

# Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

July 2006

## Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park Dedicated on June 14, 2006

Even the remnants of Tropical Storm Alberto could not keep people from coming to the Robert N. Reed Waterfront Park Dedication held on June 14, 2006.

The park, located on Chincoteague just north of the bridge, was developed in partnership with the Town, the Accomack-Northampton PDC, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Forestry.

The park began to take shape in 1999, when the Town, assisted by the PDC, applied for a planning grant to develop a Downtown Revitalization Strategy. This strategy was needed since the current bridge connecting to Main Street is intended to close. A new bridge connecting to Maddox Boulevard will be constructed routing much of the traffic away from downtown. This could hurt existing businesses. The park was seen as a downtown anchor, bringing people back into the area.

The Chincoteague Management Team, made up of representatives of the Town and two residents, worked with staff of the PDC to purchase the property and develop the park's facilities. The park is truly a beautiful addition to the island.



*Scenes of the Robert N. Reed, Sr.  
Downtown Waterfront Park, Dedication  
Day June 14, 2006*

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# FEMA Approves the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

On June 5, 2006, Virginia Department of Emergency Management officials contacted the PDC with news that FEMA has approved the Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan. Now the plan can go forward for adoption by local jurisdictions.

The Plan, funded through a grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and FEMA, is the first step to reducing the damage associated with natural disasters. Planning began in January 2004 just months after Hurricane Isabel struck Virginia.

The federal government has documented an increase in disaster costs. For this reason, FEMA is encouraging reduction in damages to private and public property through mitigation. Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. FEMA encourages mitigation through several grant programs. These grants are only available to jurisdictions that have an adopted and approved mitigation plan.

The Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Committee made up of members from both counties, several towns and other organizations from all over the Eastern Shore developed the plan. It considers the the risk to buildings from coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, high wind events and coastal erosion in great detail.

Fish kills, snow events, and other local hazards are also considered. The planning process was able to bring several experts to the Eastern Shore to discuss various potential hazards and their effects including EPA scientists working on Sea Level Rise, Delmarva Power operators and other scientists.

With the adoption of the plan, localities can apply for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds to work on various hazard reduction projects. Unlike previous mitigation projects that have resulted from money available after a disaster strikes our area, pre-disaster funds are available on a yearly basis and no disaster is required for the funds to be used.

# Groundwater Committee Notes:

## Results of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Thirty-eight vehicles dropped off over one ton of household hazardous waste on June 17, 2006 at the ESO Arts Center in Belle Haven. Care Environmental Corporation of Landing, New Jersey collected the materials and will safely process it. The Food Bank collected useable paint for sale at its Tasley Thrift shop.

The Ground Water Committee would like to thank all those who participated in the collection and appreciated the effort to protect our water resources.

The Committee hopes to continue having the collection annually, and would like to thank the project sponsors including Accomack County, Northampton County, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the ESO Arts Center.

## USGS Present Preliminary Results of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Model

At the June 21, 2006 meeting of the Groundwater Committee scientists from the USGS presented preliminary results of the long awaited Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Model.

Among the results included the best map of the location of the two paleochannels, and maps showing how groundwater level has declined on the Shore. Final model results will be available by March 2007.



*Home Elevated Above the Hundred Year Floodplain on Tangier Island by a FEMA Mitigation Grant*

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## **NCALL To Provide Training to Shore Agencies**

The National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor Research Fund, Inc. (NCALL) has contracted with USDA to provide technical assistance to three non-profit housing and community-based agencies on the Shore.

The beneficiaries of this new initiative will be the New Road Community Development Group, the District One Community Action Group, Inc., and the Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation. Individual technical assistance and training programs will be developed to meet the needs of each of the three agencies, and will include Board training, fund-raising, and housing development.

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## **PDC's Annual Report Released**

The Planning District Commission's 2004/2005 Annual Report, Regional Progress, has been released. This report discusses activities and project from the previous fiscal year. This year it highlights the Accomack Manor Project and the Hazard Mitigation Home Elevation Projects.

Activities by all departments are also given attention. To obtain a copy, please call the office at (757)787-2936 and one will be mailed to you or pick one up at our office at 23372 Front Street, Accomac located beside the Town of Accomac Post Office.



### **How to Contact the A-NPDC**

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