

Monthly Newsletter

showcasing activities and accomplishments of the departments within Rutherford County Government.



A small aircraft, respectively painted to salute the United States armed forces and veterans, made a fuel stop at the RC Airport.

Owner Steve Jarrell's airplane tells more of a story, from Colonial times to present day, and includes an immature eagle on one side, with Betsy Ross' flag, George Washington crossing the Delaware, and Paul Revere's famous ride. The other side (pictured below) includes a mature eagle with six Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima and Arlington cemetery with a horse-drawn caisson. On the cowling is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



Rutherford County Early Voting Second Primary Election 2024

EARLY VOTING WILL BE AT BOE OFFICE ONLY

Rutherford County Board of Elections Office 298 Fairground Road Spindale NC 28160



Thursday April 25	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Friday April 26	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Saturday April 27	CLOSED	
Sunday April 28	CLOSED	
Monday April 29	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Tuesday April 30	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Wednesday May 01	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Thursday May 02	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Friday May 03	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Saturday May 04	CLOSED	
Sunday May 05	O5 CLOSED	
Monday May 06	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Tuesday May 07	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Wednesday May 08	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Thursday May 09	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Friday May 10	8:30 am 5:00 pm	
Saturday May 11	8:00 am 3:00 pm	

* Saturday, May 11, 2024 will be the last day to vote early.

^{*} Voting will be at your precinct ONLY on Election Day, May 14th, from 6:30 am - 5:00 pm.



County Manager/Commissioners

The County Manager, Commissioners and staff were involved in several resourceful telephone conference and in-person meetings involving the following individuals, departments, boards, and businesses:

- Community Health Council
- NCACC Call for County Managers
- April Board of Commissioners' Meeting
- Monthly Team Department Head Meetings
- NCACC Opioid Meeting
- Board of Education
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Tourism Development Authority
- Finance
- WNC Ridge Coalition
- JCPC
- Rutherford County Schools
- 911 Communications
- Polk/Rutherford Steering Team
- Public Works and Planning Department
- Keep Rutherford County Beautiful Committee
- NCACC County Conversations Tour
- Rutherford Housing Partners
- Foothills Regional Commission
- RRDC Meeting
- Economic Development Board
- Pangaea Board
- Partners Board
- Dogwood Health Trust
- DSS Board
- Library Trustees
- Senior Center Advisory Board
- Broad River Water Authority
- Airport Authority Agenda Review for May meeting
- Board of Commissioners Agenda Review for May meeting

The April Board of Commissioners' meeting was held on April 8, 2024. The meeting was also livestreamed and can be seen by visiting the Rutherford County webpage at www.rutherfordcountync.gov. Commissioner David Hunt participated and was considered present via virtual attendance.



The next Board of Commissioners' meeting will be held Monday, May 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Highlights from the RC Board of Commissioners' April Agenda

Commissioners' Appointments

- National Day of Prayer Proclamation presented by Vice Chairman Alan Toney (pictured right).
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation presented for the Board's consideration by DSS Director Dee Hunt and Family Resources Executive Director Sherry Bright (pictured below).



Appointment to Juvenile Crime Prevention Council presented by Clerk to the Board Hazel Haynes. A request was received that Ms. Cindy Cobb be appointed to the JCPC. Positions on this council were advertised and applications were accepted.



- **Budget Amendments** were presented by Finance Director Paula Roach for the Board's consideration (pictured below).
- Transfer Vehicles to Health District for Animal Control Operations presented by Finance Director Paula Roach
- Partners Health Maintenance of Effort Funds Recommendation presented by Dr. Paul Holden, Regional Director of Community Operations.





 Resolution Recognizing the Second Week in April as NPSTW (National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week) presented by Emergency Communications Director Scott Schiefelbein (pictured below).



Commissioner David Hunt and his wife had the opportunity to experience the total solar eclipse from Houston, TX while celebrating their 29th wedding anniversary (pictured below). Happy Anniversary, Commissioner Hunt, to you and your bride!





Rutherford County Board of Education member Angel King (standing left) and Rutherford County Commissioner Bryan King (center) met with Principal Phil Rogers and R-S Central High School this month to learn more about challenges and opportunities facing the schools and community.



