

# Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



January 2008

## Regional Leaders Honored for Service

In December, the A-NPDC, Housing Authority, Housing Corporation, and Groundwater Committee honored board members and staff who were leaving their respective regional organizations.

The A-NPDC presented Resolutions of Commendation to Gregory L. Duncan, Andrew R. Barbour, C. Reneta Major, Thomas J. Matthews, and Paul F. Berge.

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority presented Resolutions of Commendation to W. Donald Sawyer and Berge.

The Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation presented Resolutions of Commendation to Nathaniel B. Williams, Shirley P. Taylor, Martha C. Young, Matthews, Sawyer and Berge.

The Eastern Shore Groundwater



*Berge presents resolution to former A-NPDC Chairman Duncan*



*Berge presents resolution to former A-NHRC Director Williams*

Committee presented Resolutions of Commendation to Suzanne S. Wescoat, Donald L. Hart, Jr., Major, and Berge.

All served on the boards of these organizations. In addition, Berge served as Executive Director of the A-NPDC, A-N Regional Housing Authority, and A-N Housing and Redevelopment Corpo-

ration. Berge also received a Willie Crockett original painting of the Enterprise Building recognizing his 28 years of service. The Town of Chincoteague and NCALL Research, Inc., also recognized Berge's service.

Art Collins of Hampton Roads PDC, Chair Suzanne Wescoat of the Northampton County Board of supervisors, former Accomack and

*(Continued on Page 2)*



*Berge presents resolution to retiring A-NPDC Vice-chairperson Major*



*Rob Ritter, Chincoteague Town Manager, presents resolution to Berge*

### This Issue

Regional Leaders Honored for Service

Paul Merritt Remembered

Orientation Home Ownership Class Scheduled

New Construction Underway at Metompink Community Project

---

# Paul Merritt Remembered



*Paul Merritt and wife Helen*

In his parting remarks, retiring Executive Director Paul Berge recognized three regional leaders that had passed away recently and had inspired him during his career, Julia Major, Tommy Matthews, and Paul Merritt.

Paul Merritt died in 2006 after retiring from public service. He had served on the Accomack County Board of Supervisors for 32 years representing Chincoteague Island. Paul served on the

A-NPDC from 1973 until 1995. During his 22 years with the A-NPDC, and using his senior status on the Accomack Board as leverage, he led many efforts by Eastern Shore local governments to address issues of mutual concern together, not just as individual towns, counties, or election districts. His efforts included forming the regional Housing Corporation, Housing Authority, Tourism Commission, and Economic Development Commission.

“Paul was a passionate promoter of Chincoteague,” said Berge, “but by the time I arrived on the Shore, he was also a passionate Eastern Shoreman. He was one of the first leaders I met that understood that the Eastern Shore region needed to work together in order to effect growth and progress for its individual localities.”

As a former Chincoteague Town Councilman, owner of the Chincoteague Miniature Pony Farm (and performer in its shows), insurance broker, and deacon for the Union Baptist Church, Merritt was often known as “Mr. Chincoteague” throughout the Commonwealth, the country, and the world.

---

## Orientation Homeownership Education Class Scheduled

The Accomack-Northampton Housing Regional Authority (A-NrHA) has scheduled its first Orientation Homeownership Education class on January 10 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Front Street location. For more details, please contact Patricia Connolly Grove, Housing Counselor for the A-NRHA, at 757-787-2800, ext 124.

Grove recently returned from a week-long training class in Portland, Oregon, sponsored by NeighborWorks, a national non-profit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community development practitioners.

The course was entitled “Homebuyer Education Methods: Training the Trainer,” and its objective was to enable participants to implement and manage a successful homeownership education program in their own communities based on the NeighborWorks curriculum. Some of the topics covered in the week-long training were predatory lending, compliance for counselors, and post-purchase counseling. Patricia, who has been in the mortgage industry for the last twenty years, is ready to implement her newly honed skills at the first Orientation Homeownership Education class at the Front Street location. For more details, please contact Patricia at 757-787-2800, ext 124.

---

## Regional Leaders Honored

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Northampton Administrator Keith Bull, former ESVEDC Director Ridgway Dunton, and former ESCC President Dick Jenkins spoke of A-NPDC accomplishments during Berge’s tenure.

Berge’s retirement is effective December 31, 2007. He will be succeeded by Elaine Meil, who has served as A-NPDC Director of Planning since 2005.



*A-NPDC Chairman Barbour presents Executive Director Berge with painting for his years of service to the A-NPDC and the Eastern Shore*

---

# New Construction Underway at Metompkin Community Project

Five contracts have been signed for houses to be built under the Metompkin Comprehensive Community Development Project. Construction is underway at two sites, with footings having been dug and poured. Contracts have also been signed for installation of wells

and septic systems at the five construction sites, and two of the septic systems are already in place.

Under this project, 14 abandoned structures will be demolished and the lots cleared, 20 occupied houses will be repaired or replaced (including providing first-time indoor plumbing to 3 houses), new deep wells and on-site septic systems will be installed to replace existing failing systems, and property acquired to allow for the widening and paving of existing streets to Virginia Department of Transportation standards. Many of the beneficiaries of this project will be first-time homeowners. For more information on the project, call Patti Merritt at 757-787-2936, ext 119.



*Contractor pouring Metompkin footings*



## How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

**Phone** 757-787-2936  
**Toll Free** 866-787-3001  
**E-Mail** [anpdc@a-npdc.org](mailto:anpdc@a-npdc.org)  
**Website** [www.a-npdc.org](http://www.a-npdc.org)  
**Editor** Patti Merritt



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

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

If you would like to alter or cancel your subscription, please call (757)787-2936 ext. 122.