

Week of May 2, 2011:

- The Elizabeth City Rotary Club hosted a group study exchange team from Mexico this week and part of their tour included the Public Safety Building and Library. Rodney and I took them through both buildings and talked to them about the organization of local government here versus the local government structure in Mexico. There were numerous similarities in the government structure the five members of the team asked a lot of questions about the County. The library staff set a computer room for them so that they could catch up on email and communicate back home.
- Chairman Griffin and I met with Chairman Duckwall and Randell Woodruff today to discuss joint department budgets between Pasquotank County and Camden County. We had a very productive meeting and came away with some ideas for improving services and efficiency.
- This week has been dedicated mostly to budget work. Our next budget work session will be on Monday at 4:00 pm in the Library community room. The Board of Education will be meeting with us to present their budget. A headline in The Daily Advance this week seemed to suggest that the County was considering an eight cent tax increase. The article however did not suggest that we were considering anything like that. The projected deficit calculates to an eight cent gap between revenues and expenditures however it has never been suggested by anyone in the County that an eight cent tax increase would even be considered. Just remember that headlines are intended to grab your attention.
- Attached is the latest land transfer tax report. We were down 36% compared to last year for April, however, we are still ahead of last year by \$36,000 for the entire year. This month will be really good since the Tanglewood property closed this week and we received \$170,000 for that one transaction.
- The Council of State approved the acquisition of the former Vicki Villa site this week for the location of the Dental School clinic for East Carolina dental school students. We are proceeding with burning the structures on the site by the Elizabeth City Fire Department to make way for the new facility.
- I will be attending the retirement celebration for Penny Leary-Smith this afternoon. Penny is retiring after 20+ years as the Director of the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center. She will be sorely missed and extremely difficult to replace due to her wealth of knowledge about the area and her passion for the Dismal Swamp Canal.
- The Water Department, Solid Waste Department, and Cooperative Extension Service were without phone service or computer service from Monday morning until noon on Wednesday due to a problem with our fiber optic line that runs from the Courthouse to those departments. A contractor was able to isolate the problem and fix it on Wednesday, however our staff and the public were inconvenienced those days.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Finance Office

- The County received \$13,114 from the N.C. Department of Revenue from the debt setoff program. Of this amount \$3,110 was for delinquent EMS bills. The County will receive another setoff during the week of May 17th.

Emergency Medical Service

- Our Senior Project student, Michael Newby, finished up his ride along time this week. His senior project is entitled "The Need for Emergency Medical Technicians In Our Community." He will be presenting that to judges near the end of May. Good luck, Michael!

- Members of the EMS billing/administrative staff went to Wilson on Wednesday to get the latest update on the transition from CIGNA to Palmetto GBA as the North Carolina Medicare carrier. We will be transitioning to Palmetto GBA on May 28.
- EMS and Emergency Management met with ECSU officials on Thursday to discuss an upcoming campus-wide drill.
- Pasquotank Camden EMS has participated in two prom awareness drills. One with Pasquotank County High School and the other with Perquimans County EMS. Thank you to all of the fire departments, law enforcement officials, Twiford's Funeral Home and Steve's Auto Repair for assisting us with some of these projects.
- We would like to welcome aboard two new full timers; Billy Tutwiler and Jonathan Konecny. These two paramedics have filled our final two open positions. EMS is now at full staff.
- Our EMS teaching institution is in the process of teaching a Medical Responder class at Harvey Point Base. The class should last about 8 weeks.

Water Department:

- RBC is continuing to spread and level top soil around the RO Plant site.
- The electrical material has arrived to modify the high service pumps
- Instrulogic will be in next week to do some more work on our SCADA system.
- AC Schultes is continuing to develop the Wesley II well
- AC Schultes is preparing to test pump the Ownley II well

Cooperative Extension

4-H and Youth

"Kids in the Garden" was held at 4 of the local elementary schools. The youth learned about fruits and vegetable consumption and their benefits from consuming the proper amounts. They also were able to sample 4 different fruits and vegetables that many had not previously eaten.

A gardening program was held at Girls, Inc. to start their summer garden.

\$13,000 was secured by the 4-H agent for a regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Camp. Youth from Pasquotank will travel to Rocky Mount this summer to participate.

13 youth from Pasquotank County 4-H participated in the NE District Horse Show. We have 7 who qualified to attend the state competition in Raleigh in July. One youth won junior gaming division.

Agriculture

Provided recommendations to growers about pest issues in wheat

Evaluated farmers corn populations to determine if they obtained the desired plant populations. Also looked at cutworm infestation in no-till corn and made control recommendations.

Worked on finishing touches for the NE Ag Expo which will be held at White Hat Seed Farm on May 19th starting at 2:00 p.m.

Located cooperators and sites for soybean on-farm tests and demonstrations. There will be 5 tests this year.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Steps to Health had 35 participants at Harriot Heights and Virginia Dare

5 EFNEP (Expanded Foods Nutritional Education Program) home visits were made on Fix it Fast, Eat at Home; Shop for Value, Check the Facts; Move More throughout the Day.

EFNEP held programs at the Parent Center and Housing Authority for 25 participants.

CPR/First Aid Recertification was held for 10 participants.

Helped 2 senior citizens with Medicare Part "D"

A planning meeting was held for the upcoming Stroke Program that will be held at the Pasquotank Extension Center

Randy Keaton
Pasquotank County Manager
P.O Box 39
Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0039
252.335.0865 (phone)
252.339.6670 (cell)
keatonr@co.pasquotank.nc.us