

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

August 2003

Bayview Rural Village Dedication

GOVERNOR MARK WARNER joined the Bayview community and other local, state and federal officials on July 2nd for the dedication of Bayview Rural Village. The event celebrated the opening of 32 new multifamily rental homes and the start of construction for 10 single-family homes. The project will improve housing and living conditions for over 120 people by creating rental housing and homeownership opportunities, eliminating blighted structures, rehabilitating housing, and bringing infrastructure to the community.

“The Bayview Rural Village project represents an incredible transformation for this community,” said Governor Warner. “The dilapidated, substandard housing units without any indoor plumbing will soon be a distant memory. In their place will be new, safe, and affordable homes, with clean and safe drinking water for the families in Bayview. I am proud to be here today to help the citizens and our state, federal, and local partners celebrate the success of this project.”

The new Village is next to a community farm, with the homes surrounding a pond. When completed, the village will have 136 homes. There will also be a community center, a few small businesses, a care center for children and the elderly, a laundry facility and a community garden.



Governor Warner at the Bayview Rural Village Dedication

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission administers a Northampton County Community Development Block Grant used in construction of the subdivision, water system and sewer system. The ANPDC also provides administrative services for three federal Economic Development Initiative grants that supported Bayview's efforts over the past several years and the Accomack-Northampton Housing & Redevelopment Corporation's Indoor Plumbing Program that will build 10 single-family houses in the new subdivision.

Section 8 Rental Assistance

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority has reopened the Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8 Waiting List effective August 2. Any person requiring rental assistance in order to find safe, decent, affordable housing should pick up an application at the Enterprise Building, 23372 Front Street, Accomac or call Bobbie Wert at 757-787-2800 or toll-free 866-787-3001 to have an application mailed to you. The Section 8 office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm.

Draft Bicycle Plan Presented

THE DRAFT EASTERN SHORE BICYCLE PLAN was presented at two public meetings in Accomack County and Northampton County during July 2003. The draft plan proposes a safe, designated bicycle route, with at least paved shoulders, from Maryland to Kiptopeke.

The plan also proposes designated bicycle routes on the Bayside and Seaside, paved shoulders on the Chincoteague Causeway, improved access along and across U.S. Route 13, and a separate bicycle trail from Cape Charles to the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. Other proposed bicycle facilities would connect towns and communities with schools, businesses, and recreation facilities.

Comments received during the presentations will be reviewed and incor-

porated into the final draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan, which will then be presented to Accomack County and Northampton County. The counties will then need to develop bicycle policy recommendations and prioritize proposed bicycle facilities before holding public hearings and adopting the plan.

Local governments in Virginia must adopt bicycle facility plans before VDOT can spend funds on bicycle facilities.

The draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan has been developed in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, Eastern Shore towns, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

Partnership Plan Approved

SEVEN NEW PROJECTS FOR the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership were approved in July by the Accomack and Northampton County Boards of Supervisors and by the Chincoteague Town Council. The Partnership, a coalition of business, civic, education, and government leaders, has identified the following projects to improve the economic competitiveness of our region:

1. Promote the efforts of the Public Service Authority and liaison between the private sector and the PSA.
2. Develop the Wallops Commercialization Center, a business incubator to assist commercialization of business and service activities.
3. Develop a Regional Downtown Revitalization Program to provide staff for efforts in 5 Eastern Shore towns us-

- ing the Main Street Program approach.
4. Identify demand for broadband Internet access and recruit suppliers of affordable high-speed Internet access.
5. Start a workforce development education program that provides information to parents, guidance counselors, and students on all the options available in preparing for careers.
6. Create an Academical Village, a collection of 35-40 quality, affordable apartments for teachers, to be a tool for attracting and retaining new teachers for both school systems.
7. Develop an Eastern Shore Heritage Trail to encourage travelers to get off U.S. Route 13 and enjoy the scenic beauty, wildlife, history, shops and restaurants of Accomack and Northampton counties.

Del. Bloxom Honored by VAPDC

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS (VAPDC) awarded Delegate Robert S. Bloxom the Outstanding Leadership Award for dedicated support of regionalism during his 25 years in the Virginia General Assembly. The Awards ceremony was held at the VAPDC Annual Banquet on July 25.

Joyce French, chair of the VAPDC Awards Committee, cited Bloxom's support on PDCs' funding requests while serving on the House Appropriations Committee and his support of the 1995 Regional Cooperation Act that updated laws governing PDCs.

On behalf of Delegate Bloxom, who is retiring from the General Assembly this year, A-NPDC Chair Oliver Bennett accepted the award. "Bob is truly a role model for all elected officials, whether state, federal or local. We dearly will miss his leadership, compassion, and integrity."



Delegate Robert S. Bloxom

Staff Notes

Paul Berge, Executive Director of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions for 2003-2004.

Bobbie Wert, Section 8 Administrative Assistant, has served the Commission for 5 continuous years as of May 13. The Commission presented Ms. Wert with a plaque at its July meeting.

Heather Garvis has joined the staff as a Community Development Coordinator. A graduate of William & Mary in Environmental Science, she worked for the Eastern Shore Health District since 1996. Heather is very familiar with the communities we serve and brings to the Commission important certification in lead paint assessments.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
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Job Opening

Resumes are now being accepted for the new Director of Public Services position at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. The new hire will be responsible for establishing and managing regional water and sewer projects on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Experience in water and wastewater development and operations, grant applications and administration is preferred. Bachelors or four years related experience is required.

The salary range is \$30,000 to \$55,000.

To apply, send a resume by 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 29, 2003, to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, PO Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301. Equal Opportunity Employer.



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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