



November 7, 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](#)

Get ready to 'fall back' this weekend,
Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6th



Veterans Day

Veterans Day, November 11th, is a public holiday that is dedicated to honoring anyone who has served in the United States military, and was declared a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday became Veterans Day in 1954.

Today, many Americans observe the day by attending ceremonies and parades that are dedicated to honoring the troops for their service. These often allow veterans to speak about their time in the service and give Americans the opportunity to personally thank veterans for their sacrifice.

A very special 'thank you' to our Veterans and families for your commitment, dedication and sacrifice.



Airport

The Airport sold 656.7 gallons of 100LL to 29 aircraft last week. No Jet A fuel was sold due to our Jet A fuel truck out for maintenance.



Director Patterson did mentioned that the **photo to the right** expresses his feelings over the past few weeks due to fuel truck issues, etc.



Board of Elections

Early Voting continued this week and we are voting an average of over 1300 voters per day. Through close of voting on Tuesday, we have processed 284 Same Day Registrants and 931 changes of information.

Tuesday, November 1st was the last day to request an absentee ballot by mail with the exception of military, overseas voters and those who have a late medical request.

As of Tuesday, 13,890 people have already voted in Rutherford County.

Cooperative Extension

Cynthia Robbins, Tracy Davis, Jeff Bradley, Hannah Bundy, Carol Horne and others helped coordinate and transform the Shiloh Gym into a walk-through exhibit of the human body called SPEEDWAY TO HEALTHY this week. Each tent represented an organ of the body.



We started off walking through the “BRAIN”, and volunteers narrated the function of that organ, and continued through each tent learning about the kidneys, skin, bones, mouth, heart, etc. As the children arrived, they became a ‘piece of food’ and learned how food travels through the body and how it effects the organs. Nutrition and health-related games were also enjoyed by all.

A special thank you to the Agriculture/Coop Extension staff and volunteers for the phenomenal job they are doing and the opportunities they provide for our schools and county. **More photos on page 4.**





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:

- Projects and Planning
- Library
- Senior Center
- Economic Development Commission
- Speedway to Health Exhibit
- Community Health Council
- Individual Commissioner's Agenda Review
- County Attorney
- Public Officials regarding Highway Project
- JMHCP (Justice and Mental Health Collaboration)
- Department of Human and Health Services
- JCPC (Juvenile Crime Prevention Council)
- Equestrian Trail Coalition
- Keystone Webinar
- Pay and Class Study
- Farm City Event

Other activities and events included Rutherfordton and Ellenboro Town Council, Board of Education meeting, Early Voting, meetings with citizens, numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

PHOTO

**A simple, smiling jack-o'-lantern is a traditional element of Halloween decor.
It seems the 'jacks' in the photo below are a bit untraditional!**



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department held numerous meetings to further address the possibility of transforming into a public-private partnership, and attended various other meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, communicating with the Department of Commerce and industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests, and working to increase our social media presence. It may be fall, but our [advertisement](#) in the Summer 2016 issue of Southern Business & Development Magazine is available for viewing!

Finance Department

The Finance Office processed accounts payable. Director Paula Roach attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Happy Birthday to Jeanette Bosgra celebrating 29+ years!



Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- responded to two missing person searches.
- attended annual emergency management conference and training.
- fire prevention education continued in the schools.

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
- the pay and class study.

Meetings with Becky Veazy of the MAPS Group began November 1, 2016. Thank you for assisting Becky and her staff during this process. The Director also attended a KeyNet webinar, attended a JCPC meeting, and assisted employees in selecting their tenure awards.

Information Technology

Traffic Summary - BarracudaSF.rutherfordcountync.gov [172.16.10.29]

From 2016-10-24 00:00:00

To 2016-10-30 23:59:00

Inbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Bad Recipient	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Allowed: Tagged	Allowed	Total Received
2016-10-24	194	185	891	23	69	14	4019	5395
2016-10-25	0	208	935	16	67	10	4715	5951
2016-10-26	5101	153	886	27	54	11	3559	9791
2016-10-27	262	160	862	60	57	15	4166	5582
2016-10-28	0	114	727	22	67	4	2808	3742
2016-10-29	0	52	538	0	8	0	789	1387
2016-10-30	0	76	603	2	21	0	1341	2043
Total	5557	948	5442	150	343	54	21397	33891

Outbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Policy	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Sent	Encrypted	Redirected	Authentication Failure	Total Received
2016-10-24	40	0	61	0	0	1109	6	0	383	1599
2016-10-25	4	0	31	0	0	1290	4	0	207	1536
2016-10-26	0	0	3	0	0	976	6	0	288	1273
2016-10-27	0	0	31	0	0	949	3	0	1113	2096
2016-10-28	246	0	31	0	0	1743	3	0	980	3003
2016-10-29	9	0	0	0	0	1703	0	0	107	1819
2016-10-30	16	0	1	0	0	658	0	0	1073	1748
Total	315	0	158	0	0	8428	22	0	4151	13074

PHOTO: SysAid is working very well, even when it is not technology issues. Kim Aldridge was at her desk (front doors open due to Early Voting) when she thought she saw a huge rat go by her office door. Thanks to Wendy and Mel for rescuing her from this ‘humongous creature’.

