



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending July 7, 2006

**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. The Federal Highway Administration, through its National Bridge Inspection Standards, requires that highway structures be inspected for condition every two years. The NCDOT Municipal Bridge Inspection Program has performed field inspections and load ratings for the Charles Creek Bridge on Riverside Avenue and the bridge on Providence Road, located in the Oxford Heights subdivision. Based on NCDOT's analysis of both bridges, the City has been instructed to post new weight limit signage for the structures. The Charles Creek bridge, which is presently posted "SV 11 Tons, TTST 16 Tons" will be posted "SV 10 Tons, TTST 13 Tons" due to an updated analysis using revised legal load trucks carrying non-interstate traffic in the State. The Providence Road bridge, which is currently posted "SV 19 Tons, TTST 28 Tons" will be posted "SV 12 Tons, TTST 22 Tons" due to the reduced capacity of the timber joists and an updated analysis using revised legal load trucks. The City's Street Department will have the new signs posted by Monday, July 10, 2006.
2. Eric Weatherly and I met with Department of Transportation representatives, Gretchen Byrum, Sterling Baker and Jerry Jennings on July 6 to discuss street resurfacings. NCDOT informed the City that Carver Street (SR 1158), Lowry Street (SR 1155) and Celeste Street (SR 1154) are to be milled and resurfaced by DOT and then turned over to the City for ownership and maintenance. DOT should receive the funding to complete the work around the end of August and the work is expected to be complete by the spring of 2007. The City will then submit a letter to DOT requesting ownership and responsibility for the streets. The City's Powell Bill Fund allocation will be used to maintain the streets in the future.
3. New construction activity continues to be steady and relatively consistent with permits issued during the same time period last year. Several on-

going commercial projects are progressing satisfactorily. Although contractors are reluctant to provide City staff with specific dates for anticipated completion, several have provided rough estimates: Ruby Tuesday's restaurant should be open before Labor Day; the Wal-Mart Super Center should be open around the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2007; the Shops at Tanglewood (adjacent to the new Super Center) consisting of 14 retail shops are scheduled to open on February 1, 2007 and Arby's on US 17 North anticipates opening by the first of 2007.

4. Contact has been made with Municipal Code Corporation regarding the updating of the City's Code of Ordinances. The code manuscript is now being edited and will be proofread once the editing process is complete. After proofreading, Municipal Code Corporation will forward a copy to the City Clerk, at which time the Clerk, the City Attorney and I will review the entire document before final publication and posting on the City's website. We still have several weeks to go before completion of this project. Municipal Code Corporation has strongly suggested waiting to place the City's Code on the website due to the number of changes that are being made within the re-codified document.
5. In February 2005, then Mayor Bell requested, at Council's direction, that the NCDOT conduct a study of traffic speed and accident occurrences on Consolidated Road from Weeksville Road to the Coast Guard Station's gate. In addition, Mayor Bell requested that the speed limit be lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph. This week, we received a response back from DOT. Due to the straight alignment of the roadway, no significant accident history and the type of traffic using the road, DOT has denied the request to lower the speed limit. However, DOT, if Pasquotank County concurs, will post the entire roadway with 45 mph signage, which only covers the southern one-half of the road at this time. As indicated in DOT's letter, extending the lower speed zone does not guarantee voluntary compliance. Local law enforcement action may be needed.
6. The applicant pool for the position of Police Chief has been narrowed from 73 to 10. Questionnaires have been submitted to the 10 applicants who were selected to remain in the hiring process. The deadline for the questions to be answered and returned is July 14, 2006.
7. The Elizabeth City Fire Department just recently hired four new firefighters. The new personnel are Chris Andre, Brad Owens, Troy Ferebee and L. W. Nixon. We are pleased to have the new firefighters aboard, which now allows all three shifts to have 13 personnel assigned.

8. Two Elizabeth City Police Department Chaplains will travel to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference of Police Chaplains in Indianapolis, Indiana July 10 through July 14. Reverend Bonzia Caison and Pastor Phil Dowdy will attend the five-day training seminar, which provides the clergy with an oversight of the problems associated with police work. The training is designed to assist in their interactions with police personnel. While attending the seminar Rev. Caison and Pastor Dowdy will be exposed to numerous internal and external factors that affect police personnel, such as stress management, burnout, death notifications, officer injuries and death, legal liability, law enforcement and the family, substance abuse, sensitivity and diversity training, suicide, crisis response, ethics and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Enrichment courses will also be offered in addition to the core courses. The Elizabeth City Police Department is very fortunate to have Chaplains in its program that are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to meet the needs of the Department.
9. Danny Ellinwood has been promoted from Fire Inspector to Assistant Fire Marshal. Danny will perform his regular duties as well as take on the responsibility for the personnel and day-to-day operations of the Fire Marshal's Office in the absence of the Fire Marshal. I would like to congratulate Danny on his accomplishment.
10. Battalion Chief Layden attended the Annual Safety Awards Banquet on June 26<sup>th</sup> and accepted an award for the Fire Department. The Elizabeth City Fire Department received a "Second Consecutive Year – Gold Award" for outstanding safety and health efforts. The awards banquet is sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Labor.
11. Upcoming Events:
  - There will be a Ribbon Cutting at the new Subway location (by Farm Fresh) at 9:00 a.m. on July 14, 2006. Please RSVP by calling the Chamber at 335-4365 by July 12, 2006 if you plan to attend.
  - A Business After Hours is scheduled to celebrate Embark (formerly Sprint) at the Museum of the Albemarle from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on July 20, 2006. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by calling the Chamber at 335-4365 by July 14, 2006.

RCO/vdw