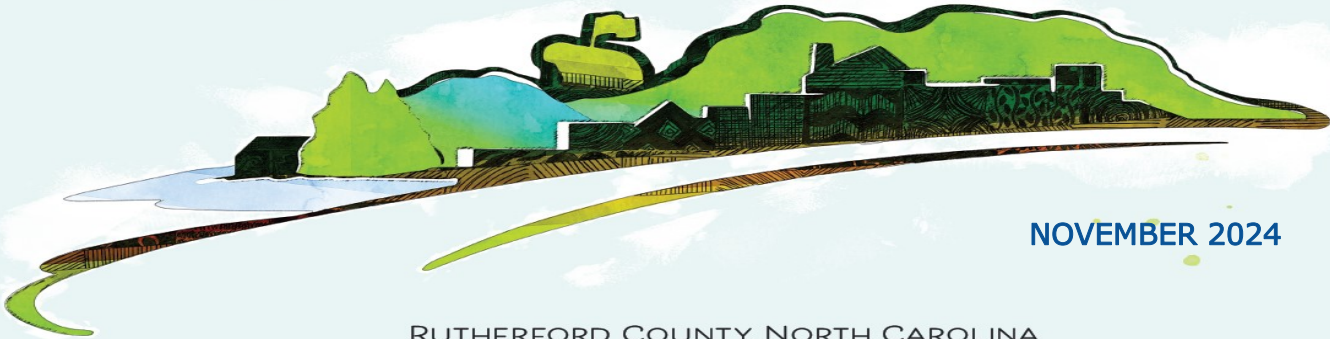


Rutherford Monthly



NOVEMBER 2024

RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Monthly Newsletter

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

Airport

Open House and Fly-In Event

Over 100 people flew in the helicopter and over 120 flew in airplanes at the Fly-In Event at Rutherford County Airport on November 2, 2024. Airport Director Devon Raisch stated he was pleased with the turnout and plans to make this an annual event on the first Saturday in November.



Contributed photo by Pat Nanny

Representatives from general aviation airports in Western North Carolina came together for the HeleneNC After-Action Workshop. (RC Airport Director Devon Raisch pictured back row, second from right.)

The representatives reviewed what worked well during the storm response and identified areas to improve, ensuring stronger collaboration and readiness for the future.



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
- RC EOC Recovery Efforts Briefing
- RC EOC Supplies Distribution
- Gatespring (Zoom Meeting)
- General Election Day
- NCEM—Debris Management Discussion
- Airport Open House & Fly-In Community Event
- NCACC Call for County Managers
- November Board of Commissioners
- Monthly Department Head Team meetings
- County Managers/Public Health
- CORI Meeting
- FEMA Housing and Debris Removal
- Abstract Ice, Inc. Site Visit
- NCACC Recovery Special Convening for Western Local Governments, Morganton, NC
- NCACC Legislative Goals Conference (photos on following page)
- Board of Education
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- US ISS Agency Consulting Meeting
- Tourism Development Authority
- Public Works and Planning Department
- Foothills Regional Commission
- RRDC Meeting
- Economic Development Board
- Pangaea Board
- Partners Board
- DSS Board
- Library Trustees
- Senior Center Advisory Board
- Broad River Water Authority
- Board of Commissioners Agenda Review for December meeting



**The next Board of Commissioners' meeting will be held
Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm.**

**Highlights from the
RC Board of Commissioners' November Agenda**

Rutherford County Commissioners, Greg Lovelace and David Hunt, were recognized at the November meeting for their impactful contributions and years of dedication. Many projects were completed under their terms, impactful decisions to help lower unemployment, and numerous other acts of service. Thank you, Commissioner Lovelace and Commissioner Hunt. Your expertise and contributions have made Rutherford County the thriving community it is today.



Commissioners/Appointments

- **Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting** - Chairman King recognized Finance Director Paula Roach and Finance staff (pictured below). The County received notification that the County's CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 qualified for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the County's thirty-fifth consecutive year to achieve this award.