Incident #3,878 has been changed to Closed

Title: Critter Control

Description: Cute Chipmunk in the lobby.

Category: Other

Sub Category: Request

Assigned To: Mel Gherardini

Urgency: Normal

Status: Closed

Please fill out this Survey: [Fill survey](#)



Library



Kenneth Odom – Kenneth and Nicole hosted Frankentoy last week in the Makerspace. Kenneth hosted “Learn to Solder” on Thursday. Kenneth has also worked on multiple computer issues this week as well as signing up East High Students for library cards. **PHOTO left:** Looks like the Library may have had a ‘Mad Tea Party’ with Kenneth Odom, Technology Resources Librarian, dressed as the Mad Hatter on Monday.

Joy Sharp - Mountains Branch Library officially kicked off Fall with its well-attended, 3rd Annual Friends of the Library Chili



Cook-Off & Bake Sale. Nine chili chefs competed in the cook-off and **displayed to the right** is the taste test platter! Branch Manager, Joy Sharp, attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Fargo, ND, which generated lots of new plans and ideas for our library. Joy received a registration scholarship to attend the conference from TEI & Landmark Audio Books. Joy also met with the Friends of the Library to discuss their annual meeting and other upcoming events. She compiled monthly reports and worked on promotions for our November programming.

Maria Davis – Maria attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Fargo, ND as well and had a great time. Maria made some good contacts and got loads of new information on how to make our Library System even better! Maria is also working on programming for the rest of the year which will include speakers, crafts, and hopefully, some sort of cooking demonstration. Be on the lookout for good things coming!

April Young – April ordered new books and movies for our collection. She went to a presentation about the Pay Study. April completed the pay study interview Friday. April also filled up all the Little Libraries in the county. If you would like to know where these libraries are located, please see our website at www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org. April also has began work on our next book sale which will be December 9 – 10, 2016. April also met with a local high school senior concerning her Senior Project.

Stephanie Long – Stephanie processed new books and has spent time working on donated books. Stephanie also completed the pay study interview. Due to staff being away, Stephanie spent a great deal of time interacting with patrons on the front desk this week. Stephanie also selected books to be ordered for November.

Nicole Morse – Nicole and Kenneth hosted Frankentoy last week in the Makerspace. Nicole is hosting a Nature to Art program with Liferoots this Thursday. Nicole also held Storytime at all three libraries as well as Friday Crafternoons. Nicole travelled with Kenneth to East Rutherford High School to sign up students for library cards.

Library continued from page 8

Are you a caregiver or loved one of someone suffering from Depression and Dementia? If so, please consider joining us for a presentation that will:

- review the signs and symptoms of depression.
- address the difficulty in recognizing depression in individuals with dementia.
- explain the importance of seeking appropriate treatment.

This FREE event is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Rutherford County Library. Judy Early from Smoky Mountain LME/MCO will share her experience and knowledge with us. This is also a great time to make contact with others in our community who may be going through the same challenges as you.

Please call Maria at 828-287-6118 for more information. NO registration is required for this event.

DEPRESSION AND DEMENTIA

Sometimes Depression and Dementia go hand-in-hand. Join us as Judy Early from Smoky Mountain LME/MCO gives us information on how to recognize the symptoms and the importance of seeking treatment.

Rutherford County Library
255 Callahan Koon Rd., Spindale, NC
828-287-6115 (call for information)
November 17, 2016
6:00 p.m.

THIS PRESENTATION REVIEWS THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION, ADDRESSES THE DIFFICULTY IN RECOGNIZING DEPRESSION IN INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA AND EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING APPROPRIATE TREATMENT.

Flyer submitted by Maria Davis, Marketing/Programming Coordinator

Public Works and Planning

The garage has completed numerous automotive repairs, tire service calls, preventative maintenance repairs, along with N.C. vehicle safety inspections. Thanks to the garage supervisor and mechanics who work very hard to keep the County's vehicles in such great mechanical condition. Our Maintenance crews have been very busy as well completing numerous 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, planning board workshop and preparation for the November Commissioners' meeting.

Revenue Department

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	338
Website Hits	2,971
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	110
Deeds Recorded	47
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	29
Prepayments Collected	\$704,994.10



The Revenue Department staff, along with our County Commissioners and County Manager, would like to congratulate our director, Sherry Lavender (**photo above**), for being nominated for the 2017 Treasurer for the North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers (NCAAO).

