

THE CITY OF  
**ELIZABETH CITY**  
NORTH CAROLINA



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending April 15, 2011  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. On Tuesday, April 12, 2011, Chief Charles Crudup of the Elizabeth City Police Department, working in conjunction with Sheriff Randy Cartwright of the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department, launched a new special operation entitled "Operation Eagle Eye." The Elizabeth City Police Department has devoted 15 officers to this special assignment. Sheriff Cartwright and members of the Sheriff's Office, Chief Sam Beamon and members of Elizabeth City State University Campus Police, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, ALE, DEA and the SBI are providing assistance. In the last three days since "Operation Eagle Eye" went into effect, the following enforcement transactions have taken place as a result of the collaborative effort of all agencies involved:

- 18 Warrants for Arrest, including Felony Weapons violations and Felony Drug Possession violations;
- 25 Interviews with Persons of Interest;
- 6 Driving While Impaired Arrests, including one vehicle seizure;
- 11 Driving While License Revoked Arrests;
- 32 Traffic Violations;
- 5 K-9 Utilizations;
- 16 Checkpoint Stations City-Wide

On Wednesday, April 13, 2011, a collaborative effort between the Elizabeth City Police Department, the Currituck County Sheriff's Office, and the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office resulted in the recovery and seizure of five weapons, including one sawed-off shotgun. On Thursday, April 14, 2011, suspect Michael Seymour was apprehended and arrested for the shooting that occurred on Monday, April 11, 2011 on Hwy 17 South near Forest Park. Suspect Seymour was charged with one count of Attempted First Degree Murder and he was issued a \$750,000 cash bond.

I would like to thank all members of the law enforcement community for their help with this ongoing operation.

2. Annually, the Peaking Power Purchasing Agreement we have with ElectriCities provides for what is referred to as a "true-up." The true-up calculations are based on actual data provided by Progress Energy to the Power Agency in the reconciliation of estimated and actual annual power coordination agreement charges. We received notice this week of the City's 2010 true-up, which revealed a credit of \$86,678.31. The City's credit last year was \$65,261.14. This credit will be reflected on the City's May 10, 2011 purchased power statement.
3. Today, I attended the announcement by COA and Currituck County on a joint venture to develop a Regional Aviation and Technical Training Center at Currituck's airport in Maple. This is a critical component for all of us in northeastern North Carolina if we want to grow our aviation presence in Elizabeth City. The facility, which should be open hopefully in about 15 months, will allow our local residents to receive their FAA Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic Certificate. COA will continue, until the facility is open, to teach several of the modules here in Elizabeth City. Wayne Harris, Scott Hinton and I have been evaluating over the last 18 months how we could establish the program here in Elizabeth City. Unfortunately, due to the lack of financial resources and a suitable local site, the Currituck option will benefit the entire region and allow Currituck County to become a leader in the aviation business.
4. The City has received a draft copy of the Eco Park planning document. This plan has been a collaborative effort between the City, stakeholders and the North Carolina State University College of Design. The plan will allow the City to reduce flooding problems in the Oxford Heights neighborhood, create local environmental, educational and recreational resources for the community, and provide cleanup and management of the Knobbs Creek watershed. The Eco Park planning document will be presented to the City Council during the work session to be held on April 25, 2011. One of the primary purposes for the document is to utilize the report to secure funding for the development of the improvements to the area. This is only the first phase of what will be a multiple-phase development project.
5. The City received notice today that the North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Investment and Assistance Division (formerly DCA) has closed out the City's Community Development Block Grant 05-D-1727. This grant was utilized to construct 4,161 feet of 16 inch waterline from Main Street to Halstead Boulevard. The total grant award was \$454,000

and the City utilized \$447,289.20 of CDBG funds for the project. There were no local matching funds on this project. The state has de-obligated \$6,710.80 of unused funds. I would like to thank Paul Fredette and Paul Williams for insuring that this difficult project was completed on time and under budget.

6. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working to improve the image of our local cemeteries. Last week, we had the pillar rebuilt at the entrance to Old Oak Grove Cemetery. Originally, there were two pillars and one was damaged. We found the remnants of the pillar in the woods behind the cemetery last month while cleaning the leaves. This new pillar looks very nice and is almost identical to the original pillar. We are also working with a local contractor to prune and remove diseased trees in Old Oak Grove Cemetery. Next week Mr. Herb Crase will begin pruning four trees (one Cedar, two Hickory, and one Sassafras) as well as removing vines on one Dogwood and cutting, removing and grinding the stump of one Persimmon tree. Mr. Crase seems to think the Sassafras tree could be the largest of its kind in North Carolina. The NC Forest Service will be taking measurements to determine if the tree is a state champion. Also next week, Poseidon Pressure Washing will pressure wash all the pillars located at the entrances to Old Hollywood, New Hollywood, and Old Oak Grove Cemeteries. Within the next month, we will be bringing in rock and reclaimed asphalt to improve the driving paths throughout each cemetery. Hopefully these small improvements will enhance the overall image of our cemeteries.
7. Staff has been in contact with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate the effort required to cost share the Water Street intersection improvement project. The contract documents are being modified to include DOT requirements for disadvantaged businesses. The modified contract documents will then be reviewed by DOT before the project is again advertised to solicit construction bids. We anticipate the project will be advertised in early May and the bids opened in early June. DOT Division 1 will submit a request for the State DOT Commissioners to consider a funding request at their May 5, 2011 meeting. At this point, we anticipate a positive result. Following the funding commitment, the City will receive a draft Municipal Agreement for Council consideration in May. On their June agenda, the DOT Commissioners will consider approval of a Municipal Agreement, which will secure the state's commitment to cost share the project with the City. Based on this plan, we anticipate that the project can be awarded to a contractor in mid-June with a project completion date in early September.

8. This morning, staff walked the layout of the proposed Route 17 South sidewalk with DOT and Rivers Engineering representatives. Based on this morning's site meeting, we expect a revised draft layout of the project with some minor modifications. After we have reviewed the revised layout, we expect that the final design documents will be ready for DOT review in about three weeks. Allowing two weeks for DOT's review, we should be able to advertise the project for construction bids in early June, looking for a construction start date near the end of July.
9. Recently DOT adopted a new statewide policy that will allow "in-street pedestrian crossing signs" similar to the sign the City installed on Colonial Avenue near the County Complex. A standard DOT Encroachment Agreement needs to be prepared and approved prior to the installation of these in-street signs. The City has prepared an Encroachment Agreement to install an in-street sign near Mariners' Wharf Park for the weekend Downtown Farmers Market. We are also preparing a second Encroachment Agreement for a second location on Poindexter Street to accommodate the need of Mid-Atlantic Christian University.
- 10.A building permit was issued this week for Dr. Michael Sue's medical offices, which are to be constructed at 102 Northside Park Drive. The project is located on Hwy 17 North behind the State Employees Credit Union. It will consist of a single story, 9,000 square foot building and will be divided into two areas. One side will be the gastroenterology clinic and the other side will be the endoscopy center. Voluntary annexation of this property was approved on October 27, 2010 by the City Council and the rezoning of the property to General Business was approved during this past Monday's Council meeting. The City received \$10,500 for the sewer impact fee. Water service will be provided by Pasquotank County for this commercial subdivision.
- 11.This morning after the site walk on the Route 17 South Sidewalk Project, staff met with Rivers Engineering in the field to discuss a design change for the Greenway Trail (Bikeway) Project on Halstead Boulevard Extended. We asked that Rivers complete the required survey and preliminary design to relocate a portion of the proposed bikeway from Forest Park Road to Ridgefield Drive so that it would be adjacent to the Halstead Boulevard right of way instead of the Church Street right of way. We expect to hear back from Rivers during the last week of the month after they have had time to research their design files to let us know what additional information they will need.

12. The Mayor's Redistricting Advisory Committee will hold a public forum on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers to discuss the proposed redistricting plan. An advertisement inviting the public to attend the forum will appear in Sunday's Daily Advance.
13. Arts of the Albemarle will hold its annual Harbor Arts Festival and Taste of the Albemarle tomorrow in downtown Elizabeth City. Poindexter Street, between Colonial Avenue and Main Street will be closed from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. for the arts festival. Main Street will be closed from 1 p.m. until 10 p.m. between Water Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive for the "taste" portion of the event, which will begin at 4 p.m.
14. Most City offices will be closed next Friday, April 22 in observance of the Good Friday holiday. Friday's garbage and recycling route will be collected on Monday, April 25. There will not be a "FYI" published next week.
15. Upcoming Event Reminders:
  - City Council Finance Committee meeting, Monday, April 18 at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers
  - City Council Budget Work Session, Monday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers
  - Mayor's Redistricting Advisory Committee meeting, Tuesday, April 19 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers
  - The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Business After Hours hosted by CenturyLink on Tuesday, April 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Mariners' Wharf Park

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