

Week of August 13, 2007:

- I was on vacation the week of August 6th and this is my first weekly report since the dedication of the new buildings. I would like to thank all of the staff and departments that helped to plan for and work at the event. Special thanks go out to **Karen Jennings** for coordinating and planning the dedication ceremony. Other departments and employees that assisted with the event include Jerry Newell - sound system, Jeff Simpson and staff – tents and bleachers, Pug Taylor and staff – cleanup, setup and troubleshooting, Jackie King, Becky Callison and staff – setup and tours of building, Christy Saunders and staff – setup and tours, Ed Conran – setup and tours, Jerrell Saunders – setup, Jerren Saunders – videotape of ceremony, Sheriff's department – traffic control and tours, Lynn Scott – coordination assistance and cleanup, District Attorney's staff – tours, County Commissioners, Barry Overman and Step of Faith, City Fire Department honor color guard, Sponsors and vendors. We had approximately 400 people in attendance on a beautiful, hot day.
- Last week was mostly spent on catching up from being on vacation and preparing the agenda before I went out of town again for the County Commissioners Annual Conference in Fayetteville. I was one of the speakers at a workshop on regional landfills.
- Attached is the latest sales tax report. We are up 13.6% for the year with one month left to go for the year. We budgeted 8.58%.
- Bill Owens contacted Durwood Laughinghouse with Norfolk & Southern railroad last week to try and help resolve the issue of abandoned railroad tracks in the city and county. Mr. Laughinghouse agrees that the tracks should be paved over, but he does not actually have the authority to approve it because the tracks are leased to Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad and it would be their decision under the lease agreement. Mr. Laughinghouse is trying to help resolve the issue and is trying to contact the person with Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad who has that authority. Brad Ovitt, general manager of Chesapeake & Albemarle in Ahoskie who sent the letter to DOT in 2004 telling them not to pave over any more tracks is no longer with Chesapeake & Albemarle and a new general manager has not started yet. There is apparently someone in the Norfolk area Mr. Laughinghouse was going to try to contact.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:

I have been assisting departments making equipment purchases approved through their state grant. We've been comparing prices and trying to shop for the best product with the lowest price to get the most for the money.

We had a loss of one fire fighter in one of our departments during the month due to an accident. It was a difficult month for many in that department as a result.

We have been informed that one of our departments is in the running for a FEMA grant to replace some out dated equipment. Hopefully we will hear they are approved in the near future.

Changes have been implemented in dispatching during the day for a few departments due to low daytime manpower. More departments are being called sooner to make sure enough manpower is on the way to incidents. Many volunteers are out of the area during the day at their jobs.

I met with each department at their regular business meetings this month so I may be available to all members who may have questions or comments.

We completed the specifications for two replacement trucks for Weeksville. Requests for bids were sent out and those will be opened next month.

I have submitted pictures and information to Julie for the new county web site for the fire departments.

I want to thank Nixonton Fire Department for providing me with a complete set of fire gear to be available for response during the day with low manpower in Pasquotank County departments. The gear I used before was from my home department and approved by the chief there.

Here is a summary of the incidents the fire departments responded to and their training hours for the month of July:

Nixonton:

4 Vehicle crashes
2 Calls cancelled enroute
1 Electrical problem
1 EMS assist
1 Smoke scare
24 man hours on incidents
56 man hours on training

Weeksville:

1 Vehicle crash
2 Controlled burns
2 Electrical problems
1 False alarm
1 Good intent call
1 Medical assist
2 Brush fires
2 Rubbish fires

2 Fires in structures
72 man hours on incidents
88 man hours on training

Providence:

1 Vehicle crash
1 Call cancelled enroute
2 False alarms
1 Vehicle fire
2 Brush fires
2 Severe weather incidents
1 Smoke scare
1 Unauthorized burning
65 man hours on incidents
92 man hours on training

Newland:

1 Controlled burn
3 Calls for assistance cancelled enroute
1 Brush fire
13 man hours on incidents
53 man hours on training

Parks and Recreation:

- Set up tents and bleachers for the dedication of the two new buildings
- Set up tents for National night out
- See Meads Pool report
- Meads pool was closed for a few days due to thunder storm knocking out pump.

Cooperative Extension:

Family and Consumer Sciences

2 breastfeeding duration calls were made for "in home" moms

Input was collected from breastfeeding moms on the in home BF program

18 workers attended a child care training on Thursday evening

56 pre school youth learned about nutrition education at day care centers

Agriculture

Insects are becoming a concern for soybean producers. Farmers have begun treatment of fields during the week.

12 junior master gardeners participated in a training session for on plant science.

15 attended a satellite teleconference at EC State Univ.

68 youth and 14 volunteers participated in the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. Participants learned about ATV laws, PTO safety, household chemicals, grain bin safety, pesticide safety and farm injury prevention. A guest speaker lectured on how he was severely injured as a 14 year old and lost his eye and about half of his teeth.

4-H

A 4-H youth council meeting was held with 8 attending

A "college bound" night was held for 14 youth. The two hour seminar featured information on testing, study habits, selecting and dealing with roommates, "campus savvy ideas" and scholarship information. Parents also attended.

A reception was held for 12 youth who excelled in this year's 4-H state congress.

A booth was done at the United Way 50 year celebration at the waterfront.

Solid Waste:

We finished all of our state reports this week.

The new excavator that we received a grant for arrived at the end of last week. See picture.



Board of Elections:

The following is the new sign for our office.



Randy Keaton
P.O Box 39
Elizabeth City, NC 27907-0039
252.335.0865 (phone)
252.335.0866 (fax)
keatonr@co.pasquotank.nc.us