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(L-R) Arthur Upshur, Donna Bozza, and Denard Spady at the Oyster Roast.

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Northampton evaluates its debt

Will decision-makers learn from past mistakes?

By Mary Miller

“The county has constructed an Eastville County Government complex, and we have the debt to show for it,” retired Supervisor Spencer Murray said recently to the Board of Supervisors. “Through multiple projects throughout the county, school debt and very costly creation of the Eastville County Government complex, we have now have debt of over \$30 million (principal only) extending out to the year 2033,” he continued.

A few weeks later at a joint meeting of the Supervisors and the School Board, Courtney Rogers of Davenport and Company, the county’s financial advisers, pointed out that the actual debt figure is in excess of \$38 million.

When the nearly \$3 million in principal and interest payments needed every year for the county’s debt repayment are added to the \$1.5 million in mandatory “regional” jail operating expenses, \$4.5 million in local real estate tax dollars are spoken for, every year, before county operations, building upkeep and maintenance and additions to the Capital Fund are even considered.

Can the county afford \$30 million more debt?

At the request of the Board, Rogers then proceeded to present a scenario in which the county incurs an additional debt of \$30 million to construct new schools. Although no decision has been made yet, middle and/or high school building construction is being considered, with a 5-year window for a decision. Both the Board and Rogers concurred that a five-year wait might increase the cost to \$35 million or more.

Even though no significant new borrowing capacity has been planned until the next decade, Rogers outlined the local revenue needs that an additional \$30-plus million in debt now would entail. An additional \$2 million dollars in local revenue would be needed for debt service every year – direct from county taxpayers. And the \$1.5 million jail operations requirement will still be there. This would equate to a 10% tax increase on all property owners. And that figure would hold only if the real estate property assessment figures remain constant. The newest assessment figures will be available next year, and there is no guarantee that assessments won’t decline. The Board will consider the option of an annual tax increase over the next five years of 2 cents/\$100 of assessed value, with this new revenue saved in the Capital Fund. This would raise \$2 million of the required school cost of \$30-35 million – but that would depend on the county not allocating those General Fund dollars for another purpose.

What about the county’s “prudent” fiscal policies?

The county’s current policy states that local tax-supported debt will not exceed 4% of real estate assessed value. After a brief discussion about including personal property tax (i.e., cars and boats) revenue in the debt ceiling calculation, as many counties do, it was decided to continue the county policy of using only real estate tax revenue in that calculation. Tax revenue collected on boats, cars and other personal property was not regarded as a reliable revenue source.

Another “prudent” county financial policy is that the annual debt service will not exceed 12% of total expenses for the year. Current debt to expense ratio is 10%. But if

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“New Debt,” *Cont’d from p. 1*

an additional \$30 million in debt were incurred by 2016, then that ratio would exceed the 12% county cap for at least four years – and the county “would be projected to **not** remain in compliance with its Debt Service to Total Governmental Expenditures Policy” according to the Davenport Review. But that would “not be a deal killer,” Rogers said, since the county has nothing large, expense-wise, “in the foreseeable future.”

Expenses, assessments and “off the books” debt.

That comment may or may not be accurate. In addition to both routine and unexpected maintenance costs for the two elementary schools which are now over 20 years old, there will continue to be the annual \$1.5 million operating expenses for the “regional” jail, with no end to that obligation in sight. With the move of the hospital out of the county, the Board has already been informed that to provide adequate emergency response services to the county, there will be a need for more equipment and staff. There continues to be concern about whether county real estate assessments will hold steady or decline further from the speculative real estate bubble highs of the past decade. And in response to a question from the Board about possible state changes, Mr. Rogers noted that the General Assembly might be considering the transfer of all costs of constitutional officers (Clerk of the Court,

Commissioner of the Revenue, Sheriff and Commonwealth’s Attorney) and their staffs to localities. The state Compensation Board sets salaries for those offices and currently provides some revenue for salaries and operations.