- **Appointment to Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees** - Commissioner Michael Benfield was appointed to replace Ms. Amanda Shevette who has resigned.
- **Appointment to Juvenile Crime Prevention Council** - Appointed Mr. Eric Holland.
- **Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate to NCACC Legislative Goals Conference** - Commissioner Benfield was appointed as the Voting Delegate from Rutherford County and Chairman King was appointed as the Alternate Voting Delegate.
- **Appointments to Rutherford County Boards and Commissions** - The commissioners approved advertising vacancies, accepting applications, and making appointments at a future meeting for the vacancies that will occur on December 31, 2024 on several Rutherford County boards/commissions.

New Business

- **Budget Amendments** - presented by Finance Director Paula Roach.
- **Annual EMS Reconciliation of Debt** - EMS Director Kaleb Johnson presented a memorandum explaining the Accounts Receivables debt reconciliation per the Emergency Services Standard Operation Procedure #134 (pictured right).



Continued Highlights from the RC Board of Commissioners’ November Agenda

- **Operation Green Light** - County Manager Steve Garrison presented a Resolution for the Board’s consideration declaring Rutherford County’s participation in Operation Green Light for Veterans.
- **Resolution Approving Interlocal Agreement Between Rutherford County Board of Education and Rutherford**

2024 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Commissioner Michael Benfield attended the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference November 14-15, 2024 in Raleigh as a Voting Delegate for Rutherford County. Every two years, in the months preceding a long session of the General Assembly, the NCACC convenes a Legislative Goals Conference for counties from around the state to come together to participate in voting sessions to finalize legislative goals, which guide NCACC’s advocacy efforts. The two-day conference is the final step in a comprehensive process, which gives each county an opportunity to shape NCACC’s legislative agenda.



US Congressman Patrick McHenry’s Retirement Event October 31, 2024

Pictured (L-R) Commissioner Bryan King, County Manager Steve Garrison, Congressman Patrick McHenry



On Thursday, October 31, 2024, Dr. Seema Daigle (left) was sworn in to serve another term on the Isothermal Community College Board of Trustees by Chairman Bryan King, Rutherford County Board of Commissioners. Leslie Blankenship, the college’s assistant controller, witnessed the oath.



County Manager Steve Garrison, Foothills Health District Director Karen Powell, along with other County staff provided assistance at the community food distribution drive-thru on November 1st.



Hurricane Helene Recovery Special Convening

NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) government relations team met with local, state and federal government officials in Morganton, NC on November 8th to discuss recovery efforts and identify top priority needs. Thereafter, the relations team was able to provide a memo of legislative requests to the General Assembly to ensure these priorities were a part of the conversation as they gathered this month.



Rutherford County Manager
Steve Garrison





Image by Abstract Ice, Inc.

**RUTHERFORD
COUNTY**
Economic Development

142 E. Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043 (p)828.287.6200



For Immediate Release: November 12, 2024

Forest City, NC - Earlier today, Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders announced the successful recruitment of Abstract Ice, a specialty craft ice manufacturer, which will locate its newest facility in Rutherford County at 212 NuWay Packing Rd, Forest City, NC. Company plans include the creation of 26 new fulltime jobs and an investment of approximately \$12,500,000 within the first three years.

"The Town of Forest City and the Board of Commissioners are thrilled to have Abstract Ice coming to our town" said Forest City Mayor, Steve Holland. "We look forward to working with them on this project. Abstract Ice will be a great addition to our county" he added.

Rutherford County has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund for this project. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. Rutherford County will partner with the Town of Forest City to provide the required local match for the One North Carolina Fund grant in support of this project.

"On behalf of the Rutherford County Commission, I am pleased to welcome Abstract Ice to our county", stated Chairman Bryan King. "Your investment not only brings valuable job opportunities for our citizens but also strengthens our local economy, our community, and our future. New possibilities in building vibrant communities are endless with investments like this. We're excited to see the positive impact your presence will have."

"Successful business recruitment is never a solo endeavor; it truly is a team effort" stated Chairman Terry Hines. "On behalf of the Rutherford County Economic Development board, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Town of Forest City and Rutherford County Commissioners, County Manager Steve Garrison, and Forest City Town Manager Janet Mason, for their support of this project. I would also like to thank the Economic Development staff, Birgit Dilgert and Jessica Kever, for their efforts to make today's announcement possible. Working together, we can build a vibrant economy that supports growth and innovation for all," he added.

