



October 31, 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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DID YOU KNOW?



One quarter of candy sold each year in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween.

It is thought that Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off 'roaming ghosts'.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints and martyrs. The holiday, *All Saints' Day*, incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before, October 31, was known as *All Hallows' Eve* and later *Halloween*.

Over time, Halloween evolved into a secular, community-based event characterized by child-friendly activities such as trick-or-treating. In a number of countries around the world, as the days grow shorter and the nights get colder, people continue to usher in the winter season with gatherings, costumes and sweet treats.

Information taken from bbc.com/newsroom

Airport

The Airport sold 802.8 gallons of 100LL to 27 aircraft last week. The Jet A truck is down for maintenance; no Jet A fuel sold.

PHOTO:
Jet A fuel truck being
towed to Spartanburg
for maintenance.



Board of Elections

Early Voting began on October 20th at the Board of Elections office and since then, we have voted an average of 962 voters per day. Beginning October 26, we opened two more sites at the Annex Building in Rutherfordton and the Ellenboro Fire Department. We have mailed out 1,266 absentee ballots by mail.

Since the beginning of early voting, we have processed 60 new voters and 1,151 changes to voter information.

Please thank the early voting workers if you have the opportunity. They are working harder than ever!



Pictures taken with voters' permission.....from the youngest to the oldest!

Cooperative Extension



Jeff Bradley, Tracy Davis, Cynthia Robbins, Hannah Bundy reporting:

- Attended NCECA State Conference in Winston-Salem.
- Held orientation session for Speedway to Healthy volunteers.
- Attended West District Association meeting.
- Farm City planning meeting at the Ag Center
- Grahamtown community garden planting with preschoolers (**pictured above**)
- Farmers Market Committee meeting

Pictured right

Tracy Davis was honored at the National Extension Association for Family & Consumer Sciences 2016 annual session with the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) . Tracy was recognized for her community partnerships, leadership, outstanding program delivery, and personal and professional development.

Congratulations, Tracy, and thank you for your service.



County Manager and Commissioners

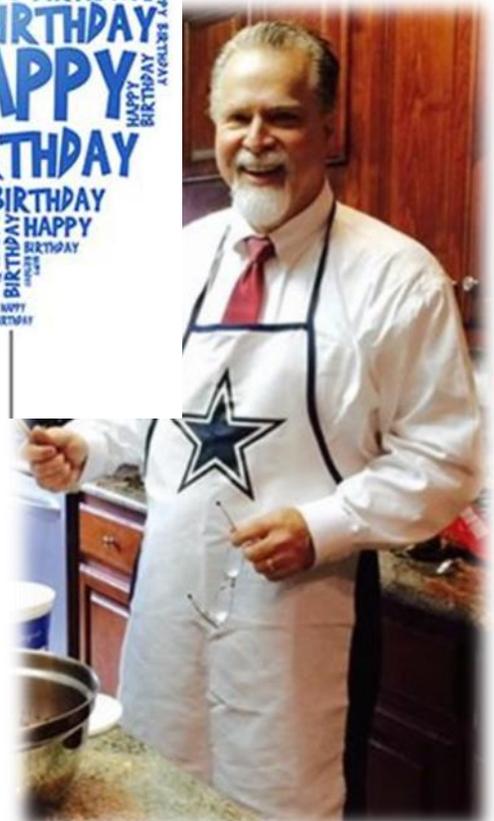
Listed are several events, meetings, and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved with the following individuals, departments and businesses:

- Projects and Planning
- Agriculture/Coop Extension
- Economic Development Commission
- Pangaea Board
- Queen's Gap/Project and Planning
- Public Officials
- Library Board
- Broad River Water Authority Board
- Regional Health Center/RC Health Department
- Quarterly Department Head meeting
- NC/SC Border Survey
- County Attorney
- Solid Waste Department
- Airport staff
- Thermal Belt Rail Trail Corridor
- Cattlemen's Association Dinner
- Spindale WWTP Groundbreaking Ceremony
- RC Broadband Providers (pictured below)

Other activities and events included Early Voting, meetings with citizens, numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

We wish **County Manager Steve Garrison** a very happy birthday week and another year filled with success and joy!
(Birthday: October 24th)

Congratulations to Melanie Butler (daughter of Hazel Haynes) on completing the Myrtle Beach Half Marathon! **Pictures and information on page 5.**



State IT Analyst Keith Conover and representatives of a multitude of various internet utility providers attended a county facilitated meeting to discuss high speed broadband services and needs in the rural communities of Rutherford County.



