

# Regional Progress

An Annual Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission—Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission—Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority—Accomack-Norhampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation—Accomack-Norhampton Regional Housing Authority—Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership

## Parksley Downtown Sewer Funds Approved

USDA offered a \$639,000 grant and \$214,000 loan to the Town of Parksley to build a sewer system for its commercial business district on Dunne Avenue and Bennett Street. The new wastewater collection system could also accommodate several residences on Adelaide Street.

Parksley's businesses and building owners have been struggling with individual septic systems, many of which are failing. Replacement systems cost \$15,000, and most of the buildings lack the room needed to install them. In fact, several buildings have septic tanks under their floors, and some septic tanks are shared by multiple businesses.

Lack of an adequate septic system resulted in the closure of Parksley Pizza. A new restaurant, the Taqueria, moved into the old Parksley Pizza building but without restrooms, restricting its operating hours to the time when the town's public restrooms across the street are

open. In addition, the Lunch Box has been unable to use its upper room because of the limited capacity of its septic system. Septic systems have had to be pumped out frequently as well, an added expense for many businesses.

Inadequate septic systems and the restrictions that come with them have also made it difficult to sell and reuse vacant buildings in town. However, now that a sewer system is planned, several buildings have changed hands. New owners are planning a school (Parksley Apparel Building), a bakery and upscale restaurant (old Bayshore Market), and a restaurant in the old ABC store.

The Town of Parksley has contracted with the A-NPDC to administer the



*Parksley Mayor Thomas Young & Mary Jones of USDA Review Grant & Loan Information*

project and develop needed documents to close on the grant and loan in the shortest possible timeframe. Construction is planned for 2005.

## Metompkin Receives \$1.2 Million in Development Funds



*West Metompkin House to be improved*

Accomack County and the Accomack-Norhampton Planning District Commission successfully secured almost 1.2 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant funds to implement community improvements for an area of West Metompkin.

The A-NPDC has been working with the community for over a

year now to help organize the residents, identify the needs of the community, and work through the planning process required to obtain improvement funds.

The County expects to be under contract for the grant by the middle of January, 2005. Once under contract, the County will begin the final design of the improvements, which will include the rehabilitation or replacement of 20 occupied houses, the demolition of 14 abandoned structures, the construction of a storm water drainage system, and improvements to two dirt roads, which will be added to the State road system.



*Citizens Dispose Household Waste Safely at ESO*

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection held on August 18th by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee was a great success. Fifty-four vehicles lined up at the ESO Arts Center in Belle Haven to drop off over two tons of household hazardous waste. Pre-registered householders were able to dispose of up to 30 pounds of hazardous waste for free, and paid 91 cents per pound for additional hazardous waste. Materials collected included leftover garden chemicals, stale gasoline, wood preservatives, paint products, and other hazardous waste. Care Environmental of Landing, New Jersey

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection a Success

collected the materials and safely processed the waste by recycling as fuel, by incineration, or by other treatment. The Food Bank of the Eastern Shore collected useable paint for sale at its Tasley Thrift Shop.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection was sponsored by Accomack County, Northampton County, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, the ESO Arts Center and the A-NPDC.

In order to limit accumulation of household hazardous waste, the Ground Water Committee encourages householders to use hazardous materials for their intended purposes, to buy only what can be used up, and to share leftover materials with friends and neighbors. The

Ground Water Committee is planning to make the collection an annual event and is working to secure funding for the 2005 Eastern Shore Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

### Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee

Hon. Thomas H. Dixon, III, Chair  
 Hon. Wanda J. Thornton, Vice Chair  
 Paul F. Berge, Secretary  
 R. Keith Bul  
 Hon. C.D. Ferring, Jr.  
 Hon. Donald L. Hart, Jr.,  
 J.W. Jeffries  
 Lance L. Metzler  
 Hon. Felton T. Sessoms  
 Mapp Walker  
 Hon. Suzanne S. Wescot

## Northampton County Adopts Access Management Ordinances

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors adopted the U.S. Route 13 Highway Corridor Overlay District Ordinance on August 18, 2004 in order to improve safety and better manage new development. The Highway Corridor Zoning District includes all land within 1,320 feet (1/4 mile) of the centerline of U.S. Route 13 in Northampton County and any adjacent land already zoned commercial or industrial.

