



CITY OF
ELIZABETH CITY
HARBOR OF HOSPITALITY *North Carolina*

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: City of Elizabeth City
REF: The Manager's Corner ~ December 16, 2022
COPY: Email Distribution

Administration / Legislation:



On Wednesday, the City Manager was invited by teacher Jorice Manuel to speak to the 3rd graders at P.W. Moore Elementary School. Manager Freeman spoke with the children about the life responsibilities of the City Manager, the importance of education and making good decisions. The room was full of great energy and young minds eager to embrace the message.

On December 8th, Mayor E. Kirk Rivers participated in the ribbon cutting for the new Beltone location at 905 Halstead Blvd, Suite 2.



We are excited for them and their new location and wish them much success!

Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. / Grants:

On Wednesday, Gov. Roy Cooper announced that the City of Elizabeth City was one of 42 local governments to receive a Rural Transformation Grant (RTG). Through the RTG Program, the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, has awarded the City \$641,000 towards the Water Street Transformation Project (WSTP). The WSTP proposed streetscaping improvements on Water Street between Main and Ehringhaus Streets, and improvements to Mariners' Wharf Park. City staff presented this proposal to the City Council on October 24th.

This is a wonderful and greatly needed investment into our community, and City staff look forward to beginning our project in early to mid-2023. We have not yet received contractual documents from Commerce, and project activity may not

start until those documents are in place and all other state conditions are satisfied. Additionally, the City had requested \$949,917 for the WSTP. Presumably, our partial award of \$641,000 is due to limited state funding. Barring use of local funds, our project scope will have to be reduced to fit the grant budget while still meeting RTG program objectives. Those will be discussions for the City and Commerce to have in weeks to come.

The current scope of the WSTP – subject to potential revision as described above – is:

1. Install new sidewalks on both sides of Water Street from Main to Ehringhaus Streets (approx. 1,960 LF of sidewalk). This will replace deteriorated/settled sidewalks and add new tree pits to address the corridor's lack of greenery; appealing brick-banding will also be installed. (Only hardscape expenses are proposed within the grant budget; trees will be purchased separately.)
2. Install a new segment of sidewalk (approx. 190 LF) from Main Street heading eastward to connect to Moth Boat Park, a small City-owned park. No sidewalk exists here; this will enhance access/connectivity.
3. Install new corridor amenities, including: new decorative streetlights where none currently exist; flood lighting at Mariners' Wharf Park to complement Project Element 4; and new benches, wayfinding signs, planters, and litter receptacles.
4. Install a new, permanent, metal-roof amphitheater at Mariners' Wharf Park; the existing shade structure would be removed. Estimated dimensions are 30'x25'.
5. Convert the midsection of 106 S. Water Street, at the northern edge of Mariners' Wharf Park, to a concession area. This property is owned by the City of Elizabeth City and the front portion is used by our Main Street Program, ECDI, and the back portion is public restrooms and showers for boaters. The midsection is currently used merely for storage. Proof of park and building ownership are included in supporting documentation.

Taken together, these project elements will address longstanding deficiencies in the walkability and appeal of the Water Street corridor, as well as enhancing Mariners' Wharf Park to accommodate larger events. Another major benefit of the WSTP is its synergy with numerous other downtown investments and initiatives, including a Water Street "Road Diet" by the NC Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety, crosswalk enhancements by ECDI, the Harbor Town Ferry Project and Music Friendly Communities.

Check out some of the proposed visuals for this project [HERE](#).

Fire Department:

This week, the Elizabeth City Fire Department was able to assist with Operation Toy Soldier. This was our first year serving as a drop-off point for toys for military families. While it was certainly not about who collected the most toys, we're proud to report that we came in as a close second behind the Sheriffs' Department with number of toys collected. Thanks to



all the agencies involved, 3,018 toys were collected for families of our deployed soldiers during the holidays. It was our honor and privilege to be part of a worthy event for such an admirable cause. A special "thank you" to Twiford

Funeral Home for sponsoring this event.



Human Resources:

As this year winds down, the Human Resources Department would like to extend their well wishes to the team and the City as a whole. Human Resources is a constantly shifting landscape. Each new year brings with it new challenges for the City's HR Team to face and new opportunities to conquer. While it's impossible to predict the obstacles that will inevitably arise in the coming year, it always helps to reflect on the past to prepare for the future.

In 2022, the City of Elizabeth City's Human Resources Department was responsible for overseeing and handling:

42 Employees Hired by Various Departments

11 Employees Resigned

5 Completed Retirement Applications

One of the biggest obstacles the HR team found themselves dealing with this year was social media. Social media has a long history of causing challenges for HR leaders, but who would have predicted that a TikTok trend would be at the center of so many HR conversations this year? For anyone who may have not heard, the concept of "quiet quitting" refers to employees who stick to their job description, and don't go above and beyond to take on extra tasks, work after hours, etc. While this doesn't seem that bad in theory, many HR leaders worry that it's indicative of a much larger problem: a decline in company morale and a general lack of excitement around the company mission. Another trend that took off in 2022 was the rise of the hybrid workplace and employees "shuffling" between working from home and working from the office. After the pandemic, many employees craved the work-life balance they experienced when working from home. Many individuals were hoping to commute less, and prefer performing their tasks from home or in a co-working space.

To put it simply, 2022 wasn't easy on HR teams. The City's HR Department has faced numerous challenges since the start of the pandemic, but they've consistently been able to adapt and move the City forward. We have great hope for 2023 and wish everyone the best in the New Year.

