

Week of April 27, 2009:

- We had our annual group health committee meeting on Monday to review our health insurance plan and discuss rates for next year. We currently have the lowest health insurance rates of any county in our region and our reserve funds have held steady from last year. Based on projected costs, the committee voted to increase rates by 4% for employees but to keep dependent rates the same. We currently have 1,248 individuals in our self-insured group. The new rate will be \$428 per month for each employee.
- We held our first budget meeting on Monday and our next budget meeting will be Monday at 2:15 pm. The regular finance committee meeting will begin at 4:00 pm.
- Chairman Stevenson, Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Wood and I attended the County Assembly Day in Raleigh on Wednesday. We heard briefings from Association staff on the state budget and legislation that has been introduced that will affect counties. We also heard from Senator Clodfelter on a proposal to change the sales tax system that would result in a lower rate but a broader base to include many services. We learned that the state budget is an additional \$1 billion short from earlier projections and the Governor has taken additional steps to address the shortfall including furloughs for state employees.
- I attended the event at the former Roanoke Bible College today where they formally announced the name change to Mid-Atlantic Christian University.
- I attended a retirement party at the Sheriff's Department today for Randy Smithson and Rosetta Poyner. Rosetta recently retired after 21 years of service and Randy is retiring after 20 years of service. Congratulations to both of them and we wish them a long and happy retirement.
- Attached is the latest land transfer tax report. We are increasing a little bit each month but not as much as I had hoped at this time.
- Bill Stevens has reported that our 2009 sales ratio is 88.14% which is the ratio of tax value compared to actual sales.
- Attached is the most recent Occupancy Tax report.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Emergency Medical Service

- Effective today, May 1, 2009 at 6:00 a.m., EMS is housing an ambulance in the Nixonton Township at Station 4 on a 24 hour, 7 day/week basis. Having an ambulance stationed in this district will greatly reduce response times to areas such as:
 - Nixonton
 - Weeksville
 - Mount Hermon
 - Glen Cove
 - Perquimans County EMS mutual aids
- EMS went to Camden County High School this past Monday and spoke with students about careers in EMS. We gave the presentation to 3 different classes.

PASQUOTANK-CAMDEN LIBRARY

- Thursday, April 23, Beathea Jackson gave a tour to 61 students from Pasquotank Elementary School
- Friday, April 24, Jackie King met with Wendy Jewett of the Northeastern Workforce Development to discuss ways the library can address the unemployment issue
- Saturday, April 25, bookmoblist, Monek Adams attended a program at the YMCA.
 - 41 children and 32 adults visited the bookmobile
 - 2 adults and 1 child received library cards

- Wednesday, April 29, Jackie King met with Arina Boldt of the Albemarle Hospital regarding health literacy

Stats

April 23 – April 29, 2009

Total materials checked out = 2,641

Total Computers checked out = 1,157

Total Patrons visiting the library = 3,132

Average number of patrons per day = 522

Total number of holds processed = 217

Total Library Cards Issued = 36

Total Faxes Sent = 41

Total Faxes Received = 14

Cooperative Extension:

Family and Consumer Sciences

Basic Financial management class was held for 22 parents and children

Parenting class was held for 3 clients

Dining with diabetes was held for 5 individuals

4 duration calls were made for breastfeeding moms

3 mother/baby sessions and 3 home visits were made to breast feeding mothers

19 head start participants learned about eating smart and healthy choices

10 classes were offered for 116 children at 4 different day care centers on Eat Smart Move More

Agriculture

A corn variety test was installed during the week.

The 4-H Livestock Show and Sale was held which featured an admirable turn out in terms of sponsorship. 61 goats, 19 steers, 106 hogs and 35 lambs were exhibited. The final sales and totals have not been completed at this time.

Emergency Management:

H1N1 Influenza

Emergency Management has been actively involved this week coordinating with our Public Health officials and other stakeholders with the current H1N1 Influenza (Swine flu) Outbreak Mitigation and Response. It is extremely important that all our agencies work together and ensure that we are delivering a unified, consistent message to the citizens in our region. Pre-planning for public health events has been ongoing for several years through our Albemarle Health & Safety Coalition and Regional Preparedness Committee. Last week Emergency Management from surrounding counties, Albemarle Regional Health Services, Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health District and ten District School Systems held a Pandemic Tabletop Exercise to facilitate advance planning for a possible pandemic influenza event at the local level. To ensure our information remains cohesive a "virtual" regional Joint Information Center is a part of

this plan where the Public Information Officers are able to share information that is being disseminated to the public and media.

Currently we are at a World Health Organization (WHO) 5 of 6 for Pandemic Alert – A pandemic is most likely imminent, but still uncertain of severity.

As of May 1st, 11:00 am CDC has confirmed 141 cases (19 states) in the United States with 1 death. None of these are in North Carolina.

Information concerning symptoms to look for and “Ways to Stay Healthy” have been posted on our county website and cable channel.

Additional and continued updated information can be found at the CDC website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

And WHO website: <http://www.who.int/en/>

Confirmed H1N1 Influenza cases can be tracked on Google Maps at: <http://www.swinemap.org>.

StormReady Community

Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management received official notification this week from NOAA's National Weather Service Office in Wakefield, VA of its designation as a Storm Ready Community. StormReady is a nationwide community preparedness program which provides clear-cut guidelines to communities on how to be proactive and work to improve local hazardous weather operations. Criteria to receive this designation include:

- Establishment of a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Having more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public
- Creation of a system that monitors weather conditions locally
- Promoting the importance of public readiness through community seminars
- Development a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises

Signs bearing the official StormReady logo will be received to be placed throughout Pasquotank and Camden Counties.



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

