

Week of October 5, 2009:

- I attended another meeting of the 911 Study Commission this week in Raleigh. We are working on our final report for the 911 Board. Once the report is submitted to the 911 Board, they will review and make a recommendation to the General Assembly for action in the Short Session. We have completed the expanded uses of 911 fees to include dispatching equipment i.e. radio consoles, towers, microwaves, and repeaters. The big discussion this week was minimum standards for 911 centers, and next generation 911. This would include text messaging, twitter, etc. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 21st.
- I attended a regional county managers meeting today at the Albemarle Commission. The main topics were the status of the child support enforcement switchover to counties and the status of Albemarle Mental Health. We are going to invite Leza Wainwright to our next meeting for an update on the provision of mental health services in our area and the next step for Albemarle Mental Health. The counties will have to meet soon so that a decision can be made before July 1st.
- I have been working with the school system on the issuance of qualified school construction bonds for the replacement of the HVAC system at Central Elementary. The State had set a deadline of December 31st for the issuance of the bonds. Due to the lack of a market for the bonds, the State is going to extend that deadline until December 31, 2010. This will give us more time to find buyers for the bonds and complete the legal work necessary to issue the bonds.
- The final inspection process is continuing for the Albemarle District Jail project. Jim Stewart has been here this week going over the punch list. He has now invited USDA to begin their inspection process which is required before they will close on the loan.
- I was contacted this week by representatives from Channel 1 which had placed the TVs in the old Middle School as part of an arrangement with the school system. They wanted to remove their equipment since it was no longer being used. After confirming with the school system, they were allowed to remove their equipment.
- Fright Nights begins tonight at 7:00 pm at the Old Middle School. Come out and see numerous county and city employees volunteering to raise money for the various charitable causes that are sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The key will be identifying the employees.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections will meet to certify the election results on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2009, H. Rick Gardner submitted a written request for a Run-Off Election for the Mayor of Elizabeth City race.

On Thursday, October 8, 2009, Dennis Stallings submitted a written request for a Run-Off Election for City Councilman in the Third Ward.

The date for the Municipal Run-Off Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

GIS

I attended the NC Property Mappers Conference last week where it was announced that the state would be flying aerials for the entire state in the 2010 flying season (Feb-Mar) and the aerials would be provided to all counties free of charge. This is being funded through a grant from the 911 Board. There are a lot of issues that have to be decided quickly. The Local Government

Committee, of which I am the chair, is actively participating in the discussions so that local governments will get a product that they can use.

The state hopes to fly ¼ of the state every year and pay 100% of the cost in the years following. I am on the planning committee for that and will keep the commissioners informed of the progress.

The GIS office is seeing an uptick in the requests for maps and data.

Binders were ordered to allow us to make the Sanford Insurance Maps dating from 1885-1931 available at the tax counter. These maps show the locations of buildings in the downtown area. They are quite interesting to look at.

Emergency Medical Service

- Jerry Newell assisted the Elizabeth City Fire Department with the Life and Fire Safety Show at COA Monday through Friday of this week. The show was a huge success with over 4000 children coming to COA to see the show.
- The “New” Rescue 7 is currently being stocked with supplies and should be in service by the end of next week.
- Jennifer Harris, Walter Meads and Jerry Newell an EMS billing seminar in Caldwell County. The seminar is held by our billing/field data software vendor, Ortivus, and will give us insight on how to more thoroughly operate our billing software.

Emergency Management

Monday we spent another day at ECSU working on updating their Emergency Operations Plan. We’ve gathered pertinent information during these meetings and are now working to compile the information, restructure the plan format and bring the plan into NIMS compliancy.

This week we hosted a Public Information Officers Class. There were 20 students in the class representing schools, Public Health, Forestry, law enforcement, fire, hospitals, Emergency Management and local government. Thursday’s class included a Media Panel where Radio, TV and Newspaper representatives gave short presentations on their part of the news business (what they like, deadlines, how they operate, anything they thought PIOs should know about their end of the business. Jeff Hampton, The Virginian Pilot; Sam Walker, East Carolina Radio and Lori Crouch, WAVY TV 10 were the guest panelists.

Thursday I attended a planning meeting at ECSU for an upcoming exercise.

Friday I met with CDR Melburn Dayton and Thom Roddy at the USCG to work out the logistics for the November 4th training being presented by SBI, FBI, 42nd CST, SMAT III and other agencies (see attached flyer). The USCG, Elizabeth City has graciously provided us with a facility for the training as well as grounds to display these agencies’ equipment.

FYI - Please note that the BJ Wholesale Club has identified that 10 million mailers are to be delivered on the east coast, east of Mississippi and from Maine to Florida, as part of a marketing push. These mailers were found to contain a powder-like substance, which caused an incident recently in Norfolk, Virginia. The powder-like substance on these mailers has been identified as baby powder, which is a blend of talc and fragrance. During production of these mailers, a glue application is first included for card affixing and next a baby powder is used on the machines to avoid the glue from sticking to the cylinders of the bindery and affixing equipment. This is common practice throughout the industry.

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