Photo by Brian Bridges, Daily Courier

County Manager/Commissioners continued

The commissioners signed a Proclamation at the April Board of Commissioners' meeting declaring April as Child Abuse Awareness Month for Rutherford County. **Pictured below I-r:** DSS Director Dee Hunt, Commissioner Bryan King, Family Resources Executive Director Sherry Bright



Emergency Communications (911)



April 14-20, 2024 was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week! We recognized those women and men who are first to respond to the call for assistance. Our gratitude goes out to our 911 telecommunicators for their dedication and hard work for answering all the calls to ensure the safety of our people, communities, and emergency services first responders.

Emergency Medical Services

April has been another busy month with a mix of responses. EMS continues to celebrate success with another one of our employees passing the State Paramedic Exam. Mr. Josh Sullivan passed and boarded with our Medical Director, Dr. Kramer, and he will upgrade as soon as he receives his credential! Great job!

Please join us in celebrating birthdays of the following EMS Team Members for the month of April. Happy Birthday!

Hannah Barnwell
Nataly Dominquez
Adam Duncan
Luke Jenkins
Dr. Kramer
Jessica Hoyle
Caden Smith
Samantha Stapleton
Makayla Suttle

EMS also had the privilege to stand by for the Special Olympics on 04/18 and would like to congratulate and salute all of the participants.

Monthly Response Information

EMD Complaint	Details
Sick Person	202
Falls	126
Transfer/Interfacility/Palliative Care	117
Traffic Accident	66
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic)	63
Breathing Problem	62
Unconscious/Fainting	41
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	31
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt	31
Diabetic Problem	27
Unknown Problem/Person Down	27
Hemorrhage/Laceration	26
Heart Problems/AICD	24
Abdominal Pain/Problems	23
Cardiac Arrest/Death	21
No Other Appropriate Choice	21
Stroke/CVA	21
Convulsions/Seizure	19
Assist Invalid	17
Traumatic Injury	16
Standby	14
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	11
Allergic Reaction/Stings	9
Assault	8
Choking	5
Medical Alarm	5
Animal Bite	4
Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma	4
EMS Special Service	3
Headache	3
Altered Mental Status	2
Fire	2
Pregnancy/Childbirth	1
Disposition	Total
Assist, Agency	2
Assist, Public	2
Cancelled (No Patient Contact)	14
Cancelled (Prior to Arrival at Scene)	31
Cancelled on Scene/No Patient Found	8
Patient Evaluated, No Treatment/Transport Required	22
Patient Refused Evaluation/Care (Without Transport)	133
Patient Treated, Released (AMA)	46
Patient Treated, Released (per protocol)	5
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional/Unit	2
Patient Treated, Transferred Care to Another EMS Professional/Unit Patient Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle	
Transported Lights/Siren	17
Transported Lights/Siren, Downgraded	4
Transported No Lights/Siren	706
Transported No Lights/Siren, Upgraded	2
Transported No Eights/Siren, Opgraded	2

Human Resources

HR Director and HR Analyst:

- Held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements.
- Attended the following meetings:
 - * Board of Commissioners
 - * HR Association
 - * 1CPC
 - * Budget meetings with department heads
- Completed payroll changes
- Conducted monthly orientation
- Held interviews for several positions

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers continue for employees and families listed below:

Nathanael White (Solid Waste) and family in the recent passing of his grandfather, Danny White.

Jim Yorke (IT) and family in the loss of his mother, Barbara Anne Yorke.

Brooke Watson (HR), Chuck Watson (Sheriff's Office retiree), Andrew Watson and Amanda Watson (EMS) in the recent passing of their family member, Diane Watson McEnnerney.



CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

EMS Shift Supervisor

Senior Center Receptionist (part-time)

Revenue Office Property Appraiser Supervisor

Solid Waste Heavy Equipment Operator (part-time)

Transit Van Driver (part-time)

911 Telecommunicator

Sheriff's Office Detention Officer

Maintenance Seasonal Groundskeeper (part-time)

Library



The Rutherford County Library System is proud to welcome our two newest employees! Mary Katherine Toney recently joined our team as a part-time bookmobile assistant. She's currently hard at work processing and labeling the materials that will go on the bookmobile as we wait for its arrival! Mary Katherine grew up in Fayetteville, NC and has a background in culinary arts as a pastry chef. In her spare

time, she enjoys baking, reading classic novels, and spending time with her friends and husband, ideally over coffee (pictured left)!

