



October 26, 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.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Taught Living Healthy with Chronic Pain class
- Assisted Extension & Community Association (ECA) members with monthly meeting
- Taught Cook Smart Eat Smart class
- Attended West District agents meeting

Agriculture

- Radio Programs: WCAB & WGTM
- News Column- Daily Courier
- Farm Tax Workshop
- WNC Ag Options Grant Program: Networking with Rutherford County Producers
- Food Modernization Safety Act Training: Session 5

Airport

The Airport sold 1,944.0 gallons of Jet A to 9 aircraft and 946.8 gallons of 100LL to 39 aircraft.

PHOTOS:

A team of engine specialists from Standard Aero based in New York performing field maintenance on a Falcon 2000 on the ramp at Rutherford County.



Board of Elections



Poll worker training continued this week with our second of three classes (pictured left).

Our Board met on Tuesday to approve absentee applications. Early voting starts Thursday at our office and runs through Saturday, October 31st at 1:00 p.m.

Sample ballots can be found on our website at:

<http://rutherfordcountync.gov/Departments/boardofelections/Sample>

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners were involved in numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events. The week began with several individual Department Head meetings in addition to discussions with the Planning/Projects and Economic Development directors.

On Tuesday, Manager Garrison met with the ARC Grant Committee, Economic Development, and ended the day with the Airport Authority Meeting. The County Commissioners were involved in the Airport meeting also, led by Commissioner Benfield. Vice Chairman Toney came early, before the airport meeting, to meet with an individual citizen. Several other individual meetings took place on Tuesday.

The Economic Development Commission met on Wednesday. Thursday consisted of a Capital Facilities Planning Update meeting, School of Government webinar discussing ethics, finance, governmental liability, ordinance enforcement, public records, purchasing taxation (including fire tax districts, occupancy tax, and property tax) involving several staff members, and other individual meetings.

On Friday, several appointments were scheduled, including travel to Waynesville for a Golden LEAF CBGI Western Prosperity Zone Meeting. 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.

Happy Birthday to the best County Manager in the whole wide world! You're not just a year older, but a year better! Have a great day and a great year ahead.



Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department conducted the monthly EDC Board Meeting and attended miscellaneous meetings with county departments and industry allies. Staff continues to be busy responding to numerous industrial leads, following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, and working with the Department of Commerce and existing industry representatives regarding various grant reports. This week's agenda also included continuing work on website content and preparing for an upcoming industrial site visit.

Finance Department

The Finance Office is working to complete items needed for the audit. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week, and began to work on payroll for the upcoming week. The Director and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings and TDA's board meeting.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- attended Advanced Investigative Training seminar for fire investigators.
- conducted one fire origin and cause investigation.
- continued fire safety activities.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The HR Director, Finance Director, and Finance Analyst hosted a webinar provided by the School of Government regarding FLSA changes for 2016. The Town of Forest City, Town of Spindale, Town of Rutherfordton, Town of Lake Lure and the Health Department joined us for the webinar. The HR Specialist attended training provided by Keystone on ACA recording.

Colonial representatives have begun open enrollment this week. Also, the State Health Plan is hosting their open enrollment for next year. Employees must log-in 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 12:00-4:00 at the County Office Building.

We wish County Manager Steve Garrison a very happy birthday this week. (I think he said he was 25 again!)

Current vacancies are: Economic Development Director, part time TDA Welcome Center attendant, Veterans Service Officer, and mechanic for Solid Waste. Applicants can apply at www.rutherfordcountync.gov.

Library

Library Director:

The director continued to work on quarterly reports and sorting through donated materials. In addition, she helped with various groups using/touring the Makerspace and organizing materials for the new library.

Circulation Manager:

Circulation Manager assisted in organizing the juvenile collection of the Haynes branch in preparation for moving to the new building. The new library will have a separate section for Easy Reader books. These are designed for children who are learning to read on their own. There will also be a separate section for Young Adult books.

