

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

December 2003

The Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program on the Eastern Shore

On October 29th, Governor Mark R. Warner announced the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Virginia a \$2.1 million lead hazard control grant. The funding will be used to reduce hazards caused by lead-based paint in low-income homes with children.

"This grant is excellent news," said Governor Warner. "These federal funds will go a long way to reduce lead-based paint and make many homes safer for children and families."

Accomack and Northampton Counties and the cities of Petersburg and Danville will participate in the program. These localities were selected because they have high incidents of children with lead poisoning. According to the Virginia Health Department, nearly 4,000 children under the age of six in these localities have blood-lead levels that exceed the current EPA established level of 10 micrograms per deciliter.

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission is administering the program on the Eastern Shore. The goal is to reduce lead hazards in up to 60 homes.

Lead-based paint is a serious health threat, especially to children under the age of six because their bodies are still in development. Lead from lead-based paint is absorbed into the body when children touch objects that may be covered with lead dust, such as window sills or doorways, and put their hands into their mouths. Renovating or remodeling older homes can generate high levels of lead dust which is hard to clean. Lead poisoning can damage the brain and nervous system, and cause behavioral and learning problems in children

such as hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems, and headaches.

Grant funds will provide for the reduction of lead hazards in properties that qualify. Families will also receive medical case management, blood screening, and learn about the importance of nutrition in combating the effects of lead.

To qualify to have lead hazards reduced in your home, you must meet the following requirements:

- Occupy (own or rent) a house constructed prior to 1978, located in Northampton or Accomack County. If the house is rented, the owner's permission must be obtained.

- Have existing lead hazards in the house.

- Have children under the age of 6 living or spending significant time in the house.

- Meet the HUD guidelines for low-moderate income families. Income will be verified.

If you meet these requirements and are interested in having lead hazards reduced in your home, please call Heather Garvis at the A-NPDC for an application: 757-787-2936 or toll-free 866-787-3001.



Chincoteague Marina has First Visitors

In October, the new marina built as part of Chincoteague's new waterfront park had its first paying visitors. Two 40-foot pleasure crafts docked at the marina while their owners enjoyed Chincoteague's fall festivities.

One of the yachts, the Kibon, was a member of The Great Loop Cruiser's Association. America's Great Loop is the continuous waterway that circumnavigates the eastern portion of North

America - along the Atlantic seaboard, across the Great Lakes, through the inland rivers, and around the Gulf of Mexico. It is sometimes referred to as the Great Circle Route.

The marina was built with a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Boating Infrastructure Grant funds. The Town hopes that the marina and park will be an attraction to the downtown business district.

Eastern Shore Defense Alliance

The 2005 Federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is one of the largest economic development issues facing the Eastern Shore of Virginia over the next two years. Through the 2005 BRAC process, the federal government, under the direction of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, will review the current and future value of military installations throughout the country for potential closure or realignment. Along with all other military bases, the US Navy Surface Combat Systems Center (SCSC) at Wallops Island will be reviewed.

The SCSC is an important part of the Eastern Shore economy. It generates employment for 100 military personnel, 50 civilian personnel and 250 contractor personnel. Aggregate payroll is in excess of \$17 million. Approximately \$13 million is expensed annually for items other than personnel.

The purpose of the Eastern Shore Defense Alliance is to proactively pro-

tect and expand the operations of the Navy at Wallops Island. The group was originally made up exclusively of Navy contractors, but it now includes economic development professionals from Virginia and Maryland. The Alliance is modeled after the successful Southern Maryland Naval Alliance, which supports the Pax River Naval facility. The Alliance sees growth potential in four projects for the Navy at Wallops: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle development, increased work with Pax River, and the construction of a building for the next generation of ship defense systems.

Since 1983, over half a billion dollars have been invested in equipment at SCSC. As a result, SCSC has the unique capability to recreate an AEGIS cruiser or Ship Self Defense System (SSDS) equipped aircraft carrier without the costs of operating a real ship. The engineering performed in the facilities of the SCSC can be done at no other land-based facility.

A-NPDC Approves Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan

The A-NPDC approved the Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan at the November 17th Commission meeting. The Bicycle Plan recommendations include paved shoulders on the Chincoteague Causeway, a designated Seaside Bicycle Route with paved shoulders from Maryland Route 12 to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, and shared use paths from Onancock to Onley, Cape Charles to Cheriton, and Cape Charles to Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The plan also recommends a designated bicycle route on the Bayside, bicycle facilities to connect towns and communities with schools, businesses, and recreation facilities, and improved access along and across U.S. Route 13.

Now that the A-NPDC has approved the Bicycle Plan, staff will present the plan to Eastern Shore local governments, who may hold public hearings and adopt the plan. Local governments are required to have adopted bicycle plans before VDOT funds can be spent developing bicycle facilities.



Shore Financial & Lockheed Martin

Two important Eastern Shore of Virginia businesses recently celebrated construction of new facilities.

On October 27th, Lockheed Martin had a dedication ceremony for its new 10,000 square foot office building near Wallops. Congressman Ed Schrock attended the ceremony. Lockheed Martin is a contractor to the US Navy Surface Combat Systems Center at Wallops Island.

On November 12th, Shore Financial Corporation had a groundbreaking ceremony for its new 19,000 square foot headquarters and operations building in Onley. The company has 70 employees and expects to grow to 100 by 2008. Shore Financial is the Eastern Shore's only NASDAQ company.

Dave Johnson BFTF Supervisor

The Build for the Future (BFTF) program officially ended October 31 and Dave Johnson's position as Construction Supervisor for the program ended with it. He has returned to the private sector and is working in construction. Dave was responsible for the hands-on portion of the program, teaching construction math and technical skills. He successfully trained 16 people.

The A-NPDC staff and Commissioners would like to recognize and thank Dave Johnson for the outstanding job he did as Construction Supervisor and for his contribution to the future of these men.



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.

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