



November 21, 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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The Airport sold 2,902.0 gallons of Jet A to 16 aircraft and 968.3 gallons to 31 aircraft last week.

PHOTOS:

Forest Service Huey helicopters using our airport for staging and refueling last week while fighting the fires in Chimney Rock.



Board of Elections

Even though Election Day has passed, the work level for our staff has not lessened.

On Monday, we had a Board meeting to review absentee ballots, and then a Sample Count of two precincts that verified that the machines counted all votes correctly.

Later that afternoon, the Board held a hearing for an Election Protest regarding the residency of a candidate. Staff is busy researching 446 provisional ballots to determine if they can be counted prior to our Canvass meeting on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

County Manager and Commissioners

Listed are several events, meetings, and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved with the following individuals, departments and businesses:

- Assessing Fire - Lake Lure area
- Website meeting with IT
- Projects and Planning
- Economic Development Commission
- Social Services Department
- Airport Director
- IPDC Board
- Sheriff and CPC
- Senior Center Department Head
- County Attorney
- Transit Director
- Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan Meeting
- Airport Authority Board
- County-ICC Construction update
- Mayor/Manager Quarterly Meeting
- NC State IT Analyst



Mayors and Managers, along with other county leaders, met on Thursday for the quarterly meeting hosted by the town of Spindale. A special thanks to Town Manager Scott Webber, Mayor Mickey Bland, and staff for a superb job organizing and hosting the meeting.

Other activities and events included Chimney Rock Town Council meeting, continued concern and briefings regarding the growing wildfires in the county, meetings with citizens, numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.



PHOTOS on pages 2-4

Governor McCrory held press conferences on Friday and Monday regarding the fire in the Lake Lure area.



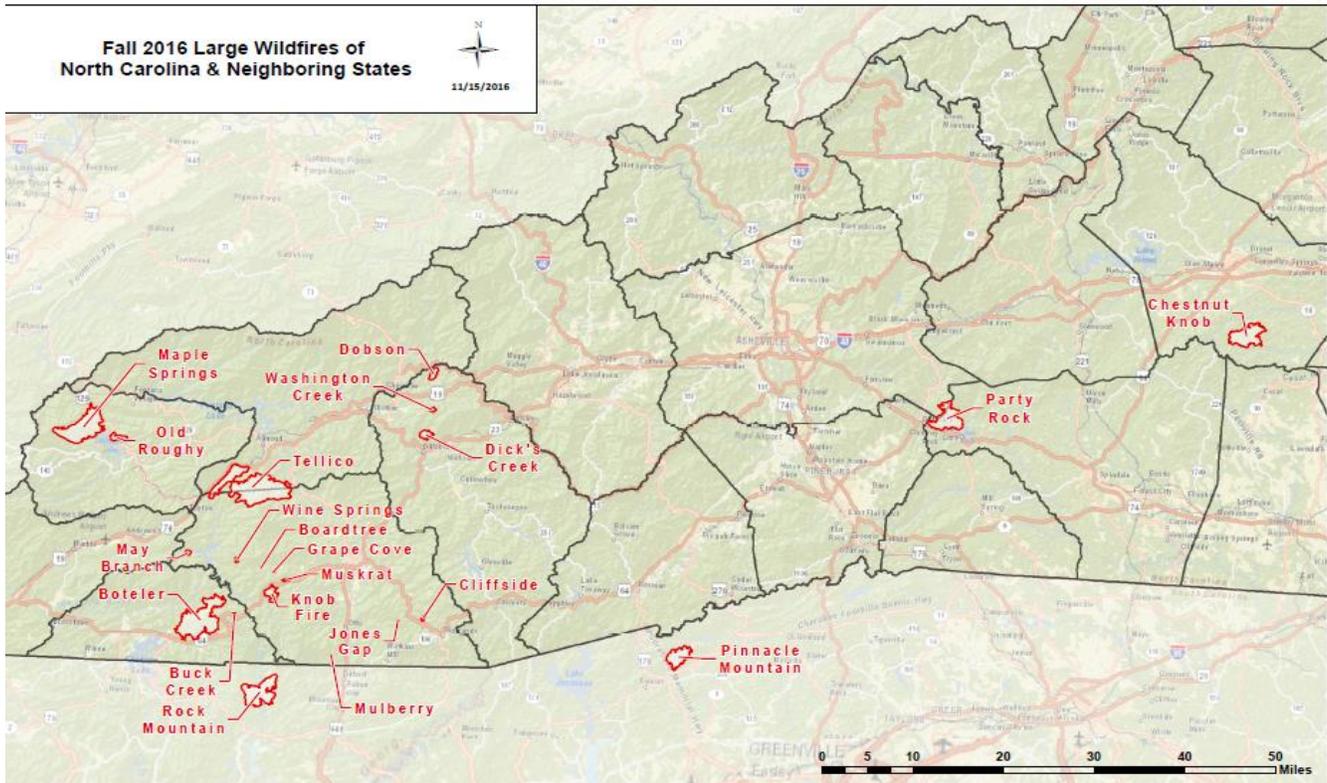
Firefighters Continue Burnout Operations Overnight

