-winning professors!
- Piano
- Guitar
- Fiddle
- Trumpet
- Flute
- Percussion
- And MUCH more!!

Available at www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
Call 828-287-6115 for more information

**FREE FREE
FREE**

www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
Click on
"ArtistWorks For Libraries"

Public Works and Planning

We consistently keep up high tempo operations despite the changing seasons and demands on all facets of our department: Garage, Maintenance, Grounds keeping, Planning and Project management. All of our guys work very hard and are dedicated to getting the job done and keeping all of the County's vehicles, facilities, parks and projects in good condition. Thanks to all the maintenance and garage staff for their hard work!

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is working on pre-billing processes that must be completed before bills can be generated. The Board of E & R met on Thursday for a final session for 2016. We encouraged you to use the new GIS website. It is great having more information at our fingertips. If anyone needs help or has a problem with the website, contact Katie Doherty at 287-1226.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	516
Info/Data Requests	6
Website Hits	685
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	15
Deeds Recorded	25
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	27
Total Taxes Collected	\$184,461.47
Collected Prepayments	\$39,415.70

Senior Center

The Senior Center is celebrating "Older American's Month" the entire month of May. This year's theme, "Blaze a Trail", emphasizes the ways older adults are reinventing themselves through new work and new passions, engaging their communities, and blazing a trail of positive impact on the lives of people of all ages. The May calendar is packed with special programs, speakers, and fun activities to celebrate Older Americans Month.

Jane Armstrong, former owner of De-Clutter for Real Life, discussed "How to Start the De-cluttering Process" on Tuesday morning. The Center provided a trip to Hamrick's for shopping and then ice cream on Tuesday afternoon. The seniors visited their pen pals at Spindale Elementary on Wednesday to say their final good-bye before this school year is finished. On Thursday, Nancy Milleman, master gardener, presented information about daylilies.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. June 6, 20, 27

Sheriff's Department

Below is a letter to the Daily Courier editor that I wanted to share with you this week. Police officers can always benefit from some encouragement from members of the community. They spend each day doing a great job guarding our lives and property, often at risk to themselves. Take time to let them know how much you appreciate their efforts by speaking an uplifting word of appreciation, or write a letter of commendation and appreciation and send to the chief of police. Their service goes above and beyond the call of duty.

Kim Aldridge

Forest City

Best sheriff's department in the U.S.

To the Editor:

Someone took a large gas pump from our carport between 11 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. on May 18. By 3:15 p.m. the gas pump was back in our carport, damaged but back.

Thanks to the Sheriff's Department. They did a fantastic job.

A special thanks to detectives Jimmy Upton, Bruce Green, Shane Ruppe and Patrol Division, Chris Wilson, and others who may have helped.

Thanks for neighbors who saw it all and Gary Greene, Greene's Automotive Sales.

We are blessed to have these detectives working for us.

We have the best sheriff's department in the U.S.

Bill and Betty Huntley
Forest City

Wi

Social Services

On Saturday, May 21, the "Fostering Together Event" was held at Second Baptist Church in Rutherfordton (*pictured below*). This event was organized by several foster families who share a passionate desire to raise awareness about the need for more foster families in our county and for the need to support foster parents.



About 300 people were in attendance, in addition to many service providers and vendors. Several DSS staff members were involved in the planning of the event and were part of the program on Saturday. The central message at the event was, "We are not all called to foster, but we are all called to do something." Foster parents need support, which can be in the form of emotional support, tutoring, respite care, help with expenses for special events for the

children in care, and there are many other ways to show support. If you know of anyone interested in learning more about adoption and foster parenting and how they can help, or would like for someone to speak to your church, civic group, etc., please contact Angela Black at DSS at 287-6295 or Angela.Black@rutherfordcountync.gov.



Earlier this month, Children's Services staff received the training, *Connecting with Families: Family Support in Practice*.



Staff from surrounding county DSS agencies were also in attendance at the training, which was held at Rutherford Hospital. This is a state training curriculum that was provided by

trainers, Susan Gasman, Deborah Moore, and Billy Poindexter (*pictured above and right*).



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15. DSS, in conjunction with the Senior Center, will be hosting a special event on that day at the Senior Center consisting of guest speakers on important topics for older adults, music, and lots of fun and fellowship. More information will be forthcoming about this event. The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday of last week, with all Board members present. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board heard updated information on welfare reform for Food and Nutrition Services, and updated legislation regarding Medicaid, as well as, other proposed bills in the House and Senate that will affect the provision of services and our workload. Several of the supervisors and managers participated in the Worker's Comp training last week, as well as, attended other regularly scheduled meetings and webinars.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on District and Farmland minutes and meeting notices.
- worked on end of year reporting and Farmland Ordinance updates.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- conducted annual spot checks.
- finalized and submitted end of year reports.
- worked with NC NRCS leaders for national resource inventory points.