And there may be one more unknown – funding activities of the PSA (Public Service Authority). A recent engineering report appeared to show that projected costs for the Southern Node waste water system had increased since the last report. An October 21 PSA working document projects a \$3 million construction loan to serve a potential 33 active users. There has been discussion at the county level about creating a Special Tax District to pay for construction of the Southern Node infrastructure. There has also been discussion about whether property owners using the Southern Node sewer lines should be required to fund the construction project, or should all county taxpayers shoulder some of the costs. A 25%-75% cost split (county to Tax District) or a 50%-50% cost split has been discussed. The same PSA working document shows an additional option – that 100% of the construction costs be paid out of the county’s general tax revenue. Virginia Code allows a locality to expend whatever amount they choose from their General Fund to prop up Special Tax Districts. And any unsecured borrowing or bond purchases by the PSA will most likely require a Moral Obligation Bond by the county – a security in case of default since the PSA has no credit or financial history. Normal accounting practice allows Moral Obligation Bond guarantees to not appear as actual debt on a locality’s financial statements.

ShoreLine Comment. *Northampton is a small, rural county. Many such counties recognize reality and build modest facilities to meet their service needs. Unfortunately, Northampton has built gold-plated facilities – five fancy convenience centers when three modest ones would have served, an expensive “regional” jail when a more modest county-only jail would have served, etc. Now the County will be paying off the debt for the County Government Complex and other lesser projects for the next 18 years, and that extensive project may have been built with considerably more capacity than was reasonable for a county with limited resources and a declining population.*

Both taxpayers and elected officials need to be willing to learn from the conse-

New CBES Leadership

As *ShoreLine* goes to press, CBES president Arthur Upshur and the Board of Directors announced the hiring of a new Executive Director for the organization – Donna Bozza.

Bozza has been a recognized Eastern Shore figure since the 1990s. She worked as a reporter and writer for the *Eastern Shore News* and more recently as director for the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission. She has also served as Director of the ESO arts organization in Belle Haven, and she is currently involved in the production of her husband’s long-running television program, *Jim Baugh Outdoors*.

Bozza will begin work immediately and work in concert with the existing CBES staff through a two-month transition period. She will take up her full responsibilities in January. Look for her article in this issue about the 22nd annual CBES Between the Waters Bike Tour – and for a more in-depth introduction to the CBES membership in next month’s *ShoreLine*.

quences of building more than is realistically needed, as Supervisor Granville Hogg has repeatedly stated. New school projects, a wastewater system that may or may not actually be needed and the choice between an expensive conversion of a deteriorated school including an expanded Emergency Medical Service (EMS) facility are the sorts of decisions that ought to benefit from past experience. For example, the school conversion, including an EMS facility, would be at a cost projected between \$3 and \$6 million versus a newly constructed 2,000 square foot, 3-bay EMS facility at a cost of \$300,000 to \$450,000. Which would be the more cost effective way to address actual needs?

Debt is usually a necessary part of long term capital planning for a locality. Both future incurred debt and the planned projects they fund need to be agreed to as necessary for the community, affordable to the taxpayers and considered in relation to all the other expenditures necessary to support core services for the community.



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Economic benefits of implementing the “Blueprint” in Virginia

A Chesapeake Bay Foundation Fact Sheet

Nature plays an important role by providing clean air and water, reducing flooding risks, and delivering food and recreational opportunities. These and other natural benefits can be quantified. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s new report, *The Economic Benefits of Cleaning Up the Chesapeake*, for the first time assesses those benefits to determine what the current dollar value is, and how much it will increase with the implementation of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint. The report also documents the loss of services if the Blueprint is not implemented.

Everyone will benefit from reducing pollution. The report estimates that in 2009 the value of nature’s benefits in the region was \$107.2 billion and implementing the Blueprint will increase that value by \$22 billion. If we fail to continue to reduce pollution, the value of natural services would decline by \$5.6 billion annually.

Implementing the Blueprint will have a significant, positive impact on Virginia’s economy. Once the Blueprint is fully implemented, and the benefits fully realized, the value of the natural services provided would increase by \$8.3 billion, from \$41.2 to \$49.5 billion. That increase is largely driven by the enhanced value of:

- Aesthetics, the role that healthy natural areas play in attracting people to live, work, and recreate in a region, showed an increase in value of \$3.6 billion annually;
- Waste treatment is the removal or breakdown of pollution by vegetation, microbes, and other organisms, resulting in fewer, less toxic, and/or lower volumes of pollutants in the system. The report estimates an increase in value of \$2.1 billion annually; and
- Water supply, filtering, retention, storage, and delivery of fresh water—both quality and quantity—for drinking, irrigation, industrial processes, and other uses showed an increased value of \$1.1 billion annually.

