



November 2, 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.

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Daylight Saving Time Fun Facts

- Daylight Saving or Daylight Savings? You will hear a lot of people refer to "Daylight Savings" – that's technically wrong. Dictionary.com said you will want to stick with Daylight Saving but you can drop the "time" part. It's still technically abbreviated to DST.
- Daylight Saving Time is a good time to start a new tradition: Make it your yearly time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- You can blame Benjamin Franklin for getting the whole Daylight Saving thing started. He wrote an essay called "An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light" suggesting people could save candles by getting up earlier and making better use of available light. Then, in 1907, Englishman William Willett championed the idea, which quickly spread. It was brought to America by Robert Garland, a businessman from Pittsburgh who first came upon the idea in the U.K.
- In 1999, the time change thwarted plans for a terrorist bombing in Israel. The West Bank was on Daylight Saving Time while Israel had just switched back to standard time. The changeover confused terrorists who had set timers on bombs. The bombs were planted but detonated an hour early, killing three terrorists.
- It wasn't until Aug. 8, 2005 that we got our current timetable for Daylight Saving Time. President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act on that day, setting the official end time for DST as the first Sunday in November. From 1986-2006, Daylight Saving Time began on the first Sunday in April and ended on the last Sunday in October.
- Hawaii and most of Arizona do not follow DST.
- In the spring, that hour of lost sleep due to the Daylight Saving switch has been linked to an increased risk of heart attacks. On the other hand, the risk of heart attacks fell by Twenty-one percent later in the year when an hour was added back to the clock.
- Why 2 a.m.? According to Live Science, that's considered to be the least disruptive time of day.
- Twenty-seven percent of Americans said the twice-yearly time changes either makes them early or late for an appointment.



Airport

The Airport sold 1,061.0 gallons of Jet A to 4 aircraft and 1,056.6 gallons of 100LL to 35 aircraft last week.

Photo:

A 2001 Europa XS Monowheel aircraft on the ramp at Rutherford County. This aircraft, developed in the United Kingdom, features a single retractable wheel in the center of the fuselage and retractable outriggers. It is designed to be built and stored at home, easily transported on its own trailer, carry two people in comfort, and rigged for flight in under 10 minutes.



Board of Elections

One-Stop early voting continues all this week for the Municipal Election and as of Tuesday, October 27th a total of 153 had voted either by mail or at One-Stop.

Our Board met on Tuesday to approve absentee applications and we completed our final training class for poll workers. We have already started preparations for Candidate Filing for the 2016 Primary which will take place from Noon on December 1st and continue until Noon on December 21st.



County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager's busy week began by way of appointment with the Chamber of Commerce Director, followed by Department Head meetings with the Library, Board of Elections, Planning and Projects, and Economic Development.

The County Manager, along with Planning and Projects staff and Finance Director, reviewed the Community Project Grant applications. On Tuesday and Thursday, several Department Heads attended a webinar that focused on 2015 Local Government Legislative Review. The Broad River Water Authority met on Tuesday evening. Every meeting is open to the public and provides an opportunity for any person to address the Board on any matter of inquiry or concern. Meetings with the Rails to Trails Committee, EDC staff, and County Attorney were part of Wednesday's schedule. Chairman King attended the Bechtler Gold Day Celebration Fundraiser and Open House Event on Thursday evening (**pictured right**). There was an unveiling of the Bechtler rifle.



Throughout the week, Commissioners met individually with the County Manager in preparation for the Board of Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for November 2, 2015. The week continued 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. All departments remain diligent and full of activity.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department responded to an industrial RFI and hosted a site visit for an industrial prospect. Staff continues to be busy reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines and continuing work on website content and updates. This week's schedule also included meeting with representatives regarding a possible existing industry expansion, as well as miscellaneous meetings with county departments and industry allies.

Finance Department

The Finance Office is working to complete items needed for the audit. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and payroll this week. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- conducted one origin and cause investigation.
- followed up on active investigations.
- worked on preparations for an upcoming table top exercise scheduled for November 13th.
- completed annual firearms recertification.
- assisted fire departments in completing Relief Fund reports which involved a process change this year.

