



September 28, 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](#)

[Clerk to the Board](#)

[County Manager](#)

[Economic Development](#)

[Fire Marshal/Emergency Management](#)

[Finance](#)

[Human Resources](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Library](#)

[Public Works and Planning](#)

[Register of Deeds](#)

[Revenue](#)

[Senior Center](#)

[Social Services](#)

[Soil and Water](#)

[Solid Waste](#)

[Transportation Services \(EMS/Transit\)](#)

[Tourism Development Authority](#)

[Veteran Services](#)



With the abundance of pumpkins during this season, most everyone enjoys various pumpkin desserts. I have to admit, a family favorite fall dessert of mine is pumpkin chocolate chip muffins! There is nothing like running errands on a cool autumn day, than to come home on a Saturday afternoon to the sweet smell of freshly baked, warm pumpkin chocolate chip muffins! I, of course, load them with chocolate chips. Mmmmmmm... can you smell them? I'll even share my recipe. Enjoy!

*Kim Aldridge, County Office*

### Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Muffins

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 can (15 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin
- 1-1/2 cups canola oil
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- Optional secret: Add 1 teaspoon butter flavoring to egg/sugar mixture



#### Directions

1. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, pumpkin and oil until smooth. Combine the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt; gradually add to pumpkin mixture and mix well. Fold in chocolate chips. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups three-fourths full.
2. Bake at 400° for 15-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack. Yields about 2 dozen muffins.

## Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

- Attended training for Living Healthy curriculum.
- Facilitated tours for Extension & Community Association.
- Participated in training webinar for nutrition program.

### **Cooperative Extension**

- Local Media - Radio Programming with WCAB & WGTM, Daily Courier Column
- FDA Food Modernization Safety Act Training - (6) Week Program, Week 1-FSMA Rule Updates
- Rutherford EMGV Council - Programming for 2016 & Association development
- Spring Garden School Committee - Preparations for March 2016 School
- Colfax Fair - Exhibit Judging with Rutherford Master Gardener Volunteers

## Airport

The airport sold 1,420.0 gallons of Jet A to 8 aircraft and 893.6 gallons of 100LL to 36 aircraft last week.



Photos:

A 1958 Sikorsky S-58JT stopped in for fuel while on its way to work. This is a true work-horse that continues to work despite its age. This helicopter was originally manufactured with a radial piston engine. It has been upgraded with a P&W PT6T-6 gas turbine engine for added power and performance. (In her military life it was designated H-34 and later replaced by the UH-1 Huey.)



## Board of Elections



The Rutherford County Board of Elections office won one of the first Best Practices Awards presented by the N.C. State Board of Elections at a recent conference in Winston-Salem. The award was presented for training videos that the elections office filmed with the assistance of the Broadcasting students at Isothermal Community College.

Congratulations to Director Debbie Bedford and staff!



# NORTH CAROLINA

## State Board of Elections

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Josh Lawson (919) 715-9194

[joshua.lawson@ncsbe.gov](mailto:joshua.lawson@ncsbe.gov)

### **Rutherford County elections administrators recognized for best practices**

RALEIGH, N.C. — The State Board of Elections and the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections (NCADE) have recognized county boards of election in Jackson, Dare, Mecklenburg, Rutherford, and Craven counties for best practices in the area of elections administration.

**"We are proud to recognize these outstanding elections administrators whose hard work helps ensure fair and secure elections in our state,"** said Executive Director Kim Westbrook Strach of the State Board of Elections.

The State Board of Elections and NCADE reviewed applications submitted from administrators across the state to identify best practices in areas relating to election management, precinct management, campaign finance, public relations. Executive Director Strach and NCADE President Dawn Stumpf announced that Rutherford County was the winner in the following category:

- **Precinct Official Management Award:** Presented to **Rutherford County Board of Elections** for its use of instructional videos to train poll workers on the proper management of the polling place on Election Day. Rutherford County also involved college broadcast students in a behind-the-scenes look at elections administration. (Director of Elections [Debbie Bedford](#), 828-287-6030)

This is the first time that the State Board of Elections and NCADE have distributed awards for best practices.

###

## **County Manager and Commissioners**

The County Manager and Commissioners began the week in numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events. The week progressed with additional duties, consisting of numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meetings with Department Heads.

