

A-NPDC Newsletter

A-NPDC Applies for \$60,000 Virginia Hazard Mitigation Grant

At the request of Accomack County and Northampton County, the A-NPDC has applied for a \$60,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to conduct the Eastern Shore Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Project. Beginning November 1, 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will require local governments to have an adopted and approved Hazard Mitigation

Plan in order to qualify for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding after a natural disaster. Currently, none of the Eastern Shore's 21 local governments have Hazard Mitigation Plans.

The Eastern Shore Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Project will be the first step in preparing an Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan. When the risk assessment is completed and approved, the A-NPDC

will apply for additional funding to develop a Hazard Mitigation Strategy and Plan for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The adopted and approved Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan will enable local governments to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants to prevent and mitigate damage to residential, commercial, and industrial property due to coastal flooding and other natural hazards.

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Webpage of the Month—Seaside Heritage Program

www.deq.state.va.us/coastal/vshpweb/homepage.html



The Virginia Seaside Heritage Program (VSHP) is a new public-private partnership, initiated and funded by the Virginia Coastal Program to address management of the aquatic resources of the barrier islands, bays, and salt

marshes along Virginia's Eastern Shore. This area holds tremendous potential to demonstrate appropriate management of economic development and habitat restoration within a rare and fragile ecosystem.

The Virginia Seaside Heritage Program is the second focal area chosen by the Coastal Policy Team to receive significant funding and concentrated coastal resource management effort. The Virginia Seaside Heritage Program will build on the momentum of recent restoration successes, like those witnessed in the Virginia Oyster Heritage Program

(VOHP), the Coastal Program's first focal area, funded from 1999 - 2001.

Like the VOHP, the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program is an ambitious three-year program. The program partners are developing the tools necessary to support long-term restoration and management strategies. Spatial data inventory and collection is a central goal of the program. By digitally mapping seaside resources, VSHP can evaluate existing conditions and fine-tune its efforts.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **May 15**—2:00 *Economic Development Commission, A-NPDC office*
- **May 15**—4:00 *Public Service Authority, A-NPDC office*
- **May 19**—7:30 *A-NPDC meeting, 23372 Front Street, Accomac*
- *See calendar on page 3 for complete listing*

A-NPDC News Summary

Exmore

Bids for sewer construction were opened on April 17. All bids were over budget, including the low bidder, R&W Construction of Portsmouth. Negotiations with R&W Construction have commenced, and if an agreement is reached, Exmore will request additional funds from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities loan program.

Locust Mount

Phase I of the Locust Mount project, which included rehab/new construction of 13 houses is now complete. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development will review the project for final compliance in early May. Two replacement houses have been bid for Phase II, and construction will start on the first house within 30 days.

Makemie Park

Bids were opened for the rehabilitation of two additional houses, and both were within Indoor Plumbing/Rehabilitation program cost limits. Contracts have been prepared, and work will begin by the first week of May. Two replacement houses are now complete, and the families will be able to move in as soon as deep wells are drilled and connected. Two additional replacement houses are now under construction, and the footings and foundations have been completed.

Staff News

Darlene C. Burton, Director of Housing Development at the A-NPDC since July 1995, has resigned her position effective May 15 to become Accomack County Purchasing /Contracts Manager.

Darlene joined the A-NPDC in November 1990 as the Economic Development Manager, a position she held until July 1991 when she became Director of Economic Development. From January 1992 to July 1995, she served as a Community Development Coordinator before taking up the position of Director of Housing Development.

At its April meeting, the A-NPDC Board presented a *Resolution of Commendation* to Darlene in recognition of her extraordinary skill, professionalism and commitment to the A-NPDC and the Eastern Shore of Virginia community. Staff will miss her hard work and dedication that led to numerous ac-



Oliver Bennett, A-NPDC Chairman, presents Resolution of Commendation to Darlene Burton (left) and certificate of recognition to Susan Haycox (right)

complishments including the Governor's Housing Achievement Award in 1999 for the Sunnyside Village project among other notable accomplishments. We wish her the very best in her new position.

Also, **Susan Haycox**, Director of Administration, was presented a certificate in recognition of her 15 continuous years of dedicated service to the A-NPDC.



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"33 Years of Service to the Eastern Shore of Virginia"

Economic Development News

Wallops Commercialization Center

A business incubator for NASA and Navy spin-off businesses is being discussed by representatives of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, NASA, CUBE Corporation, the Marine Science Consortium, the Eastern Shore Community College, Chincoteague and Accomack County.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission is facilitating the planning. Funds for a feasibility study and operating support will be sought from the Virginia Department of Business Assistance.

Enterprise Zone Job Grants

The state Enterprise Zone program requires review of all Job Grant applications. The Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission reviewed the applications for our area and verified eight applicants who created 119 jobs within the last three years in our Enterprise Zone.