HR Director and HR Analyst:

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



NEW EMPLOYEES

Full-time

Brandon Campbell (Solid Waste)

Jessica Helms (Finance)

Lauren Moore (DSS)

Teresa Ray (DSS)

Michelle McClain (Senior Center)

Part-time

Anastasia Haulk (Library)

Jayden Guffey (911)

CONDOLENCES

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

- Susan Hall (Veteran Services) and Melvin Hall (Solid Waste) in the recent passing of their son, T.J. Byers.
- Christina Martin (Register of Deeds) and family in the loss of her father, James Michael Jackson.



Human Resources Mission

Developing and/or coordinating programs and policies in such personnel components as recruitment, selection, position classification, compensation, employee relations, employee benefits, training, insurance, and employee health services.

Also responsible for writing and interpreting existing or new personnel policies, and procedures; addressing employee complaints or concerns, assisting officials in personnel matters, and acting as liaison to outside organizations and agencies involved in county personnel matters.



CURRENT JOB POSTINGS

EMS Paramedics

Airport (part time)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

Tenure Award Ceremony
December 12, 2024

A special thank you to all veterans. We specifically thank those who are our own employees. Your dedication, passion, and sacrifices to serve your fellow Americans and neighbors are appreciated.

David Hunt	Commissioner Office	US Army	1980-1983
Jennifer Gabriel	Communications 911	US Army	2003-2006
Terry Ware	Detention	US Marine Corp	
Bryan Homesley	EMS	US Air Force	1997-2001
Clyde Ferrell	EMS	US Army	1971-1973
Franklin Shaffer	Planning	US Air Force	2013-2019
Jeffrey Lynn	Fire Marshal	US Army	2003-2008
Luke Rich	Garage	US Army	2002-2006
James Yorke	Information Tech	US Army	1991-1995
Jimmy Laughter	Information Tech	US Marine Corp	1988-1992
April Young	Library	US Army	2000-2005
Danny Searcy	Planning	US Air Force	1989 to present
Allen Hardin	Sheriff	US Army	1988-1992
Paul Mitchell	Sheriff	US Army	2004-2013
Patrick Wiseman	Sheriff	US Air Force	1999-2004
Joseph McComas	Sheriff	US Marine Corp	2002-2010
Joseph McComas	Sheriff	US Army	2014-2022
Christopher Lee	Sheriff	US Marine Corp	1987-1992
Cory Watkins	Sheriff	US Marine Corp	2015-2020
Zachary Walker	Sheriff	US Navy	2000-2004
Charlie McLaughlin	Sheriff	US Marine Corp	2005-2020
Andrew Greenway	Sheriff	US Army reserves	1994-2000
Ann Woodbridge	Social Services	US Air Force	1974-1980
Felicia Hodges	Social Services	US Army	1986-1992
Rachel Atchley	Social Services	US Air Force	2003-2007
Lisa Craig	Social Services	US Air Force	2005-2007
Gary Stout	Social Services	US Marine Corp	1963-1967
Michael Padgett	Solid Waste	US Army	1973-1976
Wayne Graybill	Solid Waste	US Army	1964-1966
Harold Enloe	Solid Waste	National Guard/Army	
Ronald Grier	Solid Waste		
Terry Bottomley	Solid Waste	US Navy	1966-1970
John Miller	Solid Waste	US Air Force	1970-1992
Scott Davis	Transit	US Navy	1988-1996
Bill Morris	Transit	US Army	1962-1963
Bill Humphries	Transit	US Army	1979-2003
Charles Cundiff	Transit	US Army	1977-1990
Ronnie McGinnis	Transit	US Army	1969-1970

Library

The Rutherford County Library System is pleased to introduce our newest part-time employee, Anastasia Haulk! She's married with two children and an adorable puppy! When not at the library, she enjoys cooking, crafting, and cheering on her girls during swim meets. Anastasia works mornings at County Library at the circulation desk. Come on in and give her a warm welcome!

