



November 16, 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](#)

[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](#)

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

County Extension Director:

- Coordinated the shipment of two tractor trailer loads of value-added cattle sold through the Mountain Cattle Alliance, valued at nearly \$225,000.
- Taught a Beef Quality Assurance training for 40 cattle producers from Western NC. This certification course trains beef producers in proper handling and care of their beef cattle to ensure that a safe and wholesome product enters the food chain.
- Participated in Connecting in North Carolina Reciprocal Tour in Raleigh.
- Held a Breeding Soundness workshop for beef cattle producers. This allowed producers to have their bulls tested for fertility before breeding. Two bulls tested infertile, which potentially saved these two producers \$40,000 in lost revenue in their calf crop.
- Continued to assist clients with technical advice through office visits, phone calls, emails, and farm visits.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier
- Conducted monthly radio program
- Participated in Connecting in North Carolina Reciprocal Tour in Raleigh
- Prepared for upcoming classes and programs
- Attended Extension & Community Association meeting with West District Leadership Team.
- Taught Living Healthy with Chronic Pain class at the Senior Center.
- Participated in Farm City event.
- Attended several training workshops: Local Foods webinar training, Diversity & Leadership workshop, and Summer Nutrition Program training.

Agriculture

- Networking with producers who are applying to the WNC AgOptions Program for 2016. Technical production and budget support in association with their respective projects.
- Food Safety Modernization Act (FMSA) completed (six training sessions).
- Extension Successful Gardener- (on-line quarterly newsletter) Winter 2016 article submitted.
- Preparations for EMGV Recognition Program.
- Spring Garden School Committee - programming plans for the March 2016 School.
- Officer Meeting for newly forming Rutherford County Master Volunteer Association.

Board of Elections

The Board met on Monday, November 9th, to approve the provisional ballots that could be counted and any additional absentee ballots that were returned within the deadline. A sample count was also held on Monday for two towns that verified that the voting equipment worked properly.

Canvass took place on Tuesday, November 10th, and the Board reviewed and signed off on the election. Now we have three weeks to process all the election history and changes and all registrations and changes received since October 9th before filing begins on December 1st.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager's week began with several individual Department Head meetings with Solids, Fire Marshal, and IT, and continued throughout the week with a number of interdepartmental meetings including Veterans Services, Airport, Senior Center, Planning and Projects, and County Attorney.

Manager Garrison and Chairman King attended the "Celebrating Our Veterans" concert at ICC on Tuesday evening. Gardner-Webb University and Isothermal Community College (ICC) joined together to honor the nation's past and present military service personnel with a special concert at The Foundation Performing Arts Center in Spindale (**pictured below**). *"We encourage you to join us by saying "Thank you" to our veterans*



and their families, for their patriotism and the sacrifices they have made to make this country a great place to live. Continue to remember those who are in harms' way."

The County Manager was engaged in the Winter Exercise Emergency Management class on Thursday with Fire Marshal, Roger Hollifield. Several staff members attended the Farm City Event on Friday at the Tryon Equestrian Center facilitated by Agriculture/Cooperative Extension. Manager Garrison and Commissioners were involved with additional duties, including numerous luncheons, meetings, including interoffice, various boards, and one-on-one meetings. A number of calls were addressed, as well as conference calls. Interviews were held for the Veteran Services Officer position. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department attended the “Optimizing Social Media” webinar presented by the International Economic Development Council, and participated in miscellaneous meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy preparing for the upcoming EDC Board meeting, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and finalizing website content in preparation for the upcoming launch of the redesigned EDC website. This week’s agenda also included an Economic Development Advisory Board Member speaking to Leadership Rutherford on behalf of the EDC.

