

A-NPDC Newsletter

The Virginia Main Street Program— A Strategy for Success

In 1985, the Virginia Main Street program began helping communities revitalize their downtown commercial districts using the National Main Street Center's successful four-point approach.

The results have been remarkable. All over the Commonwealth entrepreneurs are opening new businesses, vacant buildings are being rehabbed, tourists visit unique new shops and restaurants, and residents are enjoying renewed community pride. Implementation of the program has created thousands and new jobs, and \$195 million in private money has been invested in Virginia Main Street communities since the program began.

The Main Street Approach is more than addressing the appearance of the downtown district. Empty, deteriorated buildings are a symptom of the loss of downtown's economic viability, not its cause, so a coat of paint alone can't create real downtown revitalization.

Communities must work to renew downtown commerce as well as improve the appearance of their commercial districts.

The Main Street Approach provides a time-proven mechanism for doing just that. Each of the Main Street Four Points uses strategies that increase commercial activity or enhance the attractiveness of the real estate.

Communities develop their own strategies working within each of the four key areas:

Design—Enhancing the unique visual quality of downtown by addressing all design elements to create an appealing environment.

Promotion—Creating and marketing a positive image based on the unique attributes of the downtown district.

Economic Restructuring—Strengthening downtown's existing economic assets and fulfilling its broadest market potential.

Organization—Establishing consensus and cooperation by building effective partnerships

among all downtown stakeholders.

In addition to the Four Points, the Main Street Program also follows eight guiding principles:

- Comprehensive Action
- Incremental Progress
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Builds on Existing Assets
- Action-Oriented
- Changing Attitudes
- Quality
- Self-Help

Communities can participate using one of three options—full membership, start-up, and affiliate communities. Each option carries a different level of support from the Virginia Main Street Program. Here on the Eastern Shore we have four affiliate communities: Cape Charles, Chincoteague, Exmore, and Onancock.

If you are interested in learning more about the Virginia Main Street Program, call the A-NPDC office and talk to Greg Manter, Kat Edwards, or Barbara Schwenk, or check the National Main Street webpage (see below).

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **April 17**—2:00 *Economic Development Commission, A-NPDC office*
- **April 17**—4:00 *Public Service Authority, Eastville Inn, Eastville*
- **April 21**—Monday at 7:30 pm. *A-NPDC meeting, 23372 Front Street, Accomac*
- *See calendar on page 3 for complete listing*

Webpage of the Month—www.Mainstreet.org



The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program is one of the most powerful tools for economic development. 56,300 net new businesses have been created in Main Street towns since 1980, along with 226,900 net new jobs and 88,700 building rehabilitations. There are over 1,650 Main Street Com-

munities nationwide. Learn about the program at the official website:

www.Mainstreet.org

A-NPDC News Summary

Sunnyside Village Lease-Up

Spring has arrived and finally construction activity has been completed on the seven units of handicap-accessible housing located in the Sunnyside Village Subdivision in Cheriton. The Property Manager is actively seeking qualified tenants for the seven units. Priority for tenants is being given to disabled families who are participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) or disabled families who have recently received rental vouchers from the Section 8 HCVP.

The units feature handicap ramps, widened doorways for wheelchair accessibility, handicap toilets, and

lowered light switches. The two-bedroom units will rent for \$359 per month. Construction financing for this project was provided by Shore Bank, Inc. and permanent financing from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Affordable Housing Production and Preservation Program. Darlene Burton, Director of Housing Development, is the Project Manager for this development effort.

New Road Construction Continues

Contracts have been delivered to BECO Construction, Inc. to construct five houses for first-time homeowners in New Road. Funding for the construction is provided by VESEHC and the Accomack-Northampton Housing and Rede-

velopment Corporation's Indoor Plumbing/Rehabilitation Program (IP/R). A special set-aside of IP/R funding was approved for New Road by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Legal matters involving land acquisition resulted in a long delay to construction. Finally, all legal matters have been resolved and construction should begin in a few weeks. Darlene Burton, Director of Housing Development, is the Project Manager for the New Road community improvement effort.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher

As of March 1, 473 families were benefiting from the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). HCVP is administered by

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Ground Water Committee Commends Holland Scott

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee presented a Resolution of Commendation to former committee member J. Holland Scott, Jr. for his 12 years of service to the committee. The resolution was presented at the March 18, 2003 Ground Water Committee meeting by Chairman C.D. Fleming, Jr., who commended Mr. Scott for his outstanding commitment and service. Mr. Scott, who is an Onancock resident, served as Committee Vice Chairman for many years and wrote a well-received series of newspaper articles on ground water protection.



J. Holland Scott (left) receives a Resolution of Commendation from Ground Water Committee Chairman C.D. Fleming, Jr.

\$1+ Million in Federal Funds for Eastern Shore Projects

Congressman Ed Schrock (R-VA) announced that \$1,137,000 in federal funds have been set aside for a new bridge in Chincoteague, a new workforce training facility at the Eastern Shore Community College, and improvements to the central Accomack County wastewater treatment capability.

"I am pleased to announce that three appropriations requests have been granted in the 2003 federal budget for Eastern Shore projects," said Schrock. "\$650,000 was acquired for the Chincoteague Bridge replacement, \$162,000 was acquired for the Workforce Training Center, and \$315,000 was acquired for the central Accomack County wastewater treatment improvements." Rep. Schrock announced.

"All of these projects are important to the quality of life of the residents of the Eastern Shore," continued Schrock. "I appreciate all of the local leaders who have kept me informed of the needs of the Eastern Shore and look forward to our continued efforts to meet the needs of Shore residents."



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"33 Years of Service to the Eastern Shore of Virginia"

A-NPDC News Summary (continued from page 2)

the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority. The Program provides rental assistance to families whose annual gross household income does not exceed the 50% family income limits for the area. In addition to meeting the 50% income limit, families must score high enough to be pulled from the Waiting List. Preferences are currently given to families who are residents of the area, are disabled, or are living in substandard housing.

The Authority is in the process of finalizing the HCVP Annual Plan for FY 2004. The Annual Plan is currently on display at the Northampton County office in Eastville and the office of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) in Accomac. A Public Hearing on the Annual Plan will be conducted at 6:00 p.m., April 14th, at the office of the A-NPDC. The HCVP staff includes: Josephine James, Bobbie Wert, Robert Williams, and Darlene Burton.