As the new year approaches, we are ready to start reevaluating some of the Bookmobile's monthly stops. We've had great success at many stops, but we want to be sure that we are serving our community in the best way possible. If you have any suggestions for locations, please let us know at Kenneth.odom@rutherfordcountync.gov and we will take it into consideration. Please note that we do not stop at private residences. Any changes to our routes will begin in January, to be reevaluated again in June 2025!



TEEN DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

The third Monday of each month ~ 5:30pm

- new DM
- new date
- new time
- new adventure



 www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
County Library // 828-287-6115

Our Teens-Only Dungeons and Dragons group has changed to a new date and time, with a new Dungeon Master, Alex Toney! The group now meets on the third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm. Food and drinks will be provided. Drop-ins are welcome, but a one-time registration is preferred so that we have enough food, etc. You can do this at www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org/dnd to let us know who's coming!

Reading Challenge: Winter Break

Dec. 20th - Jan. 6th
Ages 0-18

Read for twenty minutes a day.
Write your book titles and authors on your reading log!

Complete all fourteen days and be entered into the grand prize drawing. Complete at least six days to get a limited-edition button!



 www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org

For younger readers, we'll be having a special Winter Break Reading Challenge for ages 0-18! Participants must read (or be read to) for **20 minutes a day for fourteen days** in order to be entered into the grand prize drawing. There will be grand prizes for four different age groups (under 5, elementary school, middle school, and high school). Participants who fill out at least **six** days will receive a commemorative button!

Other exciting programs in December:

KIDS' CHRISTMAS BINGO

Kids of all ages are invited to Haynes Branch on Saturday, Dec. 14th at 11:00am to play holiday bingo!

No registration is required.





www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
Haynes Branch // 828-288-4039



ON THE MENU WITH Maria

Friday, December 20th at 1:00pm
Mountains Branch Library

On today's menu:

Maria's family's oyster stew!

No registration is required for this free demonstration and tasting!





Mountains Branch // 828-287-6392
www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org

HOLIDAY DROP-IN



County Library
Friday, December 20th
3:30pm-5:30pm

activities x snacks x facepainting x special guest!



www.rutherfordcountylibrary.org
County Library // 828-287-6115

Planning and Projects

Operations Manager Jimmy Sprouse and the Maintenance team, along with Johnson Controls, replaced the chiller on the rooftop of the Detention facility on November 4th.



Work has begun for the Department of Social Services ‘Lighthouse’ project which will provide housing for children without placement.



Planning and Projects continued

Not only did the chiller have to be replaced at the Detention Center this month, but also a replacement chiller was needed at the DSS Building C . Our well-trained Maintenance technicians did a great job getting the system installed.



Register of Deeds

Assumed Business Names	12
Certificates of Satisfaction	119
Deeds	224
Deeds of Trust	129
Plats/Surveys	23
Powers of Attorney	54
Various other documents	108
Certified Vital Records Issued	498
Marriage Licenses Issued	31
Notary Public Oaths	17

Revenue Office

Customer Service	
Phone Calls	1,461
Taxpayer Office Visit Assistance	506
County Growth Indicators	
Deeds Transferring Property	341
Transfer by Estate	62
Plats Reviewed	2
Parcels with Mapping Changes (Split or Merged)	20
Parcels Reviewed with Building Permits	484
Parcels Reviewed w/o Building Permits	796
Collections Progress	
Deeds Certified	40
Legal Actions (Garnishments, Attachments, etc.)	53
Total Taxes Collected	\$2,570,23.89

Wishing Morgan Henson (Revenue)
and family endless blessings as
they welcome little Nolan Keith,
born November 20, 2024, into their home.





OCTOBER 2024 REPORT

<u>SERVICE TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEALS</u>
SENIOR CENTER MEALS	1,738
ELLENBORO MEAL SITE	527
HOME DELIVERED MEALS	4,132
Total October Meals	6,397

GRANT AWARD FROM GATEWAY WELLNESS FOUNDATION

We have been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Gateway Wellness Foundation to support our Home Delivered Meals Program. This funding will provide crucial assistance in continuing our efforts to serve nutritious meals to seniors in need.

TAR HEEL LEGISLATOR, CLARK POOLE

North Carolina legislators recently heard key concerns from the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, including home-safety and ensuring seniors can remain in their homes. Local representative, Clark Poole, (pictured right) addressed these issues at the Rutherford County Senior Center, emphasizing the need for increased funding to support in-home care, assisted living, and CNA positions.

