December was an interesting month for Animal Control. There were days that we had an outstanding amount of people visit, thus increasing our adoptions like never before. We received a generous donation of leashes and collars for new adoptions from Max and Neo! We received monetary donations, donations of supplies, food, medication and more. Some of our long term animals have finally found their forever homes. Our save rate for this month was 86%. This included five owner requests, three wildlife, and three animals who were severely ill or injured. For the calendar year, we took in 1,638 animals! Twenty-six percent were adopted out, 19% returned home, 40% went to rescue groups, 2% died in our care (usually due to being underage/unvaccinated and their immune systems cannot handle a shelter environment), 11% euthanized, and 2% ended the year still in our care. We completed 3,364 animal control calls for service. We provided 1,100 rabies vaccines, 163 microchips were given, and 39 animals were sent for rabies testing. The cats are now completely separated from the dogs. This has greatly cut down on the stress while in the facility, and increased the overall wellbeing of all the animals. We have had many volunteers that we welcome to the facility on a regular basis. This year has brought much support from the community, and we hope that this support will continue to grow in 2020. Two local rescue groups have grown and moved into new establishments, and we are looking forward to their assistance with our animals throughout the upcoming year. Keep sharing our posts on Facebook and supporting Animal Control services, and with your help, we will make 2020 a wonderful year!

| Total number of animals picked up or surrendered | 121 |
| Total number of Dogs/Cats ADOPTED from the shelter | 46 |
| Total number of animals returned to owners | 23 |
| Total number of animals rescued by groups | 52 |
| Total number euthanized this month | 17 |
| Calls completed this month | 261 |
Things are very busy at the Board of Elections. In January, staff was involved in:

- Proofing ballots
- Sent Absentee Ballots by mail
- Recruiting poll workers
- Searching for students to work as Election Assistants

This year, new voting equipment will be used, the DS200 and ExpressVote. This equipment was delivered to the office on January 15th, and the process of testing this new equipment will begin soon, as well as training workers.

In addition, staff is working to get ready for one-stop to start on February 13, 2020. See schedule below for dates and times at each location.

### One – Stop Absentee Voting

**Primary Election 2020**

**2 LOCATIONS WILL BE OPENING IN FEBRUARY**

**HOURS WILL BE THE SAME AT BOTH LOCATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS</th>
<th>RUTHERFORD COUNTY ANNEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>298 FAIRGROUND RD</td>
<td>289 N. MAIN STREET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPINDALE NC 28160</td>
<td>RUTHERFORDTON NC 28139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday - Friday</td>
<td>Feb.13-14</td>
<td>8am – 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday – Sunday</td>
<td>Feb. 15-16</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday</td>
<td>Feb. 17-21</td>
<td>8am – 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday – Sunday</td>
<td>Feb. 22-23</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – Friday</td>
<td>Feb. 24-28</td>
<td>8am – 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Feb. 29</td>
<td>8am – 3pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One-Stop ends on Feb. 29 @ 3pm.

March 03, 2020 Voting will be at your precinct ONLY from 6:30am – 7:30pm
Cooperative Extension

Upcoming events at Cooperative Extension:
- Youth nutrition programs are starting soon for preschool students and 4th graders.
- Small Fruit Plant Sale order forms will be available mid-February.
- Monthly cooking classes begin in March.
- Spring Garden School is April 4.
- Free Blueberry Pruning workshop on February 18th at Deer Valley Farm (registration link at rutherford.ces.ncsu.edu)
- CTP classes are being taught by the WNC Green Team during January and February for landscape professionals.
- February 28th is the annual Landscape Management workshop hosted by the WNC Green Team for landscape professionals. It is being held at the Mills River Horticultural Research Station this year. Registration coming soon and classes will have pesticide credits offered.

Special Appreciation for Cooperative Extension staff: The Rutherford County Administration Office received a call from a citizen this month who credited a specific group (the Cooperative Extension staff) for their level of excellence in customer service. Thank you to Director Jeff Bradley and his team for providing customers, clients, and consumers with a positive experience.

