



# A-NPDC NEWSLETTER

## ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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The A-NPDC office will be closed on the following dates during January 2002:

<b>Tuesday, January 1</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>Friday, January 18</b>	<b>Lee-Jackson Day</b>
<b>Monday, January 21</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>

*The A-NPDC did not meet during December 2001.*

### REGIONAL HOUSING PLAN MOVES FORWARD

The development of a Regional Housing Strategic Plan (RHSP) continues at the A-NPDC in response to the need for an updated look at the local housing market. The housing plan will replace one completed in 1977, now obsolete. The first phase of the new RHSP, which includes a housing market analysis and an existing-conditions assessment, will be completed soon. The RHSP Advisory Committee (RHSPAC) met in December 2001 with A-NPDC staff and representatives of the consulting firm of Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. to review progress on the Plan. A "virtual" survey, using electronic tax parcel and assessment information, will help to answer many questions regarding the quantity and location of poor housing on the Eastern Shore. For additional information on the plan, contact A-NPDC staff members **John Aigner** or **Roxie Sturgis** at **787-2936**.

### WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

**Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department:** Bay Act regulations were amended in December 2001 to improve language clarity, eliminate conflicts and redundancy, improve vegetative buffer and agricultural conservation criteria, and for other reasons. View the amended Bay Act Regulations at <http://www.cblad.state.va.us/regs.htm>.

### COUNTIES REVIEW COMMUTER TOLL STUDY

On December 4, 2001, the Accomack and Northampton Boards of Supervisors received a presentation of the *Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Commuter Toll Impact Study* as prepared by the Louis Berger Group and Travesky & Associates on behalf of the counties-appointed Commuter Toll Study Committee. On December 10, 2001, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors endorsed the *Study*.

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors also adopted three resolutions recommended by the *Study*. One resolution requested that the General Assembly review the structure and procedures of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission. A second requested that the counties and the Commission study medical and educational discounts. Another resolution requested that the Commission delay a commuter toll program until a plan for dual tunnels was developed. On December 19, 2001 a motion for the Accomack County Board of Supervisors to adopt the resolutions failed to pass.

On December 11, 2001, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission voted to start a day pass toll starting March 1, 2002.



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**NEXT A-NPDC MEETING**  
**Monday, January 28, 2002**  
**7:30 PM**  
**THE ENTERPRISE BUILDING**  
**ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA**

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## EPA WELL STUDY SHOWS IMPAIRED DRINKING WATER QUALITY

The A-NPDC has completed a study of private well water quality in four Eastern Shore communities through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. The communities of Metompkin and Church Road in Accomack County and Weirwood and Pat Town in Northampton County were selected for the study based on a potentially high risk of drinking water impairment due to conditions such as poor soil septic capacity, lack of indoor plumbing, presence of shallow wells, and housing density.

Water samples from 10 private wells in each community were collected and tested for turbidity, total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, total dissolved solids, chloride, surfactants, conductance, and iron. Fifty percent of the 40 wells tested were impaired based on federal primary maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Primary MCLs for drinking water constituents are based on dangerous short-term and chronic health effects of exposure. The problem contaminants, total coliform bacteria, turbidity, and nitrate, were more common in shallow wells than deep wells. While not a health risk, high iron levels made water in some communities unusable due to strong taste and color.



Of the communities evaluated, Weirwood had the highest proportion of shallow wells and substandard wastewater disposal facilities. Metompkin and Church Road had a mix of shallow and deep wells. Pat Town had a relatively high proportion of deep wells, but experiences surface drainage problems that can cause septic systems to fail.

Community meetings were held during the project to recruit residents for well testing and to present the results of the well tests. Residents were provided with copies of the well test results with recommendations on how to improve well water quality. Residents also identified and discussed strategies to improve drinking water quality and sewage treatment through Community Development Block Grant projects.

### Median Adjusted Gross Income on All State Tax Returns by Locality, 1998

**Rank Scores**  
1=Lowest Income  
135=Highest Income

**Relative Stress Scores**  
62.28=Highest Stress  
34.26=Lowest Stress

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Median Adjusted Gross Income, 1998</u>	<u>Rank Score</u>	<u>Relative Stress Score</u>
Northampton County	\$14,935	1.0	62.28
Accomack County	\$16,011	2.0	61.41

**Source:** Report on the Comparative Revenue Capacity, Revenue Effort, and Fiscal Stress of Virginia's Counties and Cities 1998/99. Commission on Local Government, Commonwealth of Virginia, May 2001.

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