



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending August 5, 2011

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1. The Elizabeth City Police Department's Narcotics Unit initiated a drug investigation, which began with a traffic stop on Thursday, August 4, 2011. The driver was found to be in possession of one ounce of a Schedule I Controlled Substance, Psychedelic Mushrooms. Upon further investigation, police determined the source of the Schedule I Controlled Substance to have originated from the residence at 3242 West Main Street Extended in Pasquotank County. A joint operation between the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office and the Elizabeth City Police Department led to a search of this residence and the confiscation of a large scale "mushroom grow" operation that included all the items necessary to grow, produce, manufacture, and sell Psychedelic Mushrooms, a hallucinogen drug classified as a Schedule I Controlled Substance. At least 200 items used in the manufacturing of this drug were seized from the residence, as well as one marijuana plant and fifteen firearms. A second search was conducted at 1000 Horseshoe Road in Pasquotank County. A search of this residence led to the confiscation of over one ounce of "ready for sale" Schedule I Psychedelic Mushrooms, along with chemicals and pre-cursors needed for the growth of this hallucinogenic drug. Thousands of seeds used to grow this controlled substance were seized from the two residences. This investigation was a joint effort between the Elizabeth City Police Department's Drug Enforcement Unit and the Pasquotank County Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Unit. Chief Crudup and I would like to commend both agencies involved for their excellent police work in their fight against drugs in this City. It is very rewarding to know that this full-scale drug operation and firearms have been removed and are no longer a threat to our citizens.
2. Today, City staff held a pre-construction conference with Barnhill Contracting Company on the intersection improvement project at Water and Shepard Streets. The project will begin on August 15, 2011 and

should be substantially completed by October 1, 2011. Barnhill plans on maintaining traffic through the project while under construction. There will be at least two days when the traffic will need to be detoured, which is when Barnhill will be installing the storm sewer drains on Southern Avenue and Riverside Avenue. This work should only take one day per crossing and cause little inconvenience to the traveling public. Due to the short nature of this work, the street will be closed as we do for special events in the park. Barnhill will be adding approximately two feet of asphalt to the intersection in multiple lifts. This method of construction will allow us to keep traffic on the roadway and any storm event should have a minimal amount of negative impact. Staff will be meeting with NCDOT traffic signal representatives in an effort to have the signals upgraded during the project.

3. This morning, I attended the weekly progress meeting for the utility work the City is doing south of Elizabeth Street in preparation for the state reconstruction of Elizabeth Street. The contractors are planning to complete the binder course of pavement the middle of next week, at which time the roads that have been closed for the past few months will be opened to traffic; and the contractor will be allowed to start Phase II of the work. The paving of the alleys will be completed during the next two weeks as the work starts in the Phase II area. About August 11th, work will begin on Phase II of Contract 2. Phase II will include Poindexter Street from Colonial Avenue northerly to Elizabeth Street; Colonial Avenue from Poindexter Street westerly thru McMorrine Street; and McMorrine Street from Main Street to Elizabeth Street. Please be aware of the detour signs, in particular the easterly end of Colonial Avenue will be open to one-way traffic from Water Street to Poindexter Street, which is in the opposite direction that we are accustomed. Also, please be cautious and go slow when driving on the newly reconstructed sections of the Phase I work. Water valve boxes and sewer manholes will be about two inches above the binder surface in anticipation of a final two-inch lift of pavement when the work south of Elizabeth Street is completed. It is okay to drive over them but low riding cars and cars with low profile sidewall tires should slow down and use extreme caution going over these valve boxes and sewer manhole covers. Again, we thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation as we make these improvements to our downtown.
4. City electrical crews have repaired the electrical distribution system after a crane operated by Gordon Crane flipped over and took out Circuits 4 and 5. Circuit 4 feeds the hospital and Circuit 5 runs along Water Street. I would like to commend the distribution crew for restoring power so quickly after Circuits 4 and 5 were knocked down. Power was restored

throughout the City within approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. The rubber tire forklift that was being lifted out of the raw water reservoir landed on the electrical sectionalizer, which provides power to the Water Treatment Plant. The plant was on emergency power for 36 hours. The crane was up-righted by using two larger cranes from Superior Crane Company of New Bern. The crane was upright at 11:26 a.m. on August 3 and removed from the site at 3:30 p.m. on that same day. Circuits 4 and 5 were put back in service at 3:38 p.m. on August 4. I would like to remind the Council that if the crane had fallen in the other direction, it would have taken out the City's only interconnection with Dominion Power and power would have been out for several days.

5. The Elizabeth City Fire Department recently hosted the Albemarle Firemen's Association (AFA) quarterly meeting at the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. The AFA is comprised of 10 Albemarle area counties that include career and volunteer fire departments. Triad Fire, a fire truck sales company out of Kernersville, North Carolina, delivered the program for the event. There were 51 members in attendance from the association.
6. The Elizabeth City Fire Department is sponsoring the "Back to School - Fill the Fire Truck" with school supplies campaign today and tomorrow, August 5th and 6th. Today, fire personnel were at Office Max from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tomorrow, personnel will be at Wal-Mart from 9:30 a.m. until later that evening with the same agenda of collecting much needed school supplies for area students. Donations can be received at other times at the Fire Administrative Office at 304 E. Colonial Avenue, Fire Station #1 at 904 Halstead Blvd., Fire Station #2 at 410 Harney Street, or by calling 338-3913.
7. Upcoming Event Reminders:
 - City Council Regular Session, Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers
 - Historic Preservation Commission Regular Meeting, Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. The agenda is available in the Planning Department section of the City's website (www.cityofec.com)

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