

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

March 2005

Business Development and Workforce Training Center Funding Package Complete

On February 23, new Congresswoman Thelma Drake, U.S. House of Representatives, announced an Economic Development Administration Public Works grant for \$1.1 million and a USDA Rural Development grant of \$500,000 to the Eastern Shore Community College for construction of a new twenty-one thousand square foot *Business Development and Workforce Training Center*.

The two grants were the final pieces in an estimated funding package of \$4.7 million. Combined with \$2.3 million from the Virginia Community College System, and a \$787,000 local match from Accomack and Northampton counties, the ESCC Foundation, and the Eastern Shore Regional Partnership, enables the college to design and build a facility that will make it possible to expand its workforce training programs and will include state-of-the-art distance learning technology to provide training that specifically focuses on higher skill and wage employment in aerospace, biomedical, telecommunications, and maritime trades.

Local officials met with Congresswoman Drake to review preliminary drawings and to learn more about the college's plans for the new building.

Wanda Thornton, Chairwoman, Accomack County Board of Supervisors, and Richard Tankard, Vice-Chairman, Northampton County Board of Supervisors, attended the meeting with Dr. Richard Jenkins, President, Eastern Shore Community College, Dr. Ronald May, Dean of Instruction and Student Services, Mary Walker, Coordinator of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, and A-NPDC staff members. Dr. Jenkins expressed his appreciation for the support shown by Delegate Drake's visit, as well as the strong support both counties have provided

for the new facility. Dr. Jenkins also thanked the A-NPDC for its partnership in developing federal interest in the project and for coordinating and writing the grant applications that provided \$1.6 million for the project.

An architectural and engineering firm, Shriver and Holland, has been hired to develop the design and construction drawings. Construction is estimated to begin early in 2006, and completion of the Business Development and Workforce Training Center is anticipated in 2007.



(L-R) Richard Tankard, Northampton County Board of Supervisors, Richard Jenkins, President, ESCC, Congresswoman Thelma Drake, US House of Representatives, and Wanda Thornton, Chairwoman, Accomack County Board of Supervisors.

HRC receives \$1,250,000 to Help Low Income Families Purchase Homes

The Accomack-Northampton Housing & Redevelopment Corporation has been awarded \$1.25 million in funds to assist low income residents of the Eastern Shore purchase a home. These funds will be in the form of a 30-year fixed mortgage.

The Sponsoring Partnership and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) funds will help approximately 12 families, making 60%-80% of median income, purchase homes. This supplements the Single Family Regional Loan Fund that helps families that make 30% - 60% of the local median income.

Eligible families must make application and will be prequalified for a mortgage not to exceed \$120,000.

ANHRC will then lock in the mortgage funds at one-half percent (0.5%) to one percent (1%) below the VHDA fixed 30-year mortgage rate, currently at 4.75%. The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) will process and underwrite all SPARC loans. The eligible families can then close on their new home.

ANHRC will also leverage federal HOME funds for downpayment and closing costs assistance. This funds cannot exceed 10% of the entire loan amount. Interested families should make application through ANHRC offices in the Enterprise Building in Accomac.

For more information, call Bobbie Jo Wert at (757)787-2800.

Northern Northampton Wastewater Project Moving Forward

Since the December 14, 2004 application to USDA-Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service for funding of the Northern Northampton Wastewater Project, requests for additional details have been received to fill information gaps and to aid in the formulation of a Letter of Conditions to accompany the potential awarding of the Grant/Loan package. This is good news in that the funding continues to be available after the end of year (December 31, 2004) deadline.

In addition, currently available EPA-STAG Construction Funds have been requested for use on this project through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. It is hoped that these funds will become available for use in mid-April.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been approached for a Planning Grant, which will be applied for in March, and for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which will be applied for during the 2006 Grant Funding Cycle.

The next major task will be door-to-door surveys in Exmore, Belle Haven, and Nassawadox and in the unincorporated portions of Accomack and Northampton Counties to determine the level of participation in order to refine the scope of the project in preparation for the design phase.

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

Income Requirements for the SPARC mortgage funding.

| Size of Family | Income Requirements |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| One Person | \$20,580 - \$27,450 |
| Two Persons | \$23,520 - \$31,350 |
| Three Persons | \$26,460 - \$35,300 |
| Four Persons | \$29,400 - \$39,200 |
| Five Persons | \$31,740 - \$42,350 |
| Six Persons | \$34,080 - \$45,450 |
| Seven Persons | \$36,420 - \$48,600 |
| Eight Persons | \$38,760 - \$51,750 |

DEQ to Hold "Open House" March 23rd

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will hold an "Open House" meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at Nandua High School cafeteria in Onley.

At the Open House, DEQ staff from the Tidewater Regional Office will discuss DEQ's mission and processes with local leaders and citizens, and learn

about the Eastern Shore's environmental concerns.

In 2004 a DEQ Task Force conducted a series of seven regional open house meetings throughout Virginia. The DEQ Task Force report is available at www.deq.virginia.gov under the Director's Corner archives. For more information, contact Jim McGowan at (757)787-2936.

Part-Time Bookkeeper Position Available

Responsible for assisting the Administrative Department by carrying out a variety of bookkeeping assignments for regional office located in Accomac. Prefer proficiency in computer accounting and spreadsheet programs.

Pay Range \$7-\$11 per hour, estimate 16 hours per week. Send resume by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 11, 2005, to Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, PO Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301. 757-787-2936. EOE.

**Accomack-Northampton Planning District
Commission
23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomac, Virginia 23301**

Section 8 Waiting List Opened

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority (A-NRHA) has reopened the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List effective Wednesday, February 2, 2005. Any person requiring rental assistance in order to find safe, decent, affordable housing should pick up an application at the A-NRHA Section 8 Office in the Enterprise Building located at 23372 Front Street, Accomac, VA or call Bobbie Wert at (757)787-2800 or toll free (866)787-3001 to have an application mailed to you. Be advised Section 8 HCVP waiting list will close after Friday, March 4, 2005 until further notice.



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
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