Our other new employee, Erin Lewis, will be working as a part-time library clerk. In addition to processing new materials and performing several duties around the of-

fice, Erin will serve as the head of passport services upon completing training. She will also offer computer assistance to patrons once our current IT specialist, Kenneth, hits the road on the bookmobile! When not at the library, Erin enjoys drawing, watching TV, and spending quality time with her partner. Her favorite author is R.L. Stine, and she loves studying insects (pictured right)!

Summer Reading is coming soon! We will offer a ton of fun programs in June and July centered around this year's theme, "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Our annual Summer Reading Kick Off event will be on Monday, June 10th at Forest City POPS from 10:00am-12:00pm. All six libraries of the Foothills Library

Consortium will be there with fun activities for children and information about their summer reading programs! The splash pad will be turned on and the Little Blue Choo will be giving rides, so we know we're going to have an *adventurously* fun time!



Speaking of annual events, Mountains Branch Library is bringing their highly popular Books & Bites series back for the 2024 season! For the cost of \$30, attendees will meet an author and discuss their novel while enjoying a delicious meal at Lake Lure Inn. Stop by Mountains Branch Library or give them a call at 828-287-6392 to sign up.

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Mountains Branch Library. For your convenience, they can now also accept debit/credit cards for this program!

Friends of the Mountains Branch Library Presents

Books & Bites 2024

All events take place at the Lake Lure Inn



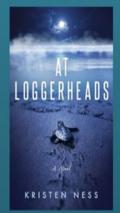
The Final Victory
Roger Jones
May 9th
5:00pm



The Berlin Letters
Katherine Reay
Aug. 15th
11:00am



Husbands & Lovers
Beatriz Williams
July 9th
5:00pm



At Loggerheads
Kristen Ness
June llth
ll:00am



Katharine, the
Wright Sister
Tracey Enerson Wood
Sept. 17th
11:00am

Reservations are required. Cost is \$30 per ticket.

Participants will enjoy a meal with the author while discussing the themes of the book. Tickets are available for purchase at Mountains Branch Library or by calling 828-287-6392.

We are now able to accept credit cards for your convenience!

Planning and Projects

Katie Doherty, Rutherford County Addressing Administrator, spoke at the GIS/Valuation Technologies Conference this month, presenting information regarding *Approaches to Statewide Parcel Management*.



Wednesday, April 10 • 9:00am - 10:00am



Experts discuss the urgent need for standardized statewide parcel data sets and assessment data across an entire state. These data sets support statewide decision making with locally sourced authoritative data.

The NC Seamless Parcels Program, Creating a Statewide Layer
 Katie Doherty, GISP, GIS & E911 Addressing Administrator, Rutherford County, NC
 Rich Elkins, GISP, North Carolina Secretary of State - Land Records Division
 Elizabeth Daniel, GIS Analyst, NC Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA)

Register of Deeds

Assumed Business Names	14
Certificates of Satisfaction	150
Deeds	263
Deeds of Trust	139
Plats/Surveys	28
Powers of Attorney	56
Various other documents	150
Certified Vital Records Issued	668
Marriage Licenses Issued	37
Notary Public Oaths	15

Revenue Office

Customer Service			
Phone Calls	2,186		
Taxpayer Office Visit Assistance	613		
County Growth Indicators			
Deeds Transferring Property	289		
Transfer By Estate	29		
Plats reviewed	0		
Parcels with mapping changes (Split or Merged)	37		
Parcels Reviewed with Building Permits	303		
Parcels Reviewed w/o Building Permits	582		
Collections Progress			
Deeds Certified	178		
Legal Actions (Garnishments, Attachments, etc.)	84		
Total Taxes Collected	\$1,913,435.41		

The following ladies were sworn in as Deputy Tax Collectors this month by Clerk of Court Steve Owens (pictured left to right):

- Danielle Tribou
- Loretta Newton
- Morgan Henson
- Cheyanne Aldridge (pictured below)







Senior Center



NEW PARTICIPANTS

The Senior Center has been growing with new participants both at the Center and to our Home-Delivered Meals program. In March, we gained 42 new participants. This includes a mixture of congregate, home-delivered meals, and food boxes.

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

We had a total of 765 active participants during the month of March. This is compared to 764 active participants in February and 719 active participants in January. We have a total of 1,149 registered Senior Center participants.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

We had 39 volunteers in March, and they logged a total of 285.71 volunteer hours.

SENIOR CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee held the quarterly meeting on April 11, 2024. Two new applications were received, and they were voted in to fill vacancies. We welcome Brian Gooch from Rutherford County Sheriff's Office and Dee Hunt, Director of Rutherford County DSS.