The new ordinance was developed to accommodate appropriate growth along the U.S. Route 13 corridor while preserving and enhancing the safety, function, and capacity of the highway corridor. The ordinance includes new requirements for corner clearance, sight distance, driveways, shared access, setbacks, and landscape areas. The regulations are based on a model ordinance in the U.S. Route 13 Access Management Plan. Assistance in preparing the ordinance was provided by the A-NPDC with funding from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Program.

## Accomack and Northampton Adopt Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan

After holding public hearings in June, Accomack County and Northampton

County have adopted the Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan. The purpose of the bicycle plan is to identify future bicycle facilities that



*Bring Tourist Stops in Accomack*

will improve safety for bicyclists and maintain traffic capacity for other vehicles. Bicycle facilities include shared lanes, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, shared-use paths, bicycle racks, and safety signs. Funding for bicycle facilities can come from the VDOT construction budget, Virginia's Transportation Enhancement Grant Program, and local government appropriations.

## Counties Fund USGS Ground Water Model Update

The Ground Water Committee obtained funding from Accomack County and Northampton County to provide local matching funds for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue updating the Eastern Shore Ground Water Flow Model. The county funding was used to collect water quality samples from 70 USGS and DEQ

ground water monitoring wells, which had not been tested since 1988. The data is being analyzed by USGS. The ground water model update, which will be completed in 2006, will allow for better ground water permit review and ground water management. The committee also supported the USGS efforts to study the Chesapeake Bay Impact

Crater, which included drilling two research wells in Cape Charles and conducting seismic profile tests from Cape Charles to Nassawadox.

## Eastern Shore Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Completed

The Eastern Shore Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, funded through a grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and FEMA, was completed in August 2004. It will be used to reduce the damage associated with natural disasters by examining risk in both Accomack and Northampton Counties. It is the Phase I in meeting the federal requirement for both counties and the Town of Chincoteague to have local hazard mitigation plans.

The federal government has documented an increase in disaster costs. For this reason, FEMA is encouraging reduction in damages to private and public property through mitigation. Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. FEMA encourages mitigation through several grant programs. In the future, those grants will only be available if the local jurisdiction has a mitigation plan.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management and FEMA have funded Phase II of this project to complete a Hazard Mitigation Plan for both counties.

All residents of the Eastern Shore will benefit from hazard mitigation planning. By considering the local disasters that could occur, the county officials and residents can make the best decision about how to keep themselves, their families and property safe.



*Kayakers Tour Seaside Coastal Bay*

## Seaside Water Trail Map and Guide Under Development

As part of Virginia's Seaside Heritage Program, the A-NPDC is developing the Seaside Water Trail Map and Guide to identify appropriate paddling routes for visitors to explore the Seaside safely and experience its resources wisely. The map and guide will direct paddlers to public launch sites and provide information on recommended routes, kayak

safety, conservation, local points of interest, and services. While not intended for navigational use, the Seaside Water Trail Map and Guide will identify the navigation charts and topographic maps paddlers should use. A Seaside Water Trail web site will provide more detailed information on paddling routes, safety, and conservation, as well as links to other web sites that provide current information on nearby camping, lodging, and local services. The Seaside Water Trail project will also include installation of floating docks at several launch sites to improve public access.

The Seaside Water Trail Map and Guide is being developed in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, the Town of Chincoteague, the Town of Wachapreague, and the Virginia Coastal Program, which provided funding through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### ANPDC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Sandy Manter, Chair  
Will Cumming, Vice Chair  
Paul F. Berge, Secretary  
Mary Ardolino  
Sandra Benson  
Nancy Duncan  
Hon. C. D. Fleming, Jr.  
Larry LeMond  
Harold Paxton (for Jerry Sears)  
Robert Johnson (for Paul Burnette)  
Eric Stringfield  
James Vest  
Jennifer De Bruhl (non-voting)

# Eastern Shore Heritage Trail Now On-Line



*Historic Eastville Courthouse*

The idea of an Eastern Shore Heritage Trail goes back to 1994, when Northampton County received a VDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant to develop the Northampton Heritage Trail. Recently the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership adopted the idea and the Tourism Commission's Jamestown 2007 Committee selected the Heritage Trail as its legacy project.

