

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

November 2003

Miles Hired to Direct Public Service Authority

Arthur C. "Artie" Miles has been appointed A-NPDC Director of Public Services and starts work on January 1, 2004. Mr. Miles will oversee the Water and Wastewater Treatment programs of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority.

Mr. Miles' current position is Environmental Health Supervisor for the Virginia Department of Health in the Eastern Shore District, where he has been employed for 29 years. His extensive local knowledge and experience will enable him to quickly take on the responsibilities of the new position. Mr. Miles is a native of Parksley and lives in the Town of Belle Haven.

The Public Service Authority's mission is to address regional water and sewer needs and thereby enable economic development, facilitate downtown revitalization, and protect the environment. The Authority was established in December of 1999 by Accomack and Northampton Counties.

Northampton and Accomack Counties each appoint three members to the Authority's Board of Directors. The current Directors are Felton Sessoms (Chair), Laura Belle Gordy, Julia Major, Wanda Thornton, Suzanne Wescoat, and Thom Dixon III.

The Board of Directors developed

a list of more than forty potential projects before deciding on three priorities: the Bayview water and sewer system, Central Accomack sewer system, and Northampton sewer system.

The Bayview water system is designed to provide 29,000 gallons per day and the sewer system 26,990 with 80 residential connections. The authority should start operating the system in December of this year.

The proposed Central Accomack sewer system could handle 1 million gallons per day through a plant at Onancock or at an alternate site. It would serve the Towns of Melfa, Onley, Accomack, Onancock, Accomack Airport Industrial Park and parts of unincorporated Accomack County.

The proposed Northampton County sewer system might handle 750,000 gallons per day through a plant near Nassawadox. It would serve the Towns of Nassawadox, Exmore and Belle Haven

and portions of unincorporated Northampton County.

The Central Accomack and Northampton sewer systems could be operational in 2006.

Future projects for the Public Service Authority may include small community water and sewer systems, Wallops-Chincoteague-Accomack water and sewer, South Northampton regional water system, and stormwater management.



Artie Miles, Director of Public Services

Housing Program News and Notes

Build for the Future

The last two groups of Build for the Future trainees received their certificates of completion at the October 20th A-NPDC meeting. The program prepared trainees to begin careers in the construction trades.

Fairview

One replacement home was finished and construction at an additional replacement house is underway. Contracts have been signed for the rehabilitation of 3 more homes.

Bayview

A demolition bid packet was released on October 15th that includes all of the substandard houses located at Company Court and all but 2 of the substandard houses on Country Place

Road. The families who recently vacated these houses are now living in apartments in the new subdivision.

Makemie Park

Three new houses have been completed, one additional replacement house is nearly complete, and two rehabilitations are underway.

Locust Mount

Construction is nearing completion on 1 new home. Well and septic contracts were issued and 3 more existing homes have been identified for rehabilitation.

North Accomack County

A realtor has been engaged to look for property in mid-to-north Accomack County to build a tax credit affordable rental project.

New Marketing Initiative for Business Parks

On September 29th the Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission selected the industrial real estate firm of Thalhimer Cushman Wakefield to represent Accomack Airport Industrial Park and Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park. The selection was the result of a systematic search that included a formal Request for Proposals and interviews of several firms. Representatives from the Industrial Development Authorities of both counties were involved.

Thalhimer's assignment is to help the Economic Development Commission market the parks and to advise the Industrial Development Authorities on development questions. Greater exposure and more awareness of the marketplace should result in more activity in both parks. Representatives of the firm have already attended IDA meetings.

Thalhimer Cushman Wakefield is one of the largest commercial and industrial real estate brokerage firms in the state, and they are part of the international Cushman Wakefield network. Sam Walker and Bob Thornton of Thalhimer's Virginia Beach office are experienced commercial and industrial real estate brokers and they come highly recommended.

Thalhimer Cushman Wakefield will provide their services strictly on a commission basis for the sale of land or lease of buildings in the parks.



Director of Housing Development Kat Edwards presents a Certificate of Completion to Build for the Future graduate David Wise

A-NPDC GIS Day 2003

As part of International GIS Day 2003, the A-NPDC will host a GIS Day program on Wednesday, November 19, 2003 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. The program will feature presentations on the use of GIS on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and is open to the public.

GIS stands for geographic information system, the merging of digital data and digital maps through computer technology.

The A-NPDC GIS Day program will be held at the A-NPDC, 23372 Front Street, Accomac. For more information on A-NPDC GIS DAY 2003, contact Jim McGowan, Director of Planning, at 787-2936.

Transportation Info Online

A new page of information about Eastern Shore of Virginia transportation issues and contacts is now available on the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission website. Through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Rural Transportation Planning Program, the A-NPDC provides transportation planning assistance to the Eastern Shore's 21 local governments. The assistance includes updating transportation elements of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, bicycle and pedestrian planning, development of GIS data, and preparation of VDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant applications.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or comments about anything in this publication, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning District Commission.

Phone 757-787-2936
Toll Free 866-787-3001
E-Mail anpdc@esva.net
Website www.a-npdc.org

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

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