Fire safety house is continuing to make its visits to the elementary schools.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director along with the Finance Director met with Richard Lundy, Chairman of TDA, the HR Director also had meetings with EMS staff, attended a webinar hosted by the School of Government, conducted interviews for a part time TDA position, and hosted a flu shot clinic for county employees. A big thank you to Rhonda Lovelace with the Health Department for providing prompt service during the clinic. Ninety-two employees took advantage of this time to get a flu shot. The HR Specialist has attended several webinars preparing for ACA reporting. Employees receiving tenure awards this year will be selecting their gifts on Friday. Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director, Veterans Service Officer, and mechanic for Solid Waste. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 4435 January motor vehicle renewals and handled 38 VTS assists. The office answered 273 phone calls and assisted 185 customers. We completed 1 plat review, 1 project, 2 pre-permits and answered 4 data requests. Appraisers completed 39 building permits and 242 field reviews. A total of 55 new documents were recorded and 54 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 130 straights, 5 estates, 2 merges, 6 splits, and 1 acreage adjustment. GIS created 10 new maps. The GIS website had 144,788 hits and 102,670 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 6 new addresses and updated 95 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers completed maintenance on 6 road signs. The PUV program assisted 6 program members. Electronic payments consisted of 9 by credit card, 42 by website and 5 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 12 newspaper items. Staff completed 4 gross receipts, 65 occupancy taxes, 1 payment plan, 29 bankruptcy issues and processed 180 items mailed in. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 280 tax payments. Twenty-five new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

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 “Making Decisions”. We hosted the annual Health & Wellness Fair on Thursday. There were numerous representatives from area health agencies that provided a variety of screenings, as well as, multiple agencies giving out useful information about the services they provide. The Health Department administered the flu shots and the blood profiles. Lastly the Center’s annual “Halloween Costume Parade and Contest” was held on Friday.

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.

Upcoming:

Halloween Dance 6:00-9:00 p.m. on October 30 Cost is \$5

Zumba at 6:00 p.m. on November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Sheriff's Department

**WINTER HOURS
ANIMAL SHELTER and COMMUNITY PET CENTER OFFICE
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2015**

Animal Shelter

Monday - Friday:

- 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- No Over-the-Counter Intake of Cats or Dogs after 3:30 p.m.

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays:

- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (November 7, 21 and December 5, 19)
- No Over-the-Counter Intake of Cats or Dogs after 12:00 p.m.

Community Pet Center Office

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:

- 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

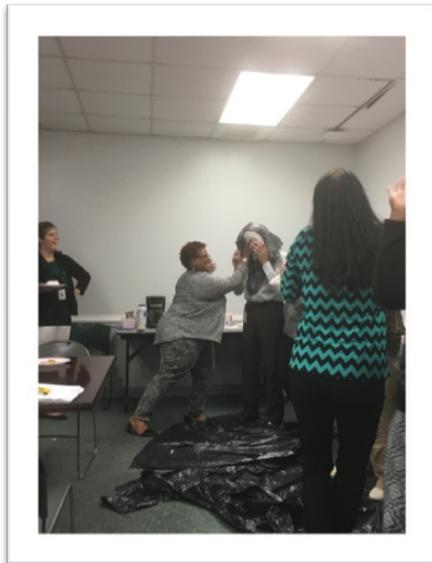
Closed Thursdays

Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays:

- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (November 7, 21 and December 5, 19)

Social Services

The DSS Board held its regularly monthly meeting on Wednesday. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board heard information concerning statewide timeliness requirements of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) application processing. The State is at risk of losing \$75M administrative funds if it does not achieve 85% statewide timeliness for the six month period of July 2015--December 2015, and 95% statewide timeliness for the six month period of January –June 2016. We are pleased that our staff does an outstanding job maintaining our processing times, but this has to be a statewide effort as all counties will be effected by the loss of funding. DSS Management and staff, as well as the County Manager, have participated in numerous conference calls concerning this issue. Another issue that will affect many FNS consumers is reinstatement of the ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependent Children) requirements. Due to the declining economy, North Carolina has been under a waiver since 2008; however, a recent legislative bill no longer allows this waiver. Nearly 900 individuals ages 18-49, not pregnant, fit for employment, not exempt from work requirements, and do not live in a FNS household with a minor will be effected and be limited to three months of FNS eligibility in any three year period if not fulfilling the ABAWD work requirements or are otherwise exempt. Work requirements include job search, career development, and employment. The Director, several staff members, and DSS Board Member, Jackie Hampton, attended the Annual Social Services Institute held in Hickory last week. The theme for the conference was Together We Make a Difference. The Board Member's Association (NCACBSS) held their new board member training and annual meeting during



