



October 12, 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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Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

County Extension Director

- Continued to address the possibility of an outbreak of Avian Influenza by distributing flyers at local feed stores and presenting information on WCAB morning radio show.
- Met with Farm/City committee to plan this year's program to Tryon International Equestrian Center.
- Met with a group of Farmers Market customers and vendors, along with Steve Garrison, to discuss the possibility of adding the EBT as a payment option to the Rutherford County Farmers Market.
- Sat in on the first of four interviews for the Director of NC Cooperative Extension
- Continued to assist clients with technical advice through office visits, phone calls, emails, and site visits.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Chaired Partnership for Children board meeting.
- Assisted Extension & Community Association in planning upcoming fundraiser.
- Participated in nutrition webinar.
- Conducted monthly radio program.
- Chaired Community Health Council monthly meeting.
- Taught Cook Smart Eat Smart cooking school.

Board of Elections

Elections staff has been busy preparing supplies for the precincts for Election Day. Friday, October 9th, is the last day to register and vote at the precinct for the Municipal election on November 3rd. Because of the stay in the courts, we will have same day registration during One-Stop voting that starts on October 22nd.

County Manager and Commissioners

It is our extreme pleasure to congratulate Director Kerry Giles, Director Tammy Aldridge, Director Terry Baynard, and staff for being the recipients of the 2015 NCACC Excellence in Innovation Award for the 911 Cell Phone Public Awareness Campaign. They were recognized at the County Commissioners' Meeting this past Monday evening. They were chosen from among some very strong submissions and more importantly, for developing this successful campaign to benefit the county and improve services to citizens (pictured right).



The County Manager and Commissioners were involved in numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events, including the Board of Commissioners' Meeting on Monday evening. Representative Mike Hager was in attendance to present Christi Butler a beautiful plaque in honor of a Bill passed by the Governor called the 'Christi Bill'.

This bill gives terminally ill patients the 'right to try' experimental drugs before they are approved by the FDA (pictured below).



We extend our most sincere condolences to Finance Director Paula Roach and family. We are deeply saddened by the loss of her father, Isaac Head. No one can prepare you for a loss; it comes like a swift wind. However, a person that departs from this earth is still alive in our hearts and minds, and through us, they live on. Our thoughts and prayers are also with our former County Manager, Carl Classen, and family in the passing of his father.

Jan McGuinn, Cooperative Extension, and several Farmers' Market customers and vendors met with the County Manager to discuss the possibility of adding the EBT as a payment option to the Rutherford County Farmers' Market.

A number of staff attended the Soil and Water 2015 Conservation Field Day at R-S Central High School. Not only was this an enjoyable field day, but it was an educational experience. County, state, and federal agencies discussed sediment and erosion control, recycling, wildlife, air quality and other environmental issues.

The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, project discussions, preparation for various responsibilities and meetings with Department Heads.

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department presented at the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, met with existing industry representatives, and attended various meetings with county departments and industry allies. Economic Development staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment prospects, and working with the Department of Commerce and existing industry representatives regarding various grant reports and requests. This week's schedule also included content editor training for the redesigned Economic Development website and newly created Gateway West Commerce Park website.

Last week, Facebook announced they are expanding operations in Forest City. Check out the [press release](#).

Finance Department

The Finance Office is working to complete items needed for the audit. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week. Continue to keep our Finance Director, Paula Roach, and family in your thoughts and prayers in the passing of her father.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Monitored weather conditions and preformed mitigation activities in advance of the rain event over the weekend.
- Met with emergency managers from municipalities to discuss the impending storm and identify resources available.
- Assisted fire departments with explaining changes in relief fund requirements.
- Began moving the fire safety house to schools for fire prevention activities that will continue throughout the month of October.

