

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



September-October 2008

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Project Big Success!

Nearly three thousands pounds of hazardous material was collected in Eastville during the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, September 20.

Residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties brought their household hazardous waste to be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. A recycling company, Care Environmental Corporation of Landing, New Jersey came to the Shore to facilitate proper collection and disposal.

Often, household hazardous waste gets put in the garage or shed and is forgotten by everyone, creating an unnecessary health and safety risk. During the Hazardous Waste Collection, many positive comments were received; participants expressed relief and gratitude at having an opportunity to bring their accumulated hazardous waste for proper disposal.

Material collected included old paint, stale fuels, flammable aerosols, oxidizing liquids, pesticide liquids and solids.

A representative from the Eastern Shore Food Bank was on site and accepted over 150 lbs. of usable paint. Paint is the most common source of household hazardous waste.



Volunteers at work

For tips on safer use, storage and disposal of all types of household hazardous waste, visit our website at www.anpdc.org Next year the Household Hazardous Waste Collection day will be held in Accomack County, and if funding is available, it will held in Northampton County also.



Care Environmental

The event was sponsored by Accomack and Northampton Counties, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee, the VA Coastal Zone Management Program, and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.



Canine supervisors keeping watch

This Issue

Eastern Shore of Virginia Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority Update

United Way

New Part-time Grant Bookkeeper for A-NPDC

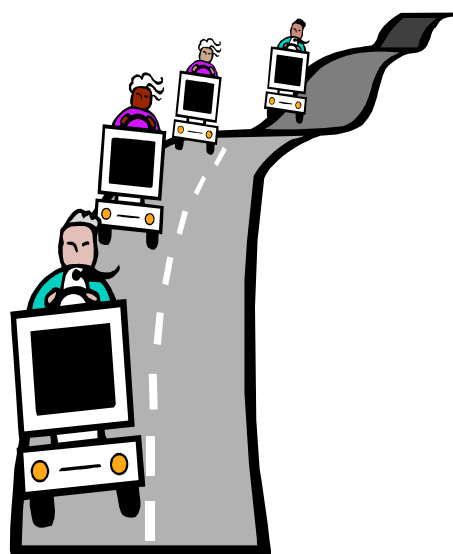
Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority Update

The ESVBA was formed in April 2008 with a concurrent resolution of both counties to create a broadband authority under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, Code of Virginia 15.2-5431.1-37. In June, it was incorporated by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Creation of an authority was chosen because it is the most expeditious way to form an organization for this purpose. Both counties have contributed planning funds to set up the ESVBA and have hired two expert consultants to manage the project and provide technical advice.

The immediate task of the ESVBA is to design and build the “northern section” of a new fiber-optic backbone that will connect Cape Charles to NASA/Wallops, where it will hook-up with Maryland Broadband Cooperative’s fiber network. The General Assembly has set aside \$2.5 million for this project, and a grant application for \$2.3 million is being reviewed by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration now. A decision on that funding is expected in November.

NASA is managing construction of the “southern section” of the new backbone from Cape Charles south across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to Norfolk using a \$2 million congressional earmark. With completion of this southern section, the critical redundancy needed for electronic security will be achieved.

Concurrently, the towns of Cape Charles and Parksley have been awarded Community Development Block Grants through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to construct fiber optic networks in their towns that will be connected to the backbone. In addition, Onancock has committed to ap-



plying for funding to do the same. Chincoteague is also preparing to apply for funds to connect a community network to the backbone.

The ESVBA has hired Adesta to complete engineering and bid documents for its section of the new fiber backbone. That task will be completed in November and construction bids will be solicited in late November/early December. A construction contract is expected to be awarded by December 31, and completion is scheduled for August 2009.

The town networks for Parksley and Cape Charles will be designed and bid at the same time, putting them on a “fast track” for their networks.

Robust community networks linked to the new fiber backbone are what is needed to make our area attractive to the greatest number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The more aggregated the demand for high-speed Internet services, the larger we become as a “market” for ISPs. The ideal situation is one in which many ISPs offer a broad range of services and rates—a menu of Internet service options that could include television, telephone, and Internet access (often called “triple play”), or single services.

These are the first steps in making affordable, high-speed Internet access a reality for our communities. As the networks are expanded in future, the goal is to reach every area of the Eastern Shore of Virginia—even “down the necks.”

Check ESVBA’s webpage at www.esvabroadband.net for more information, or contact Cheryl Tyson, ESVBA Project Manager, ctyson@esvabroadband.net or Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC, bschwenk@a-npdc.org 757-787-2936 x115.

United Way



Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) participates with Employee Campaigns for the United Way of Virginia’s Eastern Shore. Leslie Mason, Administrative Assistant for the A-NPDC, attended the United Way of Virginia’s Eastern Shore 2008 Kick-Off Ceremony on October 2, 2008 at the Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club. Guest Speaker Senator Ralph S. Northam encouraged Eastern Shore residents to invest in their communities. On the Eastern Shore, United Way’s mission is to help improve the quality of life for all residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties.



New Part-time Grant Bookkeeper

Melissa Matthews, a native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia who currently resides in her hometown of Greenbackville, started work in September as the new part-time Grant Bookkeeper. She is a 1998 graduate of Chowan College in Murfreesboro, NC, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with an emphasis on Accounting.

Following graduation, Melissa began her career in Norfolk, VA, where she spent 3 years as a Branch manager for Wachovia Bank and 2 years as a Financial Center Manager and Loan Officer for BB&T. In April of 2005 she began working for Rick Matthews & Company, and is currently a Licensed Residential Appraiser in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Most of her spare time is spent as the head Varsity Cheerleading Coach for Arcadia High.



Melissa's hobbies include cooking, doing puzzles, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She loves sushi, has a four-legged daughter (an Eastern Shore dog) named Bailey, and is renovating an old Victorian house.

The A-NPDC staff warmly welcome Melissa and look forward to working with her.



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
Website 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.