



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE SHORELINE™

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Northampton County's Housing Study Can We Create More Housing for Locals?

By Mary Miller

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors has launched a study to discover if there are impediments in the county's Zoning Ordinance or other regulations that discourage private development of affordable housing units, including rentals, for the community's workforce. The Berkley Group, the organization that worked on the county's recently updated Comprehensive Plan, has been hired to analyze county documents and provide a report sometime in March: "This assessment investigates specific aspects of local land use codes to document potential barriers to housing, regulatory requirements that increase housing costs, and compliance gaps with State code."*

The report will include information and analysis of several factors: diversity of housing stock, permitted densities, regulation consistency, development standards, livable community standards, development approval process, maintenance of existing housing, location of housing growth, and infrastructure. All these factors impact decisions by private developers on whether or not to invest in housing units in the county, including long-term rentals, that

would be affordable to local workers. The study appears to consider not only county, but town policies as well.

Housing Types in the County

Factor 1, Diversity of Housing Stock, lists housing types in the county, and *Factor 2* considers Permitted Housing densities, both of which, along with currently available water/sewer infrastructure, will probably tell most of the story about the current housing possibilities available under current zoning.

Except in the towns, single-family homes with private wells and septic systems are the predominant type of housing in the county. Housing stock ranges from historic homes to new waterfront communities; to both old and new stick-built homes in Villages and Hamlets and in rural areas around the county; to Accessory Dwelling Units; to double- and single-wides and manufactured homes. Townhouses and duplexes are permitted with special use permits in residential districts. Accessory Dwelling Units are permitted by right in almost all districts. Many units, including single-family homes, condos, Accessory Dwelling Units, etc., are currently being used as short-term rentals, which effectively reduces the housing stock available for local renters.

Densities - Dwelling Units per Acre

Current permitted dwelling unit densities in the county range from 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres in

agri-cultural areas to 5 units per acre in rezoned Town Edge districts, if public water/sewer infrastructure is available. Hamlets, Villages, and older subdivisions may include smaller lots than current zoning requires, providing building opportunities with lower land cost. Increased density incentives are provided for affordable housing and open land preservation.

The study is looking not only at aspects of zoning that might limit construction, but also other regulations that might increase costs, and for "compliance gaps with State code." Analysis of County zoning will include whether siting of certain housing types complies with State code.

Moving Forward to Create More Housing Opportunities

There is much discussion about the "housing needs and preferences of a diverse population," new neighborhoods and developments, development standards, flexibility, and Livable Communities. The

See Housing Study, cont'd on p. 6

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Correction: Additional Donors

Sanderling

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Phillips

Jane & Rick Smith

CBES regrets these omissions.

Tribal Celebrations of the Creative Spirit

Submitted by Peg Volk

January 7, 2022, marked the 18th anniversary of “First Wednesday” open mic on the Shore. Here’s the back story...

When my late husband, Chris, and I relocated to the Shore in 1995 from Cleveland, Ohio, one of the few places to hear live music at the time was the Trawler Restaurant in Exmore. And the music was for dancing so it was rockin’ and loud! Which was great fun. As an amateur songwriter/musician, though, I was also looking for small listening rooms to enjoy an intimate musical experience and perhaps play as well.

We discovered the Cabaret at the Black Box Theater at Eastern Shore’s Own Arts Center (ESO) in Belle Haven. Like a great little jazz club in the basement of this old school, you could not get more up close and personal, whether performer or audience. Chris and I started volunteering at ESO, and soon Jane Berge and Sally Stuart, the co-directors of the center, came up with the idea for a local music festival.

Chris and I volunteered, and one of my jobs was to contact musicians in the area to play. This was an exercise in discovery, as I began connecting

with musicians in the area that were essentially under the radar due to the lack of musical venues.

Through this experience, a seed was planted which took a few years to come to fruition. Perhaps there was somewhere to hold an open mic night and someone to host it? I ran the idea by some musicians (essentially Brian Irminger!) but no one had the time to put into it.

Then Robbin Smith opened his Chesapeake Bistro on Mason Avenue in Cape Charles and told me he was interested in having live music. I ran with it!

On January 7, 2004, “First Wednesday” open mic debuted. For the first 5 years of our 18, The Chesapeake Bistro became home to this effort. In the dead of winter, in the dark of Mason Avenue, this little spot was a candle in the window.

Chris would welcome everyone in and proceed to make sure all were introduced to each other. I signed up the performers as they arrived and Robbin provided a free buffet for them in exchange for their talents!

Those early years laid the groundwork for musical opportunities in both Virginia Eastern Shore counties. Over the 5 years that “First Wednesday” was at the Chesapeake, a small and verdant nucleus of musicians, poets, stand-up comedians, and storytellers came together. A tribe was born.

And the small, local, and very appreciative audience cheered them on! Bonds were formed. Bands were formed. Duets. Trios. Rolling Thunder Revues! Strangers walked in from other places and blew away the room or were blown away by the room.

And we all played at the yearly ESO Shore-Made Music Festival, where new friends and bonds and bands were formed.

Yet “First Wednesday” each

month has been our anchor to each other and to our own muses.