We appreciate Sherry's willingness to represent her department, the County, and western North Carolina as an officer at the state level.

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted a Halloween Costume Parade & Contest and Halloween Bingo on Monday.

We held a “Mock Election” on Tuesday to see who the participants would chose for President. The Center also offered a ride to the polls for Early Voting on Tuesday and Wednesday morning for those in need of transportation.

The seniors enjoyed making peanut butter pumpkins on Wednesday for Peanut Butter Lovers Month.

The seniors wore purple on Thursday in recognition of Alzheimer’s Awareness Month and Denise Young from the Alzheimer’s Association did a presentation on “Effective Communication for People with Alzheimer’s”. Also we gave the seniors an opportunity to share something or someone that they are thankful for on “Thankful Thursday”.

Lastly, on Friday we had our Craft & Bake Sale from 8:30-11:15 a.m. and our Biscuit Sale from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Thanks to all who supported these sales!

Upcoming:

Zumba November 14 & 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:

- attended Pay and Class study meeting.
- taught Eighth Grade Enviroscape lessons.
- attended Farmland Board meeting.
- attended Farm City Event at Chase High School.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- met with land owners.
- developed Costs Share plans.
- teleconference with Dam Safety Engineer .
- attended pay and class study meeting.



**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!

Solid Waste

Customers served 568
Loads hauled from convenience centers 64
MSW loads shipped to Lenoir 36
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3
Tire customers 23

The director's week consisted of several meetings that included the pay class study, a state recycling meeting in Haywood county and a site meeting at the Spindale waste water treatment plant. The director also continued to work on the equipment/vehicle/capital facilities plan. The office staff has been busy serving customers while performing end of the month billing. The transfer station staff continues to process all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy processing the C&D tonnages coming in while hauling dirt for cover. Staff will start this week picking up the trash from the animal shelter until their truck situation is resolved. The shop staff has been busy performing preventative maintenance and repairing some issues on equipment. The airport staff continues to bush hog and weed eat at the airport.

Please continue to recycle!!!!!!



PHOTOS: Randy is compacting and Cory is covering. This is the C&D part of the landfill.

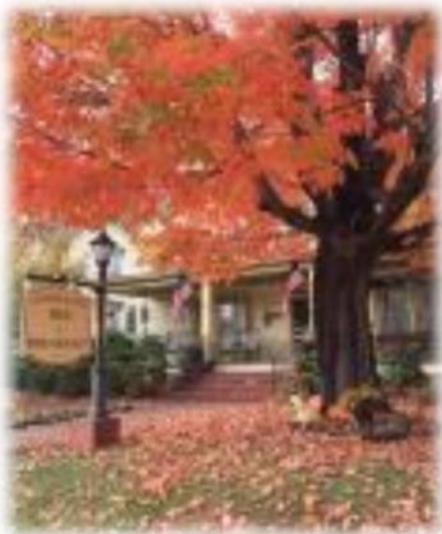
Tourism Development Authority

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.

Whether you see the fall color by way of a scenic [driving tour](#) or by wrapping your mind around a blanket of leaves along a woodland trail, we have several drives to explore.



An afternoon drive through our history-laden main streets, and scenic back roads will offer incomparable vistas, [revered history](#), local treasures and of course our authentic hospitality.

Discover historic sites, rustic barns, log cabins, and businesses that make up the vibrant fabric of our county.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS held In-Service Training this week which included numerous skills training and testing for all employees. Annual physicals also continued this past week for all full time employees. Director and Operations Manager met with the leadership teams from Rutherford Regional and Frye Hospital to discuss new cardiology services available out of Frye Hospital in Hickory. Director also attended the monthly Community Health Council meeting. The monthly random drug and alcohol test was also conducted this week. Interviews for the pay and classification study will be held at the end of the week for most EMS positions. Director has also been actively monitoring the current fuel situation with the Colonial Pipeline and its impact on diesel fuel for ambulances.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK
Emergency Calls	172
Non-Emergency Calls	23

Transit Services:

Transit Director and Operations Manager have been actively monitoring the current fuel situation with the Colonial Pipeline and preparing possible service changes if needed. Transit has already taken the step of fueling Transit vehicles at local gas stations to preserve gas at the county garage for emergency vehicles. Staff attended a meeting with MAPS Group in preparation for the pay and classification study. Interviews for the pay and classification study will be held at the end of the week for most Transit positions. Staff met with Senior Center to discuss adding additional riders to their current routes. The monthly random drug and alcohol test was also conducted this week. Staff continues to work on 2nd Quarter metrics for our NCDOT Performance Scorecard. Director and Operations Manager met with IT Director to discuss specification requirements for security cameras that will be placed in the transit parking area and also discussed Access Controlled entry for the Transit offices. Revenue continues to be strong. If you are aware of anyone needing assistance with transportation, please have them call Transit at 287-6142.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,106	9,696
# of Local Trips	1,192	1,161
# of Out of County Trips	71	58
# Unduplicated Passengers	247	239
Total Revenue	\$20,107	\$18,256

Veteran Services

The following events will be held around the county the week of Veterans Day and are open to all veterans.