The Grand Opening of Phase I and Groundbreaking of Phase II of the Purple Martin Trail was held Monday evening (**pictures posted on page 13**). Also on Monday evening, staff was involved in the Rails-Trails unveiling of new signage in Spindale (**pictures on page 13**).

The County Manager attended Broad River Water Authority Board meeting on Tuesday. On Wednesday, several staff and directors enrolled in the Supervisory Training at ICC, hosted by our Human Resources, DSS, and Health Departments.

The Manager and members of the Golden LEAF Review Committee were accepting and reviewing submitted applications. The purpose of Golden LEAF is to fund projects that promise to bring significant economic improvement to the communities and counties of North Carolina. Several applications for various projects have been reviewed that are consistent with Golden LEAF's priorities.

Clerk to the Board, Hazel Haynes, and HR Director, Debra Conner, traveled to Asheville on Thursday for a one-day Human Services workshop.

The unveiling of the Clerk of Court Plaque Display honoring all Clerk's of Court past and present was held on Friday.

Day-to-day operations included various meetings, project discussions, appointments, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities. The County Manager and Commissioners, once again, extend their appreciation to all who contribute toward building a great county team!

## **Economic Development**

This week, the Economic Development Department followed up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, and attended various meetings with county departments and industry allies. Economic Development staff continues to be busy reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, updating marketing materials, researching promotional items, and continuing work with the website design team. This week's schedule also included presenting to the Isothermal Community College and Gardner Webb University's Leadership Academy

## **Finance Department**

The Finance Office has worked closely with the auditors who have been onsite this week. The Finance Officer attended several interdepartmental meetings this week. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable and began processing payroll this week. Thanks to all who placed Fall flower orders to benefit the American Cancer Society. The plant sale made a profit of \$515.

## **Fire Marshal/Emergency Management**

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Assisted the Sheriff's Office with a barricaded suspect providing food, drinks and equipment.
- Worked on a project for construction of a new monument for County firefighters.
- Completed and submitted 2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant activities for reimbursement.
- Made repairs to the fire safety house and prepared it for upcoming fire prevention activities.

## **Human Resources**

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director conducted exit interviews, was involved with the Supervisory Training at ICC, and attended several interdepartmental meetings. She, along with Clerk to the Board, traveled to Asheville for a one-day Human Services workshop on Thursday. The Director and Assistant Director attended the Reaction Plan training for staff. The Relay for Life plant sale made a profit of \$515. Open enrollment for the State Health Plan will begin October 15, 2015. Please be watching for email reminders.

### **FLU SHOT DATE**

October 28, 2015 12:00 to 4:00

To: All Employees

From: Human Resources

**Ref: Flu Shots**

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](mailto:debra.conner@rutherfordcountync.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact the HR Office.

## Library

### **Library Director:**

The director worked on grants, cataloguing books, and setting up for the book sale. She also attended a supervisory training class offered by the School of Government. The Makerspace opening was a wonderful success! The Circulation Manager attended Reaction Plan training at the County Offices and attended the Grand Opening of the Makerspace at the Library. She also assembled a new revolving CD rack, weeded books from the juvenile non-fiction collection, and helped move and organize items for the upcoming book sale.

### **IT Librarian:**

The grand opening of the DBU Makerspace was amazing! We had over 70 people in attendance and everyone seemed to enjoy playing with and learning about all the various offerings on display **(pictured below)**. The schedule of events through the end of October is posted on the library's website ([www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org](http://www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org)) and includes classes on 3D design and printing; electronics projects using LittleBits, Snap Circuits, and Arduino; weaving on a table top loom and circle looms; and plenty of open time that can be scheduled by individuals or groups to work on their own projects. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 3rd for demos and hands on experience with the 3D printer, and Saturday, October 24th for an open house where you can get another chance to see and play with all of the exciting items in the DBU.

### **Haynes Branch:**

Women from the DAR visited and set up a beautiful display for Constitution week. September 17-23rd. We also have a quiz about the Constitution so patrons can win a prize. We delivered books to the senior center and we are still preparing for our move next month. It is a very large task, but we are excited.