In Virginia it is estimated that 642,297 people use the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail annually and the total economic effect of the Trail in 2008 was approximately \$8.6 million (Rosenberger & Convery, 2008).

In addition, a Virginia study found that “water quality, fishing quality and other environmental factors” ranked among the most important criteria that influence boater’s decisions on where to keep their boats (Doug Lipton, Murray, & Kirkley, 2009). More broadly:

- Approximately 75 percent of the people living in the Bay watershed rely on surface water supplies for their drinking water (Sprague, Burke, Clagett, & Todd, 2006). An EPA study of drinking water source protection efforts concluded that for every \$1 spent on source water protection, an average of \$27 is saved in water treatment costs (Groundwater Protection Council, 2007).

- In 2001, more than 15 million people fished, hunted, or viewed wildlife in the Chesapeake region’s forests alone and contributed approximately \$3 billion to the regional economy. (Sprague et al., 2006).
- Agricultural lands account for approximately 22 percent of the acres in the Chesapeake watershed (US EPA, 2010a) and the value of Chesapeake Bay region agricultural sales in 2007 was about \$9.5 billion—24 percent from crops and 76 percent from livestock (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007).
- Scientists estimate that the 1.2 million acres of urban forest in the Chesapeake region collectively remove approximately 42,700 metric tons of pollutants annually (Sprague et al., 2006).
- In 2009, tourists spent \$58 billion in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., directly supporting approximately 600,000 jobs and contributing \$14.9 billion in labor income and \$9.4 billion in taxes. Tourists spent \$25.7 billion in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network region alone (Stynes, 2012).

CBF’s study addressed only benefits, not costs. While there are no recent estimates of the total costs of implementation, a 2004 estimate put costs in the range of roughly \$6 billion per year.

Considering federal, state and local investments in clean water in the 10 years since that time, we estimate the current number is closer to \$5 billion annually. And once capital investments are made, the long-term annual operations and maintenance costs will be much lower.

The result--the Blueprint will return benefits to the region each year at a rate of more than four times the cost of the clean-up plan.



VIMS

Public Seminar Series

“Hurricanes, Nor’easters, Storm Surge and Climate Change”

Dr. William Boicourt

Professor

University of Maryland
Center for Environmental Science

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

7:30 PM

**Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Wachapreague, Virginia**

Pedal Power!

22nd Between the Waters Bike Tour pumps up Eco-Tourism

By Donna Bozza

Like light through crystal, the fall morning sparkled on Onancock's College Avenue. The usually quiet street was overflowing with a vast assortment of vehicles that shared a common denominator – bike racks. A sure sign that *CBES 22nd Annual Between the Waters Bike Tour* was again successfully wheeling in cyclists to peddle some of the prettiest places on Virginia's Eastern Shore.



Cyclists enjoyed great weather and iconic Shore vistas.

The daylong event held Saturday, October 25, enjoyed a sunny break in what had been a streak of blustery weather. Though the air was still, the historic Onancock School was energized with riders streaming through, excited to check in and start one of the tour's four routes 25, 40, 60, and 100 miles. At press time, Event Coordinator Phyllis Tyndall estimated there were 800 cyclists, up about 50 participants from last year.

"It's about the fifth or sixth time for us," said Don Pratt, age 70 of Southern Shores, NC as he saddled up in the school parking lot. "It's a good ride and it's flat like the Outer Banks where we train."

Nearby Brad Dougherty, 60 of Virginia Beach, riding with his coach Mellissa Kuch, shared how triple bypass surgery prompted him to do the tour. "I made it part of my therapy to train and do the 100 mile tour, it's my goal." Catching up with Dougherty post-race, he was shy of his mileage goal but logged an impressive 73 miles. "I'll be back next year to do the full 100."

As in the past, about ninety percent of the Bike Tour participants came from off the Shore, including a couple from Texas. Many riders were from the Hampton Roads area, North Carolina, Maryland, and D.C.

