

## Week of June 2, 2008:

I was out of the office on Friday so this is a delayed report.

- Much of the week was devoted to finishing the preparation of the budget. The budget will officially be presented tonight with 2 options. The first option is a 6 cent tax increase and a \$500,000 loan from the Water Fund. The second option is a 5 cent tax increase and an \$800,000 loan from the Water Fund.
- Sheriff Cartwright and I participated in a conference call with the architect and our attorney for the jail project. We discussed the status of the project and the ongoing management of the construction project as we complete the remedial work and move back into general construction. I received a letter from Jim Brennan on Friday lifting the stop work order for Quadrants 2 & 3 and I forwarded the letter to NC Monroe notifying them that the stop work order was lifted. I also sent a letter to NC Monroe last week notifying them about the testing costs and additional inspection costs that we have incurred since the project was stopped. The total costs so far are \$413,000 which will be withheld from the contractor. Finally, we have had more discussions about the brick cavity wall and our attorney has suggested that NC Monroe resume work on the remainder of the building while we explore another alternative of determining whether the entire cavity wall is defective.
- Jerry Newell, EMS Director, reported to me today that 3 of our ambulances are in the shop. All 3 are the models with the 6.0L Ford engines. These are the same engines that we have had trouble with before and EMS agencies nationwide are having similar problems.

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

#### Emergency Management:

This morning, the smoke plume has slowly migrated more to the south of east or across central Dare County toward Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe and then out to sea. For the remainder of today, the wind conditions in Eastern NC will be rather light and variable. With a lesser degree of a defined wind direction and mid-afternoon interactions with the sea-breeze infiltrating from the coast, there is a greater chance that the smoke plume will spread out throughout the counties surrounding the fire. People in the Washington, Tyrrell. **There are more and more indications that suggest that winds will become more southwesterly. If verified, the smoke plume should push across the Albemarle Sound toward Elizabeth City rather than more across the Lake Mattamuskeet area as with the past couple of days.**

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> two Newland fire fighters, one Weeksville fire fighter and one South Camden fire fighter, along with two Pasquotank County tankers deployed to Hyde County to assist NC Forestry with the Evans wildfire. They will be deployed until Wednesday night.

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> a crop/wood land fire was discovered by a NC Forestry plane approximately 2 miles west of the prison off US 17 bypass. The ground fire is contained to about 20 acres at this time and NC Forestry is working to connect a pumping system in an attempt to irrigate the burning area. Approximately two acres of soybeans were destroyed and several pieces of "pull type" farm equipment were damaged in the fire before it was contained. NC DOT has placed dense smoke ahead signs on the bypass as a precautionary measure.

A jet skier that ran out of fuel after leaving the boat races late Sunday was reported missing last night. He was last seen at Camden Point Shores in route to Currituck. NC Wildlife, USCG Small Boats and USCG Elizabeth City Air Station responded and conducted search operations until 4am this morning. NC Wildlife resumed search at 6am. The subject was found walking down the road at 6:30 am this morning; he had made it to shore and had walked through the swamp to the road.

The heat wave will continue through Tuesday with heat indexes rising to 105°- 107°. Our first chance of relief appears to be Wednesday when the highs are predicted to be in the upper 80s and we should have a 40 percent chance of rain.

## **Cooperative Extension:**

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

100 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 45 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were reached at two elementary schools on healthy eating and exercising practices

57 youth ages 1-5 were reached at local daycare centers

A program entitled "Portion Control" was held at Newland United Methodist Church

Helped 2 seniors with their Medicare Part-D

10 breastfeeding moms were contacted either by phone or in person

WIC referred 3 new breastfeeding moms to our program

### **AGRICULTURE**

Local farmers have begun harvesting wheat. We have reports of 55 – 100 bushels per acre being harvested so far.

Tour was held at the potato variety test. Mark Clough of the Vernon James Research Center reviewed the traits of round white, red skinned, purple skinned and russet varieties tested side by side in this field comparison. Expected harvest for potatoes will be around June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Attended session with Norris Tolson, Director of the North Carolina Bio-Tech Center, Research Triangle Park in Raleigh, and the Eastern Bio-Tech Board at the Vernon James Center.

### **4-H**

Continued to help youth with their presentations. County Presentation Day will be held at the extension office on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10 starting at 3:00 p.m. Youth must participate in County Day to be eligible for District Activity Day held later in the month.

Weeksville Lions Club held a recognition dinner for winners and their parents of the recent 2008 4-H Livestock Show and Sale.

### **OTHER**

Interviews were held for youth that are interested in joining the Pasquotank Youth Council. This council is sanctioned by the Pasquotank Board of Commissioners and the Elizabeth City Council. Youth must attend monthly meetings and at least one Commissioners and City Council Meeting during their term.

23 youth participated in a Positive Youth Development Study. This survey will be given to over 4000 youth across the country and youth will be asked questions about their future plans, current activities, physical and emotional development and about their goals.

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