

## Week of December 19, 2011:

- The Health Insurance Committee met on Monday and adopted one change to our Health Insurance Plan for 2012. An annual deductible of \$500 will apply to all medical charges effective January 1, 2012. The annual coinsurance limit of \$6,000 has been reduced to \$5,500 as well. The reason for the deductible is twofold. Effective July 1, 2011, many preventative services such as annual physicals, mammograms, colonoscopies, etc. are now covered at 100% with no copay or coinsurance. This has increased the cost to the plan. Higher claims have also reduced our reserves. The Board took this step at this time to try and reduce the need for increased rates by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Information has been distributed to all employees explaining the change.
- We have completed our annual United Way campaign. County employees contributed a total of \$4,693 to the United Way this year.
- Jerry Newell was honored today by the Albemarle Hospital Foundation with the donation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for his many years of community service with the Waterway 5K in raising money for mammograms. Automatic External Defibrillation is a common treatment for life threatening cardiac arrhythmias, ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia. These simple-to-use units are based on computer technology which is designed to analyze the heart rhythm itself, and then advise the user whether a shock is required. They are designed to be used by lay persons, who require little training to operate them correctly. Many airports, public buildings, libraries are equipped with the AED. Attached is a picture of Jerry receiving a plaque and the AED. Jerry chose to have the AED placed in the Courthouse. I would like to thank Jerry for his service to the community and the Hospital Foundation for their donation in Jerry's honor.
- We received notice this week that the NC USA State Boxing Championship will be held at PAL Center – John Young and Debbie Leete met with Charlotte Underwood and announced that Elizabeth City will host the NC USA State Boxing Championship for qualifying for the USA Olympics – 18 and under at the PAL Center on January 27<sup>th</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup>. This is another type of Sports Tourism for our area and comes during one of our shoulder months. We are excited to have another sports event coming to the Pal Center.
- Most County offices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holidays. The convenience sites will close on Saturday at 1:00 pm and will be closed all day on Sunday. The convenience sites will be open for their normal schedule on Monday and Tuesday. The landfill convenience site will close on Saturday at 12:00 noon to coincide with the landfill closing.
- The following is a message from the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center regarding maintenance on the locks at South Mills. *I have been informed by the Army Corps of Engineers the South Mills Lock "River Gate" will be refurbished starting Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, after the 3:30pm locking. The gate will be lifted from the water and inspected, repairs made where appropriate and repainted. I'm told this process occurs about every 15 years or so and it must be budgeted accordingly with each of the two gates receiving their proper care. This is a process which helps to keep the Canal operational and all in good working condition. It takes 60-90 days to refurbish, depending on weather and the amount of repairs required, so unfortunately the Dismal Swamp Canal will be closed from Jan. 4, 2012 until the work is completed. The good news is this will occur during our least busy time of year and hopefully will not affect too many boaters. We will keep you informed of progress as it is made and will let you know as soon as the date to reopen has been established. Forgoing any problems, we should be back open in time to greet the migration north in the spring. Again, we are open and will be until the last locking of 3:30pm on Jan. 3, 2011 and will reopen when the gate work has been accomplished.*
- I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Due to the holidays and the short work week next week, this will be the last weekly report for 2011.

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