Robbin hired some of us for his weekend nights. Soon gigs were opening up. The Myrtles (myself & Lynne Rogers) played at Armando’s in Onancock. We were invited to play at the Island House in Wachapreague. Local event coordinators reached out. Opportunities began to grow.

Then, in 2009, “First Wednesday” relocated to Roger & Jean Mariner’s Great Machipongo Clam Shack (in Nassawadox), where the red carpet was put out for us. Roger had a stage built with lights and purchased a sound system (no more lugging the system around for the world’s best and most dedicated roadie, Chris Volk!) and Jean began booking the musicians for weekend gigs.

Both the population of performers and audience exploded. All those folks who found it difficult to drive all the way into Cape Charles on a Wednesday night from up in Accomack County found it much more convenient to drive to the Shack.

And through these 18 years, multiple venues have opened up and down the Shore, where live music is played and enjoyed. Places like the Shack, the Blarney Stone, the Shanty, Mallard’s on the Wharf, the Lemon Tree, and C-Pier, to name a few.

March 4, 2020, was the last time we all gathered at the Shack for “First Wednesday.” COVID happened – and our virtual world was born.

Since April 1st (the big joke!) 2020, “First Wednesday” has been a virtual offering on Facebook, and so we’ve been able to keep some semblance of community during this challenging time – and will be doing so until we can all gather safely again at the Shack with our tribe.

A different kind of candle in the window.



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Eastern Shore Trailblazers, March 22

A Celebration of Women's History Month

By Donna Bozza

Join CBES and the NAACP Northampton Branch in saluting 4 Eastern Shore women who have been exemplary examples of community service in our 2 counties. You may know some as prominent leaders of positive change, while others work diligently behind the scenes to make a better Eastern Shore.

Help us honor these local women in a virtual celebration of National Women's History Month on Tuesday, March 22, at 6:30 PM. Awardees Peaches Dodge, Ava Gabrielle-Wise, Finale Norton, and Nancy Russell will join us in a panel discussion, sharing their motivation and wisdom as Eastern Shore Trailblazers. This inaugural event is sure to be an engaging hour of celebration.

The moderator of the event is Minister Karen Downing, Associate Minister at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Temperanceville. She serves with several organizations in our region, and is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Also, be sure to stay tuned to WESR Shore Daily News throughout March, as they recognize more of the remarkable women around us during National Women's History Month.

Join the March 22, 6:30 PM, celebration on Zoom. Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3574743176>
By phone: 1-646-558-8656. Meeting ID is 357 474 3176

Peaches Dodge: Helping Empower Victims of Domestic & Sexual Abuse

Peaches Dodge has participated over her lifetime in a diverse array of activities, both paid and volunteer. In many instances she has taken her participation to a leadership level. Most of her work can be characterized by the human element: training, human resources, consulting, and social justice. She holds a B.A from Ramapo College in New Jersey.



Dodge has lived in various states in the Northeast, several years overseas (Ecuador and Egypt), and most recently in Virginia (since 2009). With her husband Eric, she brought up 2 daughters, and enjoys her 2 college-aged grandchildren. In 2011, she led the rescue effort of the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which was about to close its shelter. As Board President, she has since brought the organization from a 3-employee, \$180,000/year operation to a \$950,000/year operation, supported by 10 advocates and administrators, and over 50 active

volunteers. A recently started capital campaign has enabled the acquisition of 21,000 sq. ft. of buildings which will – after renovation – be a campus to include shelter, offices, classrooms, and storage facilities for in-kind donations for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

Ava Gabrielle-Wise: 3 Decades of Dedication to Shore Housing

Ava Gabrielle-Wise has been committed to housing, community, and economic development for more than 3 decades, much of it on the Shore. In 1992, she organized the New Road Community Development Group with her late mother and residents of the New Road community. She formed the Northampton Economic Empowerment Corp, which later merged with the Northampton Housing Trust and was renamed the Virginia Eastern Shore Economic Empowerment & Housing Corp (VESEEHC).



The Eastern Shore Regional Housing Coalition that she convened in fall 2019 continues to connect her home community to the resources that it needs to increase the scale of development and construction of housing in the area via a number of initiatives, including the Eastern Shore Capacity Building Institute, Eastern Shore of Virginia Delegation to Richmond, Eastern Shore Housing Summit, and the Housing Resources Conference.

Finale Norton: First Shore Woman to Run for State Legislator

Finale Norton was born and raised on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. After graduating college, she spent 26 years at Bank of America. One of her biggest accomplishments at Bank of America was running the Mid Atlantic's Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC markets. She was responsible for a team of over 3,500 employees and hundreds of thousands of customers. After retiring from Bank of America, she spent a year at Accenture, a global consulting company. In 2021, she was a candidate for Virginia's House of Delegates District 100. Although the race was unsuccessful, the total number of Democratic votes received surpassed previous campaigns. She is currently volunteering for the Eastern Shore Regional Housing Coalition, a non-profit organization which is focused on improving affordable and workforce housing. Additionally, Finale is a



See **Trailblazers**, cont'd on p. 7

Wetlands Law & Regulation in Virginia

Submitted by Jim Lang, Pender & Coward

What Are Wetlands?

