

## **Week of April 19, 2010:**

- I attended a meeting on Monday with representatives from DOT's Rail Division, Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad and Rail America regarding upgrades to the shortline track from Chesapeake to Edenton. DOT has recommended grant funding to repair bridges and upgrade sections of the track. We also discussed the status of the Weeksville spur which had previously been considered for abandonment. Norfolk Southern owns the track and they are no longer considering the abandonment of this track. In the past, the County and City had applied for grant funds to replace the track with a bicycle trail. Railroad companies are now taking the stance that even though the corridor would be preserved with a bicycle trail, the likelihood that they would ever be able to use the corridor for a railroad would be very unlikely in the future. I did ask the companies about some maintenance needs for the track as well as upgrading some rail crossings, specifically at Main St. Ext.
- I have participated in 3 conference calls this week with the NCACC regarding the draft legislation for expanded uses of the 911 funds and revising the makeup of the 911 Board to include more local government appointees. We have also developed a new proposed funding model that we are seeking to include in the legislation.
- Most of this week has been consumed with the budget and the Jail project. We have had numerous calls with USDA staff and our attorney regarding the closing documents. Jim Stewart has also been here this week to finish up the testing for the smoke evacuation system so that the Certificate of Occupancy can be issued. We need one letter from the HVAC engineer and we expect to receive the letter on Monday. We also have to add 3 more switches that are being installed now. Paul expects to finish the C.O. on Monday or Tuesday. The State Inspector will be here on Wednesday to complete their inspection.

## **The following are reports from some of our other departments:**

### **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

At the close of voting on Thursday, April 22, 2010, **1,136** voters have turned out to vote at One-Stop in the Board of Elections office. One-Stop continues through 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 1st.

### **Finance Office**

The County received \$11,464 from the N.C. Department of Revenue from the debt setoff program. Of this amount, \$909 is for EMS bills.

### **Clerk to the Board:**

During the month of March, 2010, 230 Pasquotank County residents who used the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card saved a total of \$13,696.15 off the cost of their prescription drugs. This was an average savings of \$10.33 or 25.26% off the retail price. Since we enrolled in the plan, Pasquotank County residents who have used the discount card have saved a total of \$234,689.14 on their prescriptions, and nationwide the savings have totaled over \$275 million.

### **Central Communications:**

April 11-17 was National Telecommunicator Week, the staff and some of the 911 Board members met for some finger foods and we handed out a few awards. Kay Hill won the Telecommunicator of the year award and Crystal Owen won the Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the year award. We also gave out a few gag awards one being the most improved in spelling and grammar which went to Bettie Smithson and the Aim High Award was presented to Tugboat who needs help with his spelling and grammar. All in all it was a fun night.

## **Cooperative Extension:**

### **4-H and Youth**

Northside and Central Elementary schools viewed the embryo development of a chicken from inside the egg by candling.

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

A half-acre garden was prepared in the county. 4-H youth will tend this garden and sell fresh produce at the local farmers market and donate the unsold vegetables to the Food Bank.

### **Agriculture**

A pesticide test was given for 14 adults who wish to receive their private and commercial pesticide license.

Soybean stalk samples were taken from 4 farms to test for nematodes.

Diagnosed a cabbage fertilizer problem on commercial cabbage.

Helped 3 people with soil report interpretations.

Recommended weed control in potatoes, asparagus, and home gardens.

Be on the look out for fire ants we have now started to treat mounds around the extension office.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

Steps to Health was offered at Harriot Heights and Virginia Dare for 40 participants

Assisted 5 people with Medicare Part D

Eat Smart Move More Weigh Less Group at ECSU for 4 participants

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training for 20 participants

Fire Safety was held for 84 child care providers and directors. This was a 2 hour training.

5 EFNEP home visits and a lesson at Mt. Zion was done on Check the Facts: Shop; Get the Best for Less

73 people were given a demonstration at the Food Bank

25-35 participants were given a demonstration at the Southgate Mall Albemarle Striders Meeting on: Move More Throughout the Day

Randy Keaton  
P.O Box 39  
Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0039  
252.335.0865 (phone)

252.335.0866 (fax)

[keatonr@co.pasquotank.nc.us](mailto:keatonr@co.pasquotank.nc.us)