

A-NPDC Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A-NPDC News	2
Partnership News	2
Webpage	2
Calendar	3
Back page	4

Eastern Shore Housing Workshop

What do you think are the five most critical Eastern Shore housing projects to be accomplished in the next five years? Even though we have made great strides over the past 30 years in meeting needs for safe, sanitary, and affordable housing, we all agree that we still have some important work left to do. Do we need more affordable rental homes, more services for the homeless, more opportunities for homeownership? What about the 600 Eastern Shore homes that still have no running water or indoor toilets?

You are invited to help set the Eastern Shore of Virginia housing agenda for the next five years by attending:

Eastern Shore Housing Workshop

Thursday, February 6, 2003
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
The Trawler Restaurant
2555 Lankford Highway
Exmore, Virginia

This workshop is a part of the Eastern Shore Regional Housing Strategic Plan that the A-NPDC and its Advisory Committee are preparing as required by state law. You may review Phase I of the Plan, a Regional Housing Assessment, on the A-NPDC website, www.a-npdc.org. The Eastern Shore Housing Workshop will develop plans to address the needs identified in the Assessment.

The workshop is free of charge. A continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be provided. In order that we may have enough for all attendees, please call the A-NPDC office if you plan to attend. Call me if you have questions. I look forward to seeing you on February 6.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **February 6**—Eastern Shore Housing Workshop (see article this page).
- **February 17**—President's Day—A-NPDC Office is closed.
- **February 24**— Monday, at 7:30 pm A-NPDC meeting at office: 23372 Front Street, Accomac, Virginia.
- See calendar on page 3 for full list of meetings.

Webpage(s) of the Month



Last month we featured our new webpage at www.a-npdc.org. Perhaps you would like to compare some of the other Virginia PDC webpages. Links to them are available at www.institute.virginia.edu/vapdc/.

Our immediate neighbor to the north, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, has been working hard to increase tourism in its region. One of the organizations involved in this effort, the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, has a webpage detailing their activities at http://skip-jack.net/le_shore/heritage/.

A-NPDC News Summary

Progress has been made on the **Tangier** Disaster Recovery Initiative Program. Three houses were demolished, and the debris was moved to the burn site. Three of six houses now have complete exteriors, wiring and heating systems. A fourth house is now roofed and has had windows and doors installed. Siding will be installed next. Footings have been dug for the fifth house, but the severe cold weather has made it impossible to continue. The weather also prohibited digging of footings for the sixth house.

Bids were received and contracts are being written for four replacement houses at **Makemie Park**. Construction

will begin as soon as the weather permits.

At **Savagetown/Cat's Bridge**, one housing unit was recently rehabilitated. Two units are under construction with one unit 95% complete. Contracts have been signed to begin work on a third unit. Also, the engineer has completed design work for the three alternative sewage systems, and one system has been bid.

Pending completion of legal work, contracts will be signed at the **New Road** community for five units to be constructed using Indoor Plumbing Reha-

bilitation funds. All five units will be owned by families who are first time homeowners.



Regional Partnership Forums Held

In January, the Regional Partnership held three public forums to present its ideas for eight new development projects for the Eastern Shore and to solicit community input on them. Another purpose of the forums was to get ideas for additional new projects from attendees. The forums were held at Nandua High School, Northampton High School, and the Chincoteague Town Hall. Results from the forums will help

Re-qualification ensures that the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership will receive RCP funding if it is restored.

the Partnership determine its priorities for its new strategic plan and re-qualification application under the Regional Competitiveness Program (RCP) in the spring.

Here is a short description of each project:

“Academical” Village

A collection of housing units, attached and integrated into a small community for edu-

cators including a small library, meeting room, and computers. This facility would help the Shore attract and retain new teachers who now have difficulty finding affordable housing.

Art Market, Studios, and Education

Support for artists and artisan entrepreneurs by creating markets for their work, providing studio space, and offering creative skills training and small business management training.