Finance Department

The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal and staff:

- met with County Manager to discuss several projects.
- participated in North Carolina Emergency Management Association executive committee meeting.
- worked on final preparations for tabletop exercise scheduled for Friday, November 13th.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires Carrie McBrayer (911), Susan Taylor (DSS), India Generette (DSS), and Brandon Lammons (Detention). Employees who left the service of Rutherford County are Chuck May (EMS), Michelle Whitaker (TDA), and RaeAnn Turner (Finance). Employees who have switched to part-time status are Jake Stephenson (EMS), Justin Moore (EMS), and Mike Callahan (Detention). The HR Director along with the County Manager completed interviews for the Veterans Service Officer. The HR Director, along with TDA staff, conducted interviews for part-time personnel. The Director attended the Farm City breakfast and tour. The HR Specialist conducted the monthly new hire orientation. Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director and Veterans Service Officer. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.



HR staff would like to say thank you to all Veterans. My dad is a 20 year Army veteran and there are not enough words to express my gratitude to all the men and women who have fought and continue to fight for our great nation. *Debra Conner*

Library

Library Director

Staff at the county library has managed to maintain order with limited staffing. Several staff members have traveled to the new Haynes Library to help get it into shape for the opening. The staff that has remained at the County library continues to run all weekly programs: story time, bingo, computer classes, Makerspace specialty events, and others. All of this is in addition helping our regular patrons with books, movies, and computer issues.

Haynes Branch Library

Deb and Crystal continue to work hard to ensure the library collections are in order on opening day at the new building. They have worked tirelessly to sort and organize all the materials coming from the old library to the new library.

Mountains Branch Library

Joy and Angie sorted through donations, selecting items to add to the collection. They assisted Lake Lure Classical Academy third graders with their historical fiction project. Joy continued weeding in both Juvenile and DVD collections. The library offered Supercharged Storytimes and crafts on Shapes and Unicorns and other U Words. Angie and Joy attended a fund-raising dinner at Lakeview Restaurant to benefit the Mountains Branch Friends of the Library.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department was closed on November 11th to observe Veterans Day and back open at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday the 12th. The entire office would like to **THANK** those who have served and are now serving our county. Job well done!! We would like to say that the office has missed Linda Greene while she has been out and hope she's going to be back real soon. Feel better Linda. In other areas, the office is working on getting ready for the 2016 listing processes. Listing forms are being finalized and will be printed and mail the last week of December. Be watching, and if you don't receive one, give us a call. The data company is making final preparations to migrate the Cama information from the old computer system by the end of December. This will finish phase III of the software update. Reminder that the temperatures are going to be falling this weekend so make sure you check things that might freeze. We never know what the weathers going to bringing our way.

Customer Service	
Phone Calls	400
Info/Data Requests	137
Website Hits	164,482
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	200
Deeds Recorded	38
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	22
Total Taxes Collected	\$264,547.45

Senior Center

The “Living Healthy with a Chronic Pain” workshop continued this week on Tuesday. This 2 ½ hour class will be held weekly on Tuesday morning for six weeks. Each session is facilitated by two trained leaders who follow a detailed manual, so that each workshop is highly consistent. This workshop is appropriate for people living or caring for someone with a wide variety of chronic health conditions. This week’s topic was “Medication Usage”.

The Senior Center also hosted a week-long celebration and special recognition of our Veteran’s. On Monday, we recognized all of our veterans in the dining room before lunch. The Senior Center honored our veterans in a very special program on Tuesday. All veterans and their family members were encouraged to attend. Gentiva Home Health sponsored this event and gave each veteran a patriotic pin and certificate. Spindale Elementary Pen Pal Class, RS Central High School MCJROTC & Color Guard/Sword Detail, and Ray Poteat did special presentations. Our guest speaker was Greg McIntyre. We also had doughnuts for the Veterans and had their pictures on display all week.

On Thursday, a group of seniors went on a trip to the Southern Christmas Show and our Pen Pal group met to write in their journals to the Spindale Elementary third grade class. Finally, our square dance classes have started back on Thursday afternoons at four o’clock. You can join at any time.