FREE Blueberry Pruning Workshop on February 18th, 2:00 -3:30 PM
Register here

Blueberry Pruning Workshop

FREE Workshop
February 18th
2-3:30 PM
at Deer Valley Farm
Please register online at https://rutherfordblueberrypruning.eventbrite.com for address and further details.
The new year started out with many resourceful and eventful meetings, celebrations, and activities in which the County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved with the following individuals, departments, boards, and businesses:

- January Board of Commissioners’ Meeting (pictured below)
- WCAB Update
- County Attorney
- Pangaea
- RS Middle Groundbreaking Ceremony (pictured on pages 5-6)
- Building Inspections
- Airport
- RCED Board
- Senator Thom Tillis’ office staff
- Economic Development
- Solid Waste Department
- MLK Jr Program (pictured on page 6)
- Quarterly Department Head Meeting (pictured on pages 7-8)
- Planning and Projects
- Tourism Development Authority
- Community Health Council
- Legislative Gathering—Tryon Equestrian Center (pictured on page 8)
- JCPC Board
- IPDC Board
- DSS Board
- Partners BHM Board Meeting
- Senior Center Board
- Behavior Coalition
- Rutherford County Housing
- Agenda Review for February Board of Commissioners’ Meeting
- Broad River Water Authority Board

Other County activities and events this month included Rutherford, Bostic, Ruth, Ellenboro, Forest City, Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, and Spindale Town Council meetings, meetings with citizens, numerous calls, interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

The Broad River Paddle Trail spans nearly 41 miles within Rutherford County from Lake Lure Dam/Island Creek Road to the Duke Energy Cliffside Plant. The only developed public access sites on the trail are located at Gray’s and Coxe Roads, a 4.8 mile section of river. Development of the US 221 Access would extend this 4.8 mile paddle trail to 13.7 miles. Broad River Paddle Trail development was identified as a recommendation in the Rutherford Bound Tourism Infrastructure Master Plan. The primary goal of this plan is to cast a clear vision for enhancing and developing tourism infrastructure projects for economic development throughout the County. Citizens also benefit greatly from this goal, as many of the assets and projects that attract tourists also contribute significantly to quality of life. Developing safe, legal, and comfortable public river accesses along the Broad River Paddle Trail is not only economically beneficial from a tourism standpoint, but is also helpful in attracting companies and their employees, as well as retaining existing ones.

The overall project scope involves engineering and development of the access area to include approximately 575’ of access road with a turn-around circle, 10 vehicle parking spaces, 2 trailer parking spaces, kiosk, entry sign, and river entry steps. NCDOT, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Rutherford County, and the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition are all willing partners in this project.

The Rutherford County TDA is leveraging funding from multiple sources. Duke Energy Foundation awarded $25,000 through their Powerful Communities: Nature Grant program (pictured right). RHI Legacy Foundation has awarded $75,000. The TDA is still waiting to hear if grants that total $150,000 have been awarded for the project from state and Federal grant funding sources.
The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Board was featured in the County Lines December 2019 issue. The NCACC Board traveled to D.C. in December to discuss County issues with U.S. Congress and the White House. During the visit, the group also participated in a wreath-laying ceremony, presented by NCACC’s Executive Officers, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. **Rutherford County Commissioner Alan Toney** is pictured below, second row, 4th from right.

Rutherford County Commissioner Chairman, Bryan King, along with several County officials and Rutherford County Schools attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new R-S Middle School on January 6, 2020. **Photo** (left-right), school board members Dr. John Mark Bennett, Phillip Morrow, and Sherry Bright; Superintendent David Sutton, and Board of County Commissioners Chair Bryan King. *(Photo by Scott Carpenter, Daily Courier)*
Bryan King, county commission chairman was one of several speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new R-S Middle School. The ceremony was held Monday afternoon, and was attended by dozens of county leaders, teachers, students, parents and other education supporters.
The Rutherford County Department Head Quarterly Meeting was held January 22nd. Various topics were discussed and updates were given by each department head regarding their specific department.

Transportation Services director, Kerry Giles, was chosen to participate in the “Getting to Know You” segment (pictured below).

