

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

June 2006

Governor and Virginia's First Lady Tour Exmore Downtown Project

Governor Tim Kaine and First Lady Ann Holton visited the Eastern Shore on May 3rd and extensively toured Exmore's newly revitalized downtown. Using funds from DHCD, USDA, and VDOT, and the administrative services of the A-NPDC's Kat Edwards, Exmore has completely changed its look and business prospects.

It began in 2001 with the town's purchase of a former bank building for use as the new town hall. Over the past five years, derelict buildings were demolished, parking lots were created, streetscape improvements were installed.

But the biggest boost to the town's revitalization came from its wastewater collection and treatment facility. This infrastructure made it possible for restaurants and other businesses to locate in the downtown and has resulted in a flurry of private investment amounting to \$572,000.

Governor Kaine and his wife toured New Ravenna, a mosaic tile design and installation firm that employs more than 100 workers. While there, the Governor was presented with a pen and ink drawing by one of New Ravenna's artists. Governor Kaine and his party also visited the Country Mercantile, Yellow Duck Café, Millie's Sub Shop, and Nick and Jenny's Pizza.

The Governor ended his tour with very positive remarks about the town's progress and how pleased he was to see to how well Exmore has used state-administered funds to revitalize its downtown.



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection On June 17, 2006

The Eastern Shore of Virginia's Groundwater Committee, in coordination with Accomack County, Northampton County, the A-NPDC, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the ESO Arts Center is holding the third annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

It will be held Saturday, June 17th, 2006 at the ESO Arts Center (ESO) in Belle Haven. This collection is available to all residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties.

The collection will begin at 10:00am and end at 2:00pm. Householders who register can dispose of up to 30 pounds of hazardous waste for free. Above the 30 pounds, waste will cost 96 cents per pound to dispose.

The types of waste that can be collected include leftover garden chemicals, garden fertilizer, poisons, repellents, degreasers, gasoline, kerosene, fungicides, wood preservatives, paint, wood stain, paint thinner, paint remover, driveway sealers, epoxy, rodent poison, and asbestos.

No commercial or industrial waste, ammunition, flares, explosives, medical waste, medicine, PCBs, freon or empty containers will be accepted. Certain other types of household hazardous waste are also excluded.

Call Leslie A. Savage at (757) 787-2936 x127 for a registration form.

A Day Without Immigrants Comes to Accomac

On May 1, 2006 a large group of immigrants gathered in front of the old courthouse in Accomac. Participants marched up Front Street with American flags and gathered to hear speeches in Spanish. The nationwide boycott, called Un Dia Sin Inmigrantes, called for immigrants to stay home from work and school for the day.

Several office workers in the Town were surprised by the group moving down Front Street to the Courthouse green. It was especially surprising seeing a large number of people without the attendant vehicles clogging the parking in Town.

The 2000 Census showed that there were 2,072 Hispanics, 5% of the total population, living in Accomack County. Sixty-two percent of the Hispanics living in the County are male, in contrast to making up only 48% of the entire

population. Other demographic information shows that 42% of the Hispanic population live below poverty. Eighteen percent of the entire population live below poverty.

Hispanics are also more likely to rent housing rather than owning it. Only 24% of the Hispanic population, in contrast to 75% of the general population, owns their own home.

When it comes to commuting to work, Hispanics generally were using vehicles. However, 39% carpool. Ten percent use public transportation and 2% bike or walk to work.

Together their aggregate household income is \$11,611,00 and the median household income was \$29,659, close to the County median.

The boycott served an opportunity to see a significant portion of the Hispanic population in the County.



Group of Immigrant Protestors Assembled on the Courthouse Green on May 1, 2006

Chincoteague Holds Combined Dedication Ceremony

PDC staff has completed improvements, funded by Department of Housing and Community Development, to the Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park.

The Town of Chincoteague is holding a combined dedication ceremony for the Waterfront Park and the Trolley on June 14th at 11:30 a.m.

State and federal agencies that provided funding will be invited to join local officials, merchants and residents for the celebration.

PDC Commission Election Results

At the regular PDC Commission May meeting officers were elected. Gregory Duncan was elected Chairman, and Andrew Barbour was elected Vice Chairman. They were also elected as the officers of the Accomack-Northampton Development Corporation.

RHA Election Results

At the regular RHA May meeting officers were elected. Steven Miner was elected Chairman, Donald Sawyer was elected Vice Chairman.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

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