One of our very own Rutherford County ladies competed in the Myrtle Beach Half Marathon on October 23, 2016 and did exceptionally well.

Congratulations to Melanie Butler (daughter of Hazel Haynes, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners) on completing this oceanfront experience! This race is a South Carolina Dream and runners travel from all over the world to compete in this event.

Out of 1,977 competitors, Melanie came in 72nd overall and 5th in her division. Melanie's incredible stats are listed below.

Melanie Butler	
Back	
Rankings	
Overall	72nd of 1,977
Female	19th of 1,254
Female 40-44	5th of 248
Splits	
Start 7:00:14AM	
Split 7:45:09AM	00:44:55 07:30 min/mi
Finish 8:39:44AM	01:39:31 07:36 min/mi

Economic Development



This week, the Economic Development Department met with the EDC Structure Ad Hoc Committee regarding creating a public-private partnership, and attended various other meetings and conference calls with county departments and industry allies.

Staff continues to be busy researching 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 agenda also included collecting additional information on and testing available demographics programs.

Finance Department

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

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- continued fire prevention activities in the schools.
- completed reimbursement paperwork for the Incident Management Team deployment to Hurricane Matthew.
- completed annual firearms qualification.
- attended County Department Head meeting.
- attended an emergency exercise planning meeting at Isothermal Community College.
- worked on various other projects.

Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health Department



The RPM Health District was at Isothermal Community College on Friday, October 21, 2016. We gave flu shots to college employees and gave out great information related to healthy eating and active living, 5-2-1-Almost None, and the Community Health Improvement Plan inserts.



The RPM Health District welcomes new employees that have joined our Management Support group in our Rutherford office as Processing Assistants. Deleslie Mitchell is fulfilling a role in medical records while Lisa Terwilliger and Sharon Robinson work with the clinic front desk and vital records, respectively from left to right in above the photo.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirement. The Director attended the Quarterly Department Head meeting on Wednesday. We wish Steve Garrison a very happy birthday this week. Meetings with Becky Veazy of the MAPS Group will begin November 1, 2016 as she begins working on the Pay and Class Study. Thank you to all employees for completing the questionnaires. The State Health Plan enrollment kicked off October 1. Employees need to login to www.shpnc.org to complete their 2017 enrollment process.

Information Technology

Traffic Summary - BarracudaSF.rutherfordcountync.gov [172.16.10.29]

From 2016-10-17 00:00:00
To 2016-10-23 23:59:00

Inbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Bad Recipient	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Allowed: Tagged	Allowed	Total Received
2016-10-17	92	212	484	13	62	16	3529	4408
2016-10-18	50	187	617	17	53	9	3794	4727
2016-10-19	92	141	631	17	70	11	3798	4760
2016-10-20	48	141	619	14	65	8	3734	4629
2016-10-21	184	134	693	14	66	6	3235	4332
2016-10-22	92	97	884	46	10	0	1093	2222
2016-10-23	294	100	668	14	14	2	1216	2308
Total	852	1012	4596	135	340	52	20399	27386

Outbound Traffic

Day	Rate Controlled	Blocked: Policy	Blocked: Spam	Blocked: Virus	Quarantined	Sent	Encrypted	Redirected	Authentication Failure	Total Received
2016-10-17	45	0	0	0	0	1134	4	0	406	1589
2016-10-18	33	0	32	0	0	1253	6	0	374	1696
2016-10-19	0	0	34	0	0	1050	8	0	388	1480
2016-10-20	233	0	0	0	0	1280	7	0	468	1988
2016-10-21	44	0	0	0	0	1060	5	0	460	1569
2016-10-22	44	0	0	0	0	415	1	0	282	742
2016-10-23	27	0	0	0	0	379	0	0	282	688
Total	426	0	66	0	0	6571	31	0	2660	9754

Revenue Department

NC Department of Revenue requested that Rutherford County host the meeting for this area on the North Carolina/South Carolina Border Reestablishment process on 10/26/2016. We would like to thank all that were in attendance. DOR was pleased with the 35-40 attending from both states. This was a very informative meeting regarding the realignment of our state lines. More information to come in the future on this process.