Over the last few months, Economic Development Director Greg Manter and a small group of Eastern Shore residents have turned the long-talked-about Trail into a reality. The new Heritage Trail website was online by August 9 and will encourage travelers to enjoy the scenic beauty, natural areas and history of the Shore both on and off Route 13. Major points of interest include historic towns, waterfront vil-

lages, scenic roads, museums, and parks. The Eastern Shore is well known for its fishing and farming heritage, and is a popular vacation destination for those seeking natural areas, historic villages, fishing, hunting, boating, and quiet back roads for bicycling and driving. Chincoteague Island hosts visitors year-round who are attracted by Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore. Other Eastern Shore towns offer restaurants, lodging, museums, and historic districts to visitors exploring our region's natural and cultural heritage. Tangier Island, located in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, is reached by tourists via a seasonal passenger/bicycle ferry.

The Eastern Shore Heritage Trail will also promote economic development by bringing business to local restaurants, shops, motels and inns. The Trail is organized in four easy-to-navigate loops. The website includes descriptions of attractions, a multitude of photos, driving directions, and maps. Links to other websites provide even more

information. The website address is [www.easternshore.org/trail/](http://www.easternshore.org/trail/). Visitors will be able to easily learn about and visit our historic, natural and scenic attractions.

The Eastern Shore Heritage Trail will also promote economic development by bringing business to local restaurants, shops, motels and inns. The Trail is organized in four easy-to-navigate loops. The website includes descriptions of attractions, a multitude of photos, driving directions, and maps. Links to other websites provide even more



## Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership

Richard L. Hubbard, Chairman  
 Willie C. Randall, Vice Chairman  
 Paul F. Bergs, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Julie Badger  
 Hon. Robert S. Bloom  
 Jack Borriwell  
 Vernon Birkey  
 James Brockshie  
 R. Keith Bull  
 William R. Bull  
 Vincent Campbell  
 Jerry Claus  
 Keith Coburn  
 William E. Demy  
 Honorable Thomas H. Dixon, III  
 Honorable Gregory L. Duncan  
 Dr. Mary K. English  
 Eugene Eib  
 Carl Evans  
 Lynn P. Gayle  
 Phil Gobb  
 Honorable Laura Belle Gordy  
 Jeffrey Hammer  
 Honorable Donald L. Hart, Jr.  
 Brenda Holden  
 Ken Holt  
 Dr. Richard E. Jenkins  
 Oral Lambert  
 Honorable Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.  
 Greg Manter  
 Leona Vapp  
 Ardea Mason  
 Lance L. Metzler  
 Dan Oliver  
 Honorable Bruce Paone  
 David M. Parker  
 Stephen N. Parker  
 Rose Rubin  
 Dana Spady  
 Honorable John H. Tar  
 Suzanne Taylor  
 Honorable Laurence Traft  
 Felix Torrice  
 Honorable Suzanne Westcott  
 James M. West  
 Bruce E. Underwood

## Economic Impact of the US Navy at Wallops Studied

The results of a study of the Economic Value of the Navy Command at Wallops Island were presented to the public on November 30, 2004 at Wright's Restaurant in Atlantic. Dr. Memo Diriker of Salisbury University and Steve Habeger of the Eastern Shore Defense Alliance described the importance of the Navy to our regional economy.

The Eastern Shore Economic Development Commission and the Eastern Shore Defense Alliance organized this economic impact study of the base to help prepare for the upcoming Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure process. A thorough understanding of the economic importance of the base on both sides of the state line is important for gathering support in the future. In recognition of the regional importance of the base, both Virginia and

Maryland helped pay for the study that was completed by Dr. Diriker.

The study found that the Navy Surface Combat Systems Center at Wallops directly spends \$14.7 million annually on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The total economic impact is even greater — \$106 million annually. That is what would have to be replaced in our economy if the base were closed. 1,264 full-time equivalent jobs are supported by the economic activity at the base.

The Eastern Shore Defense Alliance is proactively working to protect and expand the operations of the Navy at Wallops. The Alliance is made up of Navy contractors, local economic developers, and other interested citizens. It is modeled after the successful Maryland Naval Alliance that supports the Pax River Naval facility.

