Regional Leaders Honored for Service

In December, the A-NPDC, Housing Authority, Housing Corporation, and Groundwater Committee honored board members and staff who were leaving their respective regional organizations.


The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority presented Resolutions of Commendation to W. Donald Sawyer and Berge.

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority presented Resolutions of Commendation to Nathaniel B. Williams, Shirley P. Taylor, Martha C. Young, Matthews, Sawyer and Berge.

The Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee presented Resolutions of Commendation to Suzanne S. Wescoat, Donald L. Hart, Jr., Major, and Berge.

All served on the boards of these organizations. In addition, Berge served as Executive Director of the A-NPDC, A-N Regional Housing Authority, and A-N Housing and Redevelopment Corporation. Berge also received a Willie Crockett original painting of the Enterprise Building recognizing his 28 years of service. The Town of Chincoteague and NCALL Research, Inc., also recognized Berge’s service.

Art Collins of Hampton Roads PDC, Chair Suzanne Wescoat of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, former Accomack and

(Continued on Page 2)
Regional Leaders Honored

The Accomack-Northampton Housing Regional Authority (ANRHA) has scheduled its first Orientation Homeownership Education class on January 10 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Front Street location. For more details, please contact Patricia Connoly Grove, Housing Counselor for the ANRHA, at 757-787-2800, ext 124.

Grove recently returned from a week-long training class in Portland, Oregon, sponsored by NeighborWorks, a national non-profit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community development practitioners.

The course was entitled “Homebuyer Education Methods: Training the Trainer,” and its objective was to enable participants to implement and manage a successful homeownership education program in their own communities based on the NeighborWorks curriculum. Some of the topics covered in the week-long training were predatory lending, compliance for counselors, and post-purchase counseling. Patricia, who has been in the mortgage industry for the last twenty years, is ready to implement her newly honed skills at the first Orientation Homeownership Education class at the Front Street location. For more details, please contact Patricia at 757-787-2800, ext 124.

Orientation Homeownership Education Class Scheduled

Regional Leaders Honored (Continued from Page 1)

Northampton Administrator Keith Bull, former ESVEDC Director Ridgway Dunton, and former ESCC President Dick Jenkins spoke of A-NPDC accomplishments during Berge’s tenure.

Berge’s retirement is effective December 31, 2007. He will be succeeded by Elaine Meil, who has served as A-NPDC Director of Planning since 2005.

In his parting remarks, retiring Executive Director Paul Berge recognized three regional leaders that had passed away recently and had inspired him during his career, Julia Major, Tommy Matthews, and Paul Merritt.

Paul Merritt died in 2006 after retiring from public service. He had served on the Accomack County Board of Supervisors for 32 years representing Chincoteague Island. Paul served on the A-NPDC from 1973 until 1995. During his 22 years with the A-NPDC, and using his senior status on the Accomack Board as leverage, he led many efforts by Eastern Shore local governments to address issues of mutual concern together, not just as individual towns, counties, or election districts. His efforts included forming the regional Housing Corporation, Housing Authority, Tourism Commission, and Economic Development Commission.

“Paul was a passionate promoter of Chincoteague,” said Berge, “but by the time I arrived on the Shore, he was also a passionate Eastern Shoreman. He was one of the first leaders I met that understood that the Eastern Shore region needed to work together in order to effect growth and progress for its individual localities.”

As a former Chincotegue Town Councilman, owner of the Chincoteague Miniature Pony Farm (and performer in its shows), insurance broker, and deacon for the Union Baptist Church, Merritt was often known as “Mr. Chincoteague” throughout the Commonwealth, the country, and the world.
New Construction Underway at Metompkin Community Project

Five contracts have been signed for houses to be built under the Metompkin Comprehensive Community Development Project. Construction is underway at two sites, with footings having been dug and poured. Contracts have also been signed for installation of wells and septic systems at the five construction sites, and two of the septic systems are already in place.

Under this project, 14 abandoned structures will be demolished and the lots cleared, 20 occupied houses will be repaired or replaced (including providing first-time indoor plumbing to 3 houses), new deep wells and on-site septic systems will be installed to replace existing failing systems, and property acquired to allow for the widening and paving of existing streets to Virginia Department of Transportation standards. Many of the beneficiaries of this project will be first-time homeowners. For more information on the project, call Patti Merritt at 757-787-2936, ext 119.