2024 SENIOR GAMES

This year's Senior Games was a great success! With 131 participants, of which 44 were first time participants, competition was great. Fun was had and friends were made – this is what the games are all about! We wrap up this year with the Closing Ceremony on May 3.

Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year "one for the books!"

TEA WITH TAMMY (CHAT WITH THE DIRECTOR)

Director Tammy Aldridge met with a large group of participants for *Tea with Tammy/Chat with the Director* recently and shared a lot of valuable information about the Center.

MEDICARE 101

Thank you to Billie J Lister, Western Regional Manager, for Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), and for conducting *Medicare* 101–The Basics training class this month.

EMPLOYEE WORK ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY 1st YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY APRIL JOHNSON!

April delivers meals and she is a very hard worker!





HAPPY 11th
YEAR WORK
ANNIVERSARY
FRANK ENSLEY!

Frank is the Custodian
and works hard to keep
the Center spotless!
We appreciate you!

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES and SENIOR COM-MUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP) PARTICIPANT

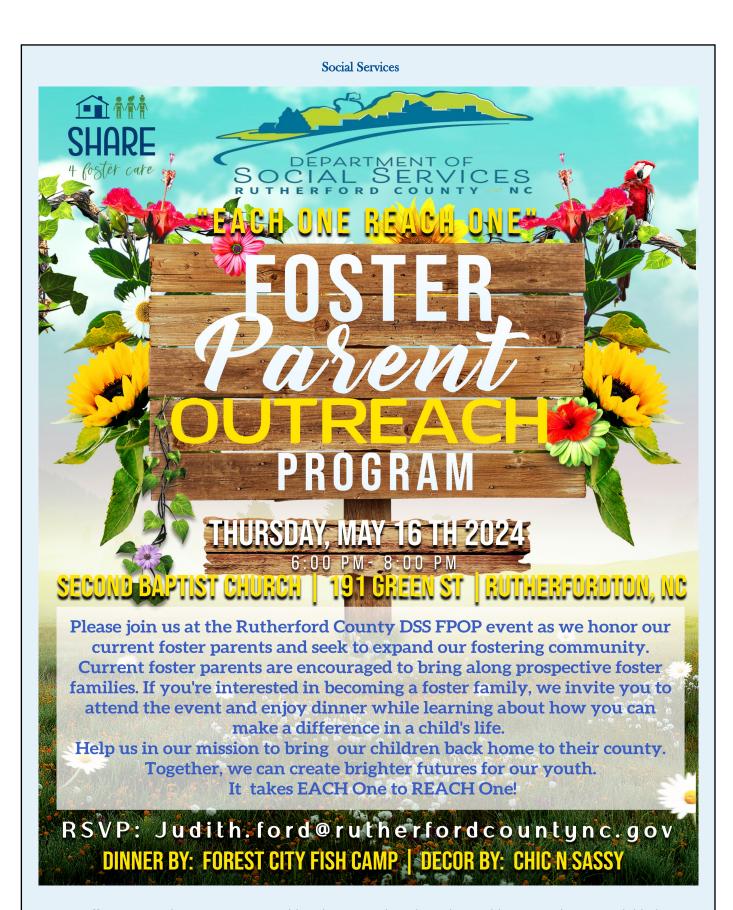
Barbie White, PT Home Delivered Meals driver



Judy Edney, SCSEP Receptionist



Autumn White, PT Kitchen Assistant (picture not available)



DSS staff encouraged everyone to wear blue during April to show the world *we stand against child abuse*. If you suspect child abuse, call 828.287.6165. **SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!**



Social Services continued

DSS had a fundraiser for employee, Kim Callahan, who is battling cancer. Workers pulled together and donated cakes, cookies and other delicious food, as well as had a silent auction, to show Kim how much we love her. A total of \$2800 was raised.











Solid Waste

Tonnage Intake

Material	Weight
MSW/Household Garbage	3,499.65
Construction/Demo Debris	470.03
Metal	99.90
Recycle	161.64
Electronics/TV	5.63
Tires	25.51

On April 19th, Administrative Assistant Reece Beaumont presented *Landfill Implementation and Operations* to 6th graders at the Isothermal Science & Tech Expo.



