



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 ~ February 28, 2020
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1. Weatherly Lofts, LLC originally presented their application to begin the conditional zoning process to the City's Technical Review Committee on January 16, 2018. They proposed a \$4.5 million adaptive reuse of the former Weatherly Candy Company and Mattress Outlet properties for up to 44 one- and two-bedroom market rate apartments, with on-site parking. The Conditional Zoning application was approved by City Council on March 26, 2018. City Council approved the City's first Landmark Status for the 225 N. Water Street address on April 23, 2018. Landmark status was awarded predominantly based on the property's association with the Weatherly family, who was significant to local commerce and industry, as well as the historical, architectural, and cultural significance of the building to our community. The Weatherly Candy Company started as a small, local retail business and grew to a full-scale manufacturing and production operation that distributed its product internationally. Architecturally, it was the first utilitarian building of its kind in Elizabeth City. At the time it was built, it cost \$60,000 to construct. It was the first ever fire-proof commercial building of its type in our city, utilizing state-of-the-art design, equipment and processing. To read the interesting history of the building and the Weatherly family's impact locally, check out the complete



Landmark Application by clicking [HERE](#).

2. On February 26, 2020, I held an Assessment Center to fill the vacant Fire Chief position. Deputy Chief Carver has been the Interim Fire Chief since July 2019. The City received 20 resumes for the position. A telephone interview was conducted with the top four applicants and three of those individuals were invited to participate in the assessment center. Unfortunately, on February 24th, one of the finalists withdrew leaving two applicants to go through the assessment center process. The process consisted of four elements, an interview with the Assistant City Manager and myself, an interview with the technical panel, which consisted of the Emergency Manager Christy Saunders and the Fire Chiefs from Greenville, Kinston, Knightdale, and Asheboro, a writing exercise, and a meet greet held at Fire Station 1. Based on the assessment center process, I will be presenting a name for the City Council to confirm during their March 9, 2020 Regular meeting.
3. This past January, Elizabeth City experienced unusually mild weather. In comparing the weather of January 2019 to that in January 2020; in 2019, there were a total of 671 Heating Degree days with the lowest temperature of 19 degrees over half of the month and 17 days below freezing. This year in the month of January, total Heating Degree Days were 481 with the lowest temperature of 28 degrees and only 3 days below freezing. When comparing Wholesale power cost for January, we saw a considerable decrease in KWH's and demand for electricity. In January 2019 KWH's was 31,787,080 with a non-coincident demand (NCP) of 70,866. January 2020 KWH's was 27,846,935 or approximately 13% less usage and NCP demand of 61,571. Looking at February, the weather and electric usage is tracking very close to February 2019. As always, customers are encouraged to keep heating system thermostat at the lowest comfortable level and limit the use of electric space heaters. Electric space heaters should never be used with extension cords or cords run under rugs. Keep space heaters away from children, curtains, other flammable sources, and never left unattended. Cook stoves are never to be used as a home heating source.
4. On Wednesday, IT and Risk Management hosted a Cyber Security Training for all departments within the City of Elizabeth City. The presentation was hosted by the Risk Management Division of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. In this training, departments learned why cyber-attacks are a new trend, how often it happens, why criminals are doing this, how to report the activity, how to educate the workforce, how identify when you're under attack, and how to set policies in place to avoid a cyber-attack. Educating our workforce on Cyber Security is essential to reduce the risk of our employees being tricked by sophisticated phishing or social engineering methods into serving

unknowingly as entry points into our organization's information and data systems.

5. Last weekend, firefighters from the Elizabeth City Fire Department attended the Albemarle Firefighter's Association Fire School weekend hosted by the College of the Albemarle. Approximately 200 firefighters from across the State drilled, practiced, and underwent many hours of intense hands-on training during the three-day class. Our firefighters participated in fire and life safety education, grain bin rescue, leadership in supervision, law and administration, emergency vehicle driver, basic aerials, basic pumps, ropes, and basic vehicle extrication. This training is offered yearly and is a great addition to the exercises the City's firefighters receive every day on shift. A great job was done by all!



6. The Public Utilities Department is excited to announce the premier of their new Facebook Page "Elizabeth City Public Utilities." This page will be used as a tool to better inform our public on important Public Utilities topics such as City road closures, neighborhood garbage pick-up schedules and schedule changes, educational information about Public Utilities, Public Utilities hosted event information, and more! This page will not be used as a platform to take citizen work requests. If you have a request, Public Utilities continues to encourage residents of the City of Elizabeth City to contact their main office at 252-337-6628. The Public Utilities Department takes pride in the services they provide and they look forward to keeping the public informed on their latest developments as they happen! To access their page, please navigate to the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Elizabeth-City-Public-Utilities-510410832644184/>

7. Registration is open for the 27th Annual TarWheel Cycling Event, coordinated by Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. in partnership with the River City Cycling Club and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Parks & Recreation



Department. This great cycling event will take place on Saturday, April 18th. Participants will cycle through the beautiful country sides of Pasquotank and Perquimans Counties on 33, 62, or 100-mile rides. All skill levels are welcomed. The start/finish point will be Mid-Atlantic Christian University, 715 N. Poindexter Street. Event organizers expect over 300 riders for the event and are encouraging cyclists and their families to “Make a Weekend of it in Elizabeth City” by hosting a Friday evening packet pickup and social in Pailin’s Alley, and providing information on the many other events/activities taking place in Elizabeth City that weekend. Save the date and register now for the event. Early bird registration is \$40 through February 29; \$45 from March 1 through April 16; and \$50 after April 16. Click [HERE](#) to register and for more information. You may also call the ECDI office at 252-338-4104 or visit www.TarWheel.com.

8. Today, Lead for North Carolina (LFNC) Fellow Shom Tiwari delivered a presentation about his fellowship at the North Carolina League of Municipalities’ Board of Directors Meeting in Duck. Shom was joined by Saoirse Scott, an LFNC Fellow in Edenton and myself. While presenting to the board, Shom spoke about how a duty to serve North Carolina and his background in environmental policy and advocacy led him to apply to LFNC, and to Elizabeth City specifically. Shom also discussed his enjoyment in becoming involved with different communities in Elizabeth City. In addition to working in the Public Utilities Department, Shom works part-time at the Pasquotank County Library, volunteers with NENC PrideFest, and serves on the Board of Directors of Green \$aves Green. Shom noted his vision for LFNC to work itself out of existence as it helps create better bridges for North Carolina’s young folks to enter careers in local governments. He looks forward to continuing to work with Elizabeth City State University and others in our community to highlight public service as a way for area youth to find meaningful work.

