



**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**REF:** FYI ~ Week Ending November 4, 2011

**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. The construction of Phase III of Contract 1 of the Elizabeth Street Utility Relocation Project on McMorrine Street between Colonial Avenue and Elizabeth Street and between Colonial Avenue and Main Street is progressing as scheduled. We anticipate that the base course of pavement for Phase III will be completed by November 18; and, that the finish course of road pavement on Phases I, II and III will be applied before Thanksgiving. Immediately following the final pavement on the first three phases, the contractors will be setting the brick/cobblestone treatment at the intersection of Poindexter Street and Colonial Avenue. This will require the intersection to be shut down for a period of seven to ten days. As always, construction schedules are weather dependent, especially at this time of the year. When we are talking about final pavement on the roads, low temperatures become yet another factor that have to be considered in the schedules. As always we ask that you remain vigilant and drive with extra caution in the construction zone; and, we thank you for your patience as we finish this major project downtown.
2. Last week, I reported that the contractor for the Elizabeth Street and Pasquotank River Bridge Construction Project (NCDOT Project U-4438) was planning to add lane delimiters to help direct drivers away from a left turning movement onto Water Street when coming into Elizabeth City off the bridge. The left turn continues to be a problem. Unfortunately, the supplier was not able to deliver all the materials needed to finish that project this week. We are hoping for a delivery of all the materials required as soon as possible. This past week, Archer Western continued with the driving of temporary piles for the construction of a work bridge along the southerly side of the existing bridges. Currently the piles have been driven over 105 feet into the ground, yet an adequate bearing capacity for the piles has not been achieved. That work will continue next week.

3. Today, City staff attended a meeting of the Albemarle Regional Planning transportation committee at the Albemarle Commission to review and score transportation projects for the state's upcoming bi-annual Transportation Improvement Plan. Although there is little of interest to report on the inclusion of projects into the TIP, we did learn that the regional planning agency had funds for and will be starting a regional bikeway plan after the first of the year. Elizabeth City will be invited to serve on the committee for the development of the regional plan.
4. On Thursday this week, staff and I attended a pre-construction meeting for Contract 3 of the Elizabeth Street utility relocation work north of Elizabeth Street in the Pearl Street and North Road Street area. We anticipate the contractor, TA Loving, will be mobilizing to start work about November 21 with an anticipated completion date in July 2012. The first part of the work will be on Pearl Street, starting near the new sewer pump station and working easterly towards Poindexter Street. The City is expecting NCDOT to sign a three party agreement, which allows the contractor's pay requests to be paid directly by NCDOT after they have been approved by the City early next week, at which time we will execute the construction agreement with TA Loving. This project, under a separate CDBG funding agreement, will allow the City to replace the water and sewer lines on North Road Street from Pearl Street northerly to Ward Street.
5. The Parks and Recreation Department has contracted with the USDA to begin the round-up of the domestic ducks and geese along Charles Creek. The round-up will take several months and the flock will eventually be cut in half. The USDA assures the department that the animals will be treated as humanely as possible. Bobbi White (whose name has been changed to Mother Goose) has been on TV (channels 3 and 13) over the last few days, as well as in several newspapers throughout the nation (USA Today, Indiana, Louisiana, and several papers in North Carolina) talking about the animal issues. Most people understand the problems associated with the ducks and geese such as over population, habitat degradation, losing their natural fear of humans, dietary and nutritional problems for the birds, disease among the waterfowl, and the public health risks for humans. However, they still like to feed the birds! Another issue people may not know is that it is illegal to release (abandon or dump) domestic ducks in local parks. Domestic ducks lack the instinct to migrate; and therefore, face terrible suffering in cold winter climates. Also, domestic ducks often interbreed with wild ducks causing half-wild/half-domestic hybrids (like we have along Charles Creek) that are too fat to fly and too domestic to migrate. We need to remember to keep

wildlife wild! By enjoying the waterfowl from a distance and respecting their wildness, we will provide them with their best chance of survival.

