

Week of February 2, 2009:

- The Middle School Committee met on Monday and heard reports on the cost to update the gym for use by the public, a presentation by the Police Athletic League for use of the gym and a presentation by Mrs. Pat Franzese on a proposed use of the school facilities. The committee discussed the needs of the community and possible uses of the gym. The committee agreed for staff to develop a request for proposals that would be advertised and sent to various groups for operating the gym. We are in the process of developing an RFP for the committee to consider.
- The furniture bids have been received for the Old Library and we have ordered the systems furniture. We are still evaluating the seating and desks bids. The Register of Deeds office began moving some of the older books over to the new office this week with the help of an inmate crew from Pasquotank Correctional Institute. They also moved several sets of shelving that will be reused in the new facility.
- Our monthly jail project meeting was held on Thursday. Jim Stewart is working through a lot of old change order requests, some of which were pending from the beginning of the project. A lot of issues were resolved on Thursday and the project is progressing. I asked Jim to help us develop a new contingency amount so that we can determine how much we will need to borrow to complete the project. I also have contacted RBC to inquire about an additional loan for the jail project.
- I attended the Chamber of Commerce annual banquet on Thursday.
- Budget request letters were sent to most of the outside agencies this week. I stressed the difficult financial climate that we will be dealing with this year.
- Attached is the most recent land transfer tax report. This was the lowest monthly total in over 4 years. We are still down 55% for the year to date.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Finance Office:

We received our first debt setoff from NC Dept of Revenue in the amount of \$8,983.65. EMS accounts setoff amounted to \$1,548.80. The next one should be larger since NCDOR only started electronic filing on January 23.

Parks and Recreation:

- County parks and rec. staff along with City parks and rec. and Pug from maintenance finished the installation of the playground equipment at River Road. See pictures.
- Forever Lawn will be here on Monday to start the installation of the safety surface for the playground.
- Park benches and trash cans will start being installed next week by County and City parks and rec. staff
- South Park plans should be completed sometime next week for us to have final review

Emergency Medical Service:

- EMS and Emergency Management attended the Girl Scout Weather Program this past Saturday afternoon. Both departments presented items on weather related emergencies and how to prepare and treat them. A picture of the event is attached.
- The EMS Department hosted groups of Career Shadow Day participants on Tuesday. Several groups of high school aged children attended and toured our building and got some hand-on experience with our equipment. A picture of some of the attendees is attached.
- January was another busy month for EMS with calls totaling 547 for the month.

Social Services:

Income Maintenance Statistics

Report Month: January, 2009

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations/ Changes	Total
Adult Medicaid	78	65	79	146	
Family & Children's Medicaid	339	340	256	521	
Food & Nutrition Services	298	262	268	424	
Work First Family Assistance	40	37	17	103	

*Includes 1053 SSI cases

Food & Nutrition Services increased by 38 cases in January up from the 17 in December. Intake volume increased from last month; however, not at the numbers seen in October. Work First was relatively stable in January although the overall caseload has increased from our "low point". Medicaid caseloads are remaining stable. There are indications that the stimulus package currently in Congress includes expansion of eligibility criteria for both Food and Nutrition Services as well as Medicaid. We do not know what the proposed changes will be; however, any expansion of eligibility criteria means increased applications for DSS as the public attempts to see if they qualify for assistance. Proposals for Food and Nutrition Services also implied increased benefit levels will be part of the package.

Interpreter Contacts: 87 Total

Spanish	87
Vietnamese	0
Other	0

Cooperative Extension:

Agriculture:

Farmers attended a Corn and Wheat production meeting done by Dr. Ron Heiniger. Topics included new varieties for 2009, wheat management and disease control.

An awards program was held for farmers and their spouses. 40 plus attended the event.

2 Master gardener classes were held; 13 attended

Several calls on squirrels, soil sampling and gardening.

The USDA wildlife officer visited and looked at beaver damage in upper Newland area. Several citings and lodges were spotted in the waterways.

Livestock judging was held for 19 different youth. The group is sponsoring a BBQ dinner on next Friday.

Family and Consumer Sciences

The Albemarle “we can” weight loss program involved 8 participants who loss 45 pounds. There was also hip and waist reduction along with lower blood pressure of some participants.

“Steps to health” programs were done at the Virginia Dare and Harriot Heights. 37 participants attended.

11 attended CPR/First Aid training.

Other: 1 Medicare part D session was held; 11 different classes of eat smart, move more were done reaching 123 children; 74 different youth participated in EFNEP sessions at Central Elem. School; 2 breast feeding moms were visited: 70 registered for a “Go Red” for the heart session is planned for Saturday. 70 women registered for the session at a local Baptist Church

4-H and Youth

4-H youth council was held. 9 youth attended.

Camp orientation was held at central elementary school. Nearly 100 different students learned about the summer camp to Columbia's Eastern Center.

OTHER:

Dr. Wanda Sykes, District Extension Director visited for the day on Friday, to visit with us for annual reviews.

Science fairs were judged by three agent staff members during the week at different elementary schools.

The state Governor's One on One Director visited our new director.

Information technology specialists did a routine visit to check on the state server. The team is from NC State University.

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