### **Mountains Branch:**

Joy Sharp spent time weeding the Easy collection. Joy and Angie also did some rearranging in the Children's Area to create a play area for kids with puzzles and other tactile and educational toys. Joy developed a list of recommendations for a local Book Club looking for Christian-themed titles. She attended a supervisory training class offered by the County. The library offered an Apple Story Time for preschoolers this week. Angie Turner attended the grand opening of the Rutherford County Library Makers' Space.



developed a list of recommendations for a local Book Club looking for Christian-themed titles. She attended a supervisory training class offered by the County. The library offered an Apple Story Time for preschoolers this week. Angie Turner attended the grand opening of the Rutherford County Library Makers' Space.

## Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 3915 motor vehicle renewals and handled 33 VTS assists. The office answered 487 phone calls and assisted 275 customers. We completed 7 plat reviews, 1 project, 4 pre-permits and answered 1 data request. Appraisers completed 155 building permits and 48 field reviews. A total of 76 new documents were recorded and 33 new accounts were set up. Transfers consisted of 70 straights, 3 splits, and 2 acreage adjustments. GIS created 2 new maps. The GIS website had 144,525 hits and 100,853 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 8 new addresses, 2 new private drives, ordered 28 new road signs, and updated 75 addresses with new owner information. Part time maintenance workers installed 5 new roads signs and completed maintenance on 2 road signs. The PUV program mailed 6 letters, and assisted 11 program members. Staff processed 2 discoveries. Collection action consisted of 7 newspaper items and 23 notice letters. Staff completed 3 gross receipts, 65 occupancy taxes, 2 payment plans and 52 overpayments. Thirty-four new deeds were certified for recording purposes.

## Senior Center

The Senior Center's Recipe Club met on Monday and shared their favorite biscuit recipes in recognition of National Biscuit Month. On Tuesday, our seniors enjoyed craft time making peanut butter pumpkins that morning and then the Ice Cream Shop that afternoon. April Morgan, with the NC Cooperative Extension, came on Wednesday to discuss "More in My Basket". This is a project of North Carolina State University and NC Cooperative Extension that helps reduce hunger by connecting households to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Director also attended Supervisory Management Training on Wednesday at the Foundation. On Thursday, the seniors participated in a fun activity of "Family Feud". On Thursday and Friday, several of our seniors are traveling to Raleigh for the State Final Senior Games. Good luck to all of our seniors—Bring home the gold!

Upcoming:

- Zumba at 6:45 p.m. on October 5, 12, 19, 26
- Tailgate Yard/Craft Sale 8:00-11:00 a.m. on October 9 (Advertisement on pg. 8)
- "Pink Zumbathon" 9:00 -12:00 p.m. on October 10 (Advertisement on right)



## ZUMBATHON

*Come Join the Party -*

Rutherford County Senior Center

193 Callahan Koon Rd, Spindale

Saturday, October 10

9:00am to 12:00pm

(Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED by calling Barbara Hill at 287-6413

**\$10 each** (all ages welcome)

Instructors: Wavolyn Norville, Pam Baker,  
& instructors from Changing Lives Fitness  
*All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Resource  
Center to assist a local breast cancer patient!*

For more information call 828-287-6409



# TAILGATE YARD SALE

**Friday, October 9, 2015**  
**8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Rutherford County Senior Center**  
**193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale NC**  
**For more information call: 287-6409**

Seniors (age 55 and over): If you would like to participate as a seller at the tailgate yard sale, please see the following instructions:

- See Barbara or Crystal on/or before 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY, October 8<sup>th</sup> to sign up
- Complete an "Agreement and Acceptance of Conditions Form"
- Pay \$10 (refundable deposit)

*The drawing for the assignment of parking spaces will be in the Dining Room on Thursday, October 8 at 11:15 a.m. Your \$10 deposit will be reimbursed on Friday after you stay the entire time of the sale (8-11).*

## Social Services

The Director attended regular monthly committee meetings and the statewide Director's meeting in Raleigh on September 8 and 9.

Later that week on Friday, the Director and Social Work Program Manager met with the County Finance Director and a JCPC representative to discuss Emergency Sheltering Funds.

