

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

October 2004

Downtown Exmore Has a New Look

Last week, utility crews completed the removal of utility poles, telephone lines and electric lines from the west side of Main Street in Exmore. This was just in time for the annual Exmore Com-

munity Yard Sale, a large event sponsored by the Greater Exmore Business Association.

This work is part of the Exmore Downtown Revitalization Project which

started in 2000. The project, funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), is a cooperative effort between the Town of Exmore, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, local businesses, Greater Exmore Business Association, and the Exmore Downtown Revitalization group. This project offered business loans and funded the physical improvements including the new sidewalks installed over the winter.

Improving the appearance of Main Street and Bank Avenue is a primary goal of the project. Utility relocation is a major part of Exmore's revitalization process along with other physical improvements including new sidewalks, community spaces and façade improvements on both Main Street and Bank Avenue.

The next phase of this project will put new pedestrian-scaled lighting on Main Street. This will enhance the area and provide an attractive atmosphere. Current improvements make a big difference in the look and feel of downtown.

This project is just the start, Exmore has other plans for downtown and will continue to pursue funding to make these a reality.



Crews Remove Downtown Exmore's Utility Poles

The Lead Safe Homes Program gets a \$700,000 Boost

On September 21, 2004, Governor Mark R. Warner announced that Accomack County will receive \$700,000 in CDBG funds to reduce lead hazards in 18 homes in Accomack and Northampton.

The Eastern Shore has been identified as a high-risk area for childhood lead poisoning. Approximately 65% of the housing stock on the Eastern Shore was built before 1978 when lead based paint was banned. The Eastern Shore community also has a high concentration of low-to-moderate income residents. For many of these families it is a struggle to maintain their homes and keep painted surfaces in good condition. Once lead-based paint deteriorates, large amounts of lead dust can be released causing a lead hazard.

The Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program and the newly awarded CDBG funds will be used together to combat these problems. VLSHP funds will be used to reduce lead hazards through in-

terim control measures such as paint film stabilization, window replacement, and cleaning. CDBG funds will address other structural deficiencies.

To be eligible, a family must own or rent a home built before 1978 with a lead hazard, have children under the age of 6 spending significant time in the home, and meet the HUD income guidelines for low-to-moderate income households. For more information, or to receive an application, contact Heather Garvis at 757-787-2936.

*Peeling Lead Based
many Eastern*



FY 2005 EDC Marketing Plans

Hampton Roads Commercial Real Estate Council

Promote our commercial and industrial properties to the real estate agents and businesses in Hampton Roads through cooperative ads in the *Virginian Pilot*, presentations to the Council and tours on the Eastern Shore.

Virginia Economic Development Partnership Initiatives

Promote the Shore's advantages, sites and buildings through a presentation to VEDP Project Managers and a tour of sites on the Eastern Shore.

Regional Profile

Update the Regional Profile and print 5,000 copies in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. Use this to answer general inquiries and include in packages of information for clients.

Internet Advertising

Ads will appear on the Yahoo and Google search engines when someone searches for "enterprise zone", "hubzone", "foreign trade zone" and "eastern shore".

Easternshore.org

Maintain Easternshore.org as the Internet web site for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. 5,070 people visited our easternshore.org website in August (an increase of 1,614 from August of 2003).

Monthly E-Mail Newsletter

Continue to send out monthly email newsletters of upcoming events on the Shore and include links to websites of local businesses.

New Board Appointments

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Sandra Hart Mears
Andrew R. Barbour
Richard B. Tankard
Jeffery Walker

replaces Julia E. Major
replaces Thomas H. Dixon, III
replaces Felton T. Sessoms
replaces Oliver H. Bennett

Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation

Bola Ajayi

replaces Thomas Godwin

Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority

Donald Sawyer

replaces Howard C. Wessells

Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority

Jeffrey Walker
Richard B. Tankard
Steve Mallette

replaces Thomas H. Dixon, III
replaces Felton T. Sessoms
replaces Julia E. Major

ESVPSA Board Proceeds with Nassawadox Land Option

At the ESVPSA Board Meeting of September 23, 2004, the Board voted to proceed with the purchase of an option to buy property in the Nassawadox area. The land will be used for a wastewater treatment plant for the Northern Northampton Sewer Project. This positive step will allow the Authority to further research the proposed site and refine project plans in preparation for upcoming grant submittals.

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
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A-NPDC Mourns Julia Major

Accomack County Supervisor Julia E. Major passed away on September 4, 2004. She served on the A-NPDC continuously from 1984, when she was first elected a county supervisor. During her 20 years on the Commission, she served as chair and vice chair several times. In 1993, she was elected Chair of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commission and guided the VAPDC to hire its first paid staff.

“Julia was a very warm and generous person,” said A-NPDC director Paul Berge. “She also was a strong progressive leader of the county, the region, and the state,” said Berge “We called her a statesman and a saint. The A-NPDC will miss her dearly.”



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or comments about anything in this publication, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning District Commission.

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