

Week of April 4, 2011:

- I am continuing to receive budget information from the various departments. I have received some of the larger budgets such as COA, Social Services, Parks and Recreation, and the Sheriff's Department. The only outstanding budget now is the School System. Rodney and I attended a Budget Workshop on Friday at the Quorum Center in Raleigh that was sponsored by the Association of County Commissioners and the School of Government. The workshop was designed for Managers to share ideas about cost-saving ideas, ways to communicate with Board members, employees and the public, and options for some of the difficult decisions that counties are having to make during this budget season.
- We need to begin our budget workshops soon. Please check your calendars so that we can schedule some budget work sessions at the special meeting on Monday.
- Attached is the Occupancy Tax Report for February. We had a 39% increase compared to 2010. This is also the best February that we have ever had.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Register of Deeds:

Our new copier/printer/scanner was installed this week and we have been able to get our maps scanned, indexed and up to date as of today. We are excited, because, we have been unable to scan maps for quite some time now. Our old map copier, although in bad shape, still works and we are going to use it until we run out of cut paper and then switch over completely to our new machine. It will allow us to use roll paper or cut paper and has many more options available that we have not had access to before.

We also, have implemented a code system for using our copier machine in the vault. Users must enter a code before they can access the machine. This will keep an account of all copies made, as some of our customers have had a tendency to forget to write them down in the past. At the end of month, we can print a report with the exact number and bill from this.

We continue making progress in scanning and indexing our older birth, death, marriage and real estate records.

Our office has been busy lately issuing a lot of birth certificates, as kindergarten registration begins soon. Looking forward to the time when the economy revives and we can record more real estate documents.

Water Department:

- MEB is continuing to finish up small jobs in the plant and are in the process of installing the concentrate pumps.
- MEB has had the septic system installed
- AC Schultes is preparing the Ownley Well for its 24hr pump test. This should be tested April 25.
- AC Schultes will pipe up and prepare to test the Wesley I well. The 24hr test will be on April 18.
- AC Schultes will be moving onto the Wesley II site on April 18.

Cooperative Extension

4-H and Youth

Kids in the Garden was held at 4 of the local elementary schools. The youth learn the basic practices of planting seeds and seedlings. They are also instructed on the Food Guide Pyramid and participate in low impact physical activity.

Embryology was held at 2 of the local elementary schools. Youth candled eggs to examine the growth of the chicken to date.

4-H youth council was held. They discussed presentations, summer activities and how to get more youth involved in clubs.

110 youth completed the 4-H EFNEP Program at Central Elementary School.

Agriculture

Gave recommendations on dying shrubs at the Coast Guard Base

Recommendations were given on emerging pest and how to prevent their spread.

Working with on-farm test and demonstrations as of now it looks like we will have 4 corn, 3 soybean and 1 cotton test and the information will be provided to growers in addressing production issues that they have.

Gave recommendations on wheat pest problems.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Steps to Health had 22 participants at Harriot Heights and 15 participants at Virginia Dare

3 parents attended and 2 completed the 8 session Parenting Matters Class

A North Carolina Cooperative Extension Hispanic Outreach program was conducted with 6 adults and 9 youth participating. Two more programs will be started as a result of the session.

Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less information was shared with 29 Pasquotank County residents. The program highlights the importance of eating smart and moving more.

The Food & Nutrition Services Benefits program was conducted with senior residents of the Renaissance community.

EFNEP home visits were made

Other

Spoke to USDA Food & Nutrition Services in Raleigh about hosting an instructional conference in the region to enable farmers to be granted EBT machines.

Cooperative Extension is working on a video that will be submitted to NC State University highlighting one of Pasquotank County's premier integrated programs. This will be highlighted and used on the NC State website to showcase Cooperative Extension.

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