



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 7, 2020  
**COPY:** Email Distribution

1. On Wednesday through Friday of this week, Assistant City Manager Cole and I attended the North Carolina City / County Manager's Conference in Winston-Salem. Over 300



managers and Assistant City Managers were in attendance from throughout the state. On Wednesday, Lead for North Carolina (LFNC) Fellow Shom Tiwari delivered a presentation about his fellowship at the North Carolina City and County Management Association's Winter Conference in Winston-Salem. Shom was joined by LFNC Executive Director Dylan Russell, Professor Carl Stenberg of the UNC School of Government, and five other fellows from across North Carolina. To an audience of local government managers, 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. Additionally, he discussed how the trainings through LFNC provided him the foundation needed to add capacity to projects with the City. His work so far has included applying to three grants for hurricane resiliency,

developing an ADA Transition Plan, and learning how to use an impact wrench to change a garbage truck tire. Assistant City Manager Angela Cole and I joined the presentation to share our praise of the LFNC program and hopes that other jurisdictions will consider hosting a fellow in the future. On Thursday, Assistant City Manager Cole received the outstanding Assistant City Manager award at the meeting. It is exciting to see one of the City's employees honored in such a way.

2. Shadows Lounge, located at 110 North Road Street, was served an Official Notice of Rejection by North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Commission. Members of the Elizabeth City Police Department partnered with Alcohol Law Enforcement to address recent concerns. The order denied application of permits for both Malt Beverage on Premise and Mixed Beverage Private Bar. Included in the reasons for the application permit disapproval were calls for service involving multiple gunshots at the Shadows Lounge on January 12, 2020, as well as a call for service on February 2, 2020, which was also related to multiple gunshots. The North Carolina ABC Commission does have an appeals process in which a petition for hearing can be filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings in Raleigh, NC. At this time, Shadows Lounge is prohibited from having malt beverages on their premises, and also mixed beverages at private bar. Chief Buffaloe and members of the Elizabeth City Police Department, along with Alcohol Law Enforcement, will continue to address any further concerns as it relates to possible criminal activity at this establishment.
  
3. On Tuesday, the City received notice from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources that they have approved a historical marker, which will be located near Fearing and South Water Street to commemorate Wild's Raid. This sign honors Colonel Edward A. Wild of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers who conducted his first major campaign in North Carolina with African American infantry troops in December of 1863. The raid freed thousands of enslaved in the area. Colonel Wild was transferred to command all African American units in November 1863; one of his goals was to break up Confederate guerrilla activity in the northeastern part of the state, which was an important area for Union transportation. Many of the North Carolina soldiers under Wild's command came from the area. This was the largest military operation conducted by African American troops in North Carolina at that time. Based on information from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural resources, the marker will be installed sometime after July of 2020. City staff, along with NCDOT and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources will work on the placement of the sign so it does not interfere with existing markers in the area or the proposed way finder sign project. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Wild's Raid.

4. On October 13, 2019, the Elizabeth City Fire Department performed a live burn on the Barnes property located on Peartree Road. In an effort to clean up Old Oak Grove cemetery, the Parks & Recreation staff made a conscious decision to clean up the property directly next to the cemetery for the purpose of making it a maintenance site. This area will be designated for sand and dirt storage and usage to maintain the cemetery grounds when necessary. Stevenson Sand performed the cleanup of the property.
  
5. On Tuesday, the Planning Commission held a meeting to review a text amendment, TA 02-19. The text amendment, which is for increasing the amount of allowable wall signage within the Halstead Boulevard Overlay District has been submitted by Anchor Signs, Inc. Anchor Signs is working on the signage for the new Aspen Dental Building to be located at 3875 Conlon Way, at the intersection of Tanglewood Parkway and Halstead Boulevard. Their application is for three wall signs, one for each street frontage, with a total area of approximately 230 square feet. Under the current regulations, the amount of allowable wall signage is based upon the length of the front building elevation. For a 50-foot long wall, they are permitted only 75 square feet of signage to be placed on the front elevation. Outside of the Halstead Overlay District, if a building faces more than one street they are allocated additional signage for each street frontage. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the text amendment TA 02-19 as presented.

6. Several members of the Elizabeth City Police Department recently completed the Wilderness Law Enforcement Course in the mountain region of



North Carolina. The course is designed to enhance the safety of law enforcement officers while operating in wooded and / or wilderness settings. The course focuses on realistic scenarios of tactical tracking through wooded areas up to remote wilderness environments. Emphasis is on officer safety, survival, and small unit law enforcement operations regardless of weather conditions or distance from additional ground-based resources. Chief Buffalo and I want to congratulate Lieutenant Darrell

Felton, Sergeant Benjamin Martin and Officer Dexter Green for successfully completing this extensive, week-long class; they represented Elizabeth City well and the techniques they learned will be a tremendous asset to this agency and our citizens.

7. The City of Elizabeth City is seeking two individuals who reside within the corporate limits of Elizabeth City to serve as members of the Planning Commission. If you want to have an input on City developments, here is your opportunity. The Planning Commission works on a variety of projects and makes recommendations to the City Council concerning Conditional Use Permits, rezonings, preliminary subdivision plans, and text amendments. The Commission may make studies and recommend to the City Council plans, goals, and objectives relating to the growth, development, and re-development of the City. Membership to the Commission is voluntary and the member will be appointed for a four-year term. The Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact our Community Development Department at (252) 337-6672.
8. During this past week, our Code Enforcement Division had a total of 12 new code violation cases from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>; 14 cases have been closed with past week and there are still 87 active cases.
9. Last Friday, the Elizabeth City Police Department premiered its first Vlog on its Facebook / social media page. Our very own Chief Buffaloe had the honor of interviewing Ms. Courtney M. Cottrell, Executive Director for Albemarle Hopeline, for its first short, interactive video. They had a candid conversation and Ms. Cottrell offered great insight as to why a victim of domestic violence just doesn't leave; how to identify red flags in a relationship; what services we have locally in Elizabeth City for victims of domestic violence; and how one can help a friend or a family member who is experiencing domestic violence. Since the video premiered Friday evening at 5:00 p.m., there have been 3,795 views. If you didn't get a chance to view it, go to the Elizabeth City Police Department Facebook page and take a look. It's very informative. Chief Buffaloe plans to do Vlogs on a continuing basis as a means to better connect with our citizens.

10. **First Friday ArtWalk – Tonight – 4:00-7:00 p.m., Downtown Elizabeth City.** February is the month of love, and we promise you will love February's lineup at First Friday ArtWalk. With 12 small businesses hosting artists and art experiences, it'll be a Friday night to remember. You'll find live music, live



furniture-building demonstrations, live pottery-making opportunities, make-and-take Valentines, chocolates, photography, book signings, and, of course, plenty of art. Come on down for the ArtWalk experience. Downtown Elizabeth City, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., with dining, sipping and live music performances afterward in various establishments. Come on downtown early and stay late for the many festivities. For more information, contact Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. at 252-338-4104. Click [HERE](#) to see a map and list of all participants and locations.

### **Upcoming Events**

Our Historic Preservation Commission will meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City will meet on Monday, February 10, 2020 in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. for a Regular Session on the 2nd floor of the Gardner Municipal Building.