Poole highlighted the importance of seniors advocating for their needs, especially considering challenges like choosing between food and medicine or dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes. He praised seniors' resilience, noting their leadership in disaster response, such as organizing community aid within days of recent storms.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Medicare's annual Open Enrollment period, which began on October 15, is set to conclude on December 7. As of today, November 25, there are only seven business days remaining to review and adjust your Medicare coverage for the upcoming year.

While the state has extended the enrollment deadline for beneficiaries affected by Hurricane Helene, this Special Enrollment Period (SEP) applies specifically to residents in the 25 North Carolina counties declared disaster areas, including Rutherford County.

However, it's important to note that our local counselors have prior commitments beyond December 7. If you delay your enrollment changes until after this date, you will need to seek assistance from representatives in Raleigh.

To ensure you receive personalized guidance and avoid potential delays, we strongly encourage you to contact our local counselors before December 7. They can help you navigate your options and make informed decisions about your Medicare coverage for 2025.



Medicare Open Enrollment Period is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7

**APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE
CALL
(828) 287-6409**



SHIP can help.

For further assistance, you can also reach out to the North Carolina Department of Insurance's Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) at 855-408-1212, available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Taking prompt action will help ensure your healthcare needs are met without interruption in the coming year.

NEW PARTICIPANTS

The Senior Center has been growing with new participants both at the Center and to our Home-Delivered Meals program. In October, we gained 19 new participants. This includes a mixture of congregate, home-delivered meals, food boxes, etc.

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS

We had a total of 683 active participants during the month of October.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

We had 41 volunteers in October and they logged a total of 298 volunteer hours.

EMPLOYEE WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following employees who celebrated a work anniversary in November.



Joyce Bailey
Kitchen Assistant
18 years



Kay Aldridge
Site Manager
12 years



Dan Arrowood
Home-Delivered Meals Driver
5 years

Car Show Fundraiser

Rutherford County Sheriff's Office raised \$5,000 at the Car Show on Saturday, November 16, for Captain Jamie Keever to assist with medical expenses as he battles cancer. (Pictured left to right: Sheriff Aaron Ellenburg, Captain Jamie Keever, Kelly Aldridge of Graphics and Awards Unlimited, DJ Johnnie Adkins, and Senior Center Director Tammy Aldridge)



Contributed Photo by Pat Nanney



Contributed Photo by Pat Nanney

FY 24-25 October Transit Numbers

Operating Week	# of Total Miles	# of Local Trips	# of Out of County Trips	# of Unduplicated Passengers	Total Revenue
Sep 30 - Oct 06	4328	711	38	76	\$ 4,517
Oct 07 - Oct 13	8849	1123	60	136	\$ 13,223
Oct 14 - Oct 20	9340	1188	94	140	\$ 15,614
Oct 21 - Oct 27	10181	1229	92	169	\$ 17,412
Oct 28 - Nov 03	10898	1248	92	166	\$ 19,263
Average	8719	1100	75	137	\$14,006

Rutherford County Transit: Evacuating Over 100 Residents During Hurricane Helene

During Hurricane Helene, Rutherford County Transit played a critical role in protecting residents as catastrophic flooding and power outages devastated the community. On September 27, with power and cell service down, Emergency Management Director Frankie Hamrick called on Transit for immediate assistance. Unable to contact her drivers due to power outages, Transit Director Kerry Giles authorized Emergency Management to directly access Transit vehicles to evacuate residents from high-risk areas. EMS retrieved three vehicles, which were crucial in the initial evacuation of Chimney Rock Village as warnings of an imminent Lake Lure Dam failure escalated the need for action.

Later that morning, Giles was called to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to serve as Public Information Officer (PIO). While media inquiries and reports of missing persons poured in, Giles managed public communications, ensuring accurate, timely updates and providing reassurance to families searching for loved ones.

As conditions began to stabilize on September 28, Kerry Giles, her husband Bill Giles, Transit Operations Manager Jeff Hill, and County Commissioner Michael Benfield joined the evacuation efforts. Using Transit vehicles, they navigated dangerous and partially cleared roads into Lake Lure, working alongside NC DOT crews and emergency personnel to safely evacuate over 100 residents from Chimney Rock Village and the Lake Lure area.