In 1992, the tour was created to support and promote eco-tourism at a time when the concept was not very familiar to Shore residents. Now with tourism in the region recognized as a core economic development initiative, the CBES event continues its leadership role.

CBES Board Member Emeritus John Chubb, volunteering again at this year's ride, remembered when the tour began with under 100 riders.

"We even had a water crossing as part of the tour back then," he said recalling the Carolina Skiffs that would carry bikes and riders across a creek. "Folks loved it, but then as our numbers grew it became too unwieldy."

Chubb also emphasized the tour's financial importance to CBES as its main fundraiser. "It helps to continue our work for the Shore."



Trip Wescoat keeps the oysters piled high at the Bike Tour's popular Oyster Roast.

Adding to the weekend festivities a free, Fun Ride is offered on Friday before the main ride. In addition, for those who act quickly, an authentic Oyster Roast

further celebrates all things Eastern Shore. As usual, the Saturday evening event sold out immediately.

As the sun dipped golden over the surrounding fields, over a hundred of the cyclists and their spouses and friends filled the vintage barn. The mood was festive, and kudos for the tour were as plentiful as the oysters being shoveled Shore-style on the long wooden tables.

Returning cyclists are the norm for the Bike Tour. If this year's event was any indicator, the tour scores high with avid cyclists of all ages.

"Out of all the bike tours we've done, this one tops them all," said Rick Massaro, a DC resident who attended the tour with his wife Jean. "It's amazing how well organized it is, how clearly marked the route is, and it's so peaceful here."

The tour never gets old for the repeat customers, as the routes rotate between four of the most picturesque areas of the Shore: Onancock, Cape Charles, Wachapreague, and Nassawadox.

Based in Onancock, this year's ride on quiet country roads included vistas of sunny, yellow soybean fields and church steeples piercing blue skies, along with the cry of eagles in the salt-tinged air.

CBES prides itself on a full service bike tour, including well-staffed rest stops with snacks and beverages, free event t-shirts, and a full picnic lunch that even includes strolling musicians, the Shore's own Malcolm and Carol Russ. There is also a repair service available for cyclists. However, Tyndall or a volunteer will help pick-up stranded riders.

That volunteer spirit keeps the tour rolling along year after year. It takes about 50 - 75 volunteers to make it all happen. "I do it because of the people, its so cool meeting them," said Lynn Allison, a long time volunteer and past CBES Board Member. "It's a great way to share the Shore."

CBES Between the Waters Bike Tour is held the fourth Saturday in October. Cape Charles is the 2015 location. Volunteers and sponsors are always needed. For more information email biketour@cbes.org or call the CBES office at 757-678-7157.

Bike Tour Volunteers

Lynn Allison
 Sandra Beerends
 Liz Bochicchio
 Vincent Bochicchio
 Ruth Boettcher
 Sharon Burkhard
 Ive Chubb
 John Chubb
 Rodney Dowty
 Stella Dunn
 Joe Dunn Sr.
 Kathy Durmick
 Steven Finch
 Michelle Fulton-Murphy
 Eleanor Gordon
 Shannon Gordon
 Nancy Holcomb
 Jack Humphreys
 Jody Humphreys
 Lloyd Johnson
 Josh Lattimore
 Larry LeMasters
 Bo Lusk
 Norm Mapp and NAAT
 Jack Ordeman
 Mary Ordeman
 Lee Peirson
 Mike Peirson
 Liam Pyle
 Sue Rice
 Sally Richardson
 Barry Tyndall
 Britney Tyndall
 Leigh Tyndall
 Arthur Upshur
 Margaret VanClief
 Jeff Walker
 Doug Williams



New CBES Executive Director Donna Bozza interviews Bike Tour participants at a Rest Stop.

