

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



May 2007

New Road Duplexes Proposed

Applications have recently been submitted to the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development, and Southeast R/CAP for funds to construct the Crispus Attucks Apartments in the New Road community of Exmore. The eleven 2-story duplexes will include 2 and 3 bedroom units, five of which will specifically target families with persons with disabilities. The units will be located on existing building lots provided by the New Road Community Development Group and the Virginia Eastern Shore Economic Empowerment and Housing Corporation.

The agencies providing funds or technical assistance to the development include the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority, the



Duplex Front Elevation

Accomack-Northampton Housing & Redevelopment Corporation, the Housing & Development Advisors, the Virginia Community Development Corporation, and NCALL Research Inc. Hill Studio of Roanoke is providing the designs and specifications. Final announcements of awards from the funding agencies are expected by mid-summer.

The project was unanimously endorsed by the Exmore Town Council on March 5, 2007, and will go a long way in helping complete the redevelopment of the New Road community.

“On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, I want to thank all of the individuals and agencies that worked with us to make this project a reality,” said Steve Miner, Chair of the ANRHA. “This was truly a community-wide effort.”



Duplex Front Elevation



Street Scape

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Staff Certified in Lead Hazard Risk Assessment and Inspection



Using XRF to detect lead in paint

Eastern Shore Lead Safe Homes Program Administrator Patti Merritt and Rehab Specialist Robert Williams recently completed training for certification as Lead Risk Hazard Assessors and Inspectors. Training was provided through VCU's Center for Environmental Studies and Marine Chemist Ser-

vices, Inc. and was presented by Vicky Harlow. The Lead-Based Paint Inspector sessions included history of lead use, sources of environmental lead contamination, theory and use of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Analyzer, and techniques for testing lead in paint and other media. Lead Risk Assessor sessions included use of risk assessment tools; risk assessment processes; lead hazard screening, paint, soil, and dust sampling protocol; coring and scooping techniques; sampling deteriorated paint and review of XRF report; water sampling; procedures for assessing multi-family properties; ongoing monitoring; and report preparation.

Merritt earned interim lead risk hazard assessor's certification and will earn a state license pending successful completion of a state exam. Williams



Lead Risk Assessor/Inspector Trainees

received renewal of his state license.

Williams also completed Lead Contract Supervisor's training to earn an interim supervisor's license. That class highlighted techniques used in lead abatement and remediation, and taught methodology of lead worker supervision and procedures to assure that lead safe work practices are followed.

Groundbreaking Held for ESCC Business Development and Workforce Training Center

The Eastern Shore Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 13 for the new Business Development and Workforce Training Center. The 21,000 square foot building will have classrooms, office space, computer labs, an applied health lab, industrial training lab, distance learning lab, a conference room, lecture hall and warming kitchen. The new facility will offer comprehensive training and development services to meet the workforce development and continuing education needs of the Eastern Shore in a way that no other organization can. This will improve the quality of life on the Shore by helping employers enhance their profits and productivity and helping individuals enhance their earning power. Some of the ESCC's career-technical education credit classes include: Business, Electronics and Information Technology,

Computer-Aided Design and Drafting, Early Childhood Development, Nursing and other Allied Health Programs, Welding and Heating/Ventilation/Air-Conditioning/Refrigeration.

The A-NPDC assisted in the funding for the new center by preparing grant

applications to two federal agencies: \$500,000 from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Fund and \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. Completion of the building is expected by next spring.



Virginia Housing Development Authority Volunteers Assist With Habitat for Humanity Project

On April 13, 2007, 22 employees from the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) in Richmond came to the Shore to assist with an Eastern Shore of VA Habitat for Humanity project. They worked for 1 ½ days in Treherneville, where they set up a house built by the vocational students at Northampton High School and moved to the site earlier in the month.

Every year the employees of the VHDA volunteer at a Habitat affiliate, and this year they chose the Eastern Shore. "It is a good way for them to get to know the affiliates throughout the commonwealth, and we're glad they chose to come here," said E.S. Habitat Director Nancy Gonzalez. They built a shed, set the house in place, and completed several other construction jobs in the house. This house, which is the future home of a single mother and two children who are currently living in sub-

standard housing, should be ready for dedication later this year. Habitat will then sell the house to the woman at what it cost to build, with an interest-free mortgage. Said Director Gonzalez, "This is a hand up (not a hand-out) for the head of the household, who works at Perdue Farms and just needs a little assistance to become a homeowner."



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