Deputy Fire Marshal, John Greenway, presented a brief ‘Active Shooter Preparedness’ video, explaining how active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve quickly. Deputy Greenway did a great job providing a basic overview on how to manage a violent threat and being prepared to Run-Hide-Fight. (pictured below and right).
Third Annual Legislative Gathering on January 27, 2020 at the Tryon Equestrian Center

Pictured: Speaker of the House Tim Moore addressing attendees; Commissioner Benfield left front.
### Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Additionally, the HR department:

- Attended Human Resource monthly meeting
- Attended Commissioner meeting
- Conducted monthly orientation
- Attended JCPC meeting
- Attended Quarterly department head meeting
- Conducted JCPC monitoring
- Attended JCPC Allocation meeting
- Attended NCACC Go to Webinar
- Met with NCACC Risk Management Consultant
- Met with CEC representatives
- Attended “Second Chance Initiatives” hosted by United Way
- Met with EBA Consultant
- Hosted Liberty National
- Lunch and Learn Class (pictured below)

### Employment Opportunities

**Elections Director**

- Mechanic Tech
- Part time Convenience Center attendant
- Part time Call Taker

Apply: www.rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

### NEW EMPLOYEES

- Stephanie Rzonca (EDC)
- Christina Morris (EMS)
- Carlos Borras (Sheriff)
- Jonathan Clayton (Sheriff)
- Christian Malendrez (Detention)
- Sthefany Flores Fuentes (Cooperative Extension)
- Chad Burnett (Detention)

This month was a busy month implementing all the changes for the State Health Plan, United Way, Colonial, Tax Installment and rolling out the new W4.

Address verification forms were sent to all departments to ensure correct addresses

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual blood drive will be held in May—date to be announced.

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**Finance**

**Winner of Rutherford County Schools Spelling Bee**

**Ben Roach, 1st Place**

Benjamin Roach won first place in the County Spelling Bee on Thursday, January 30th. His challenging, championship word was ‘Oligarchy’.

This was Ben’s fifth appearance at the County Bee since eligible to participate and his first county win (he had two second-place finishes in prior years).

Ben advances to the 66th Charlotte Observer Regional Spelling Bee held in Charlotte on February 24th. Benjamin is a 7th grade student at Chase Middle School and the son of Lee and Paula Roach. Paula is the Finance Director for Rutherford County.

Congratulations, Ben, on your outstanding Spelling Bee performance!

Pictured left to right: Principal Jason Byrd, Ben Roach, Dr. David Sutton (RCS Superintendent and Pronouncer for event)
Friday, January 3, bilingual library associate Johanna Berry hosted Fiesta de los Tres Reyes Magos at the Haynes Branch Library. During this celebration of Three Kings Day, a popular event in Hispanic counties, children learned about the tradition, ate Rosca de Reyes (King’s Cake), and decorated their own crowns (pictured below).

On January 6, all three libraries began Spring Book Bingo. This adult reading program encourages patrons to explore new genres and authors by choosing books that fit a particular square on their bingo cards. Examples of bingo squares include: re-read a book you read in high school, read a book featuring animals, and read a fiction or non-fiction book about another culture. Book Bingo lasts through May 29 and participants who turn in a complete row on their Bingo cards to any library receive a prize. Bingo cards may be picked up at any of the three county libraries or print out their own from our webpage www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org.

Thursday, January 9, the NC Works bus drove from Raleigh to Rutherford County and set up in the parking lot at County Library for the day. They hosted a job fair specifically to hire temporary full and part-time workers for the 2020 Census in our area. Erin Miller, Regional Census Recruiting Specialist, estimated that 300 jobs will need to be filled in our area within the next couple months. For more information on working for the 2020 Census, please visit 2020census.gov/jobs.

On Tuesday, January 14, Mountains Branch Library hosted an Adult Paint Pour craft, with attendees each creating their own masterpieces to take home with them. This free event included all materials, and was led by Branch Manager Maria Davis.

On Tuesday, January 14, Mountains Branch Library hosted an Adult Paint Pour craft, with attendees each creating their own masterpieces to take home with them. This free event included all materials, and was led by Branch Manager Maria Davis.

Thursday, January 16, the County Library hosted its first True Crime Club meeting. Patrons learned about the format of the club, during which each monthly meeting one famous criminal or crime will be discussed using a variety of sources, including books, articles, podcasts, and videos. True Crime Club meets the 3rd Thursday each month in the County Library’s Non-Fiction Room. For the month of February, the group will be discussing Jeffrey MacDonald.
Tuesday, January 21, Haynes Branch Library hosted “Art with Danica” in their Community Room. Participants followed 6th grade student Danica Driver in painting alien-themed artwork.

