

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



August 2007

Governor Kaine Tours Chincoteague Downtown Project



*Governor Kaine and
Delegate Lynwood Lewis*

Governor Kaine toured the recently improved Chincoteague Downtown Project as part of his Eastern Shore Cabinet Community Day on July 9th. The Governor initiated Cabinet Community Day to take the state government "on the road" to every part of Virginia in order to talk to and listen



*Governor Kaine at the Chincoteague
Waterfront Park*

to its citizens. The Governor plans to hold four meetings a year, visiting eight regions of the state twice, over the course of the administration.

The Governor began his Eastern Shore visit by taking a ride on Chincoteague's trolley system, The Pony Express. The Governor toured the downtown business district and Maddox Boulevard commercial district as well as a project recently funded with Virginia Land Conservation Funds before returning downtown to visit the Chincoteague Farmer's Market and the Robert N. Reed Waterfront Park. Governor Kaine and members of his Cabinet received



*Governor Kaine visits the Chincoteague
Farmers' Market at the Waterfront Park*

briefings on local projects in the community and visited with citizens, business leaders and elected officials.

While on the Shore the Governor also visited NASA Wallop's Flight Facility to hear presentations from NASA Wallop's Flight Facility and Research Park, BaySys, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport. He and his cabinet toured the Onley Community Health

Center and the Eastern Shore Farmers' Market. Governor Kaine and his Cabinet also visited the campus of Eastern Shore Community College and heard presentations from ESCC and the Council on Virginia's Future.



*Governor Kaine with Va. Secretary of
Agriculture Bob Bloxom*

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Broadband - Telecommunications Studies Findings



The Broadband community telecommunications studies for Chincoteague, Accomack County, and Exmore will be finalized in just a few days. The results of the consultant's research and cost estimates indicate that the northern loop – Chincoteague/Wallops area -- is the most feasible to construct first. This recommendation is based on the number of available users for high-speed fiber connections in that area, the fact that access to the backbone through Maryland Broadband Cooperative already exists, the higher population density of the Town of Chincoteague, and the potential for additional high-speed fiber users in the developing Wallops Research Park.

The next step will be to develop a business plan for the new fiber “distri-

bution loop” that will serve the Town of Chincoteague, T's Corner, Wallops Research Park, and the Navy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, NASA and other federal facilities and contractors on Wallops Island. With a comprehensive business plan, costs for operation and maintenance will be known, and construction costs will be investigated further. Construction funding will be sought upon completion of the business plan.

The final report(s) will be posted on the A-NPDC webpage as soon as they are available in early August. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Barb Schwenk at 757-787-2936, ext 115, or email bschwenk@a-npdc.org.



Exmore, Belle Haven Start Regional Water & Sewer Preliminary Engineering

The Towns of Exmore and Belle Haven have been approved by the state Dept. of Housing and Community Development to start preparing a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for expanding water and sewer services to unserved portions of their towns.

The towns have formed a joint management team to oversee the project. The team has been meeting monthly since October 2006. Belle Haven Mayor Marion Long chairs the team. The team has selected the firm of O'Brien & Gere of Virginia Beach to prepare the PER. And, the team has completed neighborhood surveys that indicate a majority of support by the residents for these new services.

The draft PER is expected to be completed by November 2007. It will recommend the areas to be served, estimate costs, and suggest rates to be charged for the services. A public meeting will be held the following month for residents to review and comment on the report.

Proposed Virginia Department of Health Sewage Regulations to be Presented at Public Meetings on August 13th

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee is hosting a meeting for Don Alexander, Director of On Site Wastewater Disposal for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Alexander will discuss the new proposed sewage regulations and any new regulations that have been adopted by the General Assembly. He will give an overview and a presentation of the various types of systems on the Shore and how they work, including the above ground pretreatment systems and the new regulations that will be required for these systems. He will discuss decen-

tralized wastewater disposal, which is one of the sewage options Accomack County is considering to service some of their areas. There will be questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

The first meeting will be held at Eastern Shore Community College on Monday, August 13, 2007 at 9:30 AM. Mr. Alexander will present again at the Chincoteague Center at 7 PM on the same day, and will be hosted by Chincoteague Town Councilwoman Wanda Thornton. The general public is invited to attend and participate.

A-NHRC Awarded \$20,000 in HOME Funds

The Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation has been awarded \$20,000 in HOME Investment Partnership Program funds for down payment assistance. These funds are to be used to provide down payment subsidy for eligible first-time homebuyers who receive permanent financing for the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) or other VHDA approved lender. The HOME funds carry a 5 - 15 year affordability term that is secured with a restrictive covenant on the property that is financed.

**New Baby for Community
Development Coordinator
Bobbie Jo Wert**

The A-NPDC congratulates Community Development Coordinator Bobbie Jo Wert and her husband Jeremy Wert on the birth of their baby boy, Austin James Wert, who arrived on Sunday, July 8, weighing 7 lb. 10.5 oz. and 21 inches long. He joins sisters Kimberly and Jamie Lynn at the family's home in Melfa. We wish them well and look forward to Bobbie's return.



Chris Wood Helping A-NPDC

On July 11th, Mr. Christopher Wood joined the A-NPDC for the summer. He is working on completing land use classification on streamside buffers in Accomack County. Mr. Wood grew up in Bedford, Virginia and graduated in 2007 from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg with Bachelor of Liberal Studies - Geography. He is also currently working for the Park Service on Assateague as a Visitor Youth Assistant. We warmly welcome Chris and look forward to working with him over the summer.



**How to Contact
the A-NPDC**

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