



CITY OF
ELIZABETH CITY
HARBOR OF HOSPITALITY *North Carolina*

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
REF: City Manager's Weekly FYI ~ July 2, 2020
COPY: Email Distribution

1. Most of this week was spent working toward securing a waiver from the utility billing areas addressed in Governor Cooper's Executive Order #124 / 142. On Tuesday, the City issued a press release informing our media sources that we were going to start disconnecting utility customers during the month of July. The press release was issued because the City had not received a waiver from the Attorney General on EO 124 / 142. The City submitted the waiver request to the AG on June 15, 2020. The City received correspondence from the AG's office, which we responded to on June 30th. The City was preparing one of our billing cycles for mailing and needed to know if we should include a cut-off date. After the press release, we received a call from the Attorney General's office with proposed wording to be included in the waiver. Most of the waiver was consistent with the plan the City had submitted on June 15, 2020. The only major concern staff had was the provision not to transfer funds from the Electrical Fund to the General Fund. This wording was included because the Attorney General's office had previously voiced concerns about salary increases that the City Council had given themselves. Staff was able to negotiate that no transfers would be made before January 1, 2021. This should give the City time to build our fund balance in the General Fund. The waiver was officially received at 2:30 p.m. on July 1, 2020. The City has begun implementing the provisions included in the waiver. To review a copy of the waiver please click [HERE](#). To help facilitate those with balances incurred during the period of March 31st through June 30th you can click [HERE](#) and apply for an agreement online.
2. Who's ready to get out of the house, get active, and have a great time? At parks and Recreation, we have just the thing for you. Parks and Recreation has officially resumed normal operations at the Knobbs Creek Par 3 Golf Course (Open daily 8:00 a.m. to Dusk) and South Park Sports Complex Driving Range (Open daily 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.). The

department is hosting its very first virtual 50k (31 miles) fitness challenge, which began July 1st, and will run through July 31st. We will also begin offering outdoor programming starting in July for the community, to include: Tee Ball, Home Run Derby, Long Drive Golf Competition, Annual Don Helms Golf Tournament, Disc Golf Tournament, Try Archery days. For more information on how to participate in these new and exciting opportunities contact Knobbs Creek Recreation Center at (252) 335-1424.

3. Today, Mayor Parker, Assistant City Manager Judge, and Planner, Cheryl Eggar met with Derek Dorazio, our area representative from the US Census Bureau, for an update on the Census response from Elizabeth City. The Census began on March 10th with the mailings of the Census questionnaires to all of the households in Elizabeth City. The Census Bureau is sending out a final round of postcards to non-responding addresses to remind them to complete the 2020 Census. Beginning in mid-August the Census Bureau will begin its "Non-Response Follow-Up" (NRFU). The NRFU is where the Census Bureau sends Census employees to individual households that have not responded to the 2020 Census. Having a complete Census count is extremely important. This count determines how much of the more than \$675 billion in federal funds the City will receive. Elizabeth City will receive about \$2,000 per person in federal funding for every individual who is counted. We have many programs that are directly affected by the Census count including: grants for our local school district; Community Development Block Grants; the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program; the WIC program (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children); the Head Start program; and Child Care Development Block Grant, which is based on the population of children under five years of age. If you have not yet responded to the Census questionnaire, please take a moment to do so. *Online option: <https://my2020census.gov/>. By phone seven days a week 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. EDT: 1-844-330-2020 (English) or 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish). You can also complete the census by mail if you received a questionnaire.*
4. An additional information/help session for the Pasquotank County COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at The Flour Girls Cafe & Baker at 102 N. Water Street, Downtown. Come on out if you have questions about or need help with your grant application. The Pasquotank County COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program is open and accepting applications. The program provides \$250,000 in grant funds for qualifying small businesses adversely impacted by COVID-19. Small businesses within the County can apply for grants of up to \$2,500. Small business owners who might need assistance in completing their application are encouraged to come anytime during the information session for either one-on-one or small group sessions. Business owners may ask questions or bring their application

documents to receive help in putting together their application packets. A private meeting area will be available to maintain confidentiality. Guidelines and application can be found by clicking the following link: <https://www.pasquotankcountync.org/covid19grants?fbclid=IwAR0JtvXsw4jB1CvJVUwv5pj8k1nfy4XXwvBUf3A3medcLDXCzmKStQYYjBA>

5. Every year on July 4th, the Elizabeth City / Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department celebrate Independence Day with our community. This family-friendly event usually consists of food vendors, music, games and a crowd favorite



fireworks show! Due to the unforeseen circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Elizabeth City has cancelled the event based on the Executive Order issued by Governor Cooper. Parks and Recreation staff have been in communication with all vendors and are planning to resume all operations next July. Enjoy the holiday!

6. In observance of Independence Day, all City offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. Friday's trash routes will be collected on Monday, July 6th, 2020. Please have your trash and recycling cans out at the curb by 8:00 a.m.