

Week of September 21, 2009:

- I attended my third 911 Study Group meeting this week in Holly Springs. Attached is a progress report on our group's work so far. We are beginning to write a State 911 plan which will be presented to the 911 Board upon its completion.
- We had a passing of the torch this week in the Tax Office. Bill Stevens will be retiring next week and he was honored with a party today that was given by his staff and friends. Patrice Stewart was named by the Board of Commissioners as the Acting Tax Administrator effective October 1st. Congratulations to Bill on his retirement and to Patrice on her appointment.
- Attached is the most recent Occupancy Tax report for August. Collections were down 13.5% compared to August, 2008.
- Please mark your calendar for October 15th at 6:00 pm. We will be having the ribbon cutting for the River Road Sports Complex. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail. Soccer games on each of the fields will follow the ribbon cutting.
- I have been trying to identify banks this week that would be willing to buy the Qualified School Construction bonds that were allocated to Pasquotank County. We have been allocated the ability to issue \$1.4 million in interest free bonds to replace the HVAC system at Central elementary school. So far, only one bank has expressed interest in the bonds. No of these bonds have been issued yet in North Carolina and many communities are facing the same problems with a lack of interest from investors. I will be talking with the LGC and our Bond Counsel next week to determine our next step. I have been keeping the school system informed of our efforts.
- We received \$3,319,764.24 from the bond proceeds on September 24th for expenditures covered by the reimbursement resolution for the R.O. Water Plant.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

We are into the first full week of One-Stop voting. As of close of business on Wednesday, September 23rd, 489 voters have voted One-Stop in the BOE office.

There have been 9 same-day registrations during the One-Stop voting period.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot by-mail is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 29th.

Central Communications:

Central Communications is down one Telecommunicator (911 Operator), and we are advertising for the vacant position. The staff had training from Ashley Stoop of DHS on the H1N1 virus last week. Numerous procedural items have taken place this week with ECFD and EMS running some calls together and the new numbering scheme for ECFD apparatus.

Register of Deeds:

I attended the NC Association of Registers of Deeds conference in Raleigh from September 19th to September 23rd. It being my first conference, I was at times overwhelmed as I had never had to think about the administrative side of my job before. There were 55 bills introduced that could affect our office in different ways. Many of those were discussed. The most relevant was the increase of charges of recording Deeds and Deeds of Trust effective October 1st.

There are 19 new Registers of Deeds since the last conference which was held in September of 2008. Most of us had worked in the office before for a number of years before becoming the

Register of Deeds. It was stated that this was the highest number of new people at one time ever. We were able to meet with many of our vendors and hear about the services they provide.

We were able to tour the Governor's Mansion and meet Governor Perdue, who honored us with a short speech. We also were visited by the Mascots of the various university teams...the Wolf, The Blue Devil, The Ram, Petey the Pirate and a few more.

I also received my certification pin as a Register of Deeds and Clem received her certification pin as an Assistant.

Our office is continuing to work hard on scanning and indexing old records and making a lot of progress.

GIS:

We have been working with River Road Middle School on the proposed bike path and fine tuning the response areas for the fire departments for Central Communications. I will be gone most of next week to attend the NC Property Mappers' Association Conference in Durham.

Clerk to the Board:

During the month of August Pasquotank County residents who used the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card saved a total of \$11,714.21 on their prescriptions. A total of 253 users saved an average of 24.39% or \$10.63 off 1,102 prescriptions. Nationwide more than 18 million prescriptions have been filled and \$213 million saved by those using the drug discount card.

Solid Waste:

We had a comprehensive inspection of our landfill by three state inspectors last week. We had a few minor items they wanted us to change, but over all they said it was a well run operation.

Pat McDowell, Don Bunch and I went to Raleigh on Thursday to meet with the landfill permitting section of the state to discuss future expansion of the C&D disposal area. It was a very productive meeting and we are waiting on instructions from them on how to proceed.

The bid opening for the three operations at the landfill area is scheduled for September 30th at 11:00.

We are making preparation for the expansion of the Coast Guard recycling center.

We are in the process of replacing the attendants building at the Wellfield Recycling center. This is the last building to be replaced.

Emergency Medical Service

- October 4th marks the date for Pasquotank EMS Paramedics Jeffrey Davis and Josh Hammond to participate in the state finals of the Paramedic Competition to be held in Greensboro. They've already won the regional competition again this year, so they're now going for the state championship.
- Monday of this week marked the beginning of a mutual aid agreement between Pasquotank-Camden EMS and the Elizabeth City Fire Department. The "automatic" mutual aid agreement will send the fire department out on certain high priority EMS calls in order to lend additional assistance within the city. We have utilized the new plan two times this week and it seems to work very well.