Solid Waste

Customers served 355

Loads hauled from convenience centers 61

Loads shipped to Lenoir 35

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 26

The director has been busy this week with reports, internal meetings and trying to purchase items for the landfill. The office staff are waiting on customers while finishing up some reports that will be due in the near future. The transfer station staff are staying active processing all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The airport staff continues to mow the grass at the airport when the weather allows. The C&D has been extremely busy in the last several weeks with an increased volume coming in from local demolition projects. The shop employees have completed the track loader under carriage rebuild and has worked on several item at the convenience centers. The staff at the landfill has met With Peter Gaulin several times trying to purchase a new scale system. The landfill has several job openings including a truck driver position and convenience center supervisor position. Please continue to remember Tony Bumgarner.

Please continue to recycle!!!

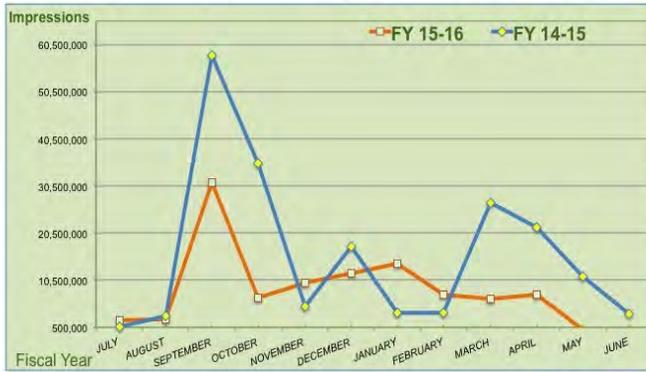


Tourism Development Authority

TDA By the Numbers: April

By the Numbers

Media Impressions (Impressions are the number of views of print and digital media coverage by potential visitors. i.e Newspaper, magazine, online articles. Does not include social media.)
The following graph shows the growth of media coverage impressions for Rutherford County:



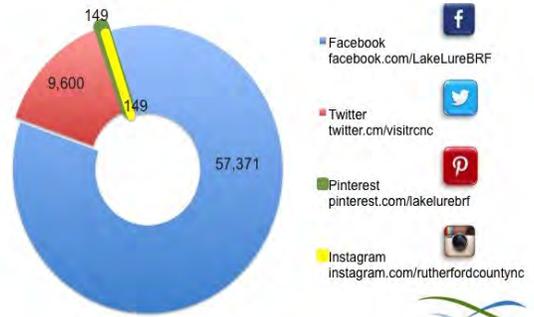
Media Impressions

7,453,242 people saw our news stories
(compared to April 2015, where 21,675,658 people saw our news stories)



By the Numbers

Social Media Impressions (Impressions are the number of views by social media users who visit or see our social media posts/pages.)
The following graph shows the APRIL social media impressions for Rutherford County Tourism:



Social Media Impressions

57,371 people saw our Facebook posts
9,600 people saw our Twitter posts
149 people engaged on Pinterest posts
108 posts viewed on Instagram



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By the Numbers

Welcome Center and Online Visitor Traffic
This graph shows the growth of visitor traffic at The Welcome Center in Lake Lure on Rutherfordtourism.com and Rutherfordtourism.com/events websites:



Results:

Highest visitor traffic at welcome center: August 2015
Highest website visitor traffic: June 2015



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By the Numbers

Welcome Center and Online Travel Guide Orders
This graph shows the growth of travel guide orders mailed from The Welcome Center or ordered online from the Rutherfordtourism.com website (Does not include the high volume of guides given out at the Welcome Center)



Results:

May 2015 holds the record month of most travel guides mailed and ordered online



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Visitor Traffic

5,554 visited the Welcome Center
4,050 visited RutherfordTourism.com
1,040 viewed calendar of events online