That evening, Operations Manager Jeff Hill took on a critical solo mission in Chimney Rock Village. Despite power outages and challenging terrain, Hill crossed a still-intact bridge into the darkened village after evacuees were not at the designated meeting point. Deep in the village, Hill located four adults, six dogs, three newborn puppies, and two cats stranded without transportation after losing their car keys and leashes to floodwaters. Acting quickly, Hill loaded the group into a Transit vehicle and in complete darkness, navigated curvy, debris-filled roads, washed-out sections, and downed power lines to bring them to safety at an emergency shelter.

In the days that followed, as cell service was partially restored, numerous Transit drivers returned to duty. Many left behind their own damaged homes or worked without power to join the ongoing evacuation efforts. They transported additional evacuees, navigated treacherous roads, and provided an essential lifeline to residents with no other means of escape.

Rutherford County Transit’s actions during Hurricane Helene showcased the extraordinary dedication and resilience of its staff. From rescuing stranded residents and their pets to ensuring vital communications and safe evacuations, Transit personnel prioritized the community’s needs above their own challenges. Their adaptability and determination underline the indispensable role public transportation plays in disaster response, saving lives and building resilience when it matters most.

Staff Updates

As Transit resumed normal operations following Hurricane Helene, Transit Director Kerry Giles took the timely opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., with the NCPTA Legislative Delegation. While there, she advocated for increased funding for rural public transportation and sought Hurricane Helene relief funds to support ongoing recovery efforts (pictured right and following page).





Transit also welcomed three new part-time drivers to the team: Jeannette Meyers, Rhonda Rhyne, and Terry Lindsay, who are now completing orientation and preparing to contribute to our mission. At this quarter's Transit Advisory Board meeting, members reviewed Transit's disaster response to Hurricane Helene and discussed the continued advocacy for rural transportation funding at both state and federal levels. The discussion emphasized the vital role transit agencies play in emergencies and disasters, highlighting the importance of investment in public transportation.

Finally, we are deeply grateful for our dedicated staff, whose hard work and commitment shine both in daily operations and during crises. On Friday, November 22, Transit held its annual Thanksgiving lunch, providing an opportunity to celebrate the team's efforts and express gratitude for their unwavering dedication to serving the community.



"Rural transportation serves as a lifeline for communities, especially during crises, as demonstrated by Hurricane Helene. On the morning of the storm, Rutherford County Transit was deployed to assist in evacuation efforts, transporting individuals airlifted from the mountain to safety. Throughout the entire response and recovery period, we continued to provide essential support by evacuating residents, transporting them to food and supply sites, ensuring shelter access, supplying vehicles for National Guard operations, and delivering meals to seniors.

North Carolina's rural transit systems are deeply integrated into local emergency operations plans, ready to respond swiftly when disaster strikes. However, maintaining these critical services comes at a substantial cost. Federal operating funds, such as those from the CARES Act, would be invaluable in offsetting recent expenses and revenue losses, helping to ensure Western North Carolina remains prepared for future emergencies."

Kerry Giles, Rutherford County Transit Director
kerry.giles@rutherfordcountync.gov - 828.288.4505



Veteran Services

To celebrate the holiday season with cheer,
we are planning a party for our veterans to end the year!

December 11, 2024

11:00 am to 1:00 pm



Congratulations to Patricia Statler on successfully completing her Veteran Service Officer training! Her dedication to serving those who served is truly commendable. She is now well-equipped to provide vital support and guidance to our veterans, and we are proud to have her on our team at the Veteran Services department.

Operation Green Light is a national initiative that supports veterans and their families by lighting buildings and infrastructure green from November 4-11, 2024! We wanted to let our veterans know they are seen, appreciated and supported.





Looking for a new job or career opportunity? [Click here](#) for current opportunities available with Rutherford County.



Rutherford County Critical Information System



To receive **critical emergency information**
and instructions to your phone:

Send a text to the phone number **888777**
and type in the message box **AlertRC**

Doing this will ensure your safety under emergency conditions.