Deputy Fire Marshal:

- attended a Criminal Investigations class.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome aboard Courtney Pickett (DSS), Carol Sullivan (DSS), Caleb Wilson (Building Inspections), Steven James (Detention), and Jennifer Valdez (911). Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Whitney Hoppes (DSS), Jean Smith (Library), David Baynard (Solid Waste), Adam Myslinksi (DSS), and Sharon Fieber (TDA). The Director completed the EE04 report, attended the County Commissioners meeting and participated in several meetings. Please continue to keep Paula Roach and Carl Classen in your prayers. Reminder-open season begins October 15 for the State Health Plan. You must go to shpnc.org to enroll. Flu season is just around the corner. The Health Department will host a flu shot clinic on October 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the County Office Building.

FLU SHOT DATE

October 28, 2015,
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Health Department will once again host the County flu shot clinic. The date is October 28, 2015 at the County Office Building from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. If you have BC/BS insurance you are eligible to receive a flu shot at no cost. Children under the age of 10 are not eligible to participate in the clinic.

Anyone wanting a flu shot that is not covered by BC/BS may participate at a cost of \$32.00 payable by check or cash to Rutherford Polk Health Department.

Retirees with BC/BS, United Health Care, Humana, Medicaid or Medicare may also participate.

There is a form that needs to be completed prior to receiving your flu shot. Forms will be available at the door. Please make sure you have your insurance card, form of ID, and completed form ready prior to getting in line.

Any general questions pertaining to the vaccination should be addressed to the Health Department at 287-6317.

The Health Department is asking for an approximate number of people who plan to participate. If you or a family member plan to take advantage of the flu shot clinic, please email Debra and let her know. Email address: debra.conner@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Public Works and Planning

It has been an extremely demanding week which began with Emergency Preparedness as the County was forecast to receive severe rains, flash flooding, wind gusts and power outages. We prepared generators and response vehicles in addition to shoring up construction sites that were vulnerable to storm water erosion. We are very thankful that the weather Rutherford County received was dramatically milder than what was expected. The Garage and Maintenance staff consistently does a great job of keeping the County's facilities and vehicle fleet in great working order while keeping costs and expenditures at a minimum. Meanwhile, we began with preparations for the Commissioners meeting, sent out application and deadline reminders regarding the Community Project Grant opportunity; the grant applications will be accepted through Oct. 23 and final approval to be considered by the Commissioners on November 2. Great progress is being made on the County's Capital Facilities Planning project, with over 80% of facility surveys and walkthroughs now complete. We've also conducted site inspections at the Foothills Library and EMS site, Queens Gap and several solar projects. Lastly, it is noteworthy that the County regularly receives compliments and has noted significant increase in use of the rail trail. In fact, a Half-Marathon is scheduled to take place large in part on the Rail Trail this Saturday, 10/10/15 promoted by "Running Against Addiction."

Senior Center

The Senior Center hosted "Pink Week" this week in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Monday, Michelle McClain and Shelly Crocker from Tips to Toes in Rutherfordton provided "pink nails" for the ladies. The seniors enjoyed craft time on Tuesday with decorating a pink pumpkin. Wednesday was our "Pink Out Day". We encouraged everyone to wear pink and participate in our "Pink Walk" that morning and "Pink Bingo" after lunch. We continued our "Pink Week" with a craft of making "pink" mints on Thursday. Lastly, we will end the week with our Tailgate Yard/Craft Sale on Friday from 8:00-11:00.

Upcoming:

Tailgate Yard/Craft Sale 8:00-11:00 a.m. on October 9

"Pink Zumbathon" 9:00 -12:00 p.m. on October 10 Cost is \$10 and All Ages are Welcome!