On Wednesday, January 22, Rutherford County Libraries celebrated “Library Shelfie Day” with a social media post featuring library staff sharing our own library shelfies. Don’t worry if you missed it this year...you have a year to capture that perfect library shelfie for posting in 2021!

Thursday, January 23, Outreach Coordinator Engle Troxler visited Rutherford Life Center and helped the seniors make bird feeders using cheerios, honey, and bird seed on pipe cleaners. The bird feeders were hung outside the sun room windows where the clients will be able to watch the birds (or squirrels) enjoy their treats.

Coming soon to RCPL:
- Saturday, February 1: Take Your Child to the Library Day! – Programs include a Family Story Time at 10:30 AM, Paint-a-Pet-Rock at noon, and Chess Club at 1:30. Celebrate all the library has to offer with your family, and enjoy the free activities and materials the library has for all ages!
- Thursday, February 6: “Books & Bites” Author Series featuring North Carolina author Diane Chamberlain, 11:00 AM at Lake Lure Inn. Cost is $25 and includes a 3-course lunch. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call Mountains Branch Library at 828-287-6392. This event benefits the Friends of the Mountains Branch Library.
- True Crime Club will be discussing the case of Jeffrey MacDonald on Thursday, February 20 at 6:00 PM in the County Library’s Non-Fiction Room. Please visit the library’s website at www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org and look under “Clubs, Groups & Activities” for more information.
### Register of Deeds

**November 25, 2019 to January 24, 2020 Activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assumed Business Names</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Satisfaction</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeds</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeds of Trust</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plats/Surveys</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powers of Attorney</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various other documents</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Vital Records Issued</td>
<td>1,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Licenses Issued</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notary Public Oaths</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Revenue Department

- The Revenue Department is in the process of sorting the listing forms received to date. The listing period is January 2, 2020 – January 31, 2020. This is the time to list any personal property items (boats, manufactured homes, aircraft, etc.) or changes to real property as of January 1 for the 2020 tax year. Any forms received after January 31 will receive a 10% late listing penalty.
- The Revenue Department will accept real property appeals during this time, as well as applications for tax relief exclusions, present use value deferment, and tax exemptions. If you have questions regarding tax exclusions, exemptions, or deferment programs, please call the Revenue Department at 287-6000.
- Real Property Value notices will be mailed for any new construction or demolition changes and parcel splits or merges beginning in November and running through mid-January.

### Customer Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone Calls</td>
<td>1,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Assist</td>
<td>533</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### County Growth Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deeds Transferring Property</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer by Estate</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels Reviewed with Building Permits</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcels Reviewed w/o Building Permits</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Collections Progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deeds Certified</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Actions (Garnishments, Attachments, etc.)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Taxes Collected</td>
<td>$8,364,732.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Senior Center enjoyed several guest speakers this month. On January 9, Stephanie Ingle from Partners presented a program on Seasonal Depression. January 22, Susan Hoy from Rutherford Regional presented a program titled "Vitamin C and the Winter Blas." Several senior guests from Crestview Baptist Church joined us for this program. They also received a tour of the Center, stayed to enjoy one of our delicious lunches, and of course, were invited to join the Senior Center in order to participate in all the many benefits, services, and programs.

Accordius Health (formerly White Oak) conducted our monthly Blood Pressure Clinic on January 13 with 23 seniors participating.

Angie Bridges has been busy holding craft classes. This month seniors have made bird houses from gallon milk jugs, bird feeders from peanut butter and seed covered pine cone, winter trees, painted rocks with winter scenes, cards with beautiful bird pictures that will be given to area rest homes for their residents, and a tassel necklace. Jean Aller did a craft class where seniors painted a pretty "love" sign.

We started back our after-hours "Line Dance" class on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

"Neal Sedaka" (Pat Nanney) was the highlight show on January 10th with his twelve Calendar "Girls" (pictured right).

The Rutherford County Senior Center Advisory Board met Thursday, January 16, 2020 (pictured left).