- Jerry attended the Camden County Board of Commissioners meeting this past Monday night in order to brief Camden County officials and residents on the addition of an ambulance in Camden County from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., 7 days a week. The unit is staged at Camden County Fire Department Station 12 on Sawyer's Creek Road.
- Work is nearing completion on Rescue 7. This is one of the ambulances that was purchased from Albemarle Health that we are converting into an emergency ambulance. All of the warning devices, including lights and siren, have been installed by staff at EMS during the past week. We will send it in for striping on Monday. Estimated time before we are able to officially put the ambulance on the road is two weeks.
- Don't forget about this year's Fire and Life Safety Show beginning October 5th. The show is organized by the Elizabeth City Fire Department and teaches fire safety to thousands of children (and adults) each year through this event held on stage at COA. EMS Director Jerry Newell will once again be emceeing the show with Fire Marshal Barry Overman.

Emergency Management

Monday we gave a presentation on Hurricane Preparedness to the Senior Center in Camden County and also distributed information on the Special Needs Registry.

Damage Assessment training was held this week for Nixonton and Weeksville Volunteer Fire Departments. Following significant events immediate damage assessment is conducted by local officials that will help determine if a Federal Disaster Declaration is received by the city/county. Local personnel must be trained to conduct this expedient damage assessment. Nixonton and Weeksville are the second and third fire departments to receive this training with Newland having completed theirs last month.

I participated in the second of a series of conference calls and meetings being held concerning our Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) funding. I have been asked to serve on the EMPG committee, representing mid-size counties, which will be developing the proposal for disbursement of EMPG funding to local government. Funding formulas utilized in the past have granted funding based mainly on population and the proposal presently being developed is for funding to be distributed based mainly on performance.

Rebecca and I spent Thursday and Friday in Atlantic Beach at a Regional Planning/Exercise Workshop. Thirteen of our northeast North Carolina counties have received a grant to update county Emergency Operation Plans and develop a Regional Plan which includes the development of a regional resource database. The last two days have been a part of a numerous meetings, conference calls and workshops working towards this initiative and included an exercise, "Operation Twister," involving a mass casualty incident in Pasquotank, Perquimans and Gates Counties designed to determine strengths and weaknesses in the newly created database and to identify critical regional issues and potential solutions.

Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management will be hosting a state-sponsored Public Information Officer class October 7-9. The instructor for this class is the former PIO for Crime Control and Public Safety and is extremely beneficial for any personnel that have to interact with the media. There is no charge to take this class. Application may be made at: <http://149.168.212.15/TRAINING/Flyers/basicpiopasq.pdf>

Cooperative Extension:

Agriculture

The annual wheat production meeting was held to inform farmers of new varieties and planting information. Dr. Ron Heiniger was the speaker.

Several calls were received regarding landscaping and gardening.

2 cabbage growers had issues with diseases and insects. We hope to have fixed the problem.

Farmers are continuing to harvest corn with mixed results. Several yields exceeded 230 bushels

FCS

Several office visits were received on Medicare part D.

EFNEP visits were made at DSS and at a new group of day care workers

A parenting session and blood pressure screening was done at a grocery store.

4-H

The youth council met during the week.

Plans were made for the 100 year celebration at the Museum of the Albemarle. The event was set for Oct. 11.

Several open houses at elementary schools were held.

Other

The commissioner's youth council had its first meeting of the year. 19 youth attended.

Social Services:

Income Maintenance Statistics

Report Month: August, 2009

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations Changes	Total Caseload
Adult Medicaid	54	32	121	94	2305*
Family & Children's Medicaid	321	307	254	521	3810
Food & Nutrition Services	333	312	271	529	2667
Work First Family Assistance	49	50	14	78	167

*Includes 1080 SSI cases

Food & Nutrition Services, Family Medicaid and Work First saw intake increase slightly during August while Adult Medicaid saw a slight decrease in applications. As stated last month, the changes were minimal and intake is remaining relatively stable. Adult Medicaid and Food & Nutrition Services caseloads increased. Family Medicaid and Work First saw a minimal decrease in caseload size.

To save approximately \$480,000 per month, Medicaid cards will now be issued annually. The Medicaid card

will no longer be used to verify coverage; instead, the card will verify the Medicaid ID number and Carolina ACCESS primary care physician. The provider will be responsible for using a verification system to determine the client's level of coverage. We will no longer provide verification for providers; we will direct them to one of the verification systems. If a client loses their Medicaid card, we will no longer provide a replacement card. Replacement card requests will be made electronically and the replacement cards will be mailed from Raleigh.

August saw another slight decrease in interpreter contacts. The two interpreters remain on contract and we are continuing to use bilingual staff as the primary source for interpretation with contract interpreters as the backup.

Interpreter Contacts: 33 Total

Spanish	32
Vietnamese	0
Other	1

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