Oyster Roast Volunteers

Lynn Lanier
 Sarah Morgan
 Liam Pyle
 Leigh Tyndall
 Arthur & Carol Upshur
 Dan & Dana VanDyke
 John Wescoat
 Casey Wescoat
 Trip Wescoat
 W.T. & Dora-Weston Wilkins

Davis Disposal
 Edward Jones
 H.M. Terry
 Hotel Cape Charles
 Island House Restaurant
 Ocean Cove Seafood
 Salisbury Cycle & Fitness
 The Great Machipongo Clam Shack

Rest Stop Hosts

Lynwood Lewis
 Karen Terwilliger – Marsh Point
 Modest Town Baptist Church
 Saxis Fire Department
 Tim & Susie Brown

Garden and Sea B&B
 Peacock Motor Inn
 SunTrust
 T. Lee Byrd

Sponsors

American Shellfish
 Cherrystone Family Camping Resort
 Tankard Nurseries
 Wescoat Nurseries

Supporting Organizations

NAAT
 Town of Onancock
 Onancock Police Department
 Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel

Event Manager

Phyllis Tyndall



One rider wore a tiara to celebrate the day!

“First time I have done this ... It was great. Everything was well marked; weather was perfect; folks were friendly; rest stops esp lunch stop for 60 mile [which is what I did], 40, 25 were delightful. Hope to be able to do it again next year!”

*Barbara Bishop
 (by email)*

An “Unusual Mortality Event”

Solving the Mystery of the 2013/2014 Dolphin Strandings

By Sue Mastyl

At a well-attended seminar in July at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Eastern Shore Laboratory in Wachapreague, Susan Barco, Research Coordinator for the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center’s Stranding Response Program, described last year’s unusually high number of dolphin strandings and the work required to identify the cause.

Last year, she said, the stranding team saw 20 to 30 times the usual number of dolphin strandings during some periods, most of which were severely decomposed carcasses or body parts. At one point, there were 5 to 15 calls a day, and an “unusual mortality event” was declared on August 8, 2013, reflecting an event that began July 1, 2013.

The Stranding Response Program is responsible for the entire state of Virginia and is one of more than 100 organizations nationally. They are responsible for both marine mammals and sea turtles and respond to calls for sick, injured or dead animals, as well as those that are entrapped or disoriented. There are different types of strandings – single strandings (including mother/calf pairs), mass strandings (large numbers of animals at a single time, some of which may include healthy animals) and group strandings (with large numbers over time with a single cause). An unusual mortality event (UME) is a type of group stranding.

From 2003 to 2012, the number of strandings ranged from 75 to 119 a year, 85% of which were for bottle-nosed dolphins. Most strandings in Virginia occur from May to September each year. The Stranding Response Program started in 1987/1988, with a dolphin die-off of more than 200 animals in Virginia Beach. Little was known about the natural history of the species or the population dynamics, although it was clear that something had caused a reduction in the animals’ immune system leading to secondary infections that resulted in death. Over the years, the team has gained more experience, and it now has a better definition of the coastal migratory population of bottle-nosed dolphins and a better picture of the normal frequency of strandings. Based on data from 2009-2012, the peak for strandings is in May/June, with approximately 30 animals; these are associated with neonates. In late summer, typically there are fewer than 10 animals stranded each month.

In 2013, a different picture emerged. According to Barco, there were fewer strandings in May/June, possibly due to a late calving season. Higher numbers started to appear in July, with very few calves, very few caused by human interaction (entanglements, hooks, etc.) and some live strandings, which is rare for bottle-nosed dolphins although these may have been animals from the offshore population. By late July, more than 1 animal a day was seen; the “unusual mortality event” was declared on August 8, and the cause was announced on August 27. This was the largest declared cetacean UME ever. The peak was 18 animals in one day in August; there were 41 days with more than 1 animal a day. There were 48 animals stranded in July, 171 in August, 80 in September, 31 in October, and 6 in November. The strandings for August, 2013, were 25 times the normal number. A total of 382 bottle-nosed dolphins were stranded for the year in Virginia, with

a total of 1,283 from New York to Florida from January, 2013, through May 18, 2014. All states had higher-than-normal numbers, but Virginia had the highest, with North Carolina second. In 2014, the numbers seem to be declining, with 42 strandings in Virginia between January and July, compared with 86 in the same period in 2013.

