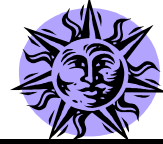


Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



June 2008

A Call to Serve in Suffolk, Virginia

Most are aware of the tornado that ripped through Suffolk, Virginia on Monday, April 28, 2008, that destroyed homes, lives and dreams of so many. As these families begin to rebuild, they could not do it without the compassion of others within its community and those who feel compelled to go the distance to offer a helping hand from afar. In the wake of the tornado, organizations within Suffolk began to mobilize and coordinate volunteer efforts reaching out via emails and any other means necessary.



Tornado cuts swath through Navy family's house



Bulldozer moves debris

As you are well aware, in the email world, millions of emails go unread and unanswered. Thankfully A-NPDC staff member, Bobbie Jo Wert did not delete the email from Angela Koncz, President of the Suffolk Fuller Center for Housing on April 29, 2008. Instead, Mrs. Wert reached out to her family. The email called for volunteers "to assist us on Saturday (May 3, 2008) from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. to help those in need from the devastation of

the storm." Furthermore, it asked "if your organization can make a donation of water or tarps to this effort, we would be greatly appreciative. Please come help out for 2 hours or all 8, you will be glad you did."

Jim Wert, owner of Jim Wert Builder, of Belle Haven, Virginia, answered the call to serve without hesitation or reservation by mobilizing a team of volunteers from the Eastern Shore. Outreach efforts were extended to various local business owners as well; Onancock Building Supply donated a unit of OSB plywood, Bagwell Oil donated diesel fuel, while Onley-Sears and Shore Bank made monetary contributions.

On Saturday, May 3, a caravan of five trucks, a dump truck pulling a low boy with fork lift, a dump bed trailer with a bobcat and a crew of eighteen (18) emerged on Suffolk at 8 AM ready, willing and able to assist in the clean-up efforts. The point of contact with Mrs.

Koncz was directly across from the demolished shopping plaza we have all seen on the news. Armed with heavy equipment, strong arms and OVER-SIZED hearts the crew embarked on picking up the pieces of strangers' lives for almost nine hours. Homes that had been ripped through were piled up into heaps, debris was gathered and vehicles were returned to their up-right position in an area behind the shopping plaza. Although the crew worked tirelessly all day Saturday, many crew members felt compelled to return on Sunday.

Crew members recall standing bewildered gazing upon the mangled twisted metal beams that once were the support of a roof structure; the selectiveness of the tornadoes path completely leveling one home while the neighboring home remains unscathed; the vision of a home that was apparently lifted directly up off its foundation flipped upside down and slammed directly on top of the unit beside it; and the tears as they ran down the face of a little girl as she watched her bedroom being torn apart. The humbling real-

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William Neal Receives 2007 Groundwater Award

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee has awarded William Neal of Hermitage Farm Nursery the 2007 Groundwater Award. Neal is recognized for the reuse of treated water from Shore Memorial Hospital and his dedication to preserving high water quality. The nursery uses 75,000 gallons of water a day from the hospital's runoff. The farm is set up to collect and contain all the runoff to the first inch, by then there is no detectable runoff into the creek. Neal comments, "Water is the Eastern

Shore's greatest and most threatened asset." The Ground Water Committee has established the Ground Water Awards Program to publicize efforts that benefit the Eastern Shore by protecting our ground water. Six types of projects are eligible: Water Conservation, Recharge Area Protection/Preservation, Aquifer Preservation, Recycling/Reuse, Pollution Prevention and Public Education/Community Outreach. For more information on the awards program, contact Matt Cook at 787-2936, ext 114. The Committee congratulates Mr. Neal.



Ground Water Committee Vice-chair and Accomack County Supervisor Wanda Thornton presents 2007 Ground Water Award to William Neal

A-NPDC Staff Anniversaries

Several A-NPDC staff anniversaries will occur this spring. Susan Haycox, Director of Administration, will celebrate her 20th year, having started in April of 1988. Bobbie Jo Wert, Community Development Coordinator, is a 10-yr staffer; she started here in May of 1998. Patti Merritt, Community Development Coordinator, began work 3 years ago, in April of 2005.



Gwendolyn Turner, A-NPDC Chairperson, presents Susan Haycox with 20-year certificate



Bobbie Wert receives 10-yr certificate

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Workers assess damage
ization that no one person is exempt from the destructiveness of nature has

made a profound impact on the crew that gave their time, sweat and tears to assist the less fortunate families of Suffolk.

It is heartwarming to know that the compassionate nature of the Shore is alive and well. We may not always speak to our neighbors or wave to the on-coming traffic but when it comes to giving a helping hand, the Shore Community stands ready to answer the call to serve. Thank you to Jim Wert Builder, Onancock Building Supply, Bagwell Oil, Onley-Sears and Shore Bank for posi-

tively representing the Eastern Shore of Virginia.



Volunteers taking a well-deserved break

A-NRHA Staff Certified in Foreclosure Prevention

Bobbie Jo Wert and Patricia Connolly Grove attended the first Basic to Intermediate Certification in Foreclosure Prevention Class held at the Housing Center in Glen Allen, Virginia. The class was conducted by VHDA in conjunction with NeighborWorks. Both counselors passed their exam to receive certification in Foreclosure Prevention.

Bobbie Jo and Patricia will be participating in a free regional mortgage clinic hosted by the Virginia Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, which was

formed by Governor Kaine in November, 2007 to help protect and preserve homeownership in the Commonwealth. The clinic will be held in Virginia Beach on Saturday, June 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m. and will be open to the public. The clinic will provide foreclosure prevention information as well as counseling sessions with certified housing counselors trained in loss mitigation and foreclosure prevention. This is one of a series of clinics scheduled to help Virginians avoid home foreclosure.

Classes are currently available at the A-NRHA office in Accomac to assist in budget counseling, homeownership orientation, and foreclosure prevention. For more information, call Patricia Grove at 787-2800, ext 124 or Bobbie Jo Wert, ext 125.



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
Editor Patti Merritt



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

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