the week. Mrs. Hampton, who is a regional representative on the association's board, participated in a panel discussion, with two county directors, on the "Role of Directors and Boards of Social Services" at the new member training. The Director, IM Administrator, and Medicaid Supervisors participated in a telephone interview with an assistant auditor with the State Auditor's Office regarding Medicaid. Senate Bill 14 required the State Auditor to conduct a performance audit of county DSS' administration of the Medi-



icaid program. Twelve counties will receive site visits and these interviews, conducted individually with all 100 counties, will help determine which small, medium, and large counties will be visited. Staff participated in a conference call on Monday with the Director's Association in preparation for the interviews. On Tuesday, Family and Children's Services staff held their monthly breakfast meeting. The staff celebrated some milestones and progress in case processing by getting a chance to put a pie in the faces of three supervisors, Kathy Kaylor, Phil Anders, and Tiffany Dodd and the Program Manager and Director (pictured).



Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- worked on District meeting minutes.
- sent District and Farmland Meeting Notices .
- worked on District Matching Funds paperwork and Farm City Poster Contest.

The Ag Cost Share Technician:

- spent the week meeting with landowners and planning best management practices.

Please Note:

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

Solid Waste

Customers served 395

Loads hauled from convenience centers 53

Loads shipped to Lenoir 33

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 23

Community service workers 5

Community service reports 1

The director has been busy this week working on state grants, working on quotes for a skid steer loader and watching webinars. We have received the signed contract from GEEP for electronics recycling. Transfer station staff continues to process all MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. C&D staff has been extremely busy this week with a lot of tons being brought in. Work continues to be performed at the airport when the weather allows. The shop staff continues to repair equipment while performing preventative maintenance. The landfill heating and air unit has quit and we have been working with maintenance on either repairing or replacing. DEACS has contacted us about holding a state meeting in Rutherford County to allow folks in the solid waste industry to be able to tour our transfer station and convenience centers. DEACS feels many individuals can benefit from a tour of our facilities. Also, several vendors dropped by the landfill this week.

Please continue to recycle!!!

www.WeSortForYou.com

ENHANCED COMMINGLED RECYCLING
Available at Convenience Centers and Curbside in Town

EZ - We Sort For You
EASY CONVENIENT EVERYONE

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS held a meeting with all full-time EMS employees in reference to the new physical fitness program we are starting. The benefits the employees will gain from this program were explained. The annual physicals for all full-time employees are being finished up this week. These physicals will also provide lab results to the employees that they can use on their annual open enrollment/health assessment for the State Health Plan in order to receive a discount on their plan in 2016.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	153	168
Convalescent Calls	39	59

Transit Department:

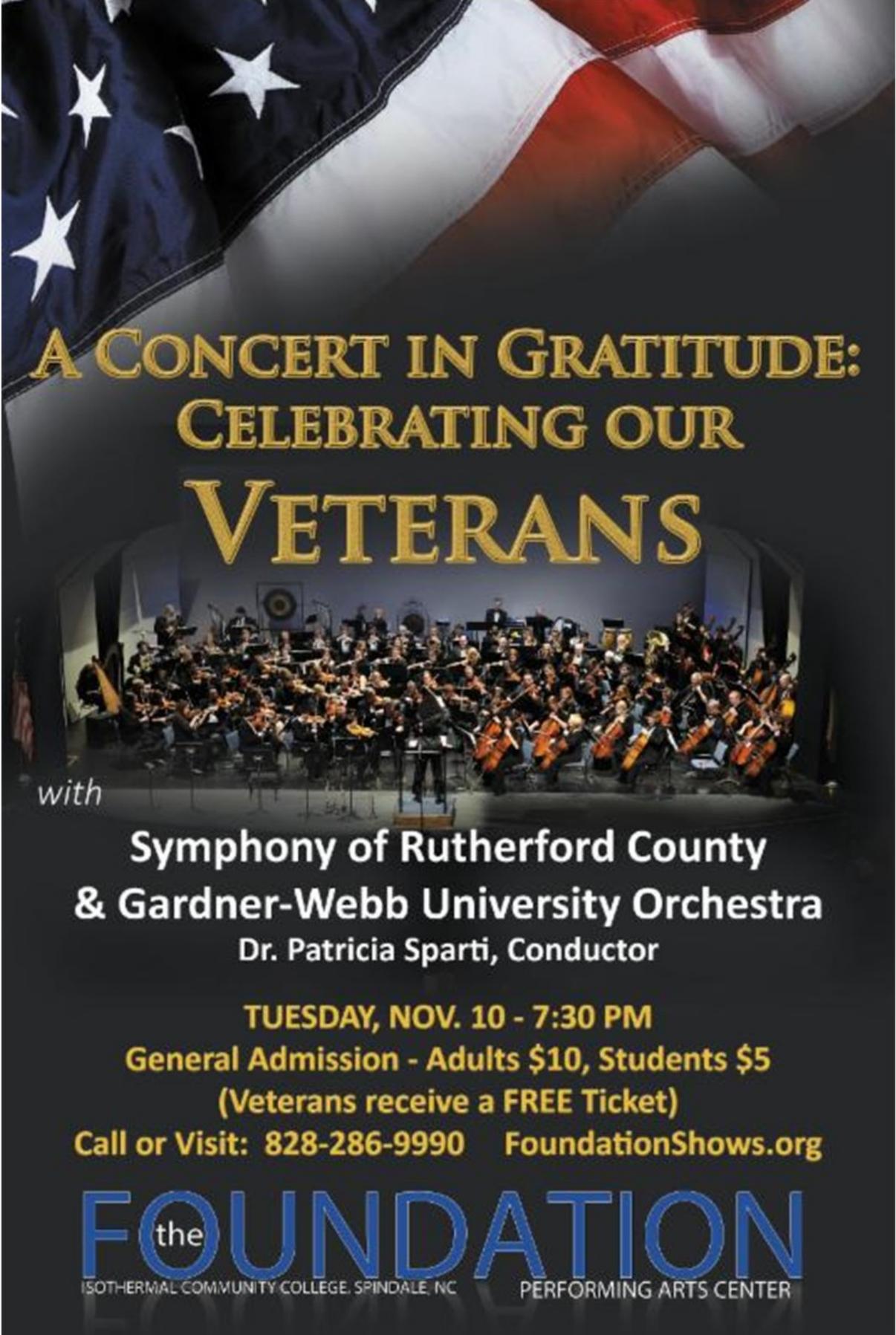
Transit Staff continues to gather documentation in preparation of our upcoming Federal DOT Compliance Audit. Transit would like to remind everyone to be prepared for the upcoming change in time and also to encourage everyone to be diligent when driving with the falling leaves and hazardous road conditions that can accompany them. The leaves are beautiful to look at but can be treacherous on the roadways and sidewalks as they become wet and slippery. Transit also thanks our drivers for their unwavering effort during these past few days of inclement weather to transport their passengers to their appointments safely and on time. Their dedication is not unnoticed.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	11,544	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,167	881
# of Out of County Trips	81	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	253	238
Total Revenue	\$18,099	\$14,549

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.
- Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m., Symphony at ICC Foundation: Salute to veterans. Free to all veterans. Other guests \$10 each (**see ad on page 9**).
- Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day!
- Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., RS Middle School: Salute to veterans.

Mail In	19
Mail Out	19
Fax	113
Phone Calls In/Out	72
Veteran Contacts	175



**A CONCERT IN GRATITUDE:
CELEBRATING OUR
VETERANS**

with

**Symphony of Rutherford County
& Gardner-Webb University Orchestra**
Dr. Patricia Sparti, Conductor

TUESDAY, NOV. 10 - 7:30 PM
General Admission - Adults \$10, Students \$5
(Veterans receive a FREE Ticket)

Call or Visit: 828-286-9990 FoundationShows.org

the FOUNDATION
ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SPINDALE, NC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SOME OF THE DEPARTMENTS' HALLOWEEN IMAGES!

Happy



Halloween



Finance Minions and IT Gru Support Commissioner



Social Services ARE A 'DOR' ABLE

Income Maintenance employees at Social Services are celebrating Fall with a door decorating contest. The staff were very creative, and had a lot of fun with this. Visitors to the office have enjoyed these as well.



**Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 1st.
Turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.**



A special thank you to Sherry Lavender (Revenue) for sharing this beautiful photo of our “County in the Fall” near Greyrock, taken by our Real Property Appraisers, Philip Culbreth and Eric Ross for our ‘oohing and aahing’!

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