Convenience Centers

Avondale Center: 2310 Ellenboro-Henrietta Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040	828-657-6952
Bills Creek Center: 2130 Bills Creek Rd. Lake Lure, NC 28746	828-625-8516
Colfax Center: 1676 US 74 Business Ellenboro NC 28040	828-248-1268
Danieltown Center: 1381 Bethany Church Rd. Forest City NC 28043	828-245-6524
Gilkey Center: 2489 HWY 221 N, Rutherfordton NC 28139	828-286-8829
Golden Valley Center: 6075 Bostic-Sunshine Hwy. Bostic NC 28018	828-245-1328
Pea Ridge Center: 3892 Pea Ridge Rd. Bostic NC 28018	828-287-1358
Green Hill Center: 204 Rainbow Rapids Rd. Rutherfordton NC 28139	828-286-8458
Hollis Center: 4480 Hollis Rd. Ellenboro NC 28040	828-453-1021
Shiloh Center: 152 Richland Dr. Forest City NC 28043	828-245-6108
Landfill: 656 Laurel Hill Dr. Rutherfordton NC 28139	828-287-6125

Tourism Development Authority

Tourism Master Plan

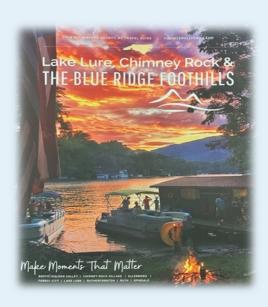
- The Towns, County and the TDA continue to move Rutherford Bound forward.
- Rutherford Bound has completed 9 projects and has 14 projects in process for a total funding raised of about 21 million.
- Legacy Soccer Park construction began.
- Chimney Rock Streetscapes Phase II construction started 3/20. Groundbreaking was held on April 16th at 11am.
- Rutherford Bound anticipates 5 to 6
 Groundbreakings/Ribbon Cuttings before
 the end of the year.
- TDA/RB/DbD/Towns applying for a number of grants for tourism asset projects.
- Be sure to follow us at: <u>Rutherford-</u> Bound.com

Welcome Center Updates:

• The Lake Lure Welcome Center's monthly visitor traffic total for March was 3,431.

Marketing

• 2024 Travel guide is available!



If you would like a case of guides, please contact Elizabeth Randall, Administrative Coordinator for the TDA by email at elizabeth.randall@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Agri-Tourism

- TDA to support county Farmer's Markets
- TDA funds annual maintenance for Rutherford County portion of VisitNC Farmer App
- TDA has a partnership with People 1st Tourism to help with agritourism efforts in Rutherford County. 3-4 events each month.
- TDA boosting P1T events on social media. Currently working with 13 farmers and communicating with 20.

Relocate to Rutherford County

 Various meetings with Rutherford County Chamber & EDC. In process of developing a program to be implemented.

Rutherford Trails Collaborative

- Collaborative is working with Great Trails NC and TDA marketing team, The Agency, for trail marketing.
- Collaborative is planning event month in September and events for Great Trails Day in October.

Keep Rutherford County Beautiful

 There are a number of ways to get involved in Keep Rutherford County Beautiful's cause, including Adopt/Sponsor-a-Highway sign-ups, independent litter pick-ups, and donations. Please visit the KRCB website for more information. https://www.KeepRCNCBeautiful.org/

Spring 2024 Litter Sweep April 8th-30th

Paid litter pick up - 70 miles; 152 bags

TDA pick up - 4 miles; 54 bags

In total numbers still TBD



If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Randall, Administrative Coordinator for the TDA by email at elizabeth.randall@rutherford.countync.gov



Transit



Transit Specialist, Kyle Connor, graduated from the Transportation Leadership Development Course and helped with the presentation at the NCPTA Conference. Kyle manages all the billing and performance analysis for Transit (pictured below).

Director Kerry Giles is excited to announce that Transit received the Rural Transit System of the Year on April 9, 2024 at the NC Public Transportation Association Conference. We couldn't do it without our great Transit Advisory Board, Board of Commissioners, and County Manager. You are incredibly supportive of all our efforts. Thank you for being our advocates and champions.

Congratulations to Director Kerry Giles on being elected to the NC Public Transportation Association Board of Directors (pictured below).







Transit continued

Transit continues to see better consistency in ridership and revenue numbers. This is very encouraging.

We have hired two new part-time drivers that are already in revenue service, Tina Searcy and Kimberly Harrison. We are excited to have them on our Transit Team, and we continue to accept applications for additional part-time driving positions.

