

# Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

October 2005

## A-NPDC to Elevate 60 High Risk Coastal Homes in Accomack County

On September 7th, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted to accept a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to elevate 60 homes in Accomack County and to acquire and demolish the Wachapreague Volunteer Fire Company building.

This project in Accomack County comes in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel, and calls for the elevation of high risk homes in low lying coastal areas. All of the properties that will be raised

in this project are located within the Special Flood Area of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay and applied for the HMGP Program after Hurricane Isabel. They include homes on the Island of Tangier and in the communities of Saxis, Onancock, Wachapreague, Pungoteague, Hallwood, Hacks Neck and Quinby. Each will be elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation as required by Accomack County. The acquisition of the fire station will allow the department to rebuild on a higher, safer site.

Under the Accomack County 2004 HMGP Program, FEMA will contribute \$2,678,550, representing 75% of the cost of the project. The Commonwealth of Virginia will contribute \$714,280, representing 20% of the cost and the property owners will contribute 5% or \$178,570, for a total project amount of \$3,571,400.

The A-NPDC staff will be sending out letters to project participants announcing upcoming information meetings. A Request for Proposal has already been advertised for an engineer and surveyor.



*Views of Flooding in the Vicinity of the Wachapreague Fire House.  
(Left) Brooklyn Avenue and Main Street during the Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962  
(Right) View of Hurricane Isabel Flooding from the Wachapreague Fire House*

# USGS Crater Drilling Event in Eyreville

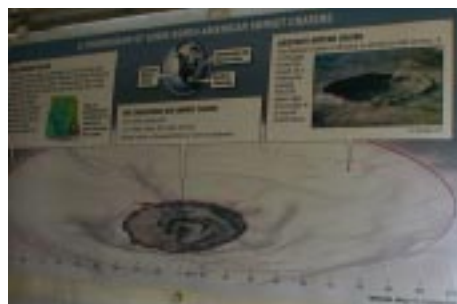
The United States Geologic Survey held a Crater Drilling Kickoff Event on September 20, 2005. The event drew people from all over the Eastern Seaboard. USGS Geologists presented information about the Chesapeake Bay Crater. The Eyreville site was chosen to be as close to the center of the Crater as possible without actually being in the center. The USGS intends to continuously core the minerals of the Crater to 7,200 feet.

At the time of the event, 1,433 feet had been cored. Observers watched the drilling crew core the next 10 feet. Many in the audience were hoping to see crater minerals. However, the core brought up was still the formation above the actual Crater.

The drilling general contractors are Drilling, Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust, Inc. (DOSECC). DOSECC is a 20 year old nonprofit corporation based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The company has also drilled in the large Chixculub crater in Mexico. Chixculub's impact site may have been the dinosaur killer.

The Chesapeake Bay Crater is smaller than Chixculub but was still a

very significant event. The bolide that struck the area created a mile high tsunami that may have overtopped the Blue Ridge Mountains that were covered in



*Poster showing the relative distances between Chixculub (light crater dominating the picture), and Chesapeake Bay Crater (dark center)*

a tropical rain forest. All of that was destroyed.

A DOSECC representative explained how the drilling commences and how the drilling crew works to continuously core the borehole.

The drilling rig used was built in the 1960s to core minerals in mining exploration. The rig had come from Arizona and will be returning there once it has done its work here on the Eastern Shore. The drilling is planned to wrap up in December.



*The drilling site (left) and observers (right)*

# Farewell to Greg Manter, Economic Development Director

Mr. Greg Manter will be leaving the PDC on September 30th. As Economic Development Director, he worked closely with the Economic Development Commission. Executive Director Paul Berge said "His 9-year tenure with the Commission was exemplary. His background in business, economic development, marketing, and planning resulted in his creating a very professional and comprehensive economic development program for the region. His programs included notable accomplishments in promotion and recruitment, workforce development, downtown revitalization, business counseling and training, financing infrastructure, and incentives."

He is particularly proud of his work on the Regional Partnership that completed several projects including the Space Flight Academy, Small Business Development Center and the recent Workforce Development Center. The PDC staff will miss him and wish him well in his new endeavors.



*Mr. Greg Manter*

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# PSA Staff Attends Hospital Wastewater Seminar

Staff recently attended a seminar, "Wastewater and the Environment – *The Why of Wastewater Treatment*", which dealt with potential effects and mitigating factors of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC's), pharmaceuticals, and personal care products (PPCP's) in wastewater. Dr. Barbara Hartley-Grimes, Non-Point Source Pollution Program Coordinator for North Carolina's On-Site Wastewater Section of the Division of Environmental Health moderated the session.

The Northern Northampton Wastewater Project is certain to contain this type of waste since Shore Memorial Hospital is located in the proposed service area. The Seminar highlighted the need for soils to finish the

treatment process of this type of waste. Soils contain the necessary anions and cations to catalyze and bind these medical compounds.

Currently, Shore Memorial Hospital discharges treated waste to Warehouse Creek. The PSA will treat to a high standard hospital and town wastewater and then land apply the treated effluent. This is the best way to handle hospital waste. The initial rigorous treatment method followed by further natural treatment by the soil will be an improvement over the current method of disposal. Without this project, the Hospital will be forced to upgrade their treatment facilities and will likely continue to dispose of the effluent in Warehouse Creek.



## How to Contact the A-NPDC

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