

# Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



July 2008

## Governor Announces New Grants for Shore

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Governor announced that the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development will offer three new Community Development Block Grants to localities on the Shore. The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission submitted proposals on behalf of the Town of Tangier and the Tangier Island Health Foundation, and the Towns of Parksley and Cape Charles.

The CDBG grants will provide over \$1.7 million dollars of new money for infrastructure projects within the three towns that will be leveraged with \$2,785,975 of other funds. All together, the grants will help complete the financial packages of the three projects for a total investment of over \$4.5 million dollars of improvements.

Specifics follow:

**Town of Tangier:** The town will develop a new 3,400 square foot health clinic to replace the existing facility, which is dilapidated and insufficient for the current demand for services. The new facility will allow for medical services in the area of primary care, emergency care, and wellness and prevention services and will be crucial to attracting additional medical service providers to the residents of Tangier Island.

The facility will include four examination rooms, two procedure rooms, an x-ray room, and additional space for waiting/reception and staff needs.



The facility will add exercise stress tests, colonoscopy, gastroscopies, and diagnostic blood services to the services now available, and is expected to serve at least 419 people of whom 272 (65%) are low-to-moderate income.

**Town of Parksley:** The town will construct a broadband network to serve the business district. The network will include a 48-count fiber-optic cable spur connecting Parksley to the backbone along U. S. Route 13, a redundant loop of 24-count fiber-optic buried cable, and a 12-count fiber-optic cable aerial fiber around the business district. The project will increase the level of service to 1,500 Community Service Board clients, 1,350 (90%) of whom are low-to-moderate income; and will create an additional 31

jobs, all of which will be available to low-to-moderate income persons.

**Town of Cape Charles:** The town will design and construct a broadband network that is essential to the long-term sustainability of businesses serving the community, and educational and healthcare facilities. The network will allow for the addition of a computer lab

*(Continued on page 2)*

### This Issue

Governor Announces New Grants for Shore

Water Heritage Festival on Chincoteague

Lead Safe Homes Program Extended

# Water Heritage Festival on Chincoteague Island

A-NPDC staff assisted the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance in putting on the Water Heritage Festival in the Robert N. Reed Park on the waterfront on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The festival was a community celebration of living and working on the water. The Festival featured exhibits, demonstrations, speakers, tours and other activities focused on the many ways that living and working on the water have influenced Chincoteague over the last 100 years and will continue to shape its future.



*Gill Net Demonstration*

The Water Heritage Festival was sponsored in part by funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the Coastal Zone Management Program. The program sponsors events that promote education and awareness of the area's cultural and natural heritage.



*Children examine skulls*



*Clamming Exhibit*

The event kicked off on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> with a lecture on maritime history hosted by the Chincoteague Library Cultural Heritage Committee. Dr. Miles Barnes, noted regional historian and author, presented a lecture and slide show on the history and heritage of Virginia's barrier islands.

Activities on Saturday began with a special Marine Explorers walk by the U.S. Park Service Office at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. There were exhibitions and demonstrations featuring decoy carving, clamming, commercial fishing, oystering, waterfowl hunting, net and crabpot making. There were also children's activities, boat tours, an art show, delicious seafood and music. Curtis Badger, local author and photographer who has written several books on the Eastern Shore's cultural and natural heritage, was also present to do a book signing and talk to festival goers. Four to five hundred people attended.



*Crabpot Exhibit*



*Children loved the Horseshoe Crab Exhibit*

## New Grants for Shore

*(Continued from page 1)*

in Cape Charles that will make internet access available to all residents. The project will install approximately 14,158 linear feet of 144-count fiber-optic cable to connect the Town to the broadband backbone running along U.S. Route 13, and 21,800 linear feet of 12-count fiber-optic cable to complete the service loop within the Town. The project will benefit 1,129 people, of whom 655 (58%) are low-to-moderate income.

# Lead Safe Homes Program Grant Extended Until Sept 30, 2008

For the past 2 ½ years, the A-NPDC has administered a Dept. of Housing and Community Development grant to reduce lead hazards in qualifying households with children under the age of six. Most homes built before 1978 contain lead-based paint, so it is important that renovation, remodeling and repair activities use methods that reduce and control dust and debris created during work. Even a small amount of dust can pose a serious health risk to children and families. The Eastern Shore, with its disproportionate number of older (pre-1978) homes, many in poor condition, has one of the highest per capita rates of lead-poisoned children in the state.

The Eastern Shore Lead Safe Homes Program provides services to income-qualifying households with chil-

dren under the age of six. Services include lead risk hazard assessments, inspection of property inside and outside, and, when hazards are found, hiring contractors certified in lead abatement to reduce hazards. Methods include wet sanding and repainting, repair or replacement of windows, encapsulating components (i.e., using vinyl siding and window wrap), and demolition of deteriorated outbuilding and removal of contaminated soil. Recently, we received an extension of the grant, through September 30, 2008. To apply for the Program or to enquire about lead hazards in residential settings, please call Patti Merritt at 757-787-2936, ext 119. For information on lead poisoning and blood lead level testing, call the Health Dept. at 787-5880(Accomack County) or 442-6228 (Northampton County).



## 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  
**Toll Free** 866-787-3001  
**E-Mail** [anpdc@a-npdc.org](mailto:anpdc@a-npdc.org)  
**Website** [www.a-npdc.org](http://www.a-npdc.org)  
**Editor** Patti Merritt



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

PRSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.# 3072  
ACCOMAC, VA 23301

If you would like to alter or cancel your subscription, please call (757)787-2936 ext. 122.