We often find wetlands adjacent to a navigable body of water. They are the strip of soggy land in the transition between the waterline and the dry upland. There is a second group of wetlands known as “isolated” wetlands. These are found inland. Isolated wetlands are freshwater and nontidal. They have no surface water connection to a navigable body of water, because they are surrounded by dry land. One example commonly found in low-lying areas of Virginia is an inland, forested parcel with saturated soil that perhaps has standing water at certain times of the year. Another example, not confined to low-lying areas, is the strip of soggy land lying between the waterline and the dry upland adjacent to a stormwater retention pond or an agricultural impoundment (wetlands adjacent to a non-navigable water body are isolated wetlands). There is controversy about whether to classify as “isolated” a wetlands area located inland that connects to a navigable body of water through, for example, a ditch. Under current law, this type of wetland is characterized as “isolated” unless there is a “significant nexus” between the wetland and the downstream navigable waterway.

Why Do Wetlands Matter?

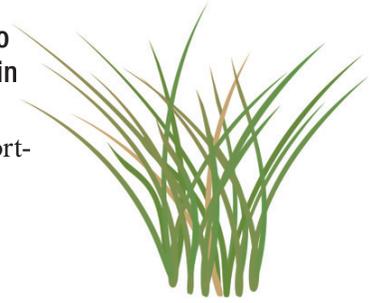
Wetlands protect water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitat, provide natural floodwater storage, recharge groundwater, and protect the shoreline against erosion. Of particular importance to flood-prone areas affected by sea-level rise, and aggravated by land subsidence, wetlands act like natural sponges on the landscape, absorbing and then gradually releasing storm waters, thereby lessening flood damage (an acre of wetlands can store about 1,000,000 gallons of water). Though some of these features benefit society at large, friction emerges when protecting a particular wetland becomes a pocketbook issue for an individual. Of the wetlands remaining in the United States, 75% are located on private lands. Many individuals or companies purchase land with the expectation that they can alter it. When that ability is denied, the land is greatly reduced in value – with wetlands being viewed as an obstacle to development.

What Is Happening to Wetlands?

Prior to the time when it was settled, there were more than 220 million acres of wetlands in the continental United States. By 2009, this number was reduced by half. Despite the national policy goal of “no net loss,” the national inventory of wetlands goes down by about 14,000 acres per year.

How Are Wetlands Adjacent to Navigable Waters Regulated in Virginia?

The year 1972 is an important landmark. Prior to 1972, wetlands were unprotected. People drained wetlands and filled wetlands so that they could build on them, grow crops on them, and build roads across them. Before the 1970s, there was very little appreciation of the value of wetlands. As in many coastal cities, much of waterfront Norfolk is built on filled-in wetlands.



This all changed in 1972. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) adopted in that year included, at section 404, a provision that created a federally administered permit program, run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to regulate the discharge of fill material into “waters of the United States.” Wetlands adjacent to navigable waters fall easily within reach of the federal program. Less certain is the ability of the federal program to regulate isolated wetlands.

CWA section 404 gave states the ability to administer their own wetlands permit program, if they wished to do so. Virginia, in 1972, enacted its own law regulating wetlands located adjacent to navigable waters – the Tidal Wetlands Act of 1972. The Virginia Tidal Wetlands Act encouraged localities to regulate the tidal wetlands within their borders by standing up Local Wetlands Boards (LWB). If the locality opted out, then regulatory authority over tidal wetlands fell to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC).

Under this dual federal and state/local permit regime, a person seeking to modify a tidal wetland in Virginia needs a separate permit issued by the USACE as well as a permit issued by the LWB/VMRC. A person applying for these permits in Virginia needs only to submit a single application – the Joint Permit Application – to the VMRC, which acts as a clearinghouse for processing the application through all of the federal and state agencies.

How Are Isolated Wetlands Regulated in Virginia?

The ability of the USACE to regulate isolated wetlands has been in great flux over the 50 years since the CWA was adopted in 1972. The reason for this, besides the fact that some view wetlands protection as an obstacle to development, is that many Americans believe that local government should decide issues of land use. The USACE having any power at all to regulate isolated wetlands runs

See Wetlands Law and Regulation, cont'd on p. 5

Well & Septic Questions Answered

By Sue Mastyl

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Ground Water Committee held the annual Well & Septic Forum at their November 16, 2021, meeting, structured around a series of 17 questions (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1B-FTEBqVK8fXG1xjTmIdmL-a2i_qmEJZ). These questions included:

- Where does my drinking water come from?
- What's the difference between a shallow well and a deep water well?
- My well water has a funny taste; how can I be sure that it's safe to drink?
- How do new septic systems work?
- How do I maintain a healthy septic system?
- What should not go down the drain?
- How do I know when to pump my septic system?
- How do I find out about the condition of my drainfield?

Drinking Water

Britt McMillan, Principal Hydrogeologist for Arcadis and Consultant to the Ground Water Committee, described the shallow (Columbia) aquifer and the deep aquifer (Upper, Middle, and Lower Yorktown-Eastover); of the average 42 inches of precipitation a year, approximately