FOREST CITY LIGHTING CEREMONY

Thursday, November 28 at 6:30 pm

Join us for our annual lighting ceremony! Make sure you are on Main Street when the Mayor and his special guest flip the magic switch that turns on the lights at 7 pm!

NOTE: Historic Main Street will be closed from Broadway Street to Church Street beginning at 9 am on Thursday, November 28. There will be no parking on Main Street due to the lighting ceremony. We encourage you to park in the municipal lots between Main Street and Trade Street and in the grassy area across from First Baptist Church if you are attending the lighting ceremony. Main Street will reopen at 9 pm. Many of our businesses will be open on Thanksgiving night for your shopping pleasure. Stop in and support our local businesses during the holiday season!

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sunday, December 1 at 3:00 pm

The annual Forest City Christmas Parade will be held on Sunday, December 1 at 3 pm. The parade begins at Cool Springs Administrative Building and travels east on Main Street to First United Methodist Church. There will be no parking on eastbound Main Street during the parade. Call 447-1730 for more information.





ROC partnered up with Broad Riverkeeper to take multiple rounds of Broad River water samples in the aftermath of Helene, and there is encouraging news on the road to recovery. Results at all sites show bacteria levels have returned to safe conditions. This is huge progress after bacteria levels spiked following the failure of the Lake Lure sewage plant during the floods. The water’s height has begun to drop as well, another positive sign of recovery for our river.

While this is all encouraging news, **please continue to use caution and stay out of the river until further notice.** The water remains turbid and there are likely many debris and hazards that are yet to be seen. Check out the full panel of results on the right, with many thanks to Broad Riverkeeper for the data. Stay safe and stay tuned for updates on the river’s recovery!

Broad River post Helene, from below Lake Lure to BR Greenway

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Site ID	Latitude	Longitude	Stream and Road	Date	Time	E. coli (MPN)	
14	BB1	35.2	-81.	Broad River Greenway	10/9		86	
15								
16	BB2	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Coke Rd	10/10/24	11:12	88	
17	BB3	35.3	-82.	Broad River @ Grays Rd	10/10/24	11:40	54	
18	UB40	35.4	-82.	Upper Broad at Rock Springs Ch Rd bridge	10/10/24	12:21	30	
19	BB7	35.4	-82.	Broad River below Lake Lure WWTP	10/10/24	12:41	2520	
20								
21								
22	BB2	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Coke Rd	10/15/24	before n	85	
23	BB3	35.3	-82.	Broad River @ Grays Rd	10/15/24	before n	78	
24	UB40	35.4	-82.	Upper Broad at Rock Springs Ch Rd bridge	10/15/24	before n	44	
25	BB7	35.4	-82.	Broad River below Lake Lure WWTP	10/15/24	before n	250	
26	BB1	35.2	-81.	Broad River Greenway	10/15/24	11:00	66	
27	BB1.7	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Hwy 221, new access	10/15/24	12:00	88	
28								
29	BB2	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Coke Rd	10/21/24	10:27	50	
30	BB3	35.3	-82.	Broad River @ Grays Rd	10/21/24	10:10	86	
31	UB40	35.4	-82.	Upper Broad at Rock Springs Ch Rd bridge	10/21/24	9:48	12	
32	BB7	35.4	-82.	Broad River below Lake Lure WWTP	10/21/24	9:30	20	
33	BB1	35.2	-81.	Broad River Greenway	10/21/24	9:50	75	
34	BB1.7	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Hwy 221, new access	10/21/24	10:45	73	
35								
36								
37								
38	BB2	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Coke Rd	10/23/24	9:45	72	
39	BB3	35.3	-82.	Broad River @ Grays Rd	10/23/24	9:34	50	
40	UB40	35.4	-82.	Upper Broad at Rock Springs Ch Rd bridge	10/23/24	9:04	35	
41	BB7	35.4	-82.	Broad River below Lake Lure WWTP	10/23/24	8:46	16	
42	BB1	35.2	-81.	Broad River Greenway	10/23/24	10:54	60	
43	BB1.7	35.2	-81.	Broad River @ Hwy 221, new access	10/23/24	9:40	117	
44								
45								

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
informationrutherford@rutherfordcountync.gov