The cause of the die-off was identified as cetacean morbillivirus, which is a virus related to measles and distemper. It is thought to reduce the animal’s immune response, allowing chronic secondary infections, which lead to death. Animals that were not too decomposed and were able to be necropsied had evidence of external and mouth lesions, lung and bladder lesions, enlarged lymph nodes, heavy parasite loads, and evidence of zoonotic diseases (which jump from one species to another) such as brucella and vibrio cholera. Morbillivirus can also cause spontaneous abortion, and there is evidence that very few calves were born in 2013, which would account for the lower number of calf strandings in early summer 2013.

Morbillivirus is transmitted from animal to animal by multiple means, including aerosol transmission (when animals breathe near each other), physical contact, lactation or fecal transmission. It is naturally occurring in some offshore cetacean species, including pilot whales and common dolphins, which have immunity to the virus. Coastal animals have no immunity to the virus; it has been 25 years since the last infection (the 1987/1988 die-off). The current theory is that there may have been contact between the coastal and offshore dolphin populations north of Cape Hatteras.

Several distinct populations of bottle-nosed dolphins have been identified, including the northern coastal migratory stock (9,604 animals; north of Virginia in summer), the southern coastal migratory stock (12,482 animals; Cape Hatteras in summer to Florida in winter), a northern North Carolina stock (950 animals), and the offshore stock (70,775 animals). The offshore stock is genetically distinct from the coastal populations, with different hemoglobin, the ability to dive deeper, and a different diet. In normal years, the strandings in Virginia are associated with animals from southern coastal migratory stock; in 2013, the stranded animals were darker gray and stockier, with the hypothesis that these could have been from the northern coastal migratory stock, or that the northern stock may have passed the disease on to the southern stock. Genetics work is ongoing to determine this.

Other testing is also ongoing from samples taken during 2013. Biopsy samples were taken with a crossbow of 30 live animals in the wild for genetics, stable isotopes, viral load, stress factors and contaminants. Ongoing monitoring will be key, said Barco, to give us baseline data to recognize another unusual event, and to address the possibility that this may become a regular mortality event.

The question remains why morbillivirus, which is naturally occurring and is not always fatal, should have been so devastating in 2013. There is no evidence that the virus had mutated. Barco raised the question why adults in the coastal population didn’t have immunity to the virus, since at least some of the

See “Dolphin Strandings,” *Cont’d on page 7*

Zoning interest remains high

Interest in the Northampton zoning revision remains high as the following letter indicates. ShoreLine was copied on this letter, and the writer has agreed to let us publish it. It serves as an example of the thoughtful comment that the Board of Supervisors is getting on the zoning proposal.

August 12, 2014

Mr. Larry LeMond, Chairman
Northampton Board of Supervisors

Dear Mr. LeMond,

I hope that your Board meeting tonight went well. I am writing to voice support for the positions of Art Schwarzchild and Jack Ordeman as expressed tonight at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting. While we live in Richmond, my wife, Mimi Sadler, and I own [a house on] Broadwater Circle in Oyster. Like Mr. Baldwin, we moved a house within the confines of Oyster ten years ago. We raised the house above the flood level, working closely with the county to reach a zoning variance that allowed us to maintain the character of the village of Oyster while meeting our own needs and desires with the house.

The county building and zoning officials were reasonable, sensible and sensitive to our needs. I would hope that

the BOS maintains the Waterfront Village zoning designation in Oyster and Willis Wharf and preserves the current by-right uses. These have served the village well. Mr. Baldwin is able to develop his property through the special use process, a critical review for such sensitive property.

Mimi and I were part of the Oyster Visioning process, as one of our first civic actions in Northampton County. We saw the efforts that went into this process and respect the substantial turnout at these meetings. It was exemplary democracy and civic responsibility in action. I hope that you will respect and honor these efforts with any upcoming votes before the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you and take care,
Camden Whitehead
Richmond

ShoreLine Comment. *We are pleased that the Board of Supervisors seems to be listening to comment such as that expressed here. Unfortunately, the Board took no lesson from a careful public process such as the Oyster Vision planning that was done several years ago. If they had included more public input in the development of county-wide rezoning, they could have produced a better proposal.*

The public will have a chance to hear presentations on the ordinance proposal and to ask questions at a public information forum sponsored by CBES and the Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper on Thursday, November 6, at the Eastville Fire Company Bingo Hall just south of Eastville. See details on the enclosed flyer.