Tax Aide Volunteers are ready to start helping with tax preparation, beginning Thursday, January 30th. Tax Aide Volunteers are trained to assist you in filing many income tax forms and schedules. Volunteers will be at the Senior Center on Thursdays and Fridays. This is open to anyone, not just senior citizens. Be sure and call for your appointment before they fill up at 828-287-6409 (pictured below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Center Site/Type of Meal</th>
<th>Number of Meals Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Center - Callahan Koon Road</td>
<td>2,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellenboro Satellite Site</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrietta Satellite Meal Site</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shingle Hollow Satellite Meal Site</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Delivered Meals / MOW</td>
<td>3,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOW - Shelf Stable Meals</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Participants Enrolled</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Meals Served</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,086</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheriff Chris Francis and the North Carolina Justice Academy are proud to announce that Cpl. Andrew D. Greenway of the Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office recently completed the School Resource Officer Certificate Program at the Justice Academy. Cpl. Greenway is the 275th participant to receive the certificate since the program’s inception in 2002.

The School Resource Officer Certificate Program is designed to recognize the achievement of law enforcement professionals who have dedicated themselves to making the schools safer for our citizens. Officers, upon completion of the program, will have mastered several important aspects of School Resource Officer training and related topics, thus achieving a high level of professionalism for themselves as well as their agency.

The School Resource Officer Certificate Program requires the participants to be sworn law enforcement officers of a law enforcement agency within the State of N.C. and be assigned as a School Resource Officer. The certificate program requires four hundred (400) hours of training with the focus on School Resource Officers. The core requirements for the program consist of the basic School Resource Officer training in addition to advanced legal training and School Resource Officer ethics. All other hours needed to complete the program are relates electives offered through the North Carolina Justice Academy. Cpl. Greenway is the School Resource Officer at Chase High School.

Pictured: Chase Principal Kevin Bradley, Cpl. Greenway, Sheriff Chris Francis

911 Communications

Call Summary
Rutherford County Communications
240 N. Washington Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Monthly Report Date: December 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total 911 Calls</th>
<th>Total Admin Calls</th>
<th>Total Calls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,782</td>
<td>8,774</td>
<td>12,556</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michelle Padgett is our Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2020. Michelle began her employment as an Income Maintenance Caseworker in Medicaid in January 2007, and in August of that year moved to a social work position in Child Care.

In May 2016, she began working in Children Services as a Foster Care Social Worker and in January 2019, moved into her current position as a Social Worker in Adult Services managing a guardianship caseload.

Michelle has a strong work ethic and goes above and beyond to meet the needs of the consumers that she serves. She has a positive attitude and is well respected by her co-workers and other professionals in the community.

Michelle’s mother was employed by the Agency for 45 years, and we are glad that she followed in her footsteps and inherited her exceptional work ethic.

Michelle is a native of Rutherford County and graduated from R-S Central High School and Gardner-Webb University where she received a BS Degree in Accounting.

Prior to coming to DSS, Michelle worked for Rutherford Polk Mental Health and later for two private mental health agencies.

Congratulations Michelle, and thank you for your dedication and commitment to Rutherford County DSS and the citizens of our County.

Soil and Water

The Resource Conservation Administrator:
- worked with land owners to develop cost share plans.
- attended training with NRCS on new software updates.
- had a meeting with Rutherford Farmers Market.
- attended Department Head meeting.
- Attended TDA board meeting.

The District Administration and Education Specialist:
- attended the Soil & Water Annual Meeting in Charlotte.
- completed District Agenda, Supervisor Travel and Meeting folders.
- attended the District Board Meeting.
- worked on District Poster Contest.
- attended 4th Grade Farm City Assemblies at Trinity and Lake Lure Classical Academy Schools and presented poster certificates and poster awards.
- completed district contract paperwork.
- worked on District Poster Contest and judging.
Solid Waste

- Customers served: 2050
- Loads hauled from convenience center: 385
- MSW loads shipped to Lenoir: 183
- Recycling loads shipped to Conover: 53
- Tire customers: 58

Please continue to recycle! Visit our website for more info.

- The director attended the quarterly department head meeting, worked on reports and budget, worked on a recycling presentation, met with airport director, met with state on recycling and worked on lateral C/D expansion.
- The office staff and recycle coordinator are taking care of customers, working on reports, recycle grants, preparing for the 2020 Science Expo presentation.
- The staff at the transfer station has been busy with all the loads that are coming in from trash and recycle.
- The C&D staff has been taking care of customers and working on hauling dirt for daily cover around rainy days.
- The airport staff has been working on the landfill grounds and airport.
- The Shop has been busy with many preventative check-ups on vehicles and have been taking care of the service work orders.
- The landfill supervisor has been helping with hauling dirt to the demo area.
- The Center Supervisor has been tending to centers and their needs.