Parks and Recreation Department:

EC-PC Parks and Recreation would like to give a huge shout-out to our community and community partners for showing up, supporting the parade, and displaying all of your festive creations. Also, a special thanks to DJ Trent, Taz-2 Productions (DJ Taz), and DJ Ty for keeping the crowd engaged and providing the amazing entertainment for the evening! Finally, a special thanks to our judging panel for taking the time out of their busy schedules to represent the businesses and judge all of the beautiful floats. Hard decisions were made, and it

is greatly appreciated! Members on our panel this year included B&M Contractors, Inc.; Water Street Real Estate Group; Amy Stallings Roberson; and North Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Agents.

The parade winners are:

Best Business- River City Rowing Club



Best School Club Entry: Northeastern High School FFA



Best Civic Entry: Pasquotank County Sheriff's Department



Best Church Entry: Holy Family Catholic Church



Best Overall:

1st Place: Dominion Energy



2nd Place: TLC Service Center



3rd Place: Doug Williams Rick Gilbert



The Downtown Waterfront Market hosted a special Indoor Holiday Market this past Saturday, December 10th inside the EC-PC Senior Center. There were over 30 local vendors and Santa made a special appearance and took pictures with children and families.

The Senior Center traveled to South Carolina on Wednesday, December 7th - Friday, December 9th for three days and two nights of holiday cheer. The first night, the seniors enjoyed a ride through the holiday lights to get everyone in the holiday spirit. On Thursday, the participants enjoyed a guided tour of historic Charleston and a dinner cruise aboard The Spirit of Carolina. The trip ended on Friday with holiday shopping at Charleston's Historic City Market. Want to travel with the EC-PC Senior Center? Call us at 252-335-4323 for information on all of our 2023 trips!



Thinking about your New Year's resolutions? Looking for fitness classes to help you conquer them? Look no further than EC-PC Parks and Recreation! January kicks off a new line up of fitness classes that fits everyone's needs. Register for any or all of these classes online at <https://secure.rec1.com/NC/elizabeth-nc/catalog> under "Fitness Classes". For more information, call (252) 335-1424

EC-PC Parks and Recreation January Fitness Classes:

Xtreme Hip Hop Step w/ Felicia Harvey

Mondays/Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.

\$45.00

Mixed Fit w/ Nekia Williams

Tuesdays/Thursdays

5:30 p.m.

\$45.00

Yoga Class w/ Christie Gibbs

Tuesdays/Thursdays

7:00 p.m.

\$45.00

Country Line Dance w/ Anna Mizelle

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m.

\$20.00

Police Department:



On Thursday, December 8th, Mr. Warren Bell, Manufacturer's Representative of Motorola Solutions with Mobile Communication America stopped by the Police Department with a Christmas Cookie delivery as a small token of appreciation to the Department. Thank you, Mr. Bell and Motorola Solutions, for your kind and generous gesture!

On Saturday, December 10th, volunteers and PAL Mentoring Program participants attended the "Christmas Town" light show at Busch Gardens in Virginia. With over one million lights throughout the entire park, the Christmas Town attraction was absolutely beautiful. All of those who attended (both the children and the adults!) had a great time. Thanks to the federal grant funding the City of Elizabeth City has received through the National PAL Mentoring Grant Program over the past six years, the Police Department is able to host fun, adventurous, and educational outings. The program continues to make a difference in the youth of this community and the Police Department is grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The pictures do not do the light show justice, but here are just a few, along with a group photo as well (notice all the smiling faces!).





On Monday, December 12th, Deputy Chief Avens spoke to an 8th grade class at NEAAAT on law enforcement and future career opportunities. It is always a pleasure to have a chance to speak with the future leaders of our community;

and the students were very attentive and asked a lot of great questions.

On Wednesday, December 14th, Interim Chief Webster and Deputy Chief Avens attended the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce Reindeer Games. The event was held at the Albemarle Bowling Center and was a great evening of fun, fellowship and a competitive spirit. *Congratulations to the winning team!*

On Thursday, December 15th, members of the Elizabeth City Police Department had the best time ever shopping at Wal-Mart as they prepare for this year's Santa Cop Program. The Elizabeth City Police Department is most appreciative to all the business and private donors who helped this to be another successful year. The most awesome part of this is next week – when the DELIVERIES from Santa Cop will be made! Ho Ho Ho!



Public Works:



Christmas Trash & Recycle Schedule

12/23/2022

Trash & Recycling will be picked up as scheduled. Please have your trash & recycling cans out to the curb by 8 AM

12/26/2022

CLOSED

12/27/2022

Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 along with Tuesday's route. Starting at 8AM

1/02/2023

CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S

1/03/2023

Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 along with Tuesday's route. Starting at 8 AM





The Public Utilities Department only has one leaf truck operational at this time. Please be advised that this may cause a delay in special pickups for leaves and grass. We are working diligently to get this issue resolved. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

JOIN OUR TEAM

**APPLY
NOW!**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

STREET TECHNICIAN I

APPLY ONLINE
<https://elizabethcitync.gov/jobs>

Water & Sewer Updates



The W & S Department repaired a 6" water main break off Raleigh St. & Francis St. Both lines were repaired on 11/21/22.

A 6" water main was repaired on Rochelle Dr. on 11/25/22.





The Water Treatment Plant Leak Assessment was completed on 12/7/2022. After months of researching and exploration, the Water and Sewer Department was able to detect a leak to prevent further water loss from our water system.



Adopt-A-Child

The Public Utilities Department partnered with the Salvation Army to Adopt-A-Child for Christmas. The Public Utilities Department would like to say thank you to its employees and everyone that donated and participated in helping us make a child's dreams come true this Christmas

