

Week of May 24, 2010:

- The bulk of this week has been spent on the preparation and revisions to the budget. The budget will be presented at the June 7th meeting with a public hearing scheduled for the June 21st meeting. The state budget is continuing through its process and we are not hearing about any negative consequences for counties. Last year, the state made changes after July 1st that affected counties such as the withholding of part of our beer and wine tax and changes to jail fees. One positive development is the introduction of a bill that will allow greater flexibility for the use of 911 funds. This would allow us to shift some costs that are currently being paid by the general funds of Pasquotank, Camden and Elizabeth City. We would also have the option to pay for some one-time costs with 50% of the 911 fund balance which is expected to be \$950,000 on June 30.
- We received our Beer & Wine tax proceeds this week. The total was \$30,320 which is only one-third of our normal amount due to cuts by the state in the current year's budget. The amount for 2010-11 is supposed to return to normal levels of \$95,000.
- Attached is the Occupancy Tax report for April. Our revenue was up 14% compared to last year which is the first positive month this year.
- We had a good turnout for our blood drive this week with a total of 34 pints collected and a goal of 37 pints. A total of 44 people were seen on the bloodmobile, however we had 10 deferrals which is an unusually high number. Of the 44, 19 were county employees and 7 were clerk of court or probation/parole employees. There were also four first-time donors. Thanks go out to Karen Jennings for organizing the blood drive and encouraging people to donate. Thanks also go out to all of the donors.
- Most county offices will be closed on Monday for the Memorial Day holiday. A memorial ceremony will be held at West Lawn cemetery at 1:00 pm. The public is invited to attend.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

One-Stop voting begins on June 3, 2010 and runs through June 19, 2010, for the 2nd Democratic Primary Election in the Board of Elections office. Hours of voting are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 19th. There will be no registration between the primaries.

The Board of Elections has sought and received pre-clearance from the US Department of Justice for a temporary change of polling place location for the Nixonton Precinct. The regular polling place location, Towne South Church of Christ on Peartree Road, informed the Board of Elections of a previously scheduled event planned for June 22nd, and that the church would not be available for use as a polling place on that day. The Weeksville Lions Club, located at 2760 Peartree Road, graciously agreed to allow the use of their building for this election. Registered voters in Nixonton have been notified by mail of the temporary change in polling place, as required by law.

All precinct polling places will be open on Election Day for voting.

Register of Deeds:

Progress continues on our back scanning of old deaths, birth & marriages. We have almost completed scanning the births back to 1913. We have indexed all the births back to the point where the writing is no longer legible and we must rely on scanned image.

We have just begun scanning deaths and are in the 1990's. We have just begun scanning marriages and have completed 5 years so far.

We also have been doing a lot of cross training so we will be ready when the economy takes a turn. Tammie, Shirley and Penny have all begun training on how to index and have learned a lot in just a short amount of time.

Our new computer software from Courthouse Computers continues to be an asset to our office. We are now able to scan and index immediately upon recording an instrument. The public is also able to view (for free) information on the Internet immediately upon recordation. Most of our customers have been greatly pleased with this new system.

Tammie and Shirley attended a District Workshop on Indexing, Vital Records and Self Protection Awareness held in Martin County recently.

Water Department:

- The clear wells are mostly finished and the crew is packing up to leave.
- The red iron for the plant has not been completely erected, but it will be soon and the painters should begin painting Thursday.
- All three pipe contractors are released from the stop work order and are laying pipe.
- The pipe contractor who began laying 24" pipe at Wal-Mart is finishing tying the 24" together, which finishes the 24" from the plant to Wal-Mart. A large part of this 24" pipe has already been pressure tested.

Emergency Medical Service

After a long application process, we are very proud to announce that we have received the following from the North Carolina Office of EMS; all valid through April, 2016:

- Approval as an official North Carolina EMS System. Under our EMS System, the following agencies operate:
 - Pasquotank-Camden EMS
 - Pasquotank County Rescue Squad
 - Pasquotank-Camden Elizabeth City Central Communications Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program
 - Harrell Medical Transport
- Renewal of the following licensures to operate as an EMS Agency
 - Pasquotank-Camden EMS
 - Pasquotank County Rescue Squad
- Renewal of the Pasquotank-Camden Elizabeth City Central Communications Center to operate as an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Center
- EMS, along with many other agencies, participated in the simulated airplane crash drill at the USCG Base on Thursday. We had the opportunity to be able to integrate with many other agencies and also got a change to practice our mass casualty skills. WAVY TV and FOX both presented stories on our exercise last night and it was front page news in The Daily Advance today.
- The Elizabeth City Fire Department had a live burn on Sunday on Poindexter Street. EMS was standing by in order to assist fire department members in the case of a medical or trauma emergency.
- EMS has been working with the Elizabeth City Fire Department this week training on patient extrication in difficult situations; i.e., from rooftops, upstairs, etc. We trained on the use of stokes baskets and stair chairs and even how to use a ladder truck to remove a patient from the upper story of a home.

- The EMS instructors of Pasquotank-Camden EMS met with Chowan County EMS in order to begin the groundwork on holding an EMT-Intermediate class for Chowan County EMS personnel. The Pasquotank-Camden EMS Teaching Institution would be the sponsoring teaching institution of Chowan. If all goes well with the Intermediate section, we may also teach a paramedic class in the future.

Emergency Management

Thursday, the Pasquotank-Camden LEPC sponsored a Full-Scale Hazardous Materials/Mass Casualty Exercise at the United States Coast Guard Base. The exercise involved multiple agencies and focused on emergency responder command and control coordination, critical decisions, internal/external communications, health/safety issues and the integration of Local, State and Federal assets necessary to save lives and protect public health and defend the environment.

The scenario was based on a large passenger aircraft having an in-flight emergency that was forced to land at USCG Base, Elizabeth City. Upon arrival, the aircraft skid off the runway striking an 80,000 gallon fuel tank located in the USCG Fuel Farm, subsequently rupturing the tank and creating a 40,000 gallon JP-5 fuel spill before bursting into fire. Multiple casualties occurred as the result of the airplane crash and the JP-5 fuel spilled onto the surrounding grounds and into the waters of the North End drainage canal.

The exercise identified areas of strengths as well as areas needing improvement. Feedback from participants and evaluators will be compiled and an After Action Report and Improvement Plan published.

In addition to the story in the Daily Advance, WAVY TV 10 covered the exercise. The story can be viewed at <http://www.wavy.com/dpp/military/Disaster-drill-at-Elizabeth-City-Coast-Guard-base>.

Cooperative Extension:

4-H and Youth

Youth are continuing to work on presentations.

Magic of Electricity was conducted with Northside Elementary.

Planning meetings for summer enrichment activities are being held.

Agriculture

Planted the soybean variety trail with Jeff Small being the cooperator. Information from this trial will be distributed to Pasquotank farmers

Met with farmers and gave recommendations on problem solving strategies in corn crops.

The 4-H garden was sprayed and cleared of weeds this week. All produce will be sold at the downtown market with excess donated to the Albemarle Food Bank and Food Pantry.

Family and Consumer Sciences

EFNEP had 6 home visits

EFNEP held programs at Youth Build for 15 participants. Topics: Shop, Get the Best for Less and What's for Dinner

Eat Smart Move More class at ECSU was held

Steps to Health was held at Harriot Heights

Parenting Matters session is still underway at the extension center

Other

The annual Don Baker Endowment Golf Tournament was held on Thursday. Monies from this are used for scholarships for local youth who attend a 4 year college in the agriculture field.

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