The Party Rock Fire grew to 5,714 acres, but remained at 19 percent containment. Firefighters continue to secure containment lines and conduct burnout operations on the Party Rock Fire in advance of a strong cold weather front that will move through the area this weekend. Burnout operations were completed on the northern containment line along Rolling Ridge Road in Gray Rock. A helicopter capable of delivering large water drops supported the operation to ensure the burnout did not cross containment lines. The dozer containment line installed on the easternmost side was used to support burnout operations that occurred overnight. The northern half of the eastern containment line was successfully burned out, and today's operations will continue.

Farther to the south, hand lines are being established and improved between the active fire perimeter and the communities of Rumbling Bald Resort. Farther to the north of the Gray Rock containment line, residents in the neighborhoods of Camp Elliot, Ditney Knob, Sally Gap, Three Creeks and Earth Haven will see more smoke as burnout operations continue. The established containment is in place to protect these communities; however, residents located to the north of the fire should monitor information about the fire during the forecasted wind event.

A stretch of Highway 74-A leading into Chimney Rock Village from the north and south remains closed. Highway 9 was closed yesterday from the intersection at Highway 74-A in Bat Cave north to Shumont Road. Road information can be accessed on the NCDOT Travel Information Management System website at <https://tims.ncdot.gov/tims/regionsummary.aspx>.

Rock Fire information can be found on INCIWEB (<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>) or on the Town of Lake Lure website (<http://www.townoflakelure.com/>).



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department conducted two industrial site visits and held numerous meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy conducting research regarding public-private partnerships, following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, and communicating with the Department of Commerce and industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests. This week's schedule also included participating in the monthly EDC Board Meeting. **Pictured on page 6:** Ad in North Carolina 2017 Economic Development Guide, page 79.

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable and payroll. Director Paula Roach attended several inter-departmental meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Firefighters from surrounding counties have joined to fight the wild-fires. Across the state, there are 1,600 firefighters fighting wild-fires that have burned over 46,000 acres.

The Party Rock Fire has been referred to as the most dangerous in the NC mountains and has burned over 5,700 acres and is roughly 19 percent contained.



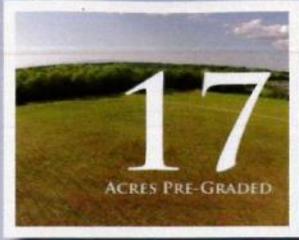
NC firefighters
deployed air tankers.



Continue to keep our firefighters, law enforcement, county and city leaders, and volunteers in your thoughts and prayers.

Go to <http://rutherfordcountync.gov/fileUploads/files/Fire%20Donations.pdf> to see list of donations needed and drop-off locations.