Convenience Center Information

There are 10 convenience centers located around the county. They will accept household garbage, furniture, metal, motor oil, cooking oil (except Hollis), batteries, aluminum cans, glass, plastic, cardboard, newspaper and all other clean recyclables.

ELECTRONICS ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN THE CONVENIENCE CENTERS.

Landfill Hours:
MON - FRI 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
SAT 7:30AM - 12:30PM
656 Laurel Hill Dr. Rutherfordton NC 28139
Closed Sunday and Holidays observed see below.

Convenience Center Hours:
MON - FRI 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
SAT 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Closed Sunday

Hollis Center Hours:
MON, WED & FRI 7AM - 6PM
SAT 8AM - 6PM
Closed Sunday
TDA General Updates:

- Duke Energy invited the TDA to participate in their Environmental Update / Key Leadership meeting held at the Rogers Energy Complex in Mooresboro. Duke Energy Provided attendees with various Technology and Innovation information on Solar, Climate Goals, Electric Vehicles, Coal Ash Recycling, Smart Meters and more. (Pictured below)

Tourism Master Plan

- The Town Council and Steering Committee met with Destination by Design to provide approval for the Phase I Streetscape Project. A unanimous vote took place to move the project forward. Mayor Hlard thanked the Council and Committee for their commitment to Spindale. He also thanked the RCTDA and said without the TDA none of this would be possible. The TDA was the catalyst.
- The Tourism Master Plan continues to make great progress.
- Construction has begun on the Lake Lure Marina Project. The boat slips will be built first, which at this point will be used as the lake walk. The hope is to eventually build a seawall, and lake walk, that is separated from the boat slip walkway. (Picture below)
- Chimney Rock Village Streetscape working on survey. Also, Chimney Rock was awarded a $200,000 grant from RHE Legacy for the River walk.
- Rutherford County was awarded Kiwanis Park PARTF Grant.
- Highway 221 River Access Project approval and grant program in progress.

Welcome Center Updates:

- The monthly visitor traffic total for the month of December was 1,779
- The Welcome Center’s monthly patron survey concluded that the county continued to see many visitors during the holiday season, as they came to sightsee and enjoy various festive actives.
- The survey also showed that most visitors during the month of December traveled from within the state, and from South Carolina.

Marketing

- The TDA is in the final editing stages of the 2020 County-Wide Travel Guide, with plans to begin printing in April.
- The TDA ran an advertisement in the 2020 Visit NC Travel Guide.

Keep Rutherford County Beautiful

- Roxi the Raccoon introduced her brother, Rocki, to the RCRB Committee this month! He is new in town, and will be helping Roxi with her cause to keep the county clean and litter free. (Pictured below)
- 2020 Spring Clean-Up will be April 17th through the 26th, with supply pick-up on the 16th and supply drop-off on the 27th.
- The goal for the 2020 Spring Clean-Up is to have at least 800 participants.

Enjoy these photos from TDA Everywhere!
EMS

- RCEMS celebrated the Christmas and New Year’s holiday, and even had a visit from Santa!

- Our first training session of the year included a live tissue lab with porcine lungs, trachea and heart.

- Staff completed all employee performance reviews and submitted them to HR.

- EMS held one random drug and alcohol test this month.

- A comprehensive inventory of all four bases was conducted and minor improvements were made as needed.

- The billing office worked to send out over 2300 debt setoff letters to patients with outstanding debt with request for payment.

- EMS and 911 held a joint training session on January 9th for supervisors on Building Resiliency for Yourself and Your Team.

- Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services is looking forward to another great year serving our county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Type</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sick Person</td>
<td>Transported No Lights/Siren</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls</td>
<td>Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathing Problem</td>
<td>Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)</td>
<td>Transported Lights/Siren</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convulsions/Seizure</td>
<td>Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Problems/AICD</td>
<td>Cancelled (No Patient Contact)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetic Problem</td>
<td>Patient Treated, Released (AMA)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Alarm</td>
<td>Assist, Public</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemorrhage/Laceration</td>
<td>Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Arrest/Death</td>
<td>Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (Without Transport)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt</td>
<td>Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>Transported No Lights/Siren, Upgraded</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal Pain/Problems</td>
<td>Patient Dead on Scene - Resuscitation Attempted (With Transport)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion</td>
<td>Standby - Public Safety, Fire, or EMS Operational Support Provided</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Other Appropriate Choice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns/Explosion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy/Childbirth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergic Reaction/Stings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bite</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transit

Transit weekly numbers are down considerably due to the holidays. With the New Year trips and revenue, numbers are rising back to normal levels.

