

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

September 2003

CHANGE: 6,417 New Residents Since 1995

THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU recently released data on migration patterns within the nation. From this data, we now know that 6,417 people who lived on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in the year 2000 were living somewhere else in 1995. Expressed another way, 12% of our total population wasn't living here in 1995. The magnitude of that in-migration is surprising, but maybe as surprising is where the newcomers came from.

The largest number came from other parts of Virginia. 649 people came from the Hampton Roads area alone.

The next largest origination point was Maryland, which isn't surprising since they're our neighbor. 1,083 of the 1,225 people who came from Maryland located in Accomack County.

The populous northern states of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey are next. Again, this shouldn't be surprising. We all know people who have moved here to escape the cold and crowds "up north."

But next on the list are some eye-openers. Would you have guessed that 951 people moved here from Florida, Texas and California between 1995 and 2000? Many of the new residents from those big agricultural states are migrant laborers.

New Residents (1995 - 2000)

Moved From	To Accomack	To Northampton	Total
Virginia (not Eastern Shore)	1111	626	1737
Maryland	1083	142	1225
Pennsylvania	353	96	449
New York	263	178	441
New Jersey	357	83	440
Florida	403	29	432
Texas	300	76	376
North Carolina	84	61	145
California	132	11	143
Georgia	91	21	112
Delaware	93	15	108
Tennessee	88	17	105
Wisconsin	75	0	75
Connecticut	51	23	74
South Carolina	15	55	70
Ohio	58	12	70
Louisiana	62	0	62
Oklahoma	37	0	37
Utah	32	0	32
Arizona	30	0	30
Indiana	21	4	25
Maine	24	0	24
Massachusetts	18	5	23
Kentucky	14	7	21
Nevada	15	6	21
District of Columbia	21	0	21
Alabama	10	9	19
Mississippi	16	0	16
Kansas	8	5	13
Illinois	9	4	13
New Hampshire	13	0	13
Alaska	9	0	9
West Virginia	9	0	9
Washington	8	0	8

Seaside Water Trail Workshops Scheduled

EASTERN SHORE RESIDENTS are invited to participate in development of a Water Trail Plan for the Eastern Shore's Seaside by attending Water Trail Planning Workshops that will be held in Accomack County, Northampton County, and Town of Chincoteague during September. The Water Trail Plan will identify potential canoe and kayak paddling routes on the Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore, and recommend needs for canoe and kayak launch site improvements. The Seaside Water Trail Planning Workshops are being held by the A-NPDC in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, the Town of Chincoteague, and Virginia's Coastal Program.

The Water Trail Planning Workshops are scheduled as follows:

Accomack County
September 10, 2003 at 7:30 PM
Eastern Shore of Virginia
Chamber of Commerce
Melfa

Northampton County
September 11, 2003 at 7:30 PM
Northampton County Courthouse
Eastville

Town of Chincoteague
September 30, 2003 at 7:30 PM
Chincoteague Municipal Building
Chincoteague

For more information about the Seaside Water Trail Planning Workshops, contact Jim McGowan at the A-NPDC.

Housing Plan Nearing Completion

THE FINAL DRAFT of the Regional Housing Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on September 10. If approved by the Committee, the draft Plan will be reviewed by the A-NPDC and then public hearings will be scheduled.

At its meeting on July 22, the Committee reduced the number of recommended housing projects from nine projects to five projects due to concerns that community resources were too limited to address all nine of the region's critical housing issues in the next five years. At the upcoming September 10 meeting, the Committee will recommend Task Forces to implement the five projects.

The five recommended projects are:

- Develop 2- and 3-bedroom affordable rental housing units;
- Develop a regional credit counseling program to increase homeownership;
- Pursue HUD 811 financing to develop rental housing for persons with disabilities;
- Develop a 20-bed shelter to serve homeless families with children;
- Revitalize remaining pockets of poverty through demolition, rehabilitation, new construction, public infrastructure, and social services.

For more information, contact Paul Berge at the Planning District Commission (757-787-2936).

Chincoteague Trolley

CHINCOTEAGUE RECEIVED a demonstration grant for \$80,750 from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to run a trolley system during summer months. The trolley service began June 20th and has carried over 12,000 passengers to date. It averages 150 to 175 passengers per night as it loops from campgrounds and motels to the downtown commercial district, restaurants, ice cream parlors and points of interest. In about 20 minutes the trolley completes the circuit.

During Pony Penning week, the Town offered a guided trolley tour which highlighted points of historical and cultural interest on the Island. Response was so great that additional tours had to be added each night to meet the demand.

While ridership has been good, continuation of the system next year will depend on the willingness of businesses to participate in its funding. The Town is eligible for 90% of the funds needed to purchase or lease trolleys and possibly 40 – 50% of the funds to operate the system. The Town hopes that contributions from local businesses will minimize the amount of public funds needed to keep the system running.



Planning Virginia's 400th

YOU ARE INVITED to attend the official kick-off event of the Eastern Shore's "Come Home to Virginia" celebration on Tuesday, September 9, 4 - 6 pm, at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa. In 2007, the Commonwealth of Virginia will be 400 years old and the Eastern Shore has been designated an official charter member of the Virginia 2007 Community Program.

Our region's three Chambers of Commerce formed a planning committee to design a year-long series of events and educational programs that will shine a spotlight on our own history, treasures and citizens. For more information, call the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce at 757-787-2460.

Web: www.jamestown2007.org

Coming Events Downtown

September is a busy month for events in the revitalizing towns on the Eastern Shore. On the 12th and 13th, **Onancock** has its annual Harbor Fest with food, music and fun for the family.

September 20th will be a big day for the Shore, as four towns have events. The new **Cape Charles** Fall Festival will feature a huge fireworks display, a swing band, dancing in the street and other fun stuff. The 6th Annual **Exmore** Community Yard Sale will draw large crowds to 100+ vendors of everything imaginable. **Parksley** will be the site of a Motorcycle Rodeo; not to be missed for cycle enthusiasts. And its the Weekend of the Islands on **Chincoteague** with boat rides, art exhibits, food and entertainment.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or comments about anything in this publication, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning District Commission.

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