

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

June 2005

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Wows State Economic Developers

The Eastern Shore Economic Development Commission (EDC) has been working with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) for many years to promote the Shore's unique resources. In May, five members of the VEDP's marketing staff traveled here to see the Accomack Airport Industrial Park, the developments in the Cape Charles area, downtown

revitalization in Exmore and Chincoteague, and to learn more about the capabilities and facilities of the NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF).

VEDP recently learned more about WFF from collaborating with the EDC on a huge EADS-North America project. This project involved a nationwide site search to manufacture Airbus aerial refueling tankers for the U.S. Air

Force. The project also involved establishing an Airbus Long-Range Aircraft Engineering Center. WFF emerged as the number one site in Virginia because of its two 9000 foot runways and concentration of aviation and aerospace expertise at the facility. Unfortunately, Airbus's short list of four locations did not include Virginia. It selected locations in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina.

The silver lining to the Airbus story is that VEDP has gained a thorough knowledge of the resources and potential that our area has for aerospace related industries. As a result of their recent tour, including an excellent presentation by Caroline Massey, WFF Management Operations Director, VEDP has invited the EDC to apply for a \$10,000 Virginia's Opportunity Regions marketing grant to provide funding to market WFF and the Shore to aerospace industry leaders and consultants and to organize a tour of key aerospace personnel this fall. The EDC and VEDP are optimistic that this tour and subsequent activities will stimulate interest in the WFF and the Eastern Shore and will result in new aerospace industries locating here. For more information, contact Greg Manter at (757)787-1247.



VEDP marketing experts, EDC members, and John Dobbs (back left), President, Bayshore Concrete Products Corp., on the steps of the Aqua restaurant, Cape Charles

Committee Notes

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee has elected two new officers. Sandra Benson was elected Chairman and Paul Berge was elected Secretary.

Regional Housing Coordinating Committee

The Regional Housing Coordinating Committee has elected a new Co-Chairman. Pauline Milbourne will replace Julie Badger, who resigned.

Regional Home Maintenance Program Formed

The A-NPDC Commissioners appointed a Home Maintenance Committee to oversee the Home Maintenance Program. The new Committee is made up of Gwendolyn Turner, Lester Spady and Gregory Duncan.

Over the past ten years, the A-NPDC has produced 430 houses. These houses have been split almost evenly between Accomack, 207, and Northampton, 223. A total of 153 of these homes have current, enforceable legal instruments that require homeowners to maintain their home.

While aspects of the new program

are still being developed, the A-NPDC is in the process of populating a database with information from the Department of Housing Production so that inspections of these homes can be started. The first homes to be inspected will be those units with enforceable legal instruments that are set to expire soon.

Accomack County has already adopted a budget that grants \$5,250 toward funding this program and Northampton has advertised a budget that included another \$5,250 for this program. For more information, contact David Annis at (757)787-2936.

Hurricane Isabel Disaster Funds Will Be Used to Prevent Future Damage to 31 Homes

On September 18, 2003, Hurricane Isabel struck Virginia causing flooding and wind damage on the Eastern Shore. For the next several weeks the citizens, counties and towns on the Eastern Shore cleaned up damage. In November 2003, Northampton County, the Town of Tangier and other Eastern Shore localities approached the A-NPDC to request assistance in applying for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to reduce future damages to the localities. This type of funding had been used after Hurricane Floyd to elevate homes in Northampton and Accomack Counties.

HMGP funds are available following major disasters. The A-NPDC staff assembled and submitted applications to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for Northampton County, Accomack

County, the Towns of Saxis, Tangier and Wachapreague.

The application for Northampton County is for the elevation of eighteen homes located within the flood zone in the County. This project was fully funded. The total budget for the Project is \$1,000,243. The homes are located in the villages of Oyster, Red Bank and Jamesville.

The application for the Town of Tangier was for the elevation of twenty homes, but only thirteen were funded in this application. The remaining homes were reapplied for in the Accomack County application, which has not been approved as of this date, but has been endorsed by VDEM and sent to FEMA for approval. The total budget for the Tangier application is \$832,296.

A meeting of the participants will be scheduled to establish priorities and construction schedules. Homeowners

will have to pay for five percent of the house elevation while FEMA will pay seventy-five percent and the Commonwealth twenty percent. The projects are expected to take three years to complete. For more information, contact John Aigner at (757)787-2936.



*Before and After Pictures of a Home Elevation in Accomack
Photos courtesy of David Fluhart.*

Household Hazardous Waste Collection June 25th

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for Saturday, June 25 at the ESO Arts Center in Belle Haven. The collection will begin at 10 am and end at 2 pm. Householders who register can dispose of up to 30 pounds of hazardous waste for free.

Householders can bring in chemicals, poisons, fuels, paint products, wood stain, sealers, asbestos and other hazardous waste. No commercial waste will be accepted. Some other waste is excluded. Call Jim McGowan at (757)787-2936 for a registration form.

Heritage Tourism Workshop June 14th

The A-NPDC, Town of Exmore, and Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program will hold a Heritage Tourism Workshop on Tuesday, June 14th from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Exmore Town Hall on Main Street. The workshop will give restaurant, bed and breakfast, and motel proprietors the opportunity to learn about heritage tourism programs and related businesses such as kayak outfitters and nature tour providers. Businesses bring your brochures to share. SouthEast Expeditions will have a free kayak tour of Willis Wharf for registered participants. Call (757)787-2936 or toll free (888)787-3001 for a registration form.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

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Phone 757-787-2936
Toll Free 866-787-3001
E-Mail anpdc@a-npdc.org
Website www.a-npdc.org

**Accomack-Northampton Planning District
Commission
23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomac, Virginia 23301**

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