Transit is excited to have our newest lift van almost ready to start revenue service. Operations Manager and Transit Director worked with several different vendors to ensure the transfer of accessorial equipment from the van being retired into the new van. This vendor list also includes our County Garage helping with getting the van ready. We have received word from our vendor that three VIN numbers have been issued for three of our four vehicles we are awaiting. The VIN numbers that have been issued are for the Transit style van. We are still awaiting information on our 22' LTV we have ordered.

Meetings attended:

- NCDOT-IMD monthly meeting
- 2 separate NCDOT meetings on the Unified Grant application
- Transit Director, Operations Manager and Logistics Specialist attended the NCPTA (North Carolina Public Transportation Association) in Concord, attending several different sessions covering many topics that are vital to the success of Rural and Urban Public Transportation in North Carolina.

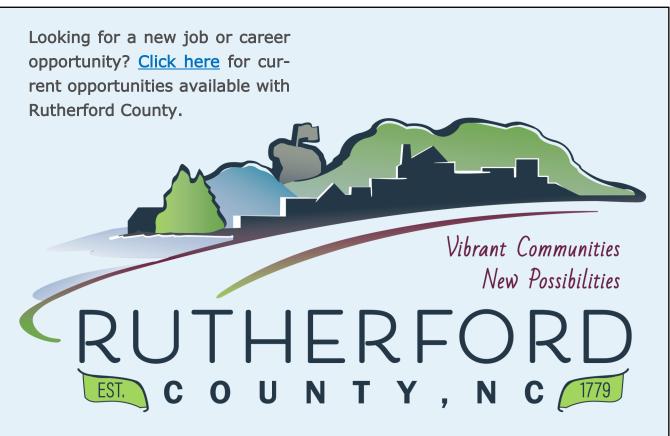
Transit completed one random drug and alcohol tests since our last report.

April's Safety Meeting covered the reacknowledgement and acceptance by all employees of our Title VI policy and plan. Policy was read to all employees and the employees signed the acknowledgement statement of acceptance and adherence. The Title VI Plan is kept on line and in hard copy in the Operations Managers office for anyone to read.

FY 23-24 March Transit Numbers					
Operating Week	# of Total Miles	# of Local Trips	# of Out of County Trips	# of Unduplicated Passengers	Total Revenue
Mar 04 - Mar 10	8885	1198	64	154	\$ 15,911
Mar 11 - Mar 17	10112	1289	62	169	\$ 18,784
Mar 18 - Mar 24	9627	1243	94	163	\$ 17,871
Mar 25 - Mar 31	7817	1000	59	153	\$ 15,129
Average	9110	1183	70	160	\$16,924







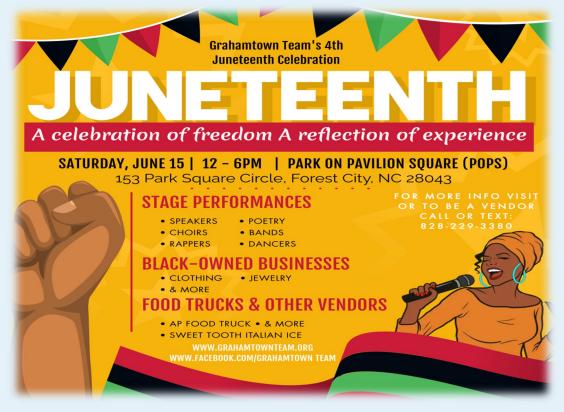
TOWN OF LAKE LURE

On April 3, 2024, Mayor Carol Pritchett announced that Olivia Stewman has been appointed as Lake Lure Town Manager effective immediately. Ms. Stewman previously served as Town Clerk and as Interim Town Manager in Lake Lure.

Pictured I-r: Town Manager Olivia Stewman and Mayor Carol Pritchett











Join ROC's Executive Director, Jerry, for a guided bird walk! Learn about birding and experience the wonders of spring migration at River Bend Preserve in Green Hill, NC. Limited spots are available - register by contacting trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org.

When: Thursday, May 2nd @ 8:30am

Where: Meet at River Bend Preserve

Exact address will be sent to participants.

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman Alan Toney, Vice Chairman Michael Benfield, Commissioner David Hunt, Commissioner Greg Lovelace, Commissioner

County Office

Steve Garrison, County Manager Hazel Haynes, Clerk to Board Kim Aldridge, Admin Asst/Deputy Clerk Richard Williams, County Attorney

Rutherford County 289 N. Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828.287.6060

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