



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 ~ March 27, 2020
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1. The focus of City of Elizabeth City staff continues to be on the COVID-19 virus. This week, the Control Group, which includes Mayor Parker and I, met on two separate occasions. Our first meeting dealt with Governor Cooper's Executive Order 120. The governor placed additional restrictions on numerous businesses and forced most of our service jobs to shut down. The Elizabeth City Police Department has sought voluntary compliance to Executive Order 120. There has been little resistance to the order at this time. Our second control group meeting was on March 25, 2020. During this meeting, Christy Saunders provided an update on testing within Pasquotank County and the need for additional medical supplies for the hospital. Yesterday, a shipment of supplies was received. Emergency Operations continues to receive countless donations from dentist offices, Walmart, as well as private individuals who have provided medical supplies and disinfectants. At the writing of this FYI, we were informed by the Governor that he will be ordering a "shelter-in-place" for all of North Carolina. We do not know when the order will take effect or what restrictions may be imposed by the order. I've had discussions with Police Chief Eddie Buffaloe on enforcement of the order. I would like to thank all parties for their help.
2. The City has received the draft of the updated National Historic Survey for our Elizabeth City National Register District. While the state is still reviewing the draft for final edits, our staff is asking any residential or commercial property owners who are planning to submit their part one for their state historic tax credits that are located in this historic district, to please contact our Community Development Department at (252)337-6672 or klong@cityofec.com. Even though the survey is still in draft form, those that are submitting historic tax credit information to the state are allowed to submit the newest draft with their documents to show the latest property description and whether their property is now considered

contributing. In the survey update, the document states that Elizabeth City's particular National Historic District has retained a high degree of integrity over the years. Of the 217 overall "resources" or structures in the district, only 53 are non-contributing resources. The vast-majority of the non-contributing properties are accessory structures, such as sheds, garages, etc. As you may as have seen in the last several months, the former Hurdle Hardware building has been undergoing major renovations to restore the original structure as much as possible. The new survey update now considers this property contributing, because of these renovations.

3. On Wednesday, Water and Sewer staff installed a 2" air relief valve on Church Street. Previously, several residents in the area reported little to no water flow, which staff determined was due to what is called an airlock. An airlock in a water line is caused by a buildup of air inside a water line over time. Air relief (or air release) valves function just as their name says; they serve to release built up air inside of lines through vents. Air relief valves are installed at the highest point in a pipeline where air naturally collects. Air bubbles enter the valve and displace the liquid inside, lowering the liquid level. When the level drops to where it no longer buoys the float, the float drops. This motion pulls the seat away from the orifice, triggering the valve to open and vent the accumulated air into the atmosphere. As the air is vented, liquid re-enters the valve, once again buoying the float, lifting it until the seat presses against the orifice, closing the valve. This cycle automatically repeats as often as necessary to maintain an air-free system. Following this installation, residents in the Church Street area will experience better water flow. This is the city's second installation of an air relief valve in the distribution system. As trouble spots are identified future air relief valves will be installed.



4. During the recent N.C. Main Street Annual Conference held in New Bern, NC, our Elizabeth City Main Street Champions for 2019 were named and recognized by statewide leaders, Main Street Managers, and attendees

from across the state. Elizabeth City's Main Street Champions are James Flanigan and Kevin O'Leary of Weatherly Lofts, LLC. Their nomination was submitted by Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.



"Owners James Flanigan and Kevin O'Leary have had a tremendous impact on the revitalization of downtown Elizabeth City. They have taken a long-vacant historic building from a dilapidated/blighted state and restored it to a beautiful 43-unit market rate apartment building. James and Kevin saw the potential of the building (and the potential of our town) and took the financial risk to invest in the project. They maintained the building's historic integrity and landmark status through the process. They had a vision for the building that others didn't see. Their work on this project and their belief in the revitalization of this building have been catalysts for other projects. Their work has re-instilled a sense of pride in downtown. Visitors are now greeted with a visual of a renewed downtown. They are humble guys and don't seek credit or recognition, but they truly deserve it."

Weatherly Lofts, LLC received their Certificate of Occupancy last week and tenants have begun moving in.