## Business Development and Workforce Training Center at Eastern Shore Community College Update

With the assistance of the A-NPDC, the Eastern Shore Community College is applying to USDA Rural Development and to the EDA for funding the new Business Development and Workforce Training Center. Other sources of funding include \$2.347 million from the state's education bond, \$75,000 from the ESCC Foundation, \$110,000 from the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership, and \$602,000 from Accomack and Northampton Counties.

The need for the new training center is documented by area statistics and a

2003 survey of area employers. The college is hard-pressed to find space to conduct its current workforce training courses, let alone expand its curriculum.

The 20,000 square foot Business Development and Workforce Training Center will provide the ESCC with flexible space for a wide variety of training venues. In addition, it will house the Small Business Development Center and will have facilities for employers who need off-site training space.

## Public Service Authority Starts Northampton Project

Due to the perceived slow start on the potential Central Accomack Wastewater Project and the fear of financial liability associated with the operation and maintenance of the Bayview Project in Northampton County, Accomack County has taken the necessary steps toward withdrawal from the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority. In 2004, the ESVPSA continued planning for the Northern Northampton Wastewater Project. The project was refined to include two smaller sewage treatment plants to serve the Towns of Exmore, Belle Haven, Nassawadox and

some unincorporated portions of both Counties. Provisions for handling septage is included in this project. These two plants will treat the wastewater to "Limit of Technology" (LOT) standards for ultimate land disposal, a form of recycle/reuse in lieu of overboard discharge. The Nassawadox portion of the project will even serve to remove a current discharge from Warehouse Creek, thereby helping clean-up and protect Nassawadox Creek and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.



### Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission

J. T. Holland, Chairman  
 Rodney M. Dunton, Vice Chairman  
 Paul F. Berge, Secretary-Treasurer  
 R. Keith Bul  
 Ivin Jackson  
 Lance L. Metzler  
 Harrison Wehrner  
 Debra Wharton



### Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority

Hon. Felton T. Sessoms, Chair  
 Hon. Wanda J. Thornton, Vice Chair  
 Hon. Thomas H. Dixon, III  
 Hon. Laura Belle Gordy  
 Hon. Julia E. Major  
 Hon. Thomas J. Matthews  
 Hon. Suzanne S. Vescoat

Advisors  
 R. Keith Bul  
 Robert C. Oliver, Jr., Esquire  
 Lance L. Metzler  
 Russel O. Slayton, Jr., Esquire

## Schedule of Revenues and Expenses

	A-NPDC	A-NHRC	A-NRHA	ESVEDC	ESVRP	ESVPSA
<b>REVENUES:</b>						
Local	\$255,478	\$18,167	\$81,130	\$97,000	\$0	\$0
State	66,239	2,780	0	0	0	10,000
Federal	805,716	651,475	2,401,319	0	0	23,102
Other	108,338	38,106	7,500	2,000	168	189
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,235,771</b>	<b>\$710,528</b>	<b>\$2,489,949</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>	<b>\$168</b>	<b>\$33,291</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Personnel Management	\$827,738	\$103,036	\$285,953	\$82,615	\$3,503	\$58,086
Contractual Services	252,481	34,336	2,072,651	2,384	20,540	30,000
Other Operating Expenses	228,257	141,669	104,102	11,792	0	21,601
Construction/Capital Expense	66	430,213	0	0	0	0
Marketing Expenses	0	0	0	2,954	0	0
Reserve (Deficit)	(73,351)	1,224	27,243	(745)	(23,875)	(76,336)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,235,771</b>	<b>\$710,528</b>	<b>\$2,489,949</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>	<b>\$168</b>	<b>\$33,291</b>

# Regional Housing Plan Adopted

The Regional Housing Assessment and Strategic Plan for the Eastern Shore was adopted by Northampton County on August 12, Accomack County on August 18, and the Town of Chincoteague on August 19. It was adopted by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission on May 17, 2004.

This is the first regional plan to be adopted to comply with the requirements of the state Regional Cooperation Act. A copy of the Plan is on the A-NPDC web site, [www.a-npdc.org](http://www.a-npdc.org).

Key recommendations include construction of more affordable rental housing, pursue HUD financing for rental housing and supportive services for persons with disabilities, and develop an emergency shelter for families with children.

Other recommendations are establishing a regional network of homeownership counseling and the revitalization of communities of poverty. The Housing Plan also seeks to create a regional housing coordinating council

that will monitor the implementation of the plan.