IT Librarian:

The DBU Makerspace had a busy week with two school group visits, classes on 3D printing, and an individual project. The robotics club from Forrest Hunt Elementary came in to work with the 3D printer. They learned how to import the keychain designs they had created in class into the printer software and then transfer the print file to the printer. Enough copies of each design were printed so that each student could take home the keychain they had designed. A large group from Sunshine Elementary visited on Thursday for a tour of the DBU. The students rotated through five stations to get some hands on experience with electronics, building materials, looms, 3D printing, and media conversion. Seventeen people attended classes on using the 3D printer and also received a basic introduction to two 3D design software packages. The DBU also hosted someone working on an individual 3D print project.

The DBU Makerspace is excited to announce our first 3D design and print contest for teens! Beginning November 2nd, library staff will work with any interested teenager ages 13-18 to design and print their own original creation. Anyone interested in participating should pick up a registration form from the library along with a complete list of the rules and guidelines. Forms are due by November 14th and final submissions are due by December 31st. All designs will be put on display in the library and pictured on our Facebook page from January 4th through the 15th and the general public will be invited to vote on their favorites. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three designs.

Youth Services: Story Time will re-launch on Tuesday, October 27th at 10:30am in the County Library Children's Room. Story Time will be geared toward children ages 0-5. We will be celebrating Halloween with stories, dancing and snacks! She also spent time re-establishing contact between the library and elementary schools, preschools, and daycares for outreach.

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Branch Library hosted a Spooky Science program from Kidsenses Children's Museum on Saturday. Families were treated to green slime, ghost bubbles and even a vomiting pumpkin. The Lake Lure Lions' Club conducted a Vision Screening in the Community Room on Wednesday. Joy and Angie sorted through many boxes of donations for the collection and to donate to the book sale. Joy continues Supercharged Storytime training and incorporated fun new alphabet activities into the weekly storytime.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is still working January motor vehicle renewals and handled 46 VTS assists. The office answered 342 phone calls and assisted 228 customers. We completed 2 plat reviews, 1 project and answered 4 data requests.

Appraisers completed 121 building permits and 89 field reviews. A total of 26 new documents were recorded and 34 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 85 straights, 4 estates, 2 merges and 1 split.

GIS created 8 new maps. The GIS website had 152,275 hits and 109,709 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 2 new addresses and updated 25 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers installed 7 new roads signs and completed maintenance on 1 road sign.

Staff processed 2 exclusions/deferments and 1 discovery. Electronic payments consisted of 5 by credit card, 46 by website and 8 over the phone. Collection action consisted of 2 newspaper items. Staff completed 25 occupancy taxes, 190 bank drafts, 1 prepay, 12 overpayments, 13 bankruptcy issues and processed 230 items mailed in. In person taxpayers at the counter brought in 293 tax payments. Twenty-six new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

Senior Center

The Senior Center's Recipe Club met on Monday and shared their favorite seafood recipes with the group for National Seafood Month.

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. The topic this week was "Dealing with Difficult Emotions". The seniors also enjoyed craft time on Tuesday making Halloween treats.

On Wednesday, a group of seniors went to Hendersonville to see the beautiful fall leaves and to get some delicious apples at McAbee's produce stand.

Connie Wells came on Thursday to present a program called "A Bed Turning" -a quilt lover's program. This is a way of introducing quilters and non-quilters to the beauty of quilts in an interesting and different way. Quilts are stacked and placed and as each quilt is turned and held up for the audience, the narrator describes the quilt, and gives information on the pattern and the historical and personal significance behind the making of that particular masterpiece.

Lastly, on Friday a group of seniors will go on a "Mystery Trip". They will not know what or where they are going until they get there!

Upcoming:

Zumba at 6:45 p.m. on October 26

Health & Wellness Fair October 29 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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)

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- met with County Manager for monthly meeting.
- worked on Quarterly Reporting and District Agreement amendment paperwork.

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The Ag Cost Share Technician:

- had a monthly meeting with County Manager.
- attended technical training with NRCS.
- worked on Watershed Dam Emergency Action Plans.

