



May 4, 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.

Department Directory

[Agriculture/Cooperative Extension](#)

[Airport](#)

[Board of Elections](#)

[Building Inspections](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Finance](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Transportation Services \(EMS/Transit\)](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Veteran Services](#)

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught Eat Smart Move More Take Control class.
- Met with health educators for progress report.
- Assisted District President with leadership team meeting.
- Taught Cooking with Kids workshop for HeadStart parents.
- Planned educational tour for Extension & Community Association.

Airport

The Airport sold 523.9 gallons of 100LL and 2,170.0 gallons of Jet A last week.

We were excited to have the Pre-K students from Harris Elementary visit us last week. The students were allowed to take a tour of the airport and see several planes take off and land. They even brought lunch and had a picnic on the front lawn!



Board of Elections

The Director had a very busy week. She prepared a “Best Practice” submission for the State, met with the Cleveland County Elections Director and prepared information on pending legislation for the County Manager. Staff continues to process ATV’s and there has been a slight increase in voter registration this week.

Clerk to the Board

County Commissioners met in special session with the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees on Monday evening (**pictured below**). The trustees presented their requested budget for the 2015-2016 budget year. Monday morning Board members attended the Grand Opening ceremony and celebration for Timber Ridge Cottages in Spindale, North Carolina.



Staff spent the early part of the week preparing the agenda for the regular meeting of the County Commissioners to be held on Monday, May 4. Commissioner Benfield met during the week with the Board of Equalization. He is serving as Chairman.

County Manager

The County Manager’s active week began with numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events, including discussions with Planning and Projects, Economic Development, Chief Deputy Buchanan, and a special meeting with Board of Commissioners. Budget preparations continue for the coming fiscal year. The manager’s staff was involved in the Lutz Foundation Scholarship interviews. The manager was involved with ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission), attended Broad River Water Board meeting, and held agenda review meetings with Commissioners. 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. Even in the midst of a hectic week, Manager Garrison found time to have a ‘daddy-daughter’ date with Emily who turned 11 this week (**pictured to right**). Happy birthday to Emily!



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended various meetings at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and Tryon Equestrian Center, as well as internal meetings with other County Departments. Economic Development staff continues to stay busy following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities, working on marketing and advertising efforts including online, print media and website updates, and preparing grant applications and reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines. This week’s schedule also included an existing industry visit at Wilbert Plastics.

Finance

The Director and Assistant Director continue to work diligently with the County Manager to prepare the recommended Budget for 2015-2016. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. We hope you will stop by and see the Relay For Life booth at May Fest on May 2nd (in front of Sparrow Law Office and across from KidSenses). Also, we trust everyone enjoys the spring flowers they ordered. A special thanks to Jeanette Bosgra for her hard work compiling the orders and to ALL who ordered!

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Completed review of remaining fire service district budgets and forwarded to Finance
- Conducted fire investigation follow up interviews
- Inventoried EMS 800Mhz radios in advance of reprogramming
- Attended upgrade training
- Assisted GIS in their effort to complete an inventory of fire hydrants

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director attended the County Board meeting along with Isothermal Community College, met with EBA regarding dental renewals, and met with Bob Carruth and Charles Eaton of NCACC.

Current vacancies are:

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

Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Please be watching for email blasts for Relay for Life.

CALLING ALL OWL FANS: Please see memo on page 9 regarding "OPENING GAME" Owl tickets. Don't wait in line to obtain your ticket. Please purchase from one of the ladies listed and walk right in. This is a good way for OWL fans to also support RELAY FOR LIFE. We have 40 tickets available for purchase. Hurry and call.

The **Annual County Employee Blood Drive** is scheduled for May 6 from 11:00 am-3:30 pm. Please contact the Human Resources Department to sign up: 828-287-6145. We have exceeded our goal with over 50 sign-ups. Way to go!!



EVERY PINT OF BLOOD CAN SAVE UP TO THREE LIVES! REMEMBER, THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE.

Information Technology

In the past three weeks, the IT department has closed over 100 work orders. We have attended/prepared for budget meetings, met about the upcoming building planning for EMS/Library, the director attended her final PANGAEA board meeting as a county employee, and met with Jane Smith Patterson and Debra Watts to talk about the wireless grant the county received from ARC several years ago.

Director Rhonda Owens noted, “As I retire, as of Tuesday, April 28th, and leave this place after 30 1/2 years, I would like to say thank you to each one for your continued support of the IT Department. Thank you for all the lifetime friendships that I have made and for letting me intrude in your workday fixing computer issues. I have enjoyed my job and as I take on a new identity, I will never forget what I have learned as a county employee. I know you don’t always get the praise you deserve from the public, but I will say there are no more finer people than those that work for Rutherford County. I thank you for your service and dedication. I do want to wish Jai good luck as he takes over as Director and also to the entire IT department. You are the best staff any department could ever have and I thank you for always being willing to step up to the plate to get the job done. So as for my final weekly report, I am Rhonda Owens, County Government Information Officer, IT Director for Rutherford County.”