- Wednesday, November 9th, Breakfast at RS Central High School from 8:30-10:00.*
- Thursday, November 10th, Veterans Program at the Rutherford County Senior Center starting at 10:30.*
- Friday, November 11th, Veteran's Day Concert featuring The Gibson Brothers at the Foundation at ICC at 7:00 pm. All veterans receive a FREE ticket.
- Saturday November 12th, Salute to Veterans Celebration at RS Middle School from 9:00-12:00. **(Flyer on page 17.)**

*Please see Susan or Beverly to sign up or call 828.287.6064.

Mail In	80
Mail Out	25
Fax	150
Phone Calls In/Out	72
Veteran Contacts	217

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Thursday, November 17th, and every third Thursday in the month from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m., a coffee social is planned for veterans.....serving up coffee, treats, conversation and a good time! Allison Gibbons from Red Cross and Dwayne Hunt from Insurance Service Associates will be our guests in November.

The event will be held at the Rutherford County Veteran Service Office, located at 303 Fairground Road, Spindale, NC, hosted by the staff and co-hosted by American Legion Women's Auxiliary. If you have a topic of interest and would like to participate, contact Beverly at 828-287-6185



Donuts provided by Davis Donuts and Food Lion of Rutherfordton and coffee by Burger King and American Legion Post 74.

JOIN US IN A
SALUTE TO VETERANS
CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016
RS MIDDLE SCHOOL
RUTHERFORDTON, NC
9:00 AM TILL NOON



Experience the Presentation of Colors (Flag Ceremony) and
The Missing Man Table Ceremony (Honoring Our POW/MIA)
Explore Military Vehicles And Displays

Support Toys For Tots. Bring a Toy.



Sponsored by the Marine Corps League
Det.# 1221

All proceeds remain in Rutherford County.



A Town of Rutherfordton Event

Flyer submitted by Beverly Wellborn, Veteran Services



County News



get the
SKINNY
on the
PENNY



On the ballot November 8th Rutherford County residents will vote on the following referendum:

Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.

FOR
Generates approximately \$1.2 million per year that will go toward the critical facility needs facing schools in Rutherford County

AGAINST
Additional funding to meet the critical facility needs facing schools in Rutherford County would be generated from other sources, including the property tax

How much is one-quarter percent (0.25%)?

Rutherford County's sales tax would increase from 6.75% to 7.0% on all purchases. However, residents and visitors will not pay it on unprepared food (groceries) or gas.

When will I begin paying the extra sales tax?

If approved, the increase would be collected beginning April 2017.

What will Rutherford County do with the approximate \$1.2 million a year?

The \$1.2 million will be spent on school facilities.

Doesn't the state provide funding for building construction?

No. School construction is a local responsibility.

Why can't we use lottery money for new schools?

The NC Education Lottery proceeds have been 22% less than originally projected and changes in the law in 2007 decreased these funds as well. Lottery funds alone will not be enough to bear the burden of school construction.

Who pays sales tax?

Everyone pays sales tax, including both Rutherford County residents and visitors. The increase in tourism to Rutherford County will allow for a larger percentage of these funds to come from visitors.

Q & A

What a 0.25%
Sales Tax Increase
Means
For **YOU**

\$4 = \$0.01
\$100 = \$0.25
\$500 = \$1.25
\$1,000 = \$2.50

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

If you have questions or concerns, email: kim.aldrige@rutherfordcountync.gov

TRYON



INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER

**Press Conference Invitation:
FEI World Equestrian Games 2018
at Tryon International Equestrian Center**

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

Friday, Nov. 4, 2016

10 a.m.

330 S. Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

[Click here to read full press release.](#)

Special Guests:

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory

Dawn Dawson-House, VP SC Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Mark Bellissimo, Managing Partner of Tryon Equestrian Partners

Bill Maroney, CEO of The United States Equestrian Federation

Sheila C. Johnson, Founder & CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts

**RSVP: Michelle Yelton at 828-980-2883 (text/call) or
michelle@mcconnellgrouppr.com**



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.





Make a child's Christmas special! 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, NC.** Thank you for helping bring a smile to a child in need!

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*

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www.rutherfordcountync.gov

Kimberly Aldridge, Weekly Report Editor
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