



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 3, 2020
COPY: Email Distribution

1. On Tuesday, the City received \$5,000 in reimbursement funds from ElectriCities 2019 System Betterment Project. The City will begin expanding from the current smart metering pilot to full deployment of the Nexgrid product. Third-party agreements for mass meter installation, backbone installation, customer UB portal integration, and project management are required. These awarded funds will support the costs associated with this project.
2. Telephonics Corporation is hosting a Job Fair on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. at their new facility at 112 Corporate Drive. The job fair will be publicly advertised, with the first full-page ad airing this coming weekend in The Daily Advance. Subsequent advertisements will follow in the coming days leading up to the job fair. This highly anticipated hiring event will help educate potential candidates about the various employment opportunities and corresponding training. Following the release of the full page ad this coming weekend, a copy will be sent to elected officials early next week. After the job fair, Telephonics plans to host an "open house" for City and County elected officials that will take place sometime during the first quarter of 2020. Jack Enright, the Senior Vice President of Operations who is leading the expansion effort, would like to host a tour of their newly renovated facility, while providing an update during the January 16th job fair. In addition, Mr. Enright will give a brief presentation on Telephonics, and provide a Q&A opportunity for elected officials. Details about this future open house are forthcoming.
3. The City of Elizabeth City Public Utilities Department has contracted with Envirotech for an emergency repair of a commercial sewer service on Water Street. Based on staff's investigation of the issue, the sewer lateral has become disconnected from the sewer main and needs to be reconnected. Unfortunately, the sewer in Water Street is very large and

requires substantial excavation in order to make the repair. Both the contractor and City staff are working diligently to complete this repair as soon as possible. The roads will remain closed until the repair is complete.

4. It has come to the attention of the Public Utilities Department that a private company is in the area conducting water testing. They do not represent the City and specifically state such when they speak with our citizens; however, if you have any questions regarding the legitimacy of the water tester, please feel free to contact Public Utilities at 337-6628.

5. On New Year's Eve, the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Police Athletic League (PAL) went on an exciting indoor skydiving trip to iFLY in Virginia Beach, Virginia. A total of 28 youth, along with two police department members, and five volunteer mentors took part in this activity. Each participant was able to fly within a column of wind created by a vertical wind tunnel while accompanied by a rated safety instructor who helped flyers learn to control their bodies within the airflow. The 2019 PAL Mentoring Grant, which was received through the Department of Justice, paid for all expenses for the trip. All attendees really enjoyed this adventurous outing.



It was a great way to end the year, and we look forward to more upcoming outings / events in 2020!

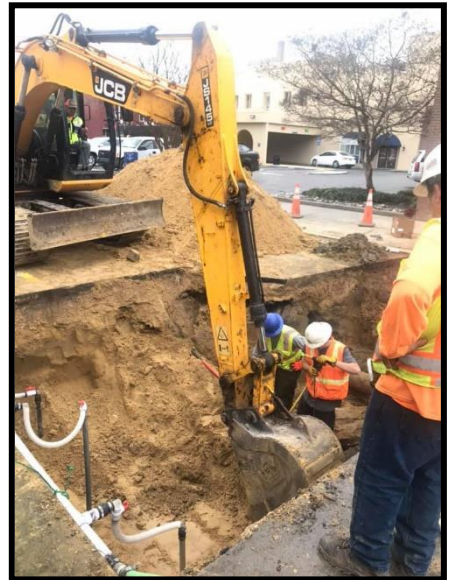
6. Last week, the Elizabeth City Police Department was excited to partner with CB's Auto of Elizabeth City to make the holidays a little brighter for area children. CB's Auto was donating new and used bicycles to distribute to local families in the Elizabeth City area. The Elizabeth City Police Department donated 27



bicycle safety helmets, front and rear lights, fluorescent head and arm bands, and safety information to go along with all of the bikes. The helmets and safety bands are part of the Watch for ME grant program, which the agency was awarded earlier this year. Chief Buffalo and I

were glad that we could take part of this event, in partnership with CB's Auto of Elizabeth City.

7. Remodeling of the Senior Center continues to progress at a steady pace. Painting of the first and second floor is almost complete, with only a few minor touchups left for the first floor. The glass wall for the exercise room has been partially installed; completion is subject to the installation of flooring and exercise equipment. The flooring will be delivered on January 10th and will be installed January 13th; at which time we will begin to install the equipment. City staff continues to be hopeful that the project will be completed by January 23, 2020.
8. On Tuesday, Battalion Chief Todd Winslow served the City for the final time; he has retired after 31 years of service. Stepping up in Winslow's place will be Robert Boyce. Battalion Chief Boyce has been with the Elizabeth City Fire Department since 1995. Also, Shane Christian has been promoted to Captain; he has been with the City for 13 years. We wish everyone well in their new roles within the Fire Department and the City as a whole!
9. The sewer system repair work on Water Street took a bit longer than anticipated. The actual repair should be completed this afternoon (Friday, January 3rd); however, the 100 block of North Water Street will remain closed in both directions until the repaving/resurfacing of the road can be completed. Weather permitting, that should happen Monday or Tuesday. Colonial Avenue will be opened this evening. Traffic can turn left (northbound) onto Water Street. The southbound lanes of North Water Street from Elizabeth Street to Colonial Avenue will remain closed over the weekend and until the resurfacing is completed. For safety purposes, we ask that you please DO NOT go around the Road Closed barrier in this section of Water Street. The sidewalk in front of the active businesses in all parts of that area are open and accessible, so ArtWalk activities this evening should not be affected.



10. **First Friday ArtWalk – Tonight – 4:00-7:00 p.m., Downtown Elizabeth City.** Thirteen is the lucky number for the first ArtWalk of 2020. Smaller, but jam-packed with art and activities from acrylic pouring art to kids' activities, make-



and-take art, author signings, live music, even a Tudor-style 10th Day of Christmas celebration. With fewer participants, you'll be able to spend more time visiting each stop. 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. There will be a ribbon cutting for new business Vertical Harbor Realty at the newly renovated former Pure Oil Station on the corner of Main & Water Streets. Come on downtown early and stay late for the many festivities.