

Week of January 19, 2009:

- We have been working with the contractor this week to finish the renovations to the old Library building. The punch list is mostly complete and I have met with a sign company to design the sign for the front of the building. We are also in the process of completing the furniture bids for the building. We plan to have a projected date for moving into the building within the next week. The landscape contractor is waiting for better weather before beginning the installation of the landscape materials.
- County staff and City staff have been meeting this past week regarding the proposed upgrades to the EMS and Fire radio system. This is the system that was presented to the City and County last year. We have been working on a funding plan to present to both boards at the next meeting so that this critical upgrade can possibly move forward.
- I attended the Mental Health meeting in Edenton on Thursday. Representatives from the ten counties met with the Mental Health Board, local staff and state staff to discuss how services will be provided in the future. Leza Wainwright addressed many of the questions that had been sent in advance of the meeting. She also introduced the new administrator but according to the Daily Advance today, his name has been withdrawn. Leza did announce that the termination notices for the Physicians and the staff of the 23 hour crisis unit had been rescinded. They are planning to reopen the 23 hour crisis unit and they are also interested in establishing in-patient beds at Albemarle Hospital. There were a lot of questions from Sheriffs and DSS Directors about specific services. The State has only been in control for a week and Leza stated that they do not have all of the answers yet.
- I attended a legislative update today that was sponsored by the Northeast Commission for the County Managers, NEED, and NET groups. Rep. Bill Owens was also in attendance and provided an update to the group.
- Attached is a report that was prepared by AARP that is entitled, Myths about the Medicaid Program and the People it Helps. It is very informative about Medicaid.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:

I just today received more information that I was hoping to have added in the annual report. The county departments together installed 78 smoke detectors in county homes during the year. In addition, the fire prevention division of the Elizabeth City Fire Dept installed 17 in county homes. These were made possible through a grant from the Office of State Fire Marshal for the smoke detectors.

Board of Elections:

The Board of Elections has successfully closed another election and is currently in the process of storing away ballots, absentee applications and other election related documents. The law requires that all voted ballots, with federal contests, and election documents must be retained for 22 months.

We have begun List Maintenance, which is required, by law, after every General Election. We will be mailing voter cards to 3,229 registered voters whom we have not had any contact with in two federal General Elections. This will help to clean up our voter registration files.

We continue to receive voter registrations from public agencies, such as DMV, Social Services, Vocational Rehab, etc. The most recent voter registration statistical report gives the total number of active and inactive registered voters as **27,244**. This figure breaks down to **14,934** Democrats, **5,736** Republicans, **22** Libertarians and **6,522** Unaffiliated voters.

Cooperative Extension:

Agriculture

Two pesticide trainings were conducted on landscaping and "right of ways". 22 registered for the sessions

Posters were collected for the soybean festival contest for elementary school students.

On Martin Luther King Day, 9 master gardeners worked with 42 Roanoke Bible College students by performing landscaping and service throughout the county on that date.

17 different youth registered for a livestock clinic at NC State University during the annual junior Hereford Field Day.

A meeting was held at ECSU regarding a solar energy farm which could generate over \$7 mill. Dollars

4-H and Youth Development

5 different youth will attend a district "leadership lock up" in Plymouth at the Vernon James Center.

During the week, over 250 different 3-6th graders learned about 4-H summer camp

Governor's one on one director met with ECSU officials regarding volunteers for mentoring.

Family and consumer sciences

8 playground safety sessions were held for providers.

2 Medicare part D sessions were held for seniors

2 prenatal visits were made with BF mothers.

9 different visits were done with WIC mothers at Social Services

Randy Keaton
P.O Box 39
Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0039
252.335.0865 (phone)
252.335.0866 (fax)
keatonr@co.pasquotank.nc.us