Library

Library Director:

The Director met with members of the Library Society to discuss plans for expanding the membership of the Society. There was discussion about movie showings at the library during the summer for the public with the Society providing light refreshments to Library Society members free and at a nominal fee to non-members. On Tuesday, the Director attended the quarterly Library Board of Trustees meeting. She also attended the RC Department of Social Services adoption/foster program hosted at the library. Don’t forget to check out the new library website at www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org . The new site has something for everyone—all at your fingertips on a mobile-friendly site!

Circulation Manager:

On Monday, April 27th, Stephanie Long attended a full-day workshop presented by the State Library of North Carolina at the Pack Memorial Library in Asheville. The morning session was called Holistic Librarianship: Reinventing the Reference Desk for a Go-anywhere World. The afternoon session was entitled Walking the Talk: Creating an Embedded Library Service Action Plan. Both sessions were presented by Toby Greenwalt, who is the Director of Digital Strategy & Technology Implementation at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Participants were provided with an overview of current and emerging trends in library service and discussed ways to enhance staff communication, community outreach, and technological confidence.

Youth Services Librarian:

The Story Time theme this week was “fruits and vegetables,” with next week learning about food nutrition. Outreach was at both Spindale and Forest City-Dunbar Elementary. Super Science Saturday was a big success on the 25th with over 50 in attendance to watch things blow up through the power of chemistry. On Tuesday, the Youth Services Librarian led a group of 40 homeschoolers on a tour of the Library, teaching them not only how to find different items, but also how to use the computer to search for books. Along with her other duties, she prepared for and attended the Rutherford County Library Society meeting to request funding for Summer Reading Program incentives.

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Library celebrated Earth Day with an afterschool children’s program based on the Dr. Seuss classic, *The Lorax*. Children planted a dogwood tree in front of the library and took a sunflower seedling home to grow as well (**pictured to right**). Joy Sharp began doing inventory on the county collection at Mountains. She also began planning volunteer training sessions. Angie Turner attended a webinar on Crime Fiction for Mystery Month.



Public Works and Planning

The County Garage completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with a number of N.C. vehicle safety inspections. The garage supervisor and mechanics work very hard to keep such a large fleet in great condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy completing numerous TrackIt work orders, preventative maintenance and groundskeeping. Thanks to all the maintenance staff for their hard work. Planning and Projects has been involved in multiple meetings, site inspections and paperwork regarding the following:

- Capital Facilities Planning and Performance

- Rail Trail improvements

- Comprehensive Transportation Planning meeting

- Meeting with the State's energy office in reviewing the draft RFP

Meanwhile, we continue working with the architect and general contractors for the Southeastern EMS and Library on contracts and details.

Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 35.00
Real Estate	32,747.00
Marriages	1,440.00
Vital statistics	3,800.00
Total	\$36,582.00

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department just started working on 5312 August motor vehicle renewals and handled 45 VTS assists. The office answered 645 phone calls and assisted 294 customers. We completed 1 plat review, 12 prepermits and answered 5 Data Requests. Appraisers completed a total of 178 building permits and 258 field reviews. Land record transfers consisted of 36 straits, 4 estates, 1 combination, 4 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created five new maps. The GIS website had 183,190 hits and 130,951 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 1 new address and updated 10 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers installed nine new roads signs and completed maintenance on two road signs. Six B&R appeals were received and eight informal notices were mailed back out. The PUV program mailed four letters, and assisted eight program members. Staff processed six exclusions/deferments. We had eight refunds and four discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 17 by credit card, 82 by website and 13 over the phone. Collection action consisted of three attachments and three newspaper items. Staff completed 18 gross receipts/occupancy



taxes, 10 payment plans, processed 227 items mailed in and 20 bankruptcy issues. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 296 tax payments. Nineteen new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

The Board of Equalization and Review met this week (**pictured to left**).

Senior Center

The seniors enjoyed “Use It or Lose It” on Tuesday. This is an activity about improving your memory and keeping brain cells active. We encourage our seniors to increase their mental sharpness by continually learning new things. Learning encourages the growth of brain cells. We also encourage seniors to engage in thinking games, as well as learning new skills and hobbies, to continually keep the brain functioning and alert. Studies show that the brain requires a consistent workout to stay sharp just like the body does to stay strong. The seniors also played a couple of fun games this week: “What Is In Your Pocket or Pocketbook” and “Chair Volleyball”. The Senior Games Closing Gala/Athletic Awards Ceremony will be on Friday at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate and recognize the seniors who participated in the games for their dedication and commitment to a healthy active lifestyle.