(continued on back page)

Eastern Shore Poverty Statistics

A-NPDC staff prepared poverty statistics for Accomack and Northampton counties and Virginia overall in the areas of economic indicators, housing, and education.

Percentiles for education refer only to the population over age 25.

If you have questions about these indicators, or if you need particular statistics, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The source used here is U.S. Census 2000. www.census.gov.

	Accomack	Northampton	Virginia
Population below the poverty line:	18.0%	20.5%	9.6%
Per Capita Income (1999):	\$16,309	\$16,591	\$26,109
Unemployment (11/02):	5.1%	4.2%	3.6%
Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing:	2.6%	4.6%	0.7%
Units with No Vehicle Available:	9.5%	12.6%	7.7%
High School Graduate:	34.1%	29.2%	26.0%
Associates Degree:	4.0%	5.2%	5.6%
Bachelors Degree:	8.2%	10.5%	17.9%
Graduate/Professional Degree:	5.4%	5.2%	11.6%



Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

February 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Ground Hog Day 	3 East Fairview Rehab Review Board 4:00 p.m. Green's Store, Fairview	4	5	6 Eastern Shore Housing Workshop 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Trawler Restaurant, Exmore	7	8
9	10 Regional Partnership Executive Committee 4:00 p.m.	11 Business Center Task Force 9:30 a.m. ESCC Conference Room, Melfa	12 A-NPDC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee 10:00 a.m.	13 Exmore Management Team <u>3:00 p.m.</u> Exmore Town Office Locust Mount Rehab Review Board <u>4:00 p.m.</u>	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15
16	17  PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	18 Eastern Shore of VA Groundwater Committee 10:30 a.m.	19 Space Flight Academy Board 10:00 a.m. Marine Science Consortium Cafeteria, Wallops	20 ESVA Economic Development Commission <u>2:00 p.m.</u> ESVA Public Service Authority <u>4:00 p.m.</u>	21	22
23	24 Regional Partnership 4:00 p.m. Chamber of <u>Commerce, Melfa</u> Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission 7:30 p.m.	25 New Road Management Team Meeting 3:00 p.m. New Road Community Center	26 Bayview Management Team 11:30 a.m. Wise Building, Cheriton	27 Savagetown/Cat's Bridge Management Team 3:30 p.m.	28	



**ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON
PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMISSION**

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

Regional Partnership (continued from Page 2)

Broadband Initiative

A study to learn what other rural communities are doing to offer broadband Internet service and find ways to implement the service here.

Heritage Trail

Coordinated tours and by-way corridors using existing roads to link significant scenic, historic, natural, and recreational sites throughout the region.

Regional "Main Street" Program

Provide support staff to assist each of the region's incorporated towns implement the four points of the Virginia Main Street Program.

Wallops Business Incubator

Provide office space and other commercial space now in short supply in the Wallops area and use the equipment such as copiers and

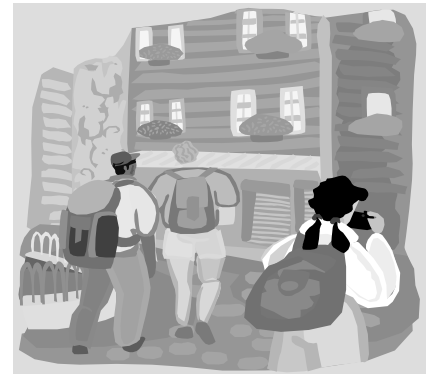
high-speed Internet access. The incubator would also furnish technical assistance and business management counseling.

Water and Wastewater

Interface with the Public Service Authority in implementing the PSA's action plan and assistance in identifying funding from a variety of sources to make water and wastewater services economically feasible.

Workforce Development

Support for the Eastern Shore Community College Workforce Advisory Council as it develops training within the community around three workforce issues: building a strong work ethic, developing a clearinghouse of training



The Regional "Main Street" Program and Heritage Trail projects potentially benefit increased, low-impact tourism for the Eastern Shore.

resources, and developing, administering, and interpreting a business survey to identify training needs.