Last Wednesday, the Social Services Board held its regular monthly meeting. Mr. Maxie Jolley was sworn in to begin serving his second three year term on the DSS Board. In addition to their regular agenda items, the Board heard an update on the Employee Satisfaction Survey and plans to form employee focus groups to discuss the results; and were given a briefing on the findings of the recent Child Protective Services Process Review.

On Friday, a meeting was held with staff interested in being part of developing the focus groups to review the Employee Satisfaction Survey. Also on Friday, the Director attended the Reaction Training conducted by Phillip Bailey with the Sheriff's Department.

On Wednesday, Supervisors attended Human Resources Training at ICC. The training was conducted by Mr. Drake Maynard, former employee with the Office of State Personnel. This was a joint effort of DSS, the Health Department, and the County Human Resources Office.

Several staff have attended numerous other trainings over the past several weeks including IV-E Funding Training, Data Warehouse Training, and Legal Aspects of Child Protective Services. The Child Support Staff also recently attended the North Carolina Child Support Council annual meeting which was held in Asheville this year.

The agency NC FAST OSS team came up with the idea of a networking group, including a few counties within close proximity to increase support. The intent of this idea is to be able to reach out and ask questions and hopefully share solutions to NC Fast issues. The counties invited to participate have been receptive and share the desire for more support. Those counties include Caldwell, McDowell, Henderson, Burke, and Haywood. Our Income Maintenance Staff are definitely "out of the box thinkers" and always looking for ways to improve efficiency and customer service.

An Orientation Meeting was held at Rutherford County DSS on Monday, September 21, for prospective foster and adoptive parents. A total of eight people attended the meeting. Foster/Adoptive Parent Orientation meetings provide an opportunity for people in the community to learn more about the requirements for becoming a foster or adoptive parent for Rutherford County DSS. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent or know someone who is, or would like someone to speak to your church or civic group about fostering and adoption please contact Angela Black at DSS.



## Soil & Water

Soil & Water has packed up and moved to 500 West Street, Spindale, NC 28160. We are still unpacking!! The Admin/Education Specialist continued working on Conservation Field Day planning and District minutes and Notices.

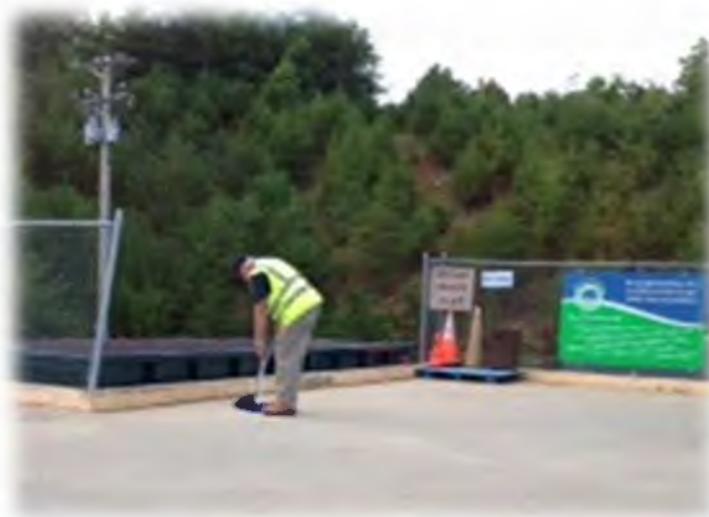
## Solid Waste

Customers served 347  
Loads hauled from convenience centers 51  
Loads shipped to Lenoir 32  
Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2  
Tire customers 39

The director has been working on a contract for electronics while setting up advertisements for the program. Also, the director, James Kilgo, attended the SWANA Quad Conference in Tennessee (**pictured right**). The transfer station staff continues to process the tonnages coming in while monitoring the electronics program since we figure a mass number will be turned in before the October 1st start date when we begin charging. Tony will email a picture of a banner that has been put up at all convenience centers. Shop staff continues to fix equipment while performing preventative maintenance. C&D staff continues to process the tonnages coming in while working on the animal disposal section. Work at the airport continues to be performed weekly. Staff is in the process of researching a mercury grant from the state that will allow us to recycle thermostats and other products that contain mercury.

Please remember to recycle and new charges for the disposal of electronics will begin October 1st (**pictured right**).

**Going Above and Beyond:** Tony Bumgarner took the **picture below** of employee who is keeping the Convenience Center immaculate! Thank you for your service.



