



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending September 1, 2006

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1. The City has received a letter from Anthony Roper, Division Engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Representatives from the City and County met with Mr. Roper several months ago to discuss projects in and around Elizabeth City. NCDOT has approved pavement rehabilitation projects for Carver, Celeste and Lowry Streets. Funding will come from NCDOT's Small Construction Project funding. In addition, redesign and upgrade of five traffic signals to accommodate the Opticom Emergency Vehicle Preemption system will be funded through the Small Construction Project funding. The exact time when these projects will be completed has not been determined; but hopefully they will be finished by the end of the calendar year.
2. The Paths of Pasquotank Committee has received notice from the North Carolina Recreational Trail Program, that its application for the "Paddle the Pasquotank" project has been awarded. The "Paddle the Pasquotank" Project will construct a system of four camping platforms along the river. Two platforms will be built on Pasquotank County High School property along the northern section of the paddle trail, and two platforms will be built at Goat Island in the middle section of the paddle trail. The two properties will be protected by conservation easements from any future development. Each camping platform will be 16' x 24' of treated pine. Access will be provided by 300 feet of boardwalk, three feet wide, also constructed of treated pine. Privacy screens to accommodate portable toilets will be constructed at each platform. Each privacy screen will consist of two 8' high walls, 2 half-walls and a door. Because of the length of the water trail, two respites (6' x 10' of treated pine) will be built and placed on the longest sections of the water trail. One will be located behind the Parks & Recreation Department on Knobbs Creek and the other will be off the Brickhouse Point property, owned by the USCG. The project will also extend and lower the pier at Sawmill Park to make it more

accessible for canoes and kayaks. The project will add mile markers along the water trail and signage at the water access points. Four kiosks with trail information will be built and placed at trailheads. Pilings for the camping platforms and respites will be driven or washed down, with minimal impact to the wetland floor. The proposed campsites will be available for use by the general public on a reservation basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the year. The opportunity to camp on the Pasquotank River will add significantly to ecotourism in the area, and ultimately to the region's economy.

3. On August 31, 2006, I was interviewed by representatives of the GoldenLeaf Foundation concerning the City's and the Airport Authority's partnership with TAMSCO. GoldenLeaf is developing a 30-minute advertisement on the State of North Carolina's aviation initiative. GoldenLeaf has been one of the primary funding sources used to recruit aviation businesses and provide funding to State universities and community colleges for training. I do not have the exact date when the segment will air, but I will provide this once informed.
4. Penny Leary-Smith, Director of the Dismal Swamp Canal Visitors' Center has requested that the City's elected officials and their constituents support the ongoing efforts to secure funding for the operation and maintenance of the Canal during the next Federal fiscal year. Congress returns next week from its summer break; however, being an election year, members of Congress hope to adjourn October 6, 2006, leaving them less than 20 working days to complete their full agenda. This short session doesn't bode well for final passage of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act before the end of the year. The House and Senate have each passed their version of the bill and will work out the differences in conference. The conference committee is supposed to meet in mid-September. Insiders on Capitol Hill predict the final bill probably won't be passed until after the November elections. The House has recommended \$475,000 and the Senate, \$867,000 for operation and maintenance of the Dismal Swamp Canal. \$867,000 is needed for FY 2006-07. The most important thing you can do to help save the waterway is to communicate frequently with Congressional representatives. Because of the volume of mail they receive daily, members of Congress will only accept correspondence from their own constituents. Email or fax is recommended to send your message because security procedures can delay mail sent through the postal service. If you wish to contact our congressional representatives, please contact the office for email and facsimile contact information.

5. Elected officials who are directly involved in emergency operations must now take IS-700. This course is an introduction to the new National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is intended to provide a comprehensive overview regarding the management of all domestic incidents. The Federal government has tied the ability of local units of government to receive federal grants to certain elected and appointed officials attending this course. Christy Saunders has scheduled an IS-700 class for September 7, 2006 at the Emergency Operations Center. If you cannot attend this class, you may take the course online. See me if you are interested in doing this. In addition, the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem must take the ICS 100 and 200. Both of these classes deal with the Incident Command System and may be taken online. Chief Pritchard is our local expert on IS 700 and the ICS courses and has been approved to teach them. Please contact me so arrangements may be made. All these courses must be taken prior to September 30, 2006.
6. The City's website surpassed its previous record-high of 7,215 hits achieved in May, 2006 during the month of August. The website recorded a total of 7,877 visits. The new section, "Energy Depot" recorded 321 hits. We are pleased that the City's website continues to be a popular source of information for residents and out-of-city visitors.
7. Upcoming Events:
 - The Education Foundation's 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5 at the K. E. White Center. The guest speaker for the event will be State School Board Superintendent, Dr. June Atkinson. Tickets must be secured by September 30, 2006. Please call the office to advise if you wish to attend.
 - Reminder: Please call the Planning Department at 337-6672 if you have not yet done so to advise whether or not you will be able to attend the seminar on October 11 presented by David Owens of UNC's School of Government. The subject of the seminar is "Conditional Zoning."

RCO/vdw