The Plan was endorsed by the Accomack County Board of Social Services, Board of Directors of Farmers & Merchants Bank- Eastern Shore, District One Community Action Group, Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Shore of Virginia Habitat for Humanity, Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation, and the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority.

## Community Development Block Grants Continue

In 2004, the A-NPDC has helped secure over 2.3 million dollars of additional housing and community development funds for the Eastern Shore of Virginia, including \$700,000 in CDBG funds to help supplement the lead paint hazard reduction program, \$215,000 in Indoor Plumbing Program funds, and \$250,000

in Indoor Plumbing Set-aside funds for Makemie Park. This money is on top of approximately 6.4 million dollars in CDBG funds that the housing department manages for various communities and initiatives on the Eastern Shore. These projects include improvements in Bayview, Fairview, Makemie Park, Locust Mount, New Road and various areas that benefit from indoor plumbing repair grants and lead risk reduction grants.

In addition, two projects were closed out this year, Savage Town/Cats Bridge Comprehensive Community Improvement Grant, approximately 1.4 million dollars, and the previous year's Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation program, approximately \$100,000.



Substandard Home in Cats Bridge

## Eastern Shore Lead Safe Homes Program Begins

Working with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission began to gear-up for an aggressive program aimed at eliminating lead-based paint hazards in homes on the Shore. Accomack and Northampton Counties, along with the cities of Danville and Petersburg will benefit from a \$2.1 million HUD grant that will begin to address the lead hazards that has resulted in el-

evated blood-lead levels in nearly 4000 children in the project areas.

On the Shore, the goal of the program will be to remove lead hazards from as many as 60 homes over the next 30 months. The A-NPDC will be partnering with the Eastern Shore Health District to provide a comprehensive program of lead removal, blood tests, education and follow-up.

### Regional Housing Coordinating Committee

- Jule Badger, Co-Chair
- George Schofield, Co-Chair
- Whites Barks
- Sandra Benson
- Hon. Robert S. Bowman
- R. Keith Bul
- Joe Buh
- Jane Cabarrus
- Rev. Charles Cannon
- Cheryl Chesser
- Alce Coles
- Roxanne Fabrizio
- Eleanor Drewnick
- Brenda Hadden
- William Hughes
- J.W. Jeffries
- Lee Mapp
- Sandy Minter
- Lancel Metzler
- Joe Myer
- Pauline Mounce
- Lenora Michel
- Yvette Morris
- Mary Parker
- Hon. Edward Parks
- Martha Parks
- Betsy Rogers
- Bobby Rogers
- Bob Savage
- Susan Scot
- Michael Seby
- A.C. Sinclair
- Debra Singletary
- Denard Spady
- Richard Stierdt
- Suzanne Taylor
- Nancy Gonzalez
- Linda Martin Warner
- James Vest
- Ruth Wee

# Regional Downtown Revitalization Program

Cape Charles, Exmore, Onancock, Parksley and Chincoteague held town meetings in March to prioritize projects



**Accomack-Northampton  
Housing and Redevelopment  
Corporation**

Lenora Mitchell, President  
Nathaniel Williams, Vice President  
Paul F. Berge, Secretary  
Donald Sawyer, Treasurer  
Debra Bailey  
Chris Barron  
Samuel Boggs  
Jay Brown  
R. Keith Bull  
Louise Coles  
Daniel Douglas  
Venera Evers  
Dana Gobbers  
Thomas G. Godwin  
J.W. Jeffries  
Angel Collins  
Hon. Thomas J. Matthews  
Lancel Metzler  
Elen Richardson  
Anthony P. Sacco  
Susan Scott  
Michael Seby  
Fair Showel  
Shirley P. Taylor  
Hon. Laurence J. Trela  
Doris T. Whitley  
Marta C. Young

for the revitalization. The meetings were part of the Regional Downtown Revitalization Program run by citizens groups in each town and staffed by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. Representatives of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development facilitated the meetings and there was excellent participation, including a high of 56 attendees in Parksley.

The results of the meetings give direction to revitalization efforts in each town.

## Thirty Families Benefit From Housing Improvements

Thirty families on the Shore benefited from housing improvements provided by the various housing programs administered by the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, the Accomack-Northampton Housing & Redevelopment, and the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority. Twenty-three new houses were built, six existing houses were rehabilitated, and one family was provided with mortgage funds to purchase an existing standard house. The improvements included the installation of 23 new deep wells, and 23 on site sewer systems. Five families received indoor plumbing for the first time. Approximately \$1,124,000 of State and Federal program funds were accessed to provide the assistance.

