

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

December 2004

Metompkin Receives \$1.2 Million Dollars in Development Funds

Accomack County and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission successfully secured almost 1.2 million dollars in Community Development Grant funds to implement a community improvement project for an area of west Metompkin.

The A-NPDC has been working with the community for over a year now to help organize the residents, identify

the needs of the community, and work through the planning process required to obtain improvement funds.

The County expects to be under contract for the grant by the middle of January, 2005. Once under contract, the County will begin the final design of the improvements, which will include the rehabilitation or replacement of 20 occupied houses, the demolition of 14 aban-

doned structures, the construction of a storm water drainage system, and improvements to two dirt roads, which will be added to the State road system.

In 2004, the A-NPDC has helped secure over 2.3 million dollars of additional housing and community development funds for the Eastern Shore of Virginia, including \$700,000 in CDBG funds to help supplement the lead paint hazard reduction program, \$215,000 in Indoor Plumbing Program funds, and \$250,000 in Indoor Plumbing Set-aside funds for Makemie Park. This money is on top of approximately 6.4 million dollars in CDBG funds that the housing department manages for various communities and initiatives on the Eastern Shore. These projects include improvements in Bayview, Fairview, Mckemie Park, Locust Mount, New Road and various areas that benefit from indoor plumbing repair grants and lead risk reduction grants.

In addition, two projects were closed out this year, Savage Town/Cats Bridge Comprehensive Community Improvement Grant, approximately 1.4 million dollars, and the previous year's Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation program, approximately \$100,000.

For more information, contact David Annis at (757)787-2936.



Home, located in Metompkin, without indoor plumbing included in the project grant.

Accomack County Moves to Withdraw from the PSA

Accomack County communicated to the Public Service Authority Board, at their October meeting, that Accomack is moving to withdraw from the Authority. While Accomack continues to desire an Authority, a single Accomack County Authority is felt would meet Accomack's needs better. As a result, the Authority Board has resolved to allow Accomack County to withdraw. Concurrently, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution to withdraw and will begin the required public hearing process.

Northampton County is required to and is expected to do the same in order to allow Accomack County's withdrawal. The Northampton County Board of Supervisors has indicated its desire for Northampton County to continue in the Public Service Authority. The result of this will be a single entity Authority with Northampton County as the sole participant.

For more information, contact Artie Miles at (757) 787-2936.

Farewell to Heather Garvis, Community Development Coordinator

Mrs. Heather Garvis will be leaving the PDC on December 3rd to take a position as a Teacher's Assistant at Occahannock Elementary School.

She has chosen this new position to spend more time with her children and pursue a teaching career. The PDC staff will miss her and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Northampton Emergency Operation Plan Update Progress

Northampton County has selected the PDC to update their 1994 Emergency Operation Plan. A first draft must be completed by late January and the plan will be presented to the Board by June to comply with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management requirements.

Several new annexes have been added since the last revision and these include: terrorism, animal control, recovery, and debris management.

For more information, contact Elaine Meil at (757) 787-2936.



*Emergency Operation Exercise,
Photo by George Roarty, VDEM*

Northampton Supervisors Appoint New EDC Commissioner

Mr. Dimitri Plionis was appointed to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission by the Northampton County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Plionis has a background in international development. The PDC staff looks forward to working with him.

Groundwater Committee's Annual Report FY2004

The Groundwater Committee conducted several activities under the leadership of Chairman Thomas H. Dixon III and Vice Chairman Wanda J. Thornton. These included preparing the 2003 Groundwater Use Trends Update for the Eastern Shore, reviewing three DEQ groundwater withdrawal permit applications, and obtaining funding from Accomack County and Northampton County so that the USGS can collect water quality samples to continue work on the Eastern Shore Groundwater Flow Model.

The Committee also presented a Resolution of Commendation to C.D. Fleming, Jr., who was the committee's founding chairman and resigned in December 2003 after 14 years of dedicated service.

The Committee also organized a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in FY2005 and plan to organize another one. Other FY2005 plans include: developing a website, developing an annual awards program and publishing a groundwater newspaper supplement in cooperation with the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District's *Shore Outdoors* series.

The Groundwater Committee's 2004 Annual Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors of Northampton County and Accomack County on November 17th by the Committee's consultant, Britt McMillan of Malcolm Pirnie and James McGowan of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

For more information, contact Jim McGowan at (757) 787-2936.

Annual Holiday Reception December 16th

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation, Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority, Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission, Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership and Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority will host their Annual Joint Holiday Reception on Thursday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. The Reception will be held this year at The Eastville Inn in Eastville.

**Accomack-Northampton Planning District
Commission
23372 Front Street
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United Way, 100 Percent Participation in 2004 Campaign

The United Way of Virginia's Eastern Shore 2004 campaign had 100 percent participation from the staff of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

Over the past thirteen years, the United Way has been the conduit through which the people of the Shore have donated over two and a half million dollars to local service agencies. Most of the money has come from people who were solicited at their workplaces and given the opportunity to fulfill pledges through payroll deduction.



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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