The Collections staff has been busy working on all returned mail for the 2016 billing year. These are the bills that our postal service returned with no forwarding information or insufficient address. If for some reason you have not received your bill, please contact the office at 828-287-6000 and our staff will check on current and outstanding taxes due.

Customer Service	Totals
Phone Calls	415
Website Hits	3,095
County Growth Indicators	
Building Permits Reviewed	110
Deeds Recorded	58
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified/Prior Year Taxes	32
Prepayments Collected	\$816,975.63

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted “Pink Nails for the Ladies” on Monday morning. Tips to Toes in Rutherfordton came and provided this service for the ladies in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The seniors enjoyed craft time on Tuesday and Wednesday making a paintbrush scarecrow and a pumpkin girl in a festive costume.

Lastly, 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.

Upcoming:

- Zumba November 14 & 21 6:00 p.m.
- Craft Sale/Biscuit Sale November 4 Biscuit Sale 8:00-10:00 Craft Sale 8:30-11:30

The Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period is October 15 through December 7, and SHIIP (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.

Rutherford County Senior Center Annual Biscuit Sale and Craft/Bake Sale Friday, November 4, 2016

SAUSAGE & HAM BISCUIT SALE

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$2 each **Pre-orders will be taken for biscuits**

The Center will once again have delicious sausage and ham biscuits made fresh this morning by our talented kitchen staff for the bargain price of only \$2 each. The money raised will be used for activities.

You can pre-order your biscuits with the time you wish to pick them up and we will have them hot and ready for you to “grab and go.” Call 287-6409 or email me by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3 and place your pre-order.



CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Date: Friday, November 4

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

The Seniors have been busy making items for this event. Shoppers, it’s a great time to buy some early Christmas gifts. All items will be either hand-made or homemade. Come out and show your support to the seniors.

Sheriff's Department

DUKE ENERGY CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD

Each year the Chamber nominates a person or group to receive this outstanding award given by Duke Energy. This year Duke Energy presented this award to the Law Enforcement agencies in Rutherford County. The award went to:

- Rutherford County Sheriffs' Department
- Forest City Police Department
- Lake Lure Police Department
- Rutherfordton Police Department
- Spindale Police Department

All of our citizens are aware of the many ways our Law Enforcement keep us safe and protect our community. Every day they risk their lives and it often goes unnoticed. There is another engagement by the men and women of our Law Enforcement departments that deserves special recognition. It is the number of off duty/volunteer hours they spend with us. There are too many to name them all; however, with the few that are listed, you will probably think of others you have witnessed interacting in our community.

- Mentors with the McNair Foundation
- Reading Buddies with our elementary students
- One who pays for a meal for someone who is hungry
 - Youth Empowerment
 - Women Roofers
 - Toys for Tots
- Coffee hours with citizen groups
- Senior Citizen organizations
- Multiple boards

.....and the list goes on and on. We take this opportunity to congratulate our Law Enforcement for all they do and thank Duke Energy for naming Law Enforcement the Citizenship and Service Award.



Social Services

The Director and staff attended several regular meetings over the past two weeks including NC FAST conference calls, Statewide DSS Director's Conference Call, Partnership for Children of the Foothills Board Meeting, Youth Empowerment Board Meeting, Rutherford County Community Child Protection/Child Fatality Prevention Team, the quarterly department head meeting, the Community Health Council, and conducted internal division meetings.

Food and Nutrition Services staff, along with the Income Maintenance Administrator, have attended daily conference calls the past two weeks concerning the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSnap). Many of our staff members are assisting Greene County DSS by keying Disaster Applications into the NC FAST System. Disaster benefits are available to citizens in counties that were affected by Hurricane Matthew who do not regularly receive benefits. Those that receive benefits are eligible to have their benefits replaced if they lost food due to the disaster.

The agency began taking applications for the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) this week. This federally funded program assists eligible households that are in an immediate and life threatening heating or cooling related crisis. Heating assistance includes electricity, wood, coal, fuel oil, kerosene, or gas. Applications will be taken throughout the Fall and Winter, and/or until funds are depleted.

