



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending June 9, 2006

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1. Last week, the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in the Garcetti, et al vs. Ceballos case. This case dealt with public employees making statements pursuant to their official duties and whether their statements are protected by the First Amendment. This ruling did impact the City of Elizabeth City. The attorney for Sgt. C. E. Kirby in the Kirby vs. City of Elizabeth City case had filed a *Petition for Writ of Certiorari* to the Supreme Court after their appeal before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals was lost. The *Petition for Writ of Certiorari* was held by the Court, pending the outcome of the Garcetti case. The City has received notice that the *Petition for Writ of Certiorari* was denied by the Supreme Court, in part due to the ruling in the Garcetti case. I would like to thank Norwood Blanchard and Patricia Holland of the firm, Cranfill, Sumner & Hartzog, and Steven Lee of the NC League of Municipalities for their work on behalf of the City in the Kirby case.
2. The pre-construction meeting for the Charles Creek Park Ecosystem Enhancement Project was held on Monday, June 5. The project is located at the northeast corner of Southern Avenue and Dawson Street and will consist of excavation of two to three feet of soil from the site to create a shallow wetland, including planting of numerous wetland vegetation species. The site has been changed to a conservation easement to be owned by the State. The Ecosystem Enhancement Program (formerly known as the Wetlands Restoration Program) within DENR is coordinating, overseeing and for a period of time, maintaining the site until the vegetation is established. The project designers are Soil and Environmental Consultants of Raleigh, NC and at the contractor will be North State Environmental, Inc. of Winston-Salem, NC. Construction will start next week and last approximately five weeks.

3. The City of Elizabeth City's GIS Department is currently acquiring its first Trimble GPS unit. The City will now be able to capture, manipulate and analyze data digitally with respect to the City's infrastructure and operation. This will be another tool for the City to help maintain, plan and promote future growth for our citizens.
4. On Saturday, June 3, the Fire Department hosted a training session at Northeastern High School for child care providers. The training is a state-mandated program and the students received credit for their attendance. There were a total of 170 students in the training session. Each person completed an evaluation of the workshop and the instructors received positive reviews and feedback. I would like to thank the Fire Department personnel for a job well done.
5. The City's waterfront should be crowded this weekend with both boaters and spectators. The Carolina Cup races, which feature hydroplane boats, will run on Saturday and Sunday near the downtown waterfront. Race officials expect at least 50 boats to compete for the two day event.
6. Also on Saturday, several local Bass Clubs are sponsoring a bass tournament to raise money for Kids First. Tournament organizers estimate at least 30 teams for the one day event. Boats will be leaving Dog Corner Park at 6 a.m. on Saturday and will return for a 3 p.m. weigh-in.
7. The Parks and Recreation Department will host its 18th Annual Basketball Camp next week. Kids, ages 6 to 9, will camp at the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. Kids, ages 10 to 16, will camp at Northeastern High School. Over 100 kids have registered for the week-long camp and we expect another 25-50 kids to register by Monday morning. Parks and recreation staff members, along with the help of many former basketball players, will serve as instructors.
8. The Elizabeth City Police Department is hosting a bike certification course this week to certify the remainder of the Community Police Officers in the safe operation of bicycles for neighborhood bike patrol work. The course is being instructed by Acting Lieutenant John Etheridge and is a week-long certification process.
9. The City's website continues to gain in popularity as a source of information regarding the City and its services. During the month of May 2006, the site received a record number of inquiries by recording a total of 7,215 hits. The previous record was 6,508 hits, recorded in January 2006.

10. Inspections Director Stanley Ward has advised that Bay Island Contractors submitted the building application and plans this week for the home being constructed at 513 White Street for Mrs. Beulah Respass. Construction of the home should begin very soon.
11. One of the City's own firefighters, Donald Williams, was among the soldiers of the 725th Quartermaster Unit, which returned home this week after a year's deployment in Iraq. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Donald and his fellow troops home and to thank them for their dedicated service to our Country.
12. Since I will be out of the office on vacation next week, there will not be an FYI published for Friday, June 16, 2006.

RCO/vdw