“Strandings,” *Cont'd from p. 6*

population should have been exposed during the 1987/1988 die-off. Is this a different stock? Are they less healthy? Did environmental contaminants play a role? The bottlenose dolphin, she indicated, is a keystone species, and their health reflects the health of the ecosystem, which in turn reflects human health. Barco referred to the One Health Initiative (www.one-healthinitiative.com), with collaborations by physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific-health and environmental disciplines, for more information on the links between human, animal, and environmental health.



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SHORELINE

Community Calendar - November 2014

Note: Please verify times and places prior to attending meetings.

CBES and Other Activities		Northampton County		Accomack County	
Nov 5	VIMS Public Seminar 7:30 PM, Wachapreague	Nov 3	Board of Zoning Appeals 1 PM, Conference Room	Nov 5	Board of Zoning Appeals 10 AM, Sup. Chambers
Nov 6	Public Forum on Zoning 7:00 PM, Eastville	Nov 4	Planning Commission 7 PM, Sup. Chambers	Nov 12	Planning Commission 7 PM, BOS Chambers
Nov 11	CBES Exec. Committee 5 PM, CBES Office	Nov 12	Board of Supervisors 7 PM, Sup. Chambers	Nov 18	School Board 7 PM, BOS Chambers
Nov 13	Shorekeeper Meeting* 1 PM, ES Chamber of Commerce Melfa	Nov 19	Wetlands Board TBA, Conference Room	Nov 19	Board of Supervisors 6 PM, BOS Chambers
Nov 18	CBES Board Meeting 7:00 PM, Eastville	Nov 25	School Board 5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers	Nov 20	Wetlands Board 10 AM, Sup. Chambers
Nov 18	ES Groundwater Committee 10 AM, Accomac	Nov 25	BOS Work Session 7 PM, Sup. Chambers		
Nov 20	UVA Seminar Series 7 PM, Oyster				

* Alternating between the ES Chamber of

www.cbes.org

A Community Information Forum about Zoning

Northampton Supervisors are expected vote soon on a New Zoning Ordinance.

Here are some **proposed changes** from the Public Hearing draft
you may not know about:

1. **Increase of Rt. 13 commercial zoning**, including strip malls.
2. **Poultry houses with manure storage permitted 500 feet from tidal waters** and property lines, including from subdivisions and other residential neighborhoods.
3. **Hundreds of narrow lots permitted along shorelines** for houses and condos – including hundreds of new wells drilled into the aquifer.
4. **Commercial uses** like Research Facilities, multi-unit Vacation Rentals and Convenience Stores permitted in residential neighborhoods, with **no public hearings** or homeowner notification.
5. **Removal of Chesapeake Bay protections from the entire seaside**, where much of the county's aquaculture industry operates.
6. **Heavy Industrial uses**, like waste water treatment plants and other waste-related businesses, permitted in Agricultural Districts only **25 feet from property lines**, including from subdivisions and other residential neighborhoods.
7. Massive **residential density increases** for homes and condos in seaside villages and other rural neighborhoods.
8. **Removal of lot coverage limits** which help control flooding in low-lying neighborhoods.
9. **Statutory authority** given to Zoning Administrator to permit unlisted Uses in every District, with **no public hearings** or homeowner notification.
10. **Rezoning permitted almost anywhere** for free-standing commercial, industrial and residential developments.

- **How will these changes affect your property rights as a homeowner?**
- **Will these changes endanger the aquifer?**
- **Will these changes jeopardize the growing aquaculture industry?**

Northampton Community Forum

To explain the proposed Northampton zoning changes

Sponsored By:

**Virginia Eastern Shore Shorekeeper and
Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore**

Thursday, November 6, 2014

7:00 pm

Eastville Fire Company Bingo Hall

(On Courthouse Road just south of Eastville)

Virginia State certified citizen planning commissioners will share their knowledge and experience in drafting and implementing the current Northampton County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Proposed new uses, densities & setbacks for various Zoning Districts will be reviewed.

The Virginia Eastern Shore Shorekeeper will explain the impacts of the proposed changes on tidal water quality.

Forum panelists will answer questions from the public.

**ALL COUNTY AND TOWN CITIZENS
ARE URGED TO ATTEND**

Free and open to the public.