



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending August 4, 2006

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1. The City was granted a right of entry by the North Carolina State Property Office to install an emergency generator at the K. E. White Graduate Center on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. City staff has been working on installing the generator at K. E. White for several months, but minor issues kept popping up. Since we have now entered those months where the probability of hurricanes increases, City staff hopes to have the generator building erected and the generator relocated by the end of August. I would like to thank Chancellor Mickey Burnim and Ms. Bernetta Brown, Esq. for their assistance in securing all the necessary approvals to facilitate this project.
2. Staff is pleased to report that the construction of a new single family home for Mrs. Beulah Respass is 40% complete. The contractor is working diligently and anticipates a September completion date. Staff will continue to work with the family and monitor the construction.
3. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 7 PM in the third floor conference room of the A. P. Midgett Municipal Building located at 302 East Colonial Avenue. One application is scheduled for the agenda. Progressive Contracting Company, representing Virginia Dare Apartments, is requesting the replacement of the windows on the third through the ninth floors, as well as in the tower, of the structure located at 108 South McMorrine Street.
4. Church Street unfortunately received its first utility cut this week since its paving as a result of a leaking four-inch lateral. A pot hole developed near the intersection of Church Street and Pritchard Street and upon inspection, it was discovered that a small leak had developed at the intersection of the lateral with the recently installed twelve-inch sewer

line. This is a perfect example of how quickly leaking sewer lines can damage the City's streets, since both the lateral and the sewer line were both installed a short six months ago. Fortunately for the City, the work was still under warranty and the repair job will be paid for by the contractor.

5. The Pasquotank County Tax Department mailed the City's tax bills this week, which contained the recently adopted stormwater utility fee for each improved residential property (\$36.00 per year) and each improved commercial property (\$132.00 per year). The creation of stormwater utilities has become a practice by many municipalities as a means to provide funding to address long-neglected stormwater drainage issues. Several other cities/towns in North Carolina, such as Wilmington, Rocky Mount, Greenville and Washington have adopted similar ordinances. The revenue collected during the first year of the stormwater utility will be used to finance mapping projects, to hire consultants to identify needed capital improvement projects and to provide staffing and equipment to perform maintenance on the City's existing stormwater system. In addition, staff is actively working on the Roanoke Avenue drainage district capital improvement project, which will be funded by the utility. Since this is the first tax bill generated which includes the new stormwater utility fee, Councilors will most likely receive questions from constituents.
6. Elizabeth City Police Department has purchased the laptop and composite drawing software approved in this year's budget that will aid investigators in the identification of suspects who have committed serious crimes. The software creates facial composites using descriptions obtained from victims and witnesses that render a like resemblance of a suspect. The electronic drawing can be compared to mug shots that are currently on file and can also be distributed to the public and press for identification or warnings to the public. We will allow other agencies to utilize this program, if requested.
7. The Elizabeth City Police Department is in the planning stages to host the second annual Citizen's Police Academy tentatively scheduled to begin on September 26, 2006. Topic matters covered during the Academy will include an overview of Basic Law Enforcement Training, In-service Training, Field Training, Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Traffic and Code Enforcement, Constitutional Law, Search and Seizure, Narcotics and Vice Investigations, Crimes Against Persons or Property, Use of Force, Communications, Criminal Investigations, Evidence Management, Fingerprinting and Crime Scene Management and Background and Internal Affairs Investigations. The class is limited to a maximum of twenty-five citizens from Pasquotank, Perquimans and Camden Counties

who are at least twenty years of age. Students will be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis after a limited criminal records screening is completed. Applications may be obtained from the communications desk at the Department or by contacting Sgt. Wade Brite. The Academy is designed to be a cooperative effort between the Department and the citizens in an attempt to make our communities a safer place in which to live.

8. Staff is pleased to report that a new online tool for residents is now available on the City's website to help them manage their energy costs. Through a partnership with Enercom®, Inc. and ElectriCities, the City is making available "Energy Depot" which uses local weather data and the City's average cost per hour to provide a personalized energy profile. The software provides a printable, online report showing one year of energy use and cost by month, a breakout of the annual energy cost for each home energy system and appliances as well as specific recommendations on how to use energy more wisely. The information is based on a questionnaire residents complete online about their home, its energy system and how they use energy. Home systems using electricity, natural gas, propane and fuel oil can all be analyzed. In addition, there is an energy comparison tool for use when considering the replacement of heating or cooling systems and water heaters which allows users to quickly compare their existing system with a range of different systems. We are excited to offer this tool for our customers as a way to combat the rising cost of energy. The City's website can be accessed at [www.cityofec.com](http://www.cityofec.com).
9. The City's Second Annual National Night Out celebration, which was held on Tuesday, August 1 at the City's waterfront, was a huge success. An estimated 6,000 people attended and took part in activities, displays and demonstrations provided by over 30 law enforcement agencies in addition to enjoying food, music and fun activities put on by a myriad of community organizations. I would like to commend the police department for a job well done and to extend a sincere thank you to all the community partners and supporters who participated for making our National Night Out such a memorable event.
10. The ElectriCities Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 10 – 12. Travel arrangements will be provided to those Councilors attending early next week.