Zumba at 6:45 p.m. on October 12, 19, 26

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department for the past 2 weeks handled 98 VTS assists and just started working 4425 motor vehicle renewals. The office answered 938 phone calls and assisted 537 customers. We completed seven plat reviews, two pre-permit and answered three data requests. Appraisers completed 119 building permits and 72 field reviews. A total of 72 new documents were recorded and 60 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 117 straights, 16 estates, 2 merges, 11 splits, and 14 acreage adjustments. GIS created eight new maps. The GIS website had 146,772 hits and 104,502 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 11 new addresses and updated 134 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers installed 12 new roads signs. The PUV program assisted 15 program members. Staff processed 14 exclusions/deferments, 5 refunds, and 4 discoveries. Electronic payments consisted of 13 by credit card, 112 by website and 17 over the phone. Collection action consisted 10 newspaper items. Staff completed 35 occupancy taxes, 2 payment plans, 1 prepay, 26 bankruptcy issues, 15 bankruptcy payments and processed 404 items mailed in. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 628 tax payments. Sixty-six new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Soil & Water

The Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored Conservation Field Day on a beautiful dry day for 530 5th Grade Students. Presenters included R-S Central FFA, Rutherford County Schools Recycling Coordinator, Chimney Rock State Park, Forestry Products, Farm Service Agency, Duke Energy, Cooperative Extension, Beekeepers Club (bringing 70,000 honeybees on display), Recycling, and the NC Forest Service. The Admin/Education Specialist also worked on Quarterly Reporting and District Agreement amendment paperwork. The Ag Cost Share technician worked with field day, met with landowners, and worked on BMP planning.

Please Note:

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

We can be contacted by email and by the District Cell: 828-289-9668

Solid Waste

The stats for the solid waste department are as follows:

Customers served 304

Loads hauled from convenience centers 49

Loads shipped to Lenoir 28

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 22

Community service workers 7

Community service reports 1

The landfill has spent most of the week recovering from the recent rain. Wes Scarlett continues to perform the water well testing. The director attended several meetings this week including a budget review with Deputy Finance Director, Raeann Turner, training with Human Resources Director, Debra Conner, and a meeting with Republic Services on recycling. Also, the director attended the Board of Commissioners' meeting. We have sent the new electronics contract to the vendor for their signature so we can execute the contract and start shipping electronics. The transfer station staff continues to process the tonnages coming in both MSW and recycling. C&D staff have worked real hard preparing the dumping area due to so much rain and they are processing the tonnages that are coming in. Work continues to be performed at the airport with grass mowing. Shop staff continues to fix equipment while performing inspections and preventative maintenance. Shop staff also worked on compactors at Avondale and Colfax this week.

Please continue to recycle!!!!!!!!!!!!

Transportation Services



Emergency Medical Services:

We have placed the order for the new vehicle for the community paramedic program. It should be delivered in 120 days or less and was able to be purchased through a local vendor.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	154	168
Convalescent Calls	40	59

Transit Department:

Transit is still offering Free Rides on the Dollar Bus until October 25th and receiving very positive feedback from passengers concerning this promotion. We are also continuing to offer a free laundry bag to the first 25 residents that sign up for the FREE laundry service. The Transit Director and the Operations Manager will be attending the annual NCDOT Conference in Raleigh on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The Operations Manager has started required Ride Checks of all drivers. This action requires that all drivers to be monitored in person while performing their duties as a driver.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	13,220	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,088	881
# of Out of County Trips	91	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	229	238
Total Revenue	\$18,663	\$14,549

Veterans' Services

Mail In	46
Mail Out	37
Fax	152
Phone Calls In/Out	65
Veteran Contacts	124



County Events

Once again, the Rumbling Bald Resort will be holding its annual golf tournament to raise money for the "Help Us Help the Kids" gift drive. I have attached an entry form if you would like to make copies and hand out to your employees to see if they would like to take part in the event. It is a great time every year and helps us raise more money to buy the kids Christmas gifts.

Thank you,

Patrick Krause
Group Sales
Representative

***Entry Form on page 9.**



Above: #16 Bald Mountain Golf Course at Rumbling Bald Resort

A note from the Coordinator...

