

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

May 2004

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Updated

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the result of a local planning process designed to guide the economic growth of an area. It provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development.

A CEDS is also required to qualify for Economic Development Administration assistance under its grant programs. The Eastern Shore has received funding from the EDA for projects such as Accomack Airport Industrial Park, Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport.

The A-NPDC updates the Eastern Shore's CEDS annually. This year's update made minor adjustments to project priorities and added the "Academical Village" to project list.

The Academical Village is a project initiated by the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership to create rental apartments for teachers, and it is named after Thomas Jefferson's design for an "academical village" at the

University of Virginia. The goal of the project is to make it easier to recruit new teachers to the Shore. Recruitment of teachers is currently made more difficult by the lack of quality apartments available for rent.

All of the projects in the CEDS are important to the region and many factors impact the urgency with which they are developed. The following list places the projects in a priority order as required by the CEDS process. The priorities are reviewed and updated annually.

1. Workforce Training & Business Development Center

2. Wallops Research Park & Commercialization Center
3. Wastewater Treatment Systems Improvement & Development
4. Broadband Internet Access
5. Downtown Revitalization
6. Eastern Shore Defense Alliance / US Navy SCSC
7. Regional Trails (Bird, Bike, Heritage)
8. Academical Village
9. Regional Food System
10. Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park
11. Accomack Airport Industrial Park
12. Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport
13. Wholesale Farmers Market & Seafood Market
14. Revolving Loan Fund

The economy of the Eastern Shore of Virginia is changing and strengthening. The construction industry is booming. The tourism industry is strong. Small businesses are revitalizing our traditional downtowns. There is the potential for significant new activity by NASA and the Navy at Wallops Island. As a region, our economic future is more promising than ever.



The "Academical Village" at the University of Virginia

Seaside Water Trail Plan Presentations Held

Presentations on the draft Seaside Water Trail Plan were held in Accomack County, Northampton County, and the Town of Chincoteague during April 2004. The Seaside Water Trail Plan identifies canoe and kayak paddling routes on the Seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore, and recommends needs for canoe and kayak launch site improvements, safety, and resource conservation.

The draft Seaside Water Trail Plan is based on public input from workshops held in the Fall of 2003. The plan recommends a water trail route for ad-

vanced paddlers from Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, with connections to the Assateague Canoe Trail and Greenbackville. Shorter routes for beginner and intermediate paddlers are identified at the 20 publicly owned launch sites on the Seaside.

The plan stresses the need for kayak safety and protection of natural resources through development of a water trail map and guide and web site, which are being developed. The plan also recommends installation of float-

ing docks to improve launch sites in Accomack County, Northampton County, and the Towns of Chincoteague and Wachapreague.

The Seaside Water Trail Plan, which is being developed by the A-NPDC in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, the Town of Chincoteague, is a project of the Virginia Coastal Program's Seaside Heritage Program. For more information about the Seaside Water Trail Plan, contact Jim McGowan, A-NPDC Director of Planning, at 757-787-2936.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority Update

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority (ESVPSA) has tentatively entered into an agreement with Draper Aden Associates for a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to determine the feasibility of taking on the operations of the sewage treatment and public water supply facilities at the NASA-Wallops Flight Facility. If deemed feasible, the authority could serve NASA-WFF and outside private interests in which NASA has a stake but cannot at present serve directly. This partnership could give the Authority a firm foundation on which to build in the future.

The potential for two major sewage treatment plants to serve 1) central Accomack County and 2) northern Northampton County continues to be considered. Property for such plants is in the process of being acquired. In the

case of the Northampton County system, a purchase option for property is being reviewed by both parties' attorneys. The Authority Board has completed review of the PER and has given the go-ahead to proceed with presenting the plan to both Boards of Supervisors and the Towns involved.



NASA Wallops Island Flight Facility

The most urgent item on the Authority's agenda is the acceptance of the Bayview sewage and water systems. Minor problems are being attended to by the various contractors. Once these are completed to the satisfaction of the Health Department and other regulatory agencies, final plats are signed and appropriate land transfers have taken place, the Authority will take over the operation, maintenance and billing for both systems.

There continues to be much interest from other outside entities regarding what the Authority may eventually be able to do. Small sewage treatment plant operators have expressed interest as well as some Towns. As the Authority gears up its operations, it is hope that it will be able to serve all who wish to be served.

Monika Upshur, Housing Specialist

Monika Upshur has joined the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission staff as Housing Specialist and Section 8 Inspector.

Monika is a graduate of Northampton High School and Kee Business College. She also served in the Army and received training in Special Electronic Devices Repair. Most recently Monika worked at Perdue Farms Inc. as an electrician.

Monika is a mother of two, Jonathan and Brettani. In her spare time she loves to read and write poetry.

Monika will be an important asset to the Section 8 program and a welcome addition to the A-NPDC staff.

Stork Makes Delivery to the Walker Family

A-NPDC Administrative Assistant Tabbi Walker is pleased to announce the birth of her son, Seth Adam Walker. Baby Seth was born March 31st at 4:56 pm and weighed 9 lbs 3.3 oz; 20.25 inches long.

Congratulations to Tabbi and Scotty Walker on the new addition to their happy family!



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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