

## **Week of May 19, 2008:**

- Most of this week has been spent preparing budget proposals for the Board to review at last night's budget work session. This year's budget has been dominated by a shortfall of revenues, particularly sales tax. This has had a ripple effect on the budget by reducing our fund balance and reducing revenue for next year. The total shortfall in revenues is \$2,316,000 which is equal to 7.5 cents on our tax rate. After the work session last night, the Board came to a consensus on a preliminary budget based on a 5 cent tax increase. Highlights of the budget include almost flat spending overall even with the tax increase, a \$500,000 loan from the Water Fund, a 1.5% cost of living increase for employees, the freezing of a vacant position and the elimination of 2 existing positions, reduction of travel by 50% in all departments, elimination of most capital outlay purchases and the financing of the remaining vehicle purchases. The proposed budget also includes a 60% cut in the requested funding for the Health Department, COA, and the School System. Finally, the amounts for non-profits would be cut by one-third and the contingency budget would be eliminated. This has been an extremely difficult budget year and I do not remember any two budget years that have had such a dramatic difference from one year to the next.
- I am pleased to report that Channel 14 has finally been moved to the Courthouse so that we have a direct feed to Time Warner's head end via a fiber optic line. The quality of the signal is dramatically better and I would like to thank Wilbur Haynes and Sammy Roberson of Time Warner, and Collin Flatness, our IT Director for completing this project. We are looking forward to each department utilizing the channel to provide information to our citizens. The next step is to get cable TV to each house in the county that wants it.

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

### **PASQUOTANK-CAMDEN LIBRARY**

- ✓ On Monday, May 20, Brownie Troop #723 donated 13 new books to the library.
- ✓ On Thursday, May 22, Peggy Brabble (Children's Library Assistant) went to ECSU's Laboratory School and read to the students.

#### **WEEKLY STATS (May 16-22)**

Total Patrons visiting the library = 3,205  
Average number of patrons per day = 534  
Total Items checked out = 2,481  
Total number of Library Cards Issued = 48  
Total community room use = 7; Total attendance 143  
Total number of faxes transmitted = 39  
Total number of faxes received = 6

### **Emergency Medical Service**

- The week of May 18-24 is EMS Week, with this year's theme being "Your Life Is Our Mission." We are celebrating EMS this week by giving back to the public we serve. Pasquotank EMS, in conjunction with Albemarle Health, has been offering free stroke screenings. These screenings include blood pressure checks, full spectrum cholesterol checks as well as blood glucose screenings. Our first day offering these screenings was Monday and we had 44 people come through the mobile command post for screenings. Our final day of screenings is today until 8:00 p.m. in the Wal Mart parking lot.
- Congratulations go out to Brittany Wyatt, who is completing her Girl Scout Gold Award. As part of her community service project, Brittany collected, cleaned and packaged stuffed animals for EMS to use as "comfort toys." Comfort toys are given to patients who enjoy the companionship of a stuffed animal in stressful situations.

- We are continuing our migration to wireless dispatch. We have outfitted our first MCT (Mobile Computer Terminal) with wireless dispatch software and the Pasquotank County IT Department is putting the finishing touches on our connectivity. The MCT will be ready for use next week.
- Good luck to the EMT-Intermediate students who are testing at the state level this weekend.
- EMS has recently taken delivery of its newest ambulance. It is a Chevrolet 4500 series medium duty ambulance and is the second of its type in the EMS fleet. This year's ambulance features a more stable air ride system, rooftop A/C and heat and a rear activated air dump system. These types of ambulances are expected to give us a 10-year life expectancy, which is double the life span ambulances previously purchased by the County,
- Josh Hammond and Jeff Williams held a 12-lead EKG continuing education class at the EMS building last week. The comprehensive training included many aspects of reading, interpreting and treating heart problems in the field. Approximately 20 technicians attended the class.

## **Cooperative Extension:**

### **Family and Consumer Sciences**

146 different 1-5 year old children at child centers learned about healthy eating and exercise

11 daycare providers attended the Fun, Fruit and Veggie Vacations Workshop to learn how to incorporate new foods into the daycare center.

A basic computer class was held for 7 senior citizens. They learned how to connect to the internet and how to do a basic search.

Helped three people with their Medicare Part-D

2 home visits were held for new breastfeeding moms

Several breastfeeding and durations calls were made.

Brochures were started for the World of Breastfeeding Week

### **Agriculture**

Maintained the garden plots and the elementary schools for the Kids in the Garden program

IA potential site was identified for an on-site nematode test.

Preparations were started for the NE Ag Expo.

Met with farmers on problems in corn and wheat and provided them with recommendations.

Harvested the lettuce variety trial and sent the first samples to Dole Foods.

Addressed master gardeners about low maintenance landscaping and septic system maintenance.

Had numerous calls on spur weed, lawn diseases and problems with vegetable gardens.

### **4-H & Youth**

394 attended the 4-H Livestock Banquet on Thursday. The sale exceeded \$200,000.

Positive youth develop study was done by the commissioners youth council and Pasquotank High students. This is a national study done in 25 states.

Youth were helped to complete their posters and speeches for their 4-H presentations.

A new 4-H horse club was started and they had their first meeting at the extension center.

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