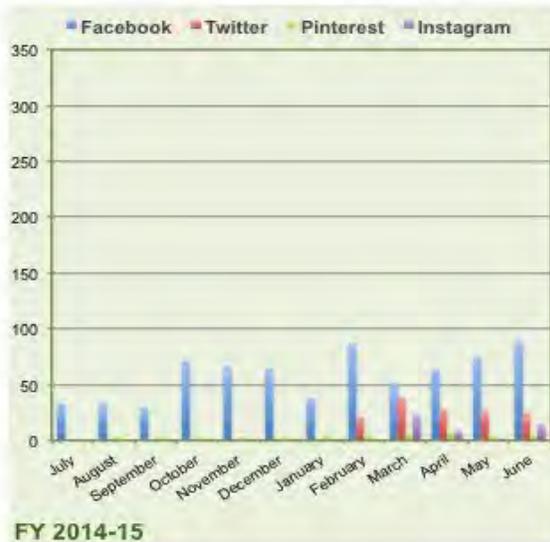
Travel Guide Orders

101 guides mailed
82 guides ordered online

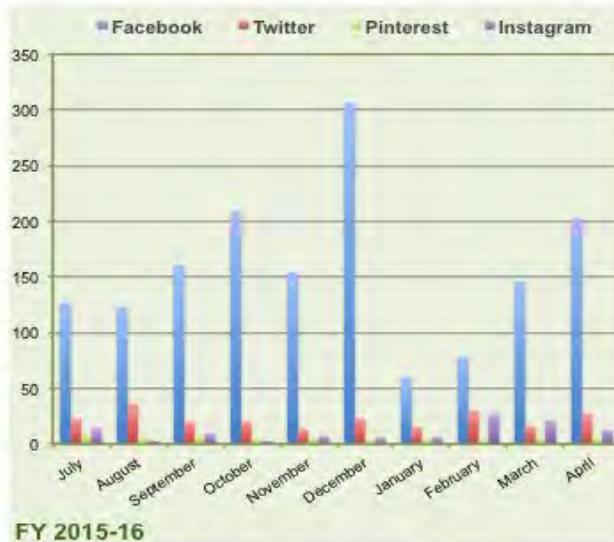
By the Numbers

Social Media Engagement

The following graphs show the visitor interaction for Rutherford County social media outlets; Facebook new Likes, Pinterest average daily viewers, and new Twitter and Instagram followers.



FY 2014-15



FY 2015-16

Results:

Total Facebook likes to date: **7,841** : In April 2015, the total likes were 5,959

Total Twitter followers to date: **689** : In April 2015, follower count was 429



Rutherford County Tourism's Welcome Center Goes Mobile



Catch the mobile unit at Tryon International Equestrian Center where it will be stationed for the summer to help promote tourism in Rutherford County. The mobile unit will be open during competition days and for each Saturday Night Lights event.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

Staff have worked diligently this week to complete the required paperwork for Medicare Revalidation. Revalidation is required every five years. Thanks to Rutherford Regional for hosting a wonderful breakfast this past Friday morning for EMS Appreciation Week. A special thank you to Major Kaleb Johnson for providing paramedic coverage for the Relay For Life event this past Friday night.



TYPE	CURRENT WEEK
Emergency Calls	147
Convalescent Calls	21

PHOTO: Congratulations to EMS employee, Jackie Street, on the birth of her eighth grandchild. Zelda Angel Harris was born Saturday at 6:10 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs. 12 ozs.

Transit Department:

Transit received an update on the possible delivery dates of our new Transit vans. It is possible that we will receive all approved replacement vehicles by the end of June. Transit drivers are encouraging passengers to offer video comments concerning how Transit has affected their lives. We plan to share these comments with NCDOT in response to their request for success stories across the state from all Transit agencies. Transit staff is also gathering data to share with the Board of Commissioners at their next meeting on the impact that the FARE FREE service has had on ridership since it was put in place in January of 2016. We anticipate approval to continue this service indefinitely. Operations Manager attended informational meeting at County Annex concerning Workers' Compensation Insurance. Transit also provided transportation, signage, and logistic support to Relay for Life on Friday night. Even though the event was shortened due to rain, please remember that the fight goes on for a cure and individuals that are currently battling cancer have many rainy days. Transit would also like to thank the Rutherford County Schools Transportation Department for providing two activity buses and drivers, Spencer Baptist Church for a bus and driver, and to First United Methodist Church in Forest City for providing their bus for use during this event. We also want to thank Rutherford County Traffic Control for their assistance as well.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	9,972	9,848
# of Local Trips	1,138	1,072
# of Out of County Trips	67	75
# Unduplicated Passengers	221	221
Total Revenue	\$12,987	\$16,450

Veteran Services

Mail In	101
Mail Out	22
Fax	100
Phone Calls In/Out	60
Veteran Contacts	110



ALL VETERANS

 vs. 
MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 30TH

The Forest City Owls are offering a special **FREE TICKET** to our Military Veterans. The Owls will be playing the U.S. Military All-Stars Team on Memorial Day!

Veterans' Spouses and Children:
\$3 General Admission Tickets

FREE ADMISSION

Megan Hoyle

Megan joined the Veteran Services Department on May 9th, and she is doing an internship for The Golden Leaf Leadership program. She is a junior at Gardner Webb University. She has been a tremendous help to us already and will be with our department throughout the summer. Welcome Megan!



**MEMORIAL
DAY
CEREMONY**

Monday May 30, 2016 at 11:00 AM
Main Street in Downtown Forest City

Sponsored by the Town of Forest City and the following Veterans Organizations:

American Legion Willis Towery Post #74 American Legion Ray Robertson Post #423
Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #25 Marine Corps League CPL Chris S. Elbert Detachment #1221

For more information call the Forest City events line at 828.247.4430



Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Holds Hearing On Five Tillis-Sponsored Bills

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

CONTACT: [Daniel Keylin](#) | (202) 224-6342

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation to improve veterans' health care and benefits, five of which were bills co-introduced by Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC).