Work will begin immediately to plan for the implementation of the highest priority projects. Implementation funding is available from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and other funding agencies.

Top priority improvement projects are the streetscape in Onancock, the harbor in Cape Charles, a shared septic system in Chincoteague, and expanded revitalization in Exmore.

Additionally, the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority partnered with Accomack County to purchase a house in northern Accomack County through HUD's \$1 Home Sales to Local Governments Program. The Program makes HUD owned properties available to local governments when the properties have gone unsold after being offered to the public for six months or more. The local government must assure HUD that the property acquired will be used to support local housing and community development initiatives.

After completing some minor repairs, the HUD house will be made available to a low-income family who currently lives in a house without indoor plumbing.

## Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Update

This has been a year of changes for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority staff has been struggling for some time to meet HUD's expectations regarding program operations. Historically, this program has been understaffed due to budget constraints and this combined with other factors, has affected its ability to fully lease all allocated units. This year the A-NRHA made program changes and put forth a concerted effort which allowed it to meet our goals, reaching 100% lease up by June 30, 2004. It was also able to hire a full-time inspec-

tor to the staff to help reach and maintain the program operation goals.

Shortly after these accomplishments, HUD began making sweeping changes in the way the program was funded nationally. These changes made a direct and immediate impact upon the program by cutting not only the amount of money available for its administration but for the Housing Assistance Payments made to landlords as well.

Staff has worked diligently to identify and implement cost saving measures and will continue to do so into the next year. They are working closely with HUD to



**Accomack-Northampton  
Regional Housing Authority**

R. Keith Bull, Chairman  
Lancel Metzler, Vice Chairman  
Howard C. Wessels II  
Brenda Sessions Wee  
Franklin Custis  
Donald Sawyer

increase monies available to the program to ensure that the quality of the program does not suffer and to enable staff to serve as many Eastern Shore residents as possible.



## Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Thomas J. Matthews, Chairman  
Charles Klam, Vice Chairman  
Oliver H. Bennett  
Thomas H. Dixon, III  
Gregory L. Duncan  
C. D. Fleming, Jr.  
Donald L. Hart, Jr.  
Julia E. Major  
Lester H. Spady, Sr.  
Wanda Thornton  
Gwendolyn F. Turner  
Felon T. Sessoms  
James Vest  
Shiley A. Zamora

## Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission Staff

Paul F. Berge, Executive Director  
David F. Annis, Director of Housing Production  
Kat Edwards, Director of Housing Development  
Susan P. Haycox, Director of Administration  
Greg Winter, Director of Economic Development  
James M. McGowan, Director of Planning  
Arthur C. Miles, Director of Public Services  
John Aigner, Community Development Coordinator  
Heather Gavis, Community Development  
Coordinator  
Jose James, Community Development Coordinator  
Elaine Mel, Regional Planner  
Robert Williams, Housing Specialist  
Monika Upshur, Housing Specialist  
Bobbie Wert, Section 8 Administrative Assistant  
Barbara Schwenk, Economic Development  
Coordinator  
Tabatha C. Walker, Administrative Assistant  
Leslie Savage, Clerical Assistant/Receptionist

### Contact Information

Web Site: [www.anpdc.org](http://www.anpdc.org)  
email: [anpdc@anpdc.org](mailto:anpdc@anpdc.org)  
Phone: 757-787-2986 or 757-787-2800  
Toll Free: 866-787-3001  
Fax: 757-787-4221



## A-NPDC Mourns the Loss of Julia Major

Accomack County Supervisor Julia E. Major passed away on September 4, 2004. She served on the A-NPDC continuously from 1984, when she was first elected as county supervisor. During her 20 years on the Commission, she served as chair and vice chair several times. In 1993, she was elected Chair of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commission and guided the VAPDC to hire its first paid staff.

“Julia was a very warm and generous person,” said A-NPDC director Paul Berge. “She also was a strong progressive leader of the county, the region, and the state,” said Berge. “We called her a statesman and a saint. The A-NPDC will miss her dearly.”

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.# 3072  
ACCOMAC, VA 23301