GATEWAY WEST COMMERCE PARK

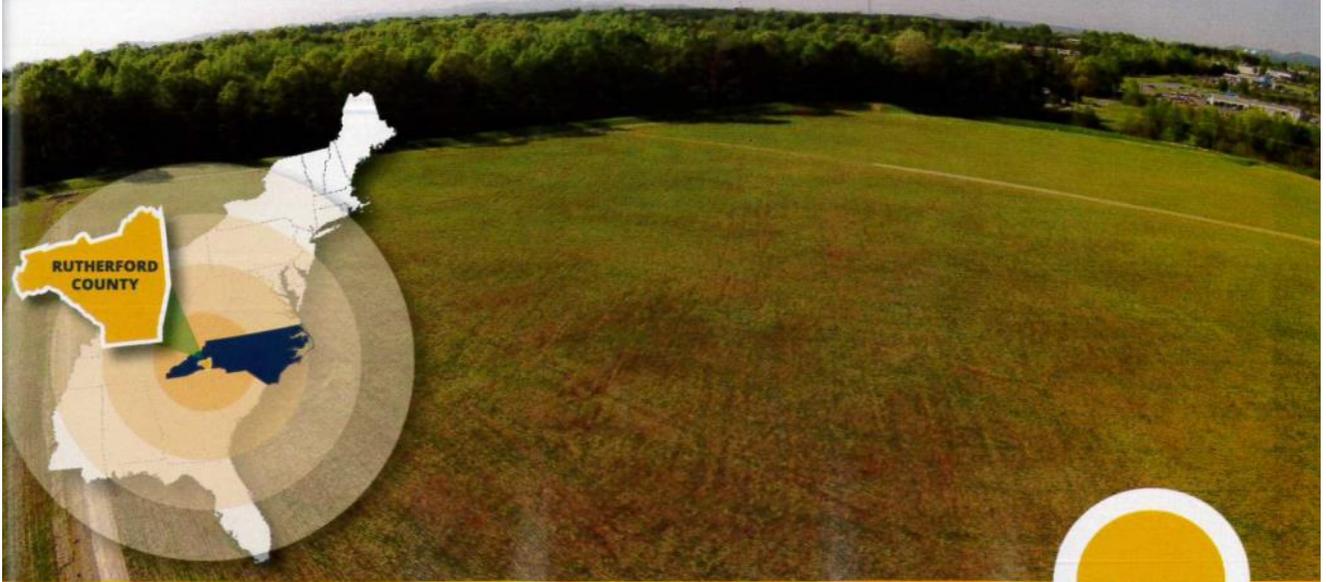


AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT

90 ACRES

COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY

Gateway West Commerce Park is centrally located along the eastern seaboard of the United States between 8 major metropolitan areas, 4 interstate corridors, 2 international airports, and 1 regional airport. Comprised of a pre-graded site, shovel ready sites, and adjacent commercial parcels, this property can be subdivided to meet project needs. For more information call **828.287.6200** or visit www.gatewaywestcommercepark.com.



WE'VE DONE SOME OF THE DIRTY
WORK SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO...



north carolina's
RUTHERFORD
COUNTY

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirement. This is a very busy time for the HR Department. Staff is currently working on:

- open enrollment for SHP
- open enrollment for Colonial
- payroll
- longevity
- tenure reception
- ACA reporting
- personnel policy updates
- Pay and Class study
- performance evaluations

Meetings with Becky Veazy of the MAPS Group began November 1, 2016. Thank you for assisting Becky and her staff during this process. HR staff attended a seminar hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on the FLSA changes. Performance evaluation forms have been distributed to department heads. The HR Department wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Information Technology

Traffic Summary - BarracudaSF.rutherfordcountync.gov [172.16.10.29]

From 2016-11-07 00:00:00
To 2016-11-13 23:59:00

Inbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Bad Recipient	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Allowed: Tagged	Allowed	Total Received
2016-11-07	184	118	891	52	49	8	3267	4569
2016-11-08	436	105	829	47	77	5	3437	4936
2016-11-09	753	146	997	47	72	4	4542	6561
2016-11-10	217	180	821	80	79	6	3856	5239
2016-11-11	132	137	1086	90	30	5	2505	3985
2016-11-12	46	81	749	26	11	1	1077	1991
2016-11-13	0	61	618	27	12	4	1091	1813
Total	1768	628	5991	369	330	33	19775	29094

Outbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Policy	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Sent	Encrypted	Redirected	Authentication Failure	Total Received
2016-11-07	38	0	7	0	0	1277	2	0	731	2055
2016-11-08	0	0	6	0	0	1185	11	0	879	2081
2016-11-09	0	0	5	0	0	1183	2	0	734	1924
2016-11-10	0	0	5	0	0	1256	5	0	711	1977
2016-11-11	10	0	5	0	0	573	0	0	706	1294
2016-11-12	11	0	7	0	0	466	0	0	685	1169
2016-11-13	9	0	4	0	0	456	0	0	486	955
Total	68	0	39	0	0	6396	20	0	4932	11455

We were deeply sorry to hear about the loss of Peter Gaulin's father. Please continue to keep the Gaulin family in your thoughts and prayers. Peter, please accept our heartfelt condolences.



Library

Kenneth Odom – Kenneth launched the 2nd Annual 3D Design and Print Contest for Teens and has added an Adult component (**see flyer on page 9**). Kenneth has also been “playing” a new game that is available to our Patrons. It is the Artemis Spaceship Bridge Simulator and is available for all our patrons. Call Kenneth for more information on the Design and Print Contest or the Bridge Simulator at 828-287-6327.

Stephanie Long – Stephanie completed and submitted order cards for patron requests, catalogued and processed two boxes of donated books to be added to the Christian Fiction collections at Haynes Branch and Rutherford County Libraries catalogued and processed several new DVD acquisitions to be added to the collection, including the most recent Doc McStuffins, Paw Patrol, and several new Barbie titles. Stephanie also worked on updating the patron database by deleting expired records and shredding corresponding registration cards.

April Young – April met with her State Library Liaison to update the State Library on Rutherford County Library activities and processed many new books this week. Come by the Library to see what we have new.

Nicole Morse – Nicole celebrated the Letter “M” and being half-way through the Alphabet Story Time by doing a popcorn craft and had a feast featuring food that starts with the letter “M.” We had Lego Club at Mountains Branch and Rutherford County Library and had approximately 12 children in attendance (**pictured right**). Nicole is continuing to play for Summer Reading Program and is very excited about the big things she has planned!! Call Nicole at 828-287-6116 for more information on any children’s program.



Maria Davis – Maria is working to plan new adult programs. Maria will be doing a Cranberry Cheesecake Fluff demonstration on November 22 at 4:30. Be prepared to learn how to make this and to taste our delicious creation. Maria has also been working with a local high school senior on her Senior Project about libraries and their usefulness. Please call Maria if you have any questions about any adult programming at 828-287-6118.

Joy Sharp – Mountains Branch Library has been busy assisting with donations for firefighters battling the Lake Lure Party Rock Wildfire (**pictured below**).



They are a drop off location for donations. “Natives in November” was our November “Nature to Art” Program. We learned a lot about Cherokee culture and a few Cherokee words. We talked about how important corn was to them, and saw several varieties of corn. The children also made three Cherokee crafts. Joy has been taking an online course in library management.

Library continued from page 8

2nd Annual 3-D Design and Print Contest! It's here and bigger and better than ever! TWO categories...one for Teens aged 13-18 and one for Adults aged 18 and up. For further information, please contact Kenneth at 828-287-6327 or kenneth.odom@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Register by November 28, 2016

Register by November 28, 2016

WHAT CAN YOU DESIGN?

ADULT CONTEST
Ages 18 and Up

TEEN CONTEST
Ages 13-18

3-D
Design/Print
Contest

Rules & Deadlines Can Be Found @
www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org

****Prizes for both
Adult and Teen Contest****

Rutherford County Library / 255 Callahan Koon Rd., Spindale, NC
828-287-6327

**Rutherford County Library's
DBU Makerspace**

**NOVEMBER FAMILY MAKER
NIGHTS**

Thursday, November 3, 6 - 7:30pm

Learn to Solder

Learn how to solder electronic components and make your own light-up Makey badge.

Ages 10 to Adult, Registration Required

Thursday, November 10, 6 - 7:30pm

Ozobots

Make our Ozobots dance, spin, and light-up as they move along "race tracks" you draw with special markers.