The Director, IM Administrator, and FNS Supervisors held a collaborative meeting on Monday of this week with ICC Human Resource Development staff, NC Works staff, and Work Force Development staff to discuss strategies in developing employability skills and job placements for those required to satisfy work requirements for the Food and Nutrition Program.

The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on October 19th with all board members in attendance. In addition to their regular agenda items, they heard updates on the DSS and Community College Partnership project to train current and potential employees on NC FAST, FNS disaster issues, NC FAST Child Care Subsidy implementation, Community Resource Grant, and the county domestic violence training.

DSS has taken the lead in bringing a state certified domestic violence training batterers' intervention program to Rutherford County. Preferred Choice Health Care, Inc. has joined this effort to sponsor and support the on-going operations of the EMERGE program here in Rutherford County. EMERGE is based in Cambridge, MA, and is an approved evidence based program in North Carolina. **On November 16, 2016, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.** EMERGE representatives will facilitate a community education and collaboration meeting to help ensure that all of the stakeholders have an opportunity to discuss the model and learn protocols for referrals. These stakeholders include Probation Officers, the DA's Office, Sheriff's Department, Family Resources, District Court Judges, and Family Preservation. Training will be conducted the following day for the clinicians identified by Preferred Choice, designated law enforcement and probation officers. Currently, DSS consumers, those ordered by the court, probationers, and others that require this service must travel to Polk or McDowell County.

Rutherford County DSS, along with 11 other NC county DSS agencies, has been accepted into the Trauma Informed Leadership Training (TILT). This will allow us to send four staff members to become trauma champions and lead our effort to become a trauma-informed agency. This is an intensive, nine-month learning experience, teaching us to embed trauma informed practices into our agency and improve outcomes for both children and families and reduce staff turnover.

Welcome new employees: Rhonda Collins (IM), Christin Varnes (F&C Services), Kim Bailey (IM), Tammy Gregory (F&C Services), Sarah Rome (F&C Services), Ashley Thompson (F&C Services), and Ronnie Reep (IM).



**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!

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- attended Quarterly Department Head Meeting with County Manager.
- attended Farm City Planning meeting.
- prepared and Taught 4 Enviroscope Lessons for Middle School Students.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician:

- attended NRCS Tool Kit training in Raleigh.

Solid Waste

Customers served 436

Loads hauled from convenience centers 58

MSW loads shipped to Lenoir 42

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 36

The director attended several meetings at the annex including the quarterly department head meeting. Also, the director held several internal meetings and continued to work on the capital facilities and equipment/vehicle replacement plan.

The office staff has been busy serving customers while continuing to compile reports. The transfer station staff continues to process all the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The C&D staff has been busy this week processing all the C&D tonnages coming in while continuing to haul dirt for cover. The shop staff has been busy with oil changes this week and a few minor repairs. The airport staff has been bush hogging this week at the airport.

Please continue to recycle!!!!



Tourism Development Authority



Monthly Report / October 2016

TDA General Updates:

- This month the TDA had a month of celebration!
- Happy Birthday to Don (10/3), Taylor (10/15), and Karen (10/22).



- Happy Bosses Day to Don! (10/17)
Your staff appreciates you and we are thankful to have you as our boss!



- The TDA also had their Gold Coin installed into the Gold Mile in downtown Rutherfordton by TAF.



Welcome Center Updates:

- TDA staff welcomes back Guest Services Assistant, Wesley Alexander

who has been out for the month of October for surgery.

- The end of October has shown a visitor increase at the welcome centers due to the changing of the leaves and the welcoming of fall to Rutherford County.

Visitor Activity

- Lake Lure: 7,221 visitors in September
- Website: 4,347 visitors in September (81.3% new visitors, 18.7% returning)

Direct Marketing (September):

- 122 individual travel guides mailed
- 20 boxes were mailed out to individual welcome centers

Media (September):

- 11,106,365 total press impressions
- 1 media tour took place

Website Committee:

- Simpleview has held several "go-to meetings" for the website committee to present their findings and demonstrate the projected website.
- Projected site launch date is April 2017



Wayfinding:

- Vendor Selected (ACSM)
- Towns and County in process of determining information for the signs
- Installation projected completion date: June 2017
- Contract in process of final negotiations
- Signs to be installed in 3 phases
- Don, Karen and members of J.M. Tea Engineering took a tour of ACSM facility on October 18th
- Air markings at airport to be complete by end of November (projection)



