

A-NPDC Newsletter

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Eastern Shore Housing Workshop Results

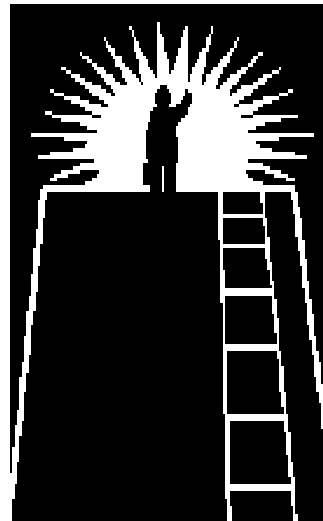
Over 60 housing stakeholders attended the Eastern Shore Housing Workshop on February 6 at the Trawler to develop strategies that address the needs identified in the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Housing Assessment compiled by Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc., a planning and development consulting firm. The workshop participants recommended the following nine projects to address identified housing needs:

- Develop 100 units of affordable rental housing for families in areas that are accessible to employment and services.
- Attract employers that carry out compatible development projects that result in employment opportunities that pay a livable wage.
- Create a housing committee to incorporate universal design in affordable housing.
- Construct a new homeless shelter (30 beds) to serve individuals and families with children. Establish a "continuum of care" planning

group to secure federal funding.

- Assist foreign workers in establishing a stable home environment and in adjusting to life on the Eastern Shore.
- Create a marketing plan to attract the development of planned adult communities. It is anticipated that these development projects will create employment opportunities to serve the needs of an aging population.
- Create a local credit union.
- Increase public awareness of housing and human services through the use of the local entertainment media. Create a directory of services and distribute to public agencies and the public at-large.
- Support a regional public sewer authority to finance and create public sewer systems.

Participants agreed to meet periodically to review progress on strategy implementation and definition.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **March 17—Monday** at 7:30 pm. A-NPDC
- **March 26—Wednesday** at 5:00 pm. A-N Regional Housing Authority
- **March 26—Wednesday** at 7:00 pm. A-N Housing & Redevelopment Authority
- **March 27—Thursday** at 4:00 pm. ES of VA Public Service Authority
- *Above meetings will be held at the A-NPDC office: 23372 Front Street, Accomac. See calendar on page 3 for full list of meetings.*

Webpage of the Month—www.Virginia.org



The official tourism website for the State of Virginia has been completely redesigned. It includes an "Eastern Shore Driving Tour," "Eastern Shore Golf Courses," "Family Fun at Virginia's Eastern Shore," and "Eastern Shore is a Birding Paradise." Stores, restaurants, lodging and other businesses can get

a **free** listing (see the "add a listing" button at the bottom of every page), but **very few** Eastern Shore businesses are listed. Only one restaurant and six stores are listed now. Business owners: **SIGN UP!** It's free and easy, and it may attract more business from tourists.

A-NPDC News Summary

VDOT has authorized the Town of **Chincoteague** to bid the first phase of the waterfront improvements, which consist of the bulkhead, boardwalk, pergolas and finger piers. The project was advertised on February 1st, and a number of contractors also received a direct mailing. A pre-bid conference was held February 13th and bids were opened on February 24th. Fisher Marine Construction of Chincoteague was the only bidder. The town will send the bid and recommendation of award to VDOT early in March so that it can be presented at the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting the third week of March. The Town hopes to sign a contract by the first of April.

Exmore has received authorization from USDA Rural Development to bid their downtown sewer system. The project was advertised on February 15th and the bids will be opened on

April 1st. Landmark Design Group is in the process of addressing all comments received from VDOT regarding proposed streetscape improvements. The appraisal VDOT requires for donation of the parking lot property is in progress. The Town is also securing the utility easements that Conectiv needs in order to relocate utility poles.

In the past month on **Tangier**, two more houses have had exteriors completed for a total of five. Footings have been installed for the sixth house, and, weather permitting, the foundation will be built the first week of March. During the last week of February, plumbing was installed in three houses.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has tentatively awarded the **Build for the Future** program \$65,000 in Community for Opportunity funds, pending submission of

closeout documents from the last round of funding. The money will be used to carry the current group of three trainees through April 30th in order for them to finish the house they are constructing. Funds will also make it possible to build a third house in Fairview and train an additional group of three trainees.



New Publication from Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA's **Community Culture and the Environment: A guide to Understanding a Sense of Place** is available for ordering. The **Guide** explores the concept of community and culture and provides tools for identifying, assessing, and working cooperatively within the social dynamics and local values connected to environmental protection. These tools are designed to help to define community, identify stakeholders, enhance education and outreach, build partnerships and consensus, identify resources, plan and set goals, and inte-

grate local realities with ecological issues. The Guide is designed for people involved in community-based initiatives, including those affiliated with community and watershed-based organizations, universities, and federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. To learn more about the resource visit <http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf> (Acrobat Reader software is required to view it online. Go to www.adobe.com to download a free copy of Reader).

Free copies can be obtained by calling the National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-469-9198. The publication number is EPA 842-B-01-003. A copy is also available for viewing at the A-NPDC office.

Citizen Water Quality Summit

Eastern Shore Citizen Water Quality Summit

*March 19, 2003
5:00—7:00 p.m.
VIMS Library
Wachapreague*

The Virginia Eastern Shore Watersheds Network invites the public to the Citizen Water Quality Summit on March 19, 2003 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Library in Wachapreague, Virginia. A light dinner will be provided and information on the history and results of recent VIMS and citizen monitoring projects, citizen monitoring in Virginia, Virginia Water Quality Initiatives, and other environmental stewardship activities will be presented. There is also time planned for an open discussion on future citizen monitoring needs for the

Eastern Shore. For more information, please contact ESSWCD, VA's ES Watersheds Network, 22545 Center Parkway, Accomac, Virginia 23301. Phone 757-787-3581 ext. 121.





**ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON
PLANNING DISTRICT
COMMISSION**

23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomac, VA 23301

Phone: 757-787-2936
Toll Free: 866-787-3001
Fax: 757-787-4221
Email: anpdc@esva.net
Webpage: www.a-npdc.org

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1970-2003
"33 Years of Service to the Eastern Shore of Virginia"

Regional Progress Annual Report

The 2001-2002 annual report, *Regional Progress*, has been received and distributed. Copies are also available at the A-NPDC office. *Regional Progress* highlights activities of the Eastern Shore of Virginia A-NPDC, Economic Development Commission, Public Service Authority, Regional Housing Authority, Regional Partnership, and Housing and Redevelopment Corporation