## Transportation Services

### Emergency Medical Services:

Two staff members attended a walk through and lunch at the Facebook Facility on Thursday September 17, 2015 to become familiar with facility layout for emergencies. Training Officer attended a Kiwanis meeting on Monday, September 21,2015, to promote upcoming Community Paramedic program.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	1600	168
Convalescent Calls	43	59

### Transit Department:

Transit Staff continues final preparations for next week's Driver Appreciation observance. The entire week is centered around recognizing and thanking all of our employees for their contributions to Rutherford County Transit and to the citizens of the county. Tuesday, 9/29/15, will be spent celebrating Transit's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary along with our Driver Appreciation observance. Many out of town guests, along with local guests, have been invited to come on that day to enjoy lunch with our employees and to see what makes Rutherford County Transit. From its start in September 1990, Transit, a nationally recognized asset, continues to be for the citizens of Rutherford County. Operations Manager has met with Director of Stainless Ministries to begin to develop a plan to help transport people to their facility for free food. The goal is to establish a process similar to one used previously at the Storehouse Pantry.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	11,843	9,566
# of Local Trips	1,166	881
# of Out of County Trips	112	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	245	238
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$22,480</b>	<b>\$14,549</b>



# FREE LAUNDRY BAGS

In celebration of our **25th Anniversary at Transit** we are giving away free **LAUNDRY BAGS** to the first **25** families to schedule a trip to the Laundromat.



There is no charge for this transportation service. Please call **287-6142** to set up an appointment.



Service is available Monday-Friday.

## Veterans' Services

Mail In	24
Mail Out	103
Fax	152
Phone Calls In/Out	74
Veteran Contacts	219

Photos from Last Week's Events

### **'Unveiling' the Spindale Visitor Information Network Sign**



### **Purple Martin Greenway Grand Opening Phase I and Groundbreaking of Phase II**





## **Broad River Cleanup**



We had a great group of volunteers and removed a heaping truckload of trash from the river. Three sections of the Broad River were cleaned and tires, a metal barrel, and lots of cans were removed. The river looks great and it's all thanks to the help of volunteers from the community!

Many of the participants were part of ROC's River Stewards program. The program allows people that are passionate about protecting our rivers the chance to adopt a river section and help keep it clean and clear of debris throughout the year. They play a large part in keeping our rivers beautiful.

The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition will be having another river clean-up in the Spring. If anyone would like to help with that clean-up or wants information about the River Steward program, they can contact Dana Bradley at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or (828) 625-9983 ext 505.



# County Events

## 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!



### Cooking School

Perfect for both the beginner and the seasoned cook - parents, grand parents, women, men, young adults, teens.

Scholarships are available to cover cost of program. Call Tracy Davis @ 287-6020 for information.

*If you are tired of cooking and eating the same old dishes, looking for new recipes, want to improve your cooking skills or just want to eat healthier, Cook Smart is for you.*

- Quick, easy, meals
- Basic equipment
- Simple ingredients
- Healthy foods



### The Cook Smart Eat Smart Cooking School

Classes: Thursdays, October 8, 15, and 22

Cost \$ 25.00 per person for 3 classes

Choose times: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm or 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Register by October 1, 2015

Location: 193 Callahan - Koon Rd, Spindale, NC 28160

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Tracy Davis, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences at 628.287.4019 or Tracy\_Davis@ncdohhhs.gov or FAX - 628.288.4036 or in person at the County Extension Office at least 10 days prior to the event.



**Kidsenses Children's Museum**

CHECK OUT THE SURPRISE ON THE OTHER SIDE

Tickets \$50 per Call, or Click:

GET YOUR POSE TOGETHER AND HAVE A GREAT NIGHT OUT!

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**

**You Could Win!**

A collector's dream item from the most iconic rock band in U.S. history...  
this Fender guitar autographed by all the **Rolling Stones**

comes with a certificate of authenticity

**Live Auction at the Gala**

Can't come? Contact Us to set up a secure bid

# Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail



**Event: Free Public Program - Gilbert Town**  
**Location: Rock Road, Rutherfordton**  
**Date/Time: October 2, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Contact: 828.245.7748**



*Relive the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*

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](http://www.rutherfordcountync.gov)