Transit and the County said "Happy Retirement" to two very special drivers on 11/27/19. Gail Crawford and Theresa Justice retired after 20+ years of safe driving and excellent customer service to Transit passengers. Transit hired two full time drivers, Mary Mock-Higgins and Scott Davis, to replace Gail and Theresa, and they started their full-time duties on 12/16/19.

Transit also hired three new part-time drivers that started on 12/16/19, Christy Dysart, Eric Lawing and Michael Shipp. These drivers are already working solo and doing a great job.

Transit performed one random D&A screen since last report.

Transit held two safety meetings covering safety topics of inclement weather procedures, 2-way radio communication procedures, electronic device policy and defensive driving. We celebrated the 2019 Safe Driver recipients on January 13th by recognizing each of the 18 recipients during the Safety Meeting and presented each one with a Certificate. These 18 recipients have a combined 78 years of safe driving. When adding the 52 years of the three drivers that retired during 2019 to the eighteen recipients recognized on January 10, we have 130 years of Safe Driving. This is a great accomplishment when considering all the miles driving the roads of Rutherford County pulling in and out of parking lots and driveways in sometimes very unpleasant weather. We are very proud of all our drivers and look forward to their accomplishments in 2020.

We held our annual Christmas Goody Day and gift exchange prior to Christmas.

We still do not have any more details on the implementation of Medicaid Transformation due to not having an approved State budget. Transit Director has submitted second quarter OPSTAT report to NCDOT.

Annual employee evaluations have been conducted and sent to HR.

Director Giles presented bus shelter options to the Town of Spindale on 1/21/20 and received unanimous support for the placement of a new bus shelter in Spindale for the free Tri City Xpress route. The new shelter should be in place by June 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2019-2020</th>
<th>Jan 5-11</th>
<th>Dec 29-Jan 4</th>
<th>Dec 22-28</th>
<th>Dec 15-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TYPE</td>
<td>WEEKLY AVG</td>
<td>Current Week</td>
<td>Current Week</td>
<td>Current Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Miles</td>
<td>7,786</td>
<td>10,062</td>
<td>7,548</td>
<td>3,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Local Trips</td>
<td>1,179</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Out of County Trips</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Unduplicated Passengers</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$13,902</td>
<td>$17,741</td>
<td>$13,027</td>
<td>$6,344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JOINT REPLACEMENT FORUM

February 18, 2020
5:30pm
One Source Rehab
2270 US-74 ALT
Forest City, NC

Do you have joint pain in your hips, shoulders or knees? Sports injuries? We have solutions for you!

Guest Speakers:
Dr. Roberts  Dr. Bond  Dr. Pienkos

FREE, Call 828.286.5067 to register!

• Attendees will enjoy refreshments and giveaways

For more information call
Rutherford Orthopaedics at 828. 287.9260

www.MyRutherfordRegional.com
The entire 13.5 miles of the Thermal Belt Rail Trail is now open to the public. The trail is 12 foot wide and runs from Gilkey to Forrest Hunt Elementary in Forest City, NC. With trail heads located in Gilkey, Rutherfordton, Ruth, Spindale, and Forest City, there are many places to conveniently access the trail.

ROC hosts two clean-ups on this trail each year to keep it looking beautiful. The next clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 18th.

Special thanks to RHI Legacy Foundation for providing more than 5 million dollars in funding to make this trail a reality.

Access with Parking:
Gilkey - Oak Springs Road (Mile 0)
Bechtler Mint Historic Site - 342 Gilboa Church Rd, Rutherfordton (Mile 2)
Ruth at 1006 Railroad Ave, Rutherfordton (Mile 4.8)
Downtown Spindale (Mile 7)
Downtown Forest City and POPS, 172 Park Square, Forest City (Mile 11.2)
Pine and Broadway Street, Forest City (Mile 12.5)
Forrest Hunt Elementary, 100 Forrest Hunt Drive, Forest City (Mile 13.5)
Hiking 101 at Isothermal Community College

ROC has partnered with Isothermal Community College in Spindale again to offer a Hiking 101 continuing education course this Spring! Our Outdoor Programs Director, Dana Bradley, will be teaching this course. Hiking 101 will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from May 4th through June 3rd and will include 2 classroom days and 8 hikes. You can contact Dana at dana@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-351-3235 if you have any questions about the course.