6. The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, or EAS, will take place at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on November 9, 2011. The purpose of the test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public. The EAS is a media communications-based alerting system that is designed to transmit emergency alerts and warnings to the American public at the national, Tribal, state and local levels. EAS participants broadcast alerts and warnings regarding weather threats, child abductions and other types of emergencies. The alerts are transmitted over television and radio broadcasts, satellite television and satellite radio, cable television and wireline video services. Although the nationwide test may resemble the periodic monthly EAS tests that most consumers are familiar with, there will be some differences in what consumers may see or hear, which is one reason for conducting the nationwide EAS test. During the test, the public will hear a message indicating that "this is a test." It is anticipated that the test will last approximately three minutes. The test will not involve mobile communications devices.
7. We received notice this week from the Pasquotank County Department of Social Services (DSS) that changes have been made to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). According to DSS, households will no longer receive a LIEAP check in February. Energy payments will now be paid directly to the heating provider such as electric, gas, and fuel oil companies. Applicants must be billed separately for heating expenses to be eligible. Households must make an application for LIEAP Heating Assistance. Applications for LIEAP will begin December 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 (or until funds are exhausted) for households containing only specified persons (all members in household must be age 60+ and/or deemed disabled). For information concerning the definition of qualifying disabilities, interested persons should contact DSS. Applications for LIEAP for all other households will begin February 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012, as long as funds are available and/or until funds are exhausted.
8. The Parks and Recreation Department has received a donation of several bicycles from our local Wal-Mart. These donated bikes are new, except they are missing some parts, i.e. a tire, chain, or seat. The bikes will be repaired by Cycle Gallery in the next few weeks. Once repaired, a few bikes will be placed at the time at Mariners' Wharf Park for our visiting boaters. These bikes can be used to tour the City, grocery shop, visit local restaurants, etc. This is just one more way we can encourage our

visiting boaters to explore Elizabeth City and see what our community has to offer!

9. This week, City staff and Pasquotank County Manager Randy Keaton reviewed the latest revision for the ECU Dental School to be located at 1161 North Road Street, the site of the former Vicki Villa Restaurant. The revision reflected a change in the access drive from North Road Street. Following our meeting, a conference call was held with the stakeholders of the project: Albemarle Hospital, ECU and the ECU School of Dental Medicine, Pasquotank County, the architectural firm of BJAC and Cole, Jennings & Stone, the civil engineering firm. During the conference call, City and County concerns regarding accessibility for ICPTA buses to the site and the elimination of a right turn out lane from the site were discussed. Staff has suggested that the building be moved 17 feet west to accommodate traffic flow and to address access issues. Other matters were discussed, but all were very minor in nature.
10. Tomorrow, the Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and Pepsi Cola, will sponsor the Albemarle Outdoor Family Adventure Day at Fun Junktion. The event will begin at noon and run through 4:00 p.m. There will be pony rides, fishing, archery, hay rides, bull riding, a mountain climbing wall, dog retrieving, skeet and pellet shooting, camping, kayaking and canoeing. All events are hands-on and guaranteed that everyone will have a great time! Kids will receive a free Pepsi product as well as a hotdog and chips, as long as supplies last. This event is FREE and open to the public.
11. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour this weekend as Daylight Saving Time ends on November 6 at 2:00 a.m. When you set your clocks back to Eastern Standard Time on November 6, remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. A properly installed and tested home fire alarm with a fresh battery is one of the simplest and most effective things you can do to protect yourself and your family from a home fire.
12. In observance of the Veterans' Day holiday, most City offices will be closed on Friday, November 11. Friday's garbage and recycling route will be collected on Monday, November 14, 2011.
13. Upcoming Event Reminders:
  - The Red Knights Motorcycle Club has rescheduled their event from last Saturday to tomorrow, due to last weekend's inclement weather. The

- event will be held at Waterfront Park and Water Street between Ehringhaus Street and Shepard Street will be closed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The City Council Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers.
  - The long-awaited ribbon cutting ceremony for the Veterans Administration's Albemarle Primary Outpatient Clinic will be held on Thursday, November 10 at 1 p.m. at 1845 West City Drive.
  - The Mayor and City Councilors will sponsor a Veterans' Day Observance at Mariners' Wharf Park on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 9 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Captain David C. Haynes, Commanding Officer of the National Strike Force Coordination Center.

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