

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



March 2007

2006 Ground Water Awards Presented



(left to right) Bill Shockley of Woodland Farms and Groundwater Committee Chairman Donald Hart



(left to right) Art Turner of Ivy Farm Nursery and Groundwater Committee Chairman Donald Hart

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee has awarded Bill Shockley and Dixon Leatherbury of Woodland Farm and Richard Davis of Ivy Farm Nursery the 2006 Groundwater Awards. The Award was made at the February meeting of the Ground Water Committee.

The Award recognizes Mr. Shockley and Mr. Leatherbury's work on maintaining farm ditch buffers and upgrading irrigation equipment to use less water. Mr. Davis is recognized for using technology to recycle irrigation water and reduce impacts of fertilizer on our groundwater. These projects have greatly benefited our groundwater resource. The Woodland Farm project uses the water table aquifer and runoff to supply irrigation water. The new center pivot irrigation

equipment reduces irrigation water needs by approximately 30% over the hardnose traveling gun spray equipment previously used. The agricultural ditches also have 35' wide grassed buffers. These buffers trap sediments and nutrients and reduce runoff. Ivy Farm Nursery has installed an irrigation recovery system. Grading of the land maximizes overland sheet flow through a vegetated buffer to clean the water before it is collected into a farm pond. The water in the pond is tested for nutrient levels so fertilizer application can be adjusted and reused on the nursery plants. The Committee congratulates all who received a 2006 Ground Water Award.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is dependent on ground water as its only source of fresh water and that supply could easily be irreversibly damaged.

The Ground Water Committee wants to reward activities that protect that supply. The Committee has established the Ground Water Awards Program to publicize efforts that benefit our water supply. Six types of projects are eligible: Water Conservation, Recharge Area

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Most E. S. Homeless in 2007 Live with Friends or Relatives

Eastern Shore Housing Conference

Section 8 Landlord Info Meeting



Accomack Manor Apartments, Parksley

Accomack Manor Apartment Accepting Applications

Applications are now being accepted from persons interested in living at Accomack Manor Apartments. The facility is located just off U.S. Route 13, about a mile north of Fisher's Corner. The apartment complex includes

14 two-bedroom units, and 74 one-bedroom units, all at very affordable rents. To be eligible for an apartment, you must be at least 55 years old. Some income restrictions apply. For more information, call 665-5848.

Most E. S. Homeless in 2007 Live With Friends or Relatives

In January 2007, 46 homeless families, or 123 men, women and children, were living in temporary conditions with relatives or friends. This confirmed common knowledge that homelessness in rural areas is not as visible because most are not living "on the streets" or in shelters.

"Unfortunately, HUD does not recognize these families as being homeless," said Eleanor Drewniak, Chair of the Eastern Shore Continuum of Care on Homelessness, the coalition that coordinated the 2007 Eastern Shore Homeless "Point-in-Time" Count.

"One of our challenges is to find alternative funding for this, the largest

homeless population on the Shore," said Drewniak.

Twenty-six families, 46 persons, were living in shelters or in uninhabitable living conditions. Fifteen adults suffered from serious mental illness, fifteen suffered from substance abuse, and twelve were homeless due to family domestic violence.

A total of 163 homeless persons were identified during a 3-day count from January 23rd through January 25th. A higher count reported in February was adjusted when it was found that some individuals were counted by more than one agency. Twelve agencies participated in the 2007 Count.

Eastern Shore Housing Conference

About 75 affordable housing providers and consumers attended the biennial Eastern Shore Housing Conference at Nandua High School on February 3.

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Administration and the Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation were among the major sponsors; staff distributed materials on their housing programs to consumers and networked with other providers. The Conference was organized by the Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service.

Speakers addressed issues such as home ownership, conventional financing, reverse mortgages, credit, landscaping, home maintenance, debt management, and fair housing.



Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Landlord Information Meeting

On Tuesday, January 30th staff held a forum for landlords to inform them of the responsibilities of the Section 8 staff in the day to day operation of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Bobbie Wert addressed obligations and the lease-up process for new admissions. Josie James discussed annual reexaminations, including rent increase, direct deposit, and non-payment of rent. "BK" Kurzbard covered landlord vs. tenant caused damages, Housing Quality Standards deficiencies and the abatement process under the Housing Quality Standards. Kat Edwards gave the landlords background information and outlined the changes that have been implemented to bring the Program into compliance with HUD regulations.

The fifteen landlords that attended the meeting expressed appreciation for this opportunity to have their questions and concerns addressed.

2006 Ground Water Awards

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Protection/Preservation, Aquifer Preservation, Recycling/Reuse, Pollution Prevention and Public Education/Community Outreach. Nominations for the award can be made by going to www.a-npdc.org/ground_water_awards.html and filling out the application form and sending it in. Nominations for the next award will be considered over the summer. For more information on applying, contact Elaine Meil at (757)787-2936 x114.



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