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on November 16, 23, and 30

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:

- participated in an Administrative Training Webinar.
- worked on information for grant funding for Outdoor Environmental Learning Center.
- worked on for Farm City plans and attended the Farm City Celebration Breakfast and Tour at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician worked on:

- contract management and met with landowners for BMP planning.
- Watershed Emergency Action plans.
- attended the Farm City Celebration Breakfast and Tour at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.

Please Note:

The Rutherford Soil & Water and the USDA Service Center has moved to:
500 West Street, Suite 2
Spindale, NC 28160

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff's October 2015 Report	
Calls for Service	4,414
Warrants Served/Total Arrest	228/204
Domestic Calls	146
Involuntary Commitments/Hours	28/21.0 Man Hrs.
Civil Papers Served	348
Ex parte Served	28
Evictions	17
Animals Pickup/Surrender	212
Animals Returned to Owners or Rescued	142
Animal Control Calls for Service	277
New Cases Assigned to Detectives/Road Patrol	163/13
Pill Drop Collections	16,700 Doses Units/3275.7 ml Liquids
Average Daily Inmate Confinement	179
Gun Purchase Permits Issued	160
Carry Concealed Permits Issued	84
Project Lifesaver Clients/Contact Hours	4/6.0 Man Hrs.
Registered Sex Offenders/Contact Hours	186/29.0 Man Hrs.
Litter Control Calls/Cases Assigned/Closed	4/26/8

Solid Waste

Customers served 286
Loads hauled from Centers 49
Loads shipped to Lenoir 35
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3
Tire customers 23

The solid waste staff has been busy this week. The office staff has been answering questions on the state reports and ordering the new skid steer loader. The transfer station staff has been busy handing the tonnages coming in. The wet weather has really slowed the C&D tonnages coming in. The C&D staff has used this time to finish the animal disposal area. The shop staff has been busy performing preventative maintenance and fixing of equipment. The centers are in the process of being painted. We are painting the curbing that identifies what goes in the containers. The work at the airport has slowed due to weather so that crew has been at the south landfill trimming trees. We want to welcome Nathaniel White to the Solid Waste staff. He will be working in the shop.

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS Staff is continuing to work toward having the new Foothills EMS station ready for the grand opening. Congratulations to Aja Fillers for passing her state EMT-P examination.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	150	168
Convalescent Calls	30	59

Transit Department:

Transit management has made job offers to two perspective part-time drivers. They will begin orientation on Monday 11/16. Director has submitted quarterly reimbursements to NCDOT for administrative and capital expenditures. The first quarter operating statistics report has also been submitted to NCDOT which shows Transit drove 133,267 miles and had 12,495 passenger trips from July-September.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	11,054	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,106	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	98	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	230	241
Total Revenue	\$18,902	\$15,385

Veterans Services

Toys for Tots boxes have been put out in various places. Please help us fill the boxes this year for the local children.

Mail In	46
Mail Out	63
Fax	113
Phone Calls In/Out	93
Veteran Contacts	219



Corvette Club 'Toys for Tots' Run



Veteran Services Department collects the toys, delivers to headquarters, and begin bagging for Christmas distribution.



A 'Twin-Twin' Situation

It has been stated that “people feel safer when they dress alike”, but this was probably a coincidence! :) **Pictured to right:** Raeann Turner (Finance) and Debra Conner (HR).

In life you must always celebrate happy endings and new beginnings. Best wishes, Raeann, to a gracious end at your old job and a promising beginning at your new one. You will be missed!



Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting Rutherford County Foothills EMS and Haynes Branch Library

A delay in receiving certain construction materials has unfortunately held up the finishing touches of the new Haynes Branch Library. As a result, we must reschedule our grand opening and the events surrounding it.

We apologize for any inconvenience, but hope you can still join us on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., for our official grand opening festivities.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Foothills EMS and Haynes Branch Library
Tuesday, December 1, 2015
4:30 p.m.

Join our supporters and local dignitaries for the big event as we officially open our new facilities.



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