

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

November 2004

Savage Town/Cats Bridge Community Improvements Completed

Accomack County, through the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission recently completed work on the Savage Town/Cats Bridge Comprehensive Community Improvement Grant.

The completion of this project and the improvements it has brought to the Savage Town/Cats Bridge community will serve as a lasting memorial to the leadership and dedication that the late Honorable Julia Major brought to her electoral district. Ms. Major served as a strong supporter of this project since the early planning stages. She was instrumental in having both Savage Town and Cats Bridge included in the project area. Her commitment to her constituency was evidenced by her continuous participation on the project's management team and her personal visits to area residents to help explain and support the planned improvements.

Those improvements include the rehabilitation of 22 occupied houses including the provision of first-time indoor plumbing to 6 homes, the demolition of 19 abandoned structures, the relocation of 4 families to safe and sanitary housing and the removal of over 13

dumpster loads of junk and debris. Fourteen septic systems and 12 new deep wells were installed.

Additionally, Beckett Lane was resurfaced to meet VDOT standards and Addison Lane was improved to allow access of emergency response vehicles. The drainage ditch was improved along 34,700 feet of roadways and 50 entrance pipes were installed. All participants in the grant received home maintenance education.

The entire project cost \$1,355,247 and leveraged funds from the Department of Housing and Community De-

velopment, Accomack County, Virginia Department of Transportation, Southeast Community Assistance Project Inc., and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Repayment of the ten-year loans made to area residents to conduct the housing improvements will continue through 2014. It is estimated that over \$100,000 will be recaptured and used to continue to meet the needs of the residents in the Savage Town/Cats Bridge project area.

For more information contact, Heather Garvis (757) 787-2936.



Left Picture: Cats Bridge Resident Lillie Ayers, left, with Supervisor Reneta Major, right, in Ms. Ayers new home Right Picture: Ms. Ayers house before the project started,

PSA Staff Visits Spray Irrigation Site

On September 10, 2005, Authority staff visited Berlin, Maryland to get a look at how the Town uses spray irrigation to handle wastewater disposal.

Currently, the plant disposes of about 500,000 gallons of treated effluent per day. All of the wastewater has been land applied except for last year which, being wet, allowed the holding lagoon to fill up. At that time, the permitted discharge point into a local creek was used. The treatment process was ramped up in quality and strict sampling schedules was instituted.

Land application requires a large amount of land, 200 acres in Berlin. A 120-day holding pond with waterproof liner is required. Berlin's pond is 18 acres. Additionally, an expanded labor

force is needed to operate and maintain the disposal site.

Land application recycles water and it keeps the treated wastewater out of local waterways. The disposal area becomes a virtual wildlife sanctuary. It's common to see the deer making a game of running through the spray. Since wildlife comes in contact with the spray, effluent is lightly chlorinated to further ensure that there is no disease causing agents are present.

Spray irrigation may not directly fit our needs but some form of land disposal does makes sense and this is where the majority of the PSA's time and effort will be spent. For more information contact Artie Miles, (757)787-2936.



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.

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, Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Habitat for Humanity.

For more information contact Paul Berge, (757) 787-2936.

Accomack Transportation Workshop

Accomack County is updating the Comprehensive Plan transportation section. A Transportation Planning Workshop will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 at the VDOT Residency auditorium in Accomac. The purpose of the workshop is to identify transportation issues and needs. For more information contact Jim McGowan, (757) 787-2936.

Accomack Supervisors Appoint New PDC Commissioner

Mr. Thomas E. Rienert was appointed a PDC Commissioner by the Accomack County Board of Supervisors at at the October 20th meeting.

Mr. Rienert will take the place of Shirley A. Zamorra and will complete her term which ends June 30, 2005.

PDC Board Fills Executive Committee Vacancies

The Board of Commissioners selected members to fill the PDC Executive Committee vacancies at the October meeting. The Honorable Gregory Duncan was elected Chairman. Mr. Duncan last led the Committee in 1996. Reverend Charles Kellam remains the Committee's Vice-Chairman. The Honorable Donald Hart, Jr. will serve on the Executive Committee in place of the immediate past Chairman since Chairman Bennett is no longer a Board member. A new Executive Committee will be elected in December and the new term will start in January.

Robert Williams Gets Lead Risk Assessor Certification

Robert T. Williams is now a Virginia Licensed Lead Risk Assessor. On October 15, he passed the two required tests with flying colors. Mr. Williams's new certification now allows him to inspect houses for lead risks and write repair specifications to resolve those risks.

In the past, these services had to be subcontracted out. Currently, two grants, the Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program and the Indoor Plumbing Repair program, require a Certified Lead Risk Assessor to inspect client properties before work can commence.



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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