Social Services

PINWHEELS: A WAY TO LOOK AT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION Pinwheel Garden to Recognize Efforts to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Spindale, NC - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Rutherford County Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Rutherford County Clerk of Court's Office, will join thousands of communities throughout North Carolina and the nation in bringing attention to child abuse prevention with a pinwheel garden at the Rutherford County Courthouse. The garden was originally planned for the month of April to coincide with Child Abuse Prevention Month. However, due to a dock workers strike at the port of Los Angeles, the materials for the pinwheel garden are being held in customs and not expected to be released until mid May. Along with many other communities across the nation, the pinwheel garden will be planted later in the year, hopefully by the end of May. "We want to make the best of this situation. Even though there is a delay in planting the garden, this deferral can help the general public understand the role we all play in prevention every day of the year, and the great prevention work going on year round...not just in April," states Social Services Director, John Carroll.



The blue and silver pinwheel is the symbol of child abuse prevention, representing community efforts to provide children with the safe, stable, nurturing relationships needed for healthy development. Plans are being made for pre-school children from local child care centers to assist in planting the garden to represent the successful future to which they look forward.

The month of April is a good opportunity for all Rutherford County citizens to learn more about the short and long term effects of child abuse and neglect on the child and on the community. Many community agencies, along with local and national media, will be providing educational information. The planting of the pinwheel garden later in the year will be another opportunity to give attention to the issue of child abuse.

All Rutherford County Citizens are encouraged to watch for further information about this upcoming event and make plans to attend. Anyone that has questions or wishing additional information regarding this event may contact the Department of Social Services at 287-6165.



Soil & Water

Admin/Education Specialist worked on:

- An Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant final report
- 2016 Strategy Plan report
- Reviewed the District and Watershed 2015-2016 Budget requests
- Worked on District Minutes and Meeting Notices
- Completed the Monthly Safety Inspection Checklist.

Ag Cost Share Technician:

- Met with landowners for planning
- Worked with the Planning Department, Building Inspections and County Manager on Emergency Action Plan (EAP) planning
- Attended a Soil Health Workshop in Newton.

Solid Waste

Customers served 379

Convenience center loads hauled 59

Loads shipped to Lenoir 35

Loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 45

The staff has been busy closing out grants and reviewing the grants for next budget year. Also, staff has started to compile a new MSDS system since the forms changed to SDS. The staff is working on identifying job hazards for each job performed at the landfill. The shop employees continue to service and perform preventative maintenance on the equipment. Work continues to be performed at the airport. Other employees continue to perform everyday job duties. We had a soil and erosion inspection recently and we are in the process of fixing a few minor issues dealing with silt ponds and ditches. The ERPC meeting took place this week. Staff updated members of the committee on the Tennessee trip and commingled recycling. We want to congratulate John and Rachel Bland on the birth of their new daughter, pictured in last week's report. The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 11

Closed cases 4

Pictures taken yes

Citations written 0

Cameras installed 1

State contacted for cleanup 2

Community service workers 5

Community service reports 1

Please continue to recycle!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS parking lot is set to be repaved this Saturday which will greatly improve ambulance access and employee parking. Director also worked on a report for the Commissioners Meeting on May 4th. Staff met with Rutherford Regional Medical Center on Wednesday to discuss non emergency transports to and from the hospital and requirements that are needed to file insurance.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	184	168
Convalescent Calls	48	47

Transit Department:

Transit submitted 3rd quarter reimbursements to NCDOT and also completed a desk audit. A new LTV arrived this week, paid for through NCDOT funds. On Tuesday, Chatham County Transit came to visit and assess our software and tablets in all vehicles as they are considering purchasing the same equipment. Friday is the monthly Safety Meeting which extensive training will be given on ADA requirements, defensive driving and other key areas as required by NCDOT.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,756	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,148	881
# of Out of County Trips	70	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	234	238
Total Revenue	\$14,427	\$14,549

County Commissioners

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

Steve Garrison, County Manager
Carl Classen, Interim 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.

MAYFEST CUPCAKE BOOTH
Celebrating with a family friendly street festival!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2015
 Time: Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 Place: Downtown Rutherfordton



WHOOOO loves Baseball? We DO!

We think the best way to enjoy the first game of the season is to come out and enjoy it with a giving heart!
 Purchase your tickets for \$8 and know that part of that will help in the fight to end cancer.

Opening game is May 26, 2015

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

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*