



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending June 10, 2011

**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. Update on Elizabeth Street Utility Relocation Project (NCDOT Project U-4438) - Not without unanticipated, yet normal construction delays, the casing for the gravity sewer in Colonial Avenue from Poindexter Street to Water Street was completed this week and a 10 inch ductile iron sewer pipe was pushed thru the casing. The good news is this is the only pipe that has to be installed using the "Jack and Bore" method on this job. However, as someone quipped this morning, now for the rest of the project, we will be using the "dig and discover" method. After more than a week's delay, we are optimistic that there is an agreed upon disposal site for the soils that were found in Water Street that contained a strong, fuel-like odor to them. If all goes as expected, the contractor will resume work on Water Street early next week, with plans to complete the sewer work on Water Street by the end of the week. During this past week, the contractor completed the removal of the concrete in the alley behind Thumpers and started to install the storm water drainage from Elizabeth Street. In the process, an old oil tank with some fuel was discovered. NCDOT was contacted, and they will use their contractors to properly remove the tank and complete whatever site remediation is required. The work plan for next week is to complete all of the sewer and water work at the intersection of Colonial Avenue and Water Street and to backfill and compact that intersection. Plans are to complete the sewer main on the east side of Water Street, which will require the removal and disposal of the contaminated soils. The contractor also plans to backfill the large jacking hole and set the manholes in Colonial Avenue and Poindexter Street next week. To accommodate the continuation in the first phase of work, we expect the street closures to be the same as they are currently for the next five weeks. We again thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation.

2. Hurricane Season officially began on June 1. As part of the City's emergency response plan, I have requested that all City employees provide the City with an updated Employee Disaster Assistance Plan. A copy of the plan will be provided to Elizabeth City-Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management Coordinator Christy Saunders. The plan will provide the City and Emergency Management with information on skills and/or interests that might be available during a disaster. The type of information we are requesting includes such things as equipment a person can operate, language skills and social media skills. The form also allows the City to determine the non-essential employees that will remain locally during a disaster, which will allow us to call on them for aid.
3. Our Emergency Management Agency is seeking trained volunteers as pet shelter workers and managers in order to establish a shelter where citizens and their pets can be co-located during a disaster. Unfortunately, some citizens will risk personal safety during a disaster because they don't want to leave their pets behind. Anyone interested in helping to provide this resource to the community should contact Christy Saunders by calling 252-335-4444 or by email: [saundersc@co.pasquotank.nc.us](mailto:saundersc@co.pasquotank.nc.us).
4. After three months of negotiations with Pepsi Bottling Ventures, the Pepsi contract is ready to be executed by Mayor McLean. Pepsi will have the exclusive product rights for all City and County owned facilities for a seven year period beginning July 1, 2011. As you may remember, this is a great opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department and our community. Pepsi is donating \$18,000 towards the purchase of the five scoreboards at South Park. Over the seven years, it is estimated that the community will receive over \$90,000 in revenue and donations from Pepsi Bottling Ventures. I join the Parks and Recreation Department in thanking Phil Johnson and Danny Stallings for their gracious and generous financial offer and the County for working with the Parks and Recreation Department to make this all possible. It is wonderful to have the City and County working together to complete the South Park Sports Complex.
5. Yesterday, I sent Karl Clow and Ricky Albertson to the ElectriCities offices in Raleigh to receive an update on the new EPA RICE (Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines) regulations. EPA has proposed new exhaust regulations for all engines over 300 horsepower. The regulations, if allowed by Congress, will become effective May 3, 2013. The RICE regulations will affect eleven peaking generators that the City operates for load management purposes. Emergency-only generators will not be affected by the new regulations. ElectriCities has requested that we

submit engine data to them to see if collective pricing for engine modifications is possible. The City has received an independent estimate for all eleven generators of \$289,580 to bring them into compliance. These generators usually only operate approximately 150 hours per year. Due to their limited operation, they have little adverse impact on the environment. The City, ElectriCities and the APPA will continue to oppose the new regulations.