"Today's hearing demonstrates how members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee constantly check their partisan labels and ideologies at the door in order to improve the quality of life for the brave men and women who have served our nation," **said Senator Tillis**. "It's been an honor to work across party lines to advance commonsense legislation aimed at reducing wait times at the VA and ensuring that all veterans have access to the health care and support they need and deserve."

[Watch Senator Tillis' remarks here.](#)

The pending Tillis-sponsored legislation discussed at today's hearing included:

The Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act, which was introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Thom Tillis (R-NC). The legislation directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a center of excellence within the VA to address the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to toxic burn pits. Senators Klobuchar and Tillis recently penned [a Fox News op-ed](#) in support of their legislation.

The Newborn Care Improvement Act, which was introduced by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Thom Tillis (R-NC). The legislation doubles the length of care the VA provides to newborn children. Currently, when women veterans give birth, their newborns are covered for care by the VA for only 7 days or less. If the female veteran does not get private care for the newborn, they will not have health coverage after 7 days. The Klobuchar-Tillis legislation would double the period of coverage from 7 days to 14.

The Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, which was introduced by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Jon Tester (D-MT). The legislation directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide prevention programs and metrics that are effective in treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such programs by the Secretary.

The Janey Ensminger Act of 2016, which was introduced by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Bill Nelson (D-FL). The legislation amends the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members. The bill is named in honor of Master Sergeant Jerry Ensminger's daughter Janey, who was only nine-years-old when she died from a rare form of leukemia after being exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune.

The Care Veterans Deserve Act of 2016, which introduced by Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), John Cornyn (R-TX), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC). The legislation aims to improve access to timely care for veterans by expanding access to care at the VA while enhancing choice and flexibility for veterans' health care options. The legislation supplements and expands on the major reforms enacted by the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, which was signed into law in the wake of the scandal of denied and delayed care at VA hospitals around the country.



County News

Dawn Lovelace and the girls!



2016 Relay for Life Event May 20th in Forest City



Commissioner Eddie Holland



Balloon Release



Survivors' Walk



Survivors' Walk

The rain didn't dampen spirits of attendees at the Relay for Life event last Friday night!



'Singing in the rain....'

"Bravery is knowing what's ahead of you and doing it anyway."

Requoted by Kay Kerbyson, PhD

The Charlie Daniels Band

June 25, 2016

7:30 p.m. at McNair Field



Enter for a Chance to Win 2 Tickets and 1 Backstage Pass

Come by the Veterans Service Office to enter. Anyone entering must be a veteran, and must bring their DD214 for proof of service if we do not already have it on file.

Rutherford County Veterans Service Office
303 Fairground Road, Spindale NC 28160
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday



Lake Lure Arts & Crafts Festival
 Saturday, May 28, 2016 - Sunday, May 29, 2016
 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 Arcade Plaza across from
 Lake Lure Beach
 Arts, crafts, food vendors and kids activities



Forest City Owls Baseball Season
 Opener- Tuesday, May 31 2016
 7:05 - 10:00 PM
 McNair Field, Forest City
 Coastal Plain Collegiate League
 Donate Life & NASCAR Night



Memorial Day Weekend Family Fun
 Saturday - Monday, May 28-30,
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park
 Explore, hike and view miles of beauty



Lure of the Dragons Boat Festival
 Saturday, June 11, 2016
 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Morse Park, Lake Lure
 30-foot Dragonboats paddle 250M down the
 Rocky Broad River



Fridays Unplugged On Central
 Friday, June 3rd, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
 Central Street, downtown Rutherfordton
 Music series the first Friday of each month
 Live Music, games, brews, and kids activities



Music On Main
 Friday, June 24, 2016
 6:00 - 9:00 pm
 Main Street, Forest City
 Live music, local artists, kids activities and more!



Saturday 5/28:

- **Memorial Day Weekend Family Fun at Chimney Rock State Park:** Family Animal Encounters, 2 pm Sat-Mon and Climbing Tower open 11 am-4 pm Sat & Sun
- **Stream-side Hike:** 11 am at *South Mountains State Park*. Join a Park Ranger at the Jacob Fork Parking Area for a stream-side hike along the Jacob Fork River.
- **The 10 Essentials:** 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*.

Sunday 5/29:

Animals of the South Mountains: 2 pm at *South Mountains State Park*.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, June 12th: ROC Group Hike to Catawba Falls. This will be a 3-mile roundtrip, moderate hike to the spectacular lower falls. Bring a lunch and some water. Meet at the County Annex (289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton) at 9 am 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, clean-ups, 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

Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor

828.287.6060