



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 ~ January 17, 2020
COPY: Email Distribution

1. I am pleased to report that Assistant City Manager Cole has been recognized by her peers. Angela has been named outstanding Assistant City Manager for the State of North Carolina by the North Carolina City County Manager's Association (NCCMA). She will be formally recognized during the NCCMA Winter Conference on February 6, 2020, in Winston-Salem. Angela has worked for the City of Elizabeth City since 2005. I promoted her to be my Assistant City Manager in July of 2015, and she has excelled in that position. This is not the first time her peers have recognized her. During the School of Government MCA Course, she received the George C. Franklin Award for her outstanding work in the class. She oversaw our utility software conversion and is presently working on our smart metering project and overseeing the final touches to the Senior Citizens Center. She has been actively involved in the City of Elizabeth City. She oversaw the SOUL's homeless feeding program for three years, serves on the Board of Directors for Hopeline, and has been involved in the United Way. She believes in giving back to the community. I am very proud to work with her, and the citizens of Elizabeth City are fortunate to have her working for them.

2. On Tuesday, Chief Buffaloe took his oath of office, administered by the Honorable Dan Forest, Lt. Governor of North Carolina, to serve on the 2020 Board of Directors for the North Carolina Chiefs of Police Association. Chief Buffaloe will be serving in 2020 in the position of 1st Vice President. The North Carolina Chiefs of Police Association's objectives include advancing the



science and art of police administration and crime prevention; developing and disseminating approved administrative and technical practices and promoting their use in police work; recruiting and training in the police profession of qualified persons; and to encourage the adherence of all police officers to the highest professional standards of conduct. Chief Buffaloe is slotted to serve as President of this organization, beginning in the year 2021. I am very pleased that Chief Buffaloe has an active leadership role in the North Carolina Chiefs of Police Association, as they are key leaders in this state in the advancement of excellence in the field of law enforcement.

3. On Thursday, January 16th, Telephonics Corporation held a job fair at their newly renovated facility. Over 150 people from the community attended the hiring event. Senior Vice President of Operations,



Jack Enright stated that Telephonics was very pleased to see the tremendous turnout. This successful event and others have reaffirmed the commitment and decision by Telephonics to locate in our community. Mr. Enright went on to say that in addition to our strong business assets, that our community has a great sense of pride and spirit. The event started at 4:30 PM and continued until 9:00 PM to ensure everybody in attendance had involvement. Prospective applicants with technical skill sets were interviewed by various hiring managers with the company. Interested parties that did not have the technical qualifications attended and were assisted by College of the Albemarle (COA) representatives, Rachelle Gunter and Sandi Thigpen. That assistance provided a path forward by obtaining a Career Readiness Certificate (CRC). After taking the CRC, applicants are able to be considered for inclusion in the company's "pre-hire" training program. So far, over 60 of our citizens have obtained the CRC through this career building and hiring process. In addition, COA has future CRC testing sessions coming up on January 31st and February 7th. Citizens interested in this employment process can contact Rachelle Gunter at 252-335-0821 (ext 2229).

- The Elizabeth City Fire Department recently completed its annual summary report for the year 2019. A brief overview of their statistics is as follows: The Fire Department ran a total of 1,363 calls for 2019, which is an increase of 8% over the year previous year. The Department has seen an overall increase of 16% in call volume over the last five years.

Type of Call	Total Number
Fires	114
Motor Vehicle Accidents & EMS Assists	617
Hazardous Conditions	112
Service Calls	190
False Alarms	330

- The Elizabeth City Police Department responded to a total of 61,317 Calls for Service from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Chief Buffaloe and I are anticipating another busy year in 2020, as the City of Elizabeth City is steadily growing with new businesses and residences. The Elizabeth City Police Department will continue to provide excellent service to the citizens of this city. Its mission has been, and continues to be, to work in partnership with the citizens of Elizabeth City to protect life and property; to solve neighborhood problems; and enhance the quality of life in our city through courteous professional policing.
- Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. recently received notice from the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center that they are recommending Elizabeth City to be a 2020 nationally accredited Main Street program for the work that was done in 2019. Main Street America accreditation status is a prestigious designation. Annually, each N.C. Main Street program submits documentation of their work to N.C. Main Street Center staff for review. The N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center Director, in turn, submits a list of eligible programs to the National Main Street Center. Final approval from the National Main Street Center is expected in April.

- On Friday James Flanigan of JD Lewis Construction Management gave a tour of the Weatherly Lofts apartment project to administrators and board members of College of the Albemarle and the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools as part of a jobs/economic development tour for new COA President Dr. Jack Bagwell to show how COA graduates have tie-in to local businesses and economy.



The Weatherly Lofts project, which

started in January of this year is scheduled to be substantially complete by the end of January with tenants moving in near the first of March. Weatherly Lofts LLC has posted apartment layouts on their Facebook Page. Click [HERE](#) to see the floor plans. They have begun contacting potential residents for pre-leasing. If you would like additional information, email info@weatherlylofts.com with your contact information, including name and phone number. We consider this project one of many revitalization successes for our downtown area and thank Weatherly Lofts, LLC for their investment in our downtown.

8. On Wednesday, City staff attended the Committee of 100 quarterly meeting at Montero's restaurant. Buzz Bizzell from Bizzell Design presented on way finding signs and their importance and significance for place making for a city. He states from his website "One of the unseen values of the wayfinding signage design process is the fact that it organizes the civic destinations and cultural features into one study. By combining this information, we uncover the elements of style and cultural flavor of your city". The City is currently working with the Tourism and Development Authority, Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc., and the County on this project.
9. Last Thursday, Finance Director Suzanne Tungate met with Program Delivery Manager (PDMG) Lois Bridges, PDMG Bill Miller, and PDMG Archie Diegel to discuss our claims for Hurricane Dorian assistance. We discussed the funds spent before the storm preparing, during the storm providing emergency assistance and after the storm clearing debris and re-connecting customers with power outages. We also discussed the damages sustained on or to City property. We filed claims for small projects for Debris, Emergency Response, Buildings and Electric Services. Small projects for this event are those over 3,100 but less than \$131,100. We are asking for reimbursements totaling \$185,596 for Debris Removal, \$15,435 for Emergency Operations, \$27,324 for property damage and \$128,404. We are still working on the costs of repairs for the Public Safety building roof.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the City of Elizabeth City Public Utilities Department will be closed Monday, January 20, 2020. Monday's trash and recycling will be collected on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Please have your trash and recycling cart at the curb by 8:00 a.m.

In observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, all City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020.