County - Wide Tourism Strategic Plan:

- First meeting of the Tourism Advisory Committee was on October 12th
- Guest Speakers included; Sharon Decker, Dr. Steve Morse, and Mark Shore

- Approximately 40 people in attendance



- RFPs are due on November 7th and will be reviewed on November 9th
- RFP submitters will be allowed to present on November 16th or November 21st

Upcoming Events:

- **Chimney Rock**

- Veterans Day Special Weekend
November 9th - 13th
Chimney Rock State Park



- Naturalist Niche - nature at Night
November 12th(630pm-830pm)
Chimney Rock State Park



- **Lake Lure**

- Help Us Help Golf Tournament
November 5th (12pm-6pm)
Rumbling Bald



- **Spindale**

- Lorraine Jordan and Eddy Raven
Concert
November 5th (730pm-10pm)
The Foundation



- Gibson Brothers and Guests
November 11th (7pm-9pm)
The Foundation



- **Forest City**

- 4th Fridays on Main Music Series
October 28th (6pm-9pm)
Main St Forest City



- Hometown Holidays
November 24th (6pm-9pm)
Main Street Forest City



- Forest City Christmas Parade
November 27th (3pm-5pm)
Main Street Forest City



Visit our website for a full list of events and times at: TIMEOFOURLIFENC.COM or call our Welcome Center at 828-287-6113.

If you have questions about this document, 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 Services:

EMS staff attended a meeting at ICC to discuss an upcoming active shooter training event in the Spring. EMS will work alongside of law enforcement and fire to train for this type of a scenario. The second round of physicals will be conducted on Saturday for full time employees. A special thank you to our Medical Director, Dr. Guy Winker, for assisting us in this endeavor.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK
Emergency Calls	150
Non-Emergency Calls	24

Transit Services:

Transit staff met with Rutherford Life Services (RLS) staff on possible route changes or additional riders that may be needed to accommodate transportation needs for their clients to and from their agency. Staff also met with DSS staff concerning Medicaid claims to be processed through NC Tracks which is scheduled to begin in early 2017. Staff continues to work on finalizing NCDOT reimbursements for submission. Transit Director and Operations Manager attended Department Manager meeting at the Annex.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,226	9,674
# of Local Trips	1,236	1,160
# of Out of County Trips	54	58
# Unduplicated Passengers	235	238
Total Revenue	\$19,456	\$18,154

Veteran Services

Mail In	168
Mail Out	29
Fax	140
Phone Calls In/Out	65
Veteran Contacts	193

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

Tryon International Equestrian Center Presents Fall Festival Weekend on October 29-30

Trick-or-treating, costume contests, free face painting and kids' activities, live music, and world-class showjumping at Tryon International Equestrian Center's fall season finale presented by Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District





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!



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.**





Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, Oct 29: ROC Bearwallow Sunset Hike, 5:00 pm. For more info and carpool options [click here](#).
- Wednesday, Nov 2: ROC Buffalo Creek Park Volunteer Day, Erosion Control, 8:30 am. Email us for more info.
- Saturday, Nov 5: ROC Race Series, South of the Mountains 5K Trail Run. To register for this event [click here](#).
- Sunday, Nov 6: ROC South Mountains State Park Hike, 10:30 am. For more info and carpool options [click here](#).
- Saturday, Nov 19: ROC Thermal Belt Rail Trail Clean Up, 10:00 a.m. Volunteers meet at the left side parking lot of the McDonald's in Spindale.

Email us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 625-9983 ext. 505 if you would like to sign up for any of the ROC workdays, clean-ups, or group hikes/river floats.

Suggested Activities:

- Buffalo Creek Park Trail in Lake Lure offers a 3.5 mile loop and a mile-long optional extension trail. With beautiful views and a boulder field, this hike and bike trail is worth checking out.
- Hike the Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park. Across from the Lake Lure Ingles on Memorial Highway, this walking trail has approximately three miles of looped natural surfaces of varying difficulty.
- If you are searching for a great place to hike, rock climb or boulder, check out Rumbling Bald in Lake Lure. This intermediate trail has something for everyone.

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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