Ages 8 to Adult, Registration Required

Thursday, November 17, 6 - 7:30pm

Tabletop Loom

Come try your hand on our tabletop loom. Remember, you can schedule time to use our loom to make your own textile masterpiece!

Ages 8 to Adult, Drop-Ins Welcome

Public Works and Planning

The garage completed multiple preventative maintenance service calls, repairs, tire service calls and other repairs to the County's motor vehicle fleet. Maintenance has had a productive week in conducting repairs and preventative maintenance to the County's facilities.

Meanwhile, planning and projects has prepared for the Planning Board meeting. The Director and Project Manager have also been involved in multiple meetings including a projects update report, Rail Trail meeting along with multiple site inspections for solar, watershed protection and community project grants. We plan to conduct inspections of the Queens Gap and Greyrock developments over the next week.

Revenue Department

- Linda Greene and Shannon Bradley, along with several others from the county, have attended the Effective Supervisor Management class in Gastonia.
- Katie Doherty will be in Greensboro at the NCAAO conference this week in class working on her IAAO-601 certification. Also, a special thanks to Katie for all the valuable map information on the Party Rock Fire. The Fire Marshal, Roger Hollifield, and the Forestry Service have found those very beneficial.
- Please keep all those involved with the Party Rock Fire in your thoughts and prayers. We are thankful there have been no injuries or structures involved so far. If you see one of our Emergency Personnel out in the community, please tell them thank you for the work they are doing.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	317
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	111
Deeds Recorded	36
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	12
Total Taxes Collected	\$392,634.17

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted the monthly blood pressure clinic on Monday. Representatives from White Oak of Rutherfordton conducted the Senior Center's monthly blood pressure checks. Thirty-three clients took advantage of this service. A group of our seniors enjoyed a trip to the Southern Christmas Show on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Senior Center provided a men's only trip to tour Parton Lumber Company and then traveled to Marion for lunch at Boxcar Grill. Andrew Tisdale with Edward Jones spoke on Thursday about frauds and scams to senior adults. Lastly, on Thursday and Friday we provided the seniors an opportunity to share what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving season.

Upcoming:

Zumba November 21, 6:00 p.m.

The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period is October 15 through December 7, and SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, can help Medicare beneficiaries compare plans. The Senior Center has SHIIP counselors that are available to help. Call for an appointment to talk with our trained SHIIP counselors. The main number is 287-6409.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- taught 4 Enviroscope lessons.
- worked on Farm City Poster winner requisition and award certificates.
- worked on Farmland Ordinance updates.
- worked on OELC Grant paperwork.
- worked on District Meeting minutes and Notices.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week working on conservation planning.

Solid Waste

Customers served 414

Loads hauled from convenience centers 60

MSW loads shipped to Lenoir 36

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3

Tire customers 12

The director attended the management training class in Gastonia. This week long class was through the North Carolina School of Government. The office staff has been busy serving customers while performing payroll. The transfer station staff has been busy processing all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy processing the tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy servicing and repairing equipment. The airport staff continues to bush hog and perform other duties at the airport.

Please continue to recycle!!



**Rutherford County
Department of Social Services
Foster Care Christmas
Sponsorship**

We all know that Christmas is a special time for children. It's a time of magic and dreams coming true. Sadly, that won't be the case for the over 100 Rutherford County children currently in foster care. They will spend this Christmas away from their homes and families.

You can make the Christmas season brighter for the neglected and abused children we serve by sponsoring a foster child this year.

You, your business, church or civic group can provide gifts for one or more of the deserving children in our care.

Don't like to shop? That's not a problem, simply make a monetary donation and we will shop for you!

For more information contact Sarah Miller by phone at 828-287-6273 or by e-mail at sarah.miller@rutherfordcountync.gov.

With your help, we can make Christmas dreams come true for children right here in our community!