If you need continuing education credits or are looking for a way to see many of our local trails in a short time, this is a great opportunity for you! You will get to have fun exploring some of the beautiful trails in our area, all while earning continuing education credits.

You can register online at https://www.isothermal.edu/academics/continuing-education/register/index.html, by phone 828-395-1405, or stop by the Continuing Education office inside the Foundation Building to sign up in person.

Please, share with anyone you think might be interested.
Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Safe Kids Bike Helmet Fittings

This is the 17th year that Safe Kids Rutherford County will be providing bike helmets to every third grader in our county. Please help make this another successful year! Take a look at the schedule below and see if you would be available to assist on one or more of the dates. Please send Chris Burley an email to Chrisburley48@bellsouth.net or call him at (828) 245-2442 or (828) 447-0913 so he can ensure he has adequate volunteers for each scheduled time. On the job training available!!

Remember, for this to work efficiently, many volunteers are needed. It takes at least 10 people to do a large school and 6 to do a small school.

Thanks in advance!!

Helmet Fitting Schedule 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th># of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb 3</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Rutherfordton</td>
<td>287-3778</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb 4</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Feb 5</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Feb 6</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Ellenboro</td>
<td>453-8185</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Feb 7</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>245-0658</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb 10</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb 11</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>286-3900</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Feb 12</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Lake Lure</td>
<td>625-9292</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Feb 13</td>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>Mt. Vernon Ruth</td>
<td>287-4792</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Feb 14</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Spindale</td>
<td>286-2861</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb 17</td>
<td>12:25 pm</td>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>248-2354</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb 18</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Pinnacle</td>
<td>287-3440</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Feb 19</td>
<td>12:25 pm</td>
<td>F.C. Dunbar</td>
<td>245-4978</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Feb 20</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>TJCA</td>
<td>245-9526</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Feb 21</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Teacher Work Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Feb 24</td>
<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td>Forest Hunt</td>
<td>245-2161</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues. Feb 25</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Cliffside</td>
<td>288-2235</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Masters Christian Academy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For Immediate Release:
January 7, 2020

NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
SENIORS’ HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

NEWS RELEASE
MIKE CAUSEY, COMMISSIONER

Contact: Marla Sink
919-807-6817

Be wary of Medicare scams

RALEIGH — North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey warns Medicare recipients to be on alert for scams. In the last few days, NCDOI has had reports of phone calls with the Caller ID listed as “Senior Center” but the number is unavailable. The callers are saying they are conducting a Medicare survey and are asking for personal information or asking if those who have called if they have received their new 2020 Medicare card.

“If someone is calling, claiming to be from Medicare and asking for your Social Security number or bank information, hang up. It’s a scam,” said Commissioner Causey. “First, Medicare won’t call you. Second, Medicare will never ask for your Social Security number or bank information,” he added.

If someone is threatening to cancel your benefits if you don’t give up information or money, report it to the Department’s Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program or SHIP or the N.C. Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-855-405-1212.

SHIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan, or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

—NCDOI—
Join us in kicking off 2020 kindergarten registration with a bang! The Rutherford County Schools family is so excited to welcome new families to our schools.

Who’s invited? Families with children of all pre-school ages. Whether you’re enrolling children this year or not, join us!

Kinder-Palooza will feature educational activities, face painting, technology (think iPads and green screens), magic school bus rides, school mascots and more! Get ready for tons of fun at Kinder-Palooza 2020!

Vote for the Thermal Belt Rail Trail for a MOBI Award!

The Thermal Belt Rail Trail is competing in the Mobi Awards! One of the categories is MVP, where the public votes on its favorite!

2020 NCDOT Mobi Awards Application

- Please vote for the Thermal Belt Rail Trail by clicking here.
- You may only vote once per entry and up to 3 entries per day.
- Once you have voted, the thumbs up button will go from saying “Vote” to “Voted”, and the score beside it will increase.
- The entry order is randomly generated and will change each time the gallery is opened. If you would like to search by a specific label, please use the filter options and search bar.