6. Today, we received from the US Census Bureau the 2010 Census Demographic Profile Data. What I found interesting in the data was that Elizabeth City has 3,741 renter-occupied housing units, which have 9,033 people living in them. This is approximately one-half of the City's residents. The City also has 462 unoccupied rental units, which means we have 4,203 total rental units in Elizabeth City, or 59.30% of the City's available housing stock units are rentals. A review of our rental inspection program indicates that 3,640 units have registered as rental units. The City has started sending letters to individuals who have failed to pay their annual rental registration fee. City staff continues to monitor Senate Bill 683, which would eliminate the City's rental inspection program. The bill passed the North Carolina Senate today; but it has been revised and it now appears that Elizabeth City would be grandfathered under the bill.
7. Chief Charles Crudup and I would like to alert area residents to an on-going bank scam, which involves Gateway Bank account holders. Several residents of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County have recently received text messages from unknown perpetrators trying to gain access to their individual bank accounts. The text messages read as follows: "*GATEWAY BANK ALERT: Your CARD starting with 4138\*\* has been DEACTIVATED. Please contact us at \_\_\_ (various numbers are listed as contact numbers).*" The unknown perpetrators are specifically targeting Gateway Bank account holders. Gateway Bank is owned by Hampton Roads Bankshares, whose security officers report that this particular bank scam covers four different states. The security officers also state that the perpetrators in these cases are located in California and other states throughout the country. As of today's date, fifteen Elizabeth City residents have reported being victimized by this particular scam. The Elizabeth City Police Department has been working in conjunction with Hampton Roads Bankshares security personnel, as well as the U.S. Secret Service, in investigating these fraudulent crimes occurring in our area. Residents of the area are strongly urged NOT to respond to any text message received from Gateway Bank. Specifically, do not respond to any type of message requesting your account number, security password, or PIN number over the telephone. This type of information should only be requested in person by employees of one of the local Gateway Banks, not

over the telephone. If you have any questions regarding this bank scam, please contact the Detective Sergeant D.P. Felton of the Elizabeth City Police Department at (252)335-4321.

8. "Operation Eagle Eye", a special police operation which began in mid-April for the purpose of reducing the number of shots fired calls reported in the City, has now been in effect for six weeks. At the end of the first six weeks of this operation, enforcement actions were calculated as follows:
  - 314 Arrest Warrants Served (includes Felonious Weapon & Assault Charges; Felonious Drug Charges, and Probation/Court Violations);
  - 34 Persons of Interest Interviewed;
  - 16 Driving While Impaired Investigations/Arrests Conducted;
  - 57 Driving While License Revoked Arrests Completed;
  - 315 Citations Issued (includes Traffic Charges, Noise Violations, Curfew Violations, Disorderly Conduct; Littering; Solicitation; and Misdemeanor Possession of Drugs/Drug Paraphernalia);
  - 135 Warning Tickets Issued; and
  - 74 Checkpoint Stations Conducted throughout the City

Chief Crudup and members of the Elizabeth City Police Department are committed to ensuring the safety of all our citizens and to reduce crime and the fear of crime in our City. "Operation Eagle Eye" will continue to be in effect for as long as necessary, as the members of the Department continue to focus on high-crime and other target areas in Elizabeth City.

9. Please mark your calendars for the Seventh Annual "National Night Out Against Crime" hosted by the Elizabeth City Police Department on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., a police caravan will travel down Ehringhaus Street towards Waterfront Park where Chief Charles Crudup will officially open the ceremony and Mayor Roger McLean will read a proclamation. Some of this year's activities include performances by local aspiring country music singer, Caston Young, and gospel singer Amber Braddy and the Forest Park Church ensemble. There will be demonstrations from the Elizabeth City Police Department K-9 Program, the Police Athletic League, and the United States Coast Guard. The event also includes free children's activities, food booths, a NASCAR simulator, a donut eating contest, and a car and motorcycle show. There will also be numerous police, fire, and other public safety displays designed to bring awareness to the public. Please join Chief Crudup, myself, and members of the Elizabeth City Police Department for this year's National Night Out activities. It is a great way to foster positive relationships between the police department and the

citizens of Elizabeth City and is sure to be a night of good food, fun, and fellowship.

10. A building permit was issued this week to Bluewater Contractors (a local firm) to construct a 12,405 square foot addition to Fountain of Life Church at 1107 US Hwy. 17 South. The addition, when completed, will house a 600 seat sanctuary. The existing sanctuary is proposed to be converted to a multipurpose room. To meet their fire suppression needs, I have authorized the church to tie on to the County's waterline. The City will still provide water to the church for domestic purposes.
11. This week, the work of emptying the three million gallon raw water reservoir continued with one minor setback - the second baffle wall in the reservoir collapsed. The intended plan was to remove that baffle wall as part of the project anyway, just not the way it happened. Except for the scare to the workers in the general area, we trust there was no damage to the outer tank walls or floor when the wall collapsed. However, we cannot do a complete inspection until the tank is cleaned. Removal of the volume of sludge that we have now co-mingled with the rubble from the second baffle wall continues to be the contractor's biggest challenge on this project. We are hopeful that the reservoir will be cleaned out in the next three weeks.
12. This week, the City received approval of a NCDOT Encroachment Permit that will allow the City to install a "Yield for Pedestrians" sign in the center of Water Street; in particular, to accommodate the vendors and shoppers at the Downtown Waterfront Market on Saturdays at Mariners' Wharf Park. This sign is the same as the sign on Colonial Avenue near the County buildings. Until now, the State did not allow in-street signs on State controlled streets. Elizabeth City has now received two of the first permitted in-street signs in the State. The second will be installed for Mid-Atlantic Christian University to accommodate student pedestrian traffic on North Poindexter Street.
13. Upcoming Event Reminders:
  - City Council Regular Session on Monday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers.

RCO/vdw

