

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

October 2003

A-NPDC Designated Economic Development District

A request by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission to designate Accomack and Northampton Counties as an Economic Development District has been approved by the federal Economic Development Administration. David Sampson, Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, notified the A-NPDC of the decision in a letter dated September 4.

The designation will bring additional support for economic development planning and infrastructure to the two counties from the federal government. Funding from the Economic Development Administration was instrumental in the construction of the Virginia Commercial Spaceport at Wallops, the Accomack Airport Industrial Park, and the Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park.

The Economic Development Administration's mission is to help regions create a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and higher-wage jobs through capacity building, planning, infrastructure, research grants, and other strategic initiatives. The A-NPDC annually updates a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to set priorities for applications to the EDA.



Calvin Edghill of the Economic Development Administration (center) presents the designation to Paul Berge, Executive Director of the A-NPDC (left) and J.T. Holland, Eastern Shore Economic Development Commission Chair (right)

CHANGE: Out-Migration 1995 to 2000

5,398 people who lived on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1995 were living elsewhere in 2000, according to the US Census Bureau. 4,124 left Accomack County and 1,274 left Northampton County. See last month's newsletter for information on the 6,417 people who moved to the Eastern Shore from 1995 to 2000.

Is this outflow of people unusual? No, it happens in every county in Virginia. For example, 5,715 people left little Isle of Wight County, 91,860 left growing Henrico County, and 245,825 left prosperous Fairfax County.

The table below lists the top destinations of those that left our region. It's

interesting to note the large differences in the two counties.

Some of the destinations are easy to understand: Montgomery County is the home of Virginia Tech. But why is Cumberland County, North Carolina, a destination? Migrant laborers may have moved to Forrest County, Mississippi, but what's the attraction in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania? Is it the smell of chocolate from Hershey? Did 126 people go to New Castle County, Delaware, for the University of Delaware or were they attracted to the city of Wilmington? And did 118 people move to Sussex County, Delaware, for the beaches or for Delaware Tech?

Lived on the Eastern Shore in 1995, Lived Somewhere Else in 2000

From Northampton to:

Montgomery County, VA	106
Chesapeake, VA	99
Cumberland County, NC	90
Forrest County, MS	59
Virginia Beach, VA	52
Philadelphia County, PA	48
Henrico County, VA	48
Dauphin County, PA	39
Chesterfield County, VA	37
Newport News, VA	36
Durham County, NC	35
St Tammany Parish, LA	34
Albemarle County, VA	34
Collier County, FL	31
Gloucester County, VA	29
Brevard County, FL	25
Mecklenburg County, NC	25
Spotsylvania County, VA	24
Raleigh County, WV	24
Orange County, VA	22
Fulton County, GA	19

From Accomack to:

Worcester County, MD	335
Wicomico County, MD	189
Henrico County, VA	147
New Castle County, DE	126
Sussex County, DE	118
Somerset County, MD	97
Chesapeake, VA	96
Newport News, VA	89
Virginia Beach, VA	86
Alleghany County, VA	84
Manatee County, FL	71
Fairfax County, VA	66
Rockingham County, VA	57
Prince George County, VA	55
Hampton, VA	55
Anne Arundel County, MD	54
Brazoria County, TX	51
Prince Edward County, VA	51
Hendry County, FL	49
Pittsylvania County, VA	47
Marion County, FL	42

Tangier Initiative

A project begun as a result of Hurricane Fran in 1996 helped six families on Tangier Island avoid flood damage from Hurricane Isabel. As a result of Hurricane Fran, funds were allocated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to demolish existing substandard houses and construct six new homes with flood code compliant foundations on the island.

Eighty-eight localities were declared disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Fran and were eligible to receive Disaster Recovery funds. Accomack County was one of these localities and the money was targeted to Tangier. Accomack County supplemented the HUD funds with a portion of an existing County-wide FEMA grant.

Contracts were signed in May and construction began in July of 2002 and has continued over the last 14 months. The complexities of building on an island created numerous challenges for the project.



One of 6 new flood code compliant homes on Tangier Island

Seaside Water Trail Workshops Held

In order to get community participation for the development of a Water Trail Plan for the Eastern Shore's Seaside, Water Trail Planning Workshops were held in Accomack County, Northampton County, and the Town of Chincoteague during September 2003.

At the workshops, attendees reviewed maps and discussed what type of water trail they would like to see on the Eastern Shore's Seaside. Participants identified a range of issues to consider in the plan, including conflicts with powerboats, impacts to wildlife, the need for water safety information, and

improvements to canoe and kayak launch facilities. A draft Seaside Water Trail Plan with proposed canoe and kayak paddling routes and recommendations for launch site improvements will be presented at public meetings in the coming months.

The Seaside Water Trail Plan is being developed by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, the Town of Chincoteague, and Virginia's Coastal Program.



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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