289 N. Main Street • Rutherfordton, NC 28139 • 828.287.6060 (p) 828.287.6262 (f) • www.rutherfordcountync.gov

MEDIA RELEASE
NOVEMBER 17, 2016



Public Information Contact

John Carroll
(828) 287-6368
John.carroll@rutherfordcountync.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Energy Assistance Program to Begin December 1

The Rutherford County Department of Social Services will begin administering the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) on December 1, 2016. This is a federally funded, income based, program that offers one-time assistance to individuals and families with heating costs. From December 1 through December 31, funds are available for adults aged 60 and older and/or adults receiving services administered by the State Division of Aging and Adult Services. Beginning January 3, 2017 through March 31, 2017, LIEAP funds are available for all persons who meet income guidelines. All benefits are paid directly to the applicant's heating vendor.

Energy Assistance Applications are available at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services, 389 Fairground Road, Spindale, N.C., beginning December 1, 2016.

To obtain an application:

- Call DSS at 287-6368 between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on or after December 1 to request that an application be mailed to you. Return by mail or in person.
- Pick up an application at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services on or after December 1. Return by mail or in person.
- Apply in person at the Rutherford County Department of Social Services on or after December 1 between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

To avoid wait times, consumers are encouraged to request by mail or pick up applications and return them by mail or in person to the agency. Those who do this will be contacted by an agency representative to complete the process. For those returning applications, it is imperative that accurate contact information be included.

Please call 287-6368 for more information or to request an application be mailed to you.

Tourism Development Authority

Visit our website for a full list of events and times at: TIMEOFYOURLIFENC.COM or call our Welcome Center at 828.287.6113. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact Taylor Hardin, Administrative Assistant for the TDA at 828-287-6013 or by email at taylor.hardin@rutherfordcountync.gov

If you need to pick up travel guides for your business or you would like to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please contact Project Manager, Karen Tegen at 828-287-6130 or by email at karen.tegen@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Service:

EMS has been providing medical coverage at the Party Rock Fire all week. We have had two to three paramedics on site along with an ambulance and quick response vehicle. We are also using Medic 20 which is located out of our Lake Lure EMS station next to the Mountains Branch Library. A special thank you to the Hickory Nut Gorge EMS and Rescue for the tremendous assistance they have provided onsite for the Emergency Response Team.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK
Emergency Calls	185
Non-Emergency Calls	33

Transit:

Transit is excited and proud of our drivers for reaching and passing our current safe driving goal of 250,000 miles with no incidents or accidents of any nature. This equates to over six months of driving. We will continue to strive for our next goal of 500,000 miles of safe driving. Transit has worked with Emergency Managements Services Director Roger Hollifield daily providing drivers and vehicles for transportation needs that have arisen for evacuation of residents to shelters and for Fireman arriving to assist fighting the wildfires and needing transportation to the staging area to check-in. We will continue to provide these services at the his discretion and request during this very serious situation and until fire is under control and we are not needed. Transit is very proud of our employees that put their personal plans on hold this past weekend and immediately stepped up to offer their time to help in any way they may be needed. Transit held our quarterly TAB Advisory Board meeting. Our new mobility specialist, Jennifer Baptiste, conducted her first site visit with us to discuss our Success Plan along with other items and to get to know us as a Transit system. She also attended our TAB meeting to introduce herself to our TAB Board. Transit Director completed our enrollment into NC-Tracks which is required as we continue to move closer to direct billing for Medicaid Transportation.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	7,589	9,613
# of Local Trips	983	1,155
# of Out of County Trips	44	58
# Unduplicated Passengers	226	238
Total Revenue	\$14,499	\$18,137

Veteran Services

Mail In	84
Mail Out	29
Fax	150
Phone Calls In/Out	55
Veteran Contacts	118





County News

ROC Thermal Belt Rail Trail Clean-up

**Saturday, November 19, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Friends and families, please join ROC in
keeping our community beautiful!

We will need many volunteers to cover the entire trail from Gilkey to Spindale. Volunteers will meet at the left side parking lot of the McDonald's in Spindale at 10 a.m., divided into groups, and assigned a one-mile section of trail. We are hoping for enough volunteers to accomplish clean up on the entire eight miles of trail and wrap up around 1 p.m.