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 365

Loads hauled from convenience centers 57

Loads shipped to Lenoir 31

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 3

Tire customers 23

Community service workers 4

Community service reports 1

The director and office staff have been busy this week researching new grants, working on old grants and continuing to fill out state reports. Also, the director held several internal meeting with staff.

The transfer station staff continues to process the MSW and recycling tonnages that are coming in. The nice weather of late has really increased the amount of trash being collected.

The C&D staff continues to process all tonnages coming in while continuing to haul dirt for cover. Work continues to be performed at the airport with mowing and bush hogging. We have started to repaint the curbing at the Colfax Convenience Center. We have completed several centers and this one was next.

The shop staff continues to perform preventative maintenance while performing winter checks on equipment. All of our vehicles have to be inspected this month by the county garage.

The litter control officer is out of town this week attending the Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officers meeting in Wrightsville Beach.

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

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS had a number of personnel to attend PALS (pediatric advanced life support) and PEP (pediatric education for pre-hospital professionals) classes held at ICC Campus this week for continued training. The new Foothills EMS station is progressing towards completion. Flooring, cabinets, paint and fixtures are all being completed this week. Staff also held their monthly management team meeting this week.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	172	168
Convalescent Calls	42	59

Transit Department:

Operations Manager continues to conduct Ride-a-Longs with the drivers as part of required annual refresher training. Quarterly spreadsheets detailing our safety and minimum required training for the 1st Quarter of the fiscal year were completed and sent to the NCDOT. Transit also received their first allocation of ROAP (Rural Operating Assistance Program) funds which equals 25% of the total or \$44,408.75 from NCDOT. Director continues to work on the completion of federal/state grants for FY16-17 which have a public hearing scheduled for November 2nd.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,670	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,128	881
# of Out of County Trips	98	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	246	238
Total Revenue	\$19,361	\$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.
- Friday, October 23, East High School: Tribute to veterans. All veterans with ID get in free. Be there by 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m., Symphony at ICC Foundation: Salute to veterans. Free to all veterans. Other guests \$10 each.
- 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	31
Mail Out	24
Fax	152
Phone Calls In/Out	63
Veteran Contacts	176

2015 Relay for Life (Pictures from 2015 Events.)



Good news!!! Our Rutherford County Employees Team raised **\$6,815.25** this year in the fight against cancer. Our team finished 5th place in the county out of 38 teams. Rutherford County raised **\$109,719.59** for 2015. Thank you to all our team members who helped in this effort in so many ways!!!

We did many of the same fundraisers this year (Shooting Tournament, spring and fall plant sales, dress down, T shirts, Zumba and Zaxby's). Some new fundraisers were the Paint it Up class, gospel singing and bouncy house fundraisers. We also did an Owls ticket sale/ raffle and sold items at MayFest in Rutherfordton. Our biggest fundraiser was the Shooting Tournament (just under \$1,800 raised). Many thanks to the **Sheriff's Dept.** for their hard work on this!

Thank you to team captains **Brandy Morris** (DSS) and **Alma Resendiz** (Solid Waste). Thank you to all who participated in any way. Also, a special thanks to **Jeanette Bosgra** (Finance) for her passion to ensure another successful year. It was definitely a team effort.



We need team captains for 2016 so if you are at all interested let us know. I am sure Alma and Brandy would be glad to answer any questions about it. We have already begun fundraising for 2016 with the pansy/mum sale in September. We raised \$476.80 on the plant sale. Thank you

again for willingness to help in the fight against cancer!

Rada catalogs will be placed in the mailboxes this afternoon. These make great Christmas gifts (or any time of year gifts). We get a very good profit for our Relay team from this sale so please take a look at the catalog. If you have any questions on the knife sale, contact Robin Ensley (6176) or Janet Lovelace (6320) in the Revenue Dept. Thanks to both for their willingness to coordinate and lead this fundraiser.



Rutherford County Employees Relay for Life Team



Relay for Life 2015 pictures continued





**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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www.rutherfordcountync.gov