

# Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

December 2006



## Work Begins at Onancock Square Apartments

The long-awaited rehabilitation of Onancock Square Apartments has begun. The 40-unit facility will be getting a much needed facelift thanks to an allocation of Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and an award from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority has teamed up with T.M. Associates, Inc. to form the Onancock Square Limited Partnership.

The Housing Authority is the general partner of the Limited Liability Cor-

poration that assumed ownership of the apartments. The property management arm of T. M. Associates will assume management responsibilities of the renovated property and the Housing Authority will provide oversight of that work.

Among the improvements planned for the twenty year old facility are new roofs, windows and doors, new heat pumps, water heaters, cabinets, and floor coverings. Each apartment will have an A-roof or shed roof covering the front entrance door. All outside

common areas will benefit from improved lighting for the convenience of the residents and for added security. Additionally, the rental office will be expanded to include a community meeting room that will be available to the residents of the apartments and to local agencies that provide support services to the tenants. The renovation project is expected to be completed in six months.

For more information, contact David Annis at (757)787-2936 x 126.



*Onancock Square Apartments*

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## Long Range Transportation Plan Under Development

The Accomack-Northampton Technical Transportation Advisory Committee is developing a long range transportation plan for Accomack and Northampton. The Kick Off meeting to start this process was held at the November committee meeting.

The plan will consider transportation needs across the region. A long-range transportation planning process exists in metropolitan areas and small urban areas but has not existed in rural areas. VDOT is partnering with each

PDC to fill the gaps that exist in the rural areas of the state.

There will be four phases to this project and it will be finished in 2010. This year the Committee will adopt a Public Involvement Plan and complete an inventory of our transportation system. The Public Involvement Plan is currently available for review, please see the announcement on the back page of this newsletter.

For more information, contact Leslie Mason at (757)787-2936.



*Section of Route 13*



*Cultural Activities at the Heritage Festival*

## Native Heritage Festival Held

The Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland was home to at least 14 tribes including the Nanticoke, Pocomoke, Accomac, Assateague and Accohannock. Many Eastern Shore Towns and unincorporated communities today bear the names of the settlements of these original inhabitants: Onancock, Machipongo, Nassawadox, Pocomoke and Chincoteague. On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Robert N. Reed Downtown Waterfront Park was the site of the second annual Native American Heritage Festival. Many Native Americans including those who trace their heritage to those early Eastern Shore tribes participated in the event.

Activities provided festival goers with an opportunity to learn about the heritage and culture of America's original inhabitants. The event included displays of local artifacts, including stone tools such as grinding stones and arrow and ax heads, many of which were found on local farms. There were also demonstrations of traditional skills such as flint knapping, corn grinding, storytelling, beading, and primitive technology such as making cordage from reeds fibers. Participants also demonstrated various dance styles and explained the significance of their regalia.

The event was sponsored by the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance with the help of PDC staff. The CCA is a non-profit organization formed to enhance community life on Chincoteague and the Eastern Shore by fostering and promoting the growth and vitality of arts and culture. The event was made possible by funding from the Coastal Zone Management Program, NOAA and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

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## The Public Involvement Plan is Available

The Public Involvement Plan on the Proposed Regional Long-Range Plan for Transportation is available for public review and input at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC), 23372 Front Street, Accomac, Virginia.

The plan will be considered for adoption at the public meeting of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Transportation Technical Advisory Committee on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. For more information, call Leslie Mason at (757) 787-2936.

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## Seaside Water Trail To Get Interpretive Signs

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the PDC are partnering to design and install interpretive signs at Seaside Water Trail landing sites.

The signs will focus on the trail, natural resources, and will include a local component. The first sites that will be looked at are at Oyster, Willis Wharf and Chincoteague. Secondary sites will include Wachapreague, and Quinby. For more information, call Elaine Meil at (757)787-2936.



### How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

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