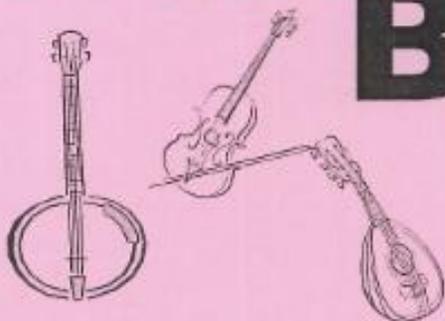
ROC will supply trash bags, gloves and a few pairs of grabbers. Volunteers will leave their trash bags at designated locations, and bags will be picked up by a ROC representative.

This is a great opportunity for the people in the community to come together and help keep our trail looking great so it can continue to be enjoyed by all.

**For more information, email Hallie Zeedik
at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828)
625-9983 ext. 505.**

25th
Annual

Fiddlers' & Ellenboro Bluegrass



Convention

Ellenboro School Gymnasium
813 Piney Mountain Church Road
Ellenboro, NC 28040

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016
6:30 p.m.

CDs may be offered for sale.

Fiddlers' Convention Admission
\$10.00

Children under 10—Free

**Soft drinks, coffee &
snacks available for
purchase beginning at 5:30
p.m.**

**Proceeds benefit Ellenboro
Elementary School.**

\$400 1st Place Band

\$200 2nd Place Band

\$100 3rd Place Band

\$40 1st Place each instrument & vocal

\$20 2nd Place each instrument & vocal

\$15 3rd Place each instrument & vocal

Trophies Awarded

BEST BAND, BEST BANJO,

BEST FIDDLE, BEST MANDOLIN,

BEST GUITAR, BEST BASS,

BEST DOBRO, BEST VOCALIST

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BAND

**NO ELECTRIC INSTRUMENTS
FOR INFORMATION CALL:**

828/453-7457

828/657-5212



Performers
Register on arrival

Rutherfordton

Christmas

December
3rd



1-2:30

Santa and Mrs. Claus

Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus in Main Street Park, enjoy some holiday games, hot chocolate and cookies while you wait for the parade to start!

2-4:00

Live Window Displays

Watch as the downtown shop windows come to life with real holiday characters. Find Santa's Toy Shop and you might just walk away with a toy of your own!

5:00

Christmas Parade

Firetrucks, floats, dance teams and of course Santa will be bringing holiday cheer as they travel down Main Street for the annual Christmas Parade!

6:00

Tree Lighting

Watch in wonder as we light the tallest Christmas Tree in North Carolina for the first time in over 10 years! O'H Jazz will be on the courthouse lawn playing your favorite holiday tunes after the ceremony.

LIVE
O'H JAZZ





Forest City Christmas Lights

November 24, 2016-January 2, 2017

For the ultimate festive small town experience to get you in the holiday spirit, drive and stroll down Main Street decked out with a million lights for Hometown Holidays in our top "Christmas Town". Wrapped around the live oak trees and hanging overhead, the displays center around the town fountain. The tradition dates back to 1930 when the town hung its first set of lights on two trees. Bundle up with a cup of hot chocolate and hop on a carriage or hayride (offered on weekends) through the magical display of holiday lights. There is no admission charge!

Thanksgiving, November 24, 2016

Join the kick-off celebration from 6-9 PM with the annual lighting ceremony. Enjoy favorite Christmas songs by the Foothills Community Choir. Stroll down Main Street to Santa's House for complimentary hot chocolate and cookies and visit the ice-skating rink.

Sunday, November 27

Starting at 3 PM, watch the much-anticipated annual Christmas parade on Main Street

Fridays: December 2, 9, 16

Visit Santa's House (6-8:30 PM), go ice skating (6 PM until) and take a hayride (6-9 PM) through the lights. Live music too.

Saturdays: December 3, 10, 17

Visit Santa's House (5-8:30 PM), go ice skating (5 PM until) and take a horse drawn Carriage Ride (6-8:30 PM). Live music.

Sundays: December 4, 11 & 18

Take your pets to Santa Paws for photos with Santa, 2-6 PM



DONATE NOW
and help
TOYS FOR TOTS
deliver toys to
children in need.

Support your local Toys for Tots campaign by contributing a toy and help fill the box located at the **Rutherford County Administration Office Building, 289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton.**

Bring a smile to a disadvantaged child!

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
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