2015 Marks our *12th year of providing an unexpected Christmas* to children in Rutherford County. "Help us Help" began in Christmas 2003 as an employee initiative at Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure. Our simple goal was to provide Christmas presents for one child in Rutherford County, a child who for whatever reason was in the care of Social Services and would not be able to celebrate a traditional family Christmas. Each year since we've grown and expanded the number of children we are able to help. In 2015 we were able to sponsor 15 children, and we hope to exceed that number again. Our primary fund raising event is the *Christmas in November, 2015 Help us Help Golf Tournament* held on Sunday November 1st at Bald Mountain Golf Course. "Help us Help" remains a simple, local volunteer initiative led by the employees of Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure. We volunteer our time to coordinate community resources and raise funds for local children. *We need you to "Help us Help!"*



Sincerely,

Patrick Krause
Tournament Coordinator

THE CHILDREN OF



RUTHERFORD COUNTY

2015 Golf Tournament

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST 2015

Captain's Choice Shotgun Start 1:00pm.

Bald Mountain Golf Course at Rumbling Bald Resort on Lake Lure

FORMAT

4 Person Teams, Captain's Choice, Low Net and Low Gross

Ladies may play from the Red Tees; Ages 60+ may play from the Yellow Tee;

All others play from the White Tees

COST

\$50 per player* includes Golf (with Cart), and Lunch.

Mulligan's available for \$5.00 (limit 2 per player)

**Resort Member cost is \$45 per player. Current POA card required at registration.*

P1 \$30, P2 \$40 and P5 \$50

PRIZES

Gift Certificates awarded to the Top 3 Teams

6 Individual Awards Include:

Closest to the Pin on all Par 3's. Two Ladies #2 & #4;

Two Men #6 & #12; and One Man, One Lady #16

Individual winners each receive a sleeve of Titleist Pro V1 Golf Balls.

Team Registration Form 2015 "Help us Help" Golf Tournament

All players must have a verifiable handicap.

Team Name: _____ Phone: _____

Player #1 Name/HDCP: _____ Player #2 Name/HDCP: _____

Player #3 Name/HDCP: _____ Player #4 Name/HDCP: _____

Please Submit Registration Form & Payment to Bald Mountain Golf Shop

For more information call 828.694.3050 or email pkrause@rumblingbald.com

Attention: Rutherford County Employees
October is Corporate Month
@
Lifestyle Wellness & Spa

We are celebrating you! During the month of October, we want you to come experience what we have to offer.

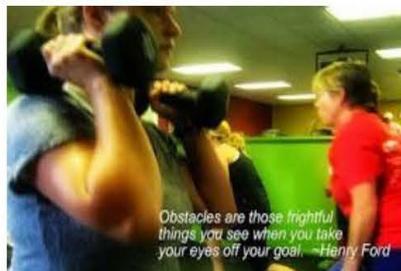
Follow these simple steps to activate your membership:

1. Show proof of Rutherford County Employment.
2. Pay \$10.00 to activate your Membership Card.
3. Experience our large fitness area, group exercise classes, and swimming pool.

This is our way of giving back to you, our County workers.

No contract. No Hassle.

Come by today and start your journey to being healthier and happier.



***This offer is for New Members Only!**

Kidsenses Children's Museum



CHECK OUT
THE SURPRISE
ON THE →
OTHER SIDE

Tickets \$50 per
Call, or Click:



The Photo Booth Is Back :)
Attire: Fun, Funky or Glam
Really Good Craft Beers & Wine
Fantastic Food from Area Eateries
Cool "Maker" Spaces - Get Creative!
Great Live Band & DJ Dance Party to Close
Lots of Auction Items: Art, Vacations, Pampering & More

172 N Main St, Rutherfordton NC (828) 286-2120

Saturday, Oct 17 at 7:00pm



**BECHTLER RIFLE
AND
NEW EXHIBITS
TO BE UNVEILED AT BECHTLER HOUSE
IN
RUTHERFORDTON ON OCT. 29**

The public is invited to a special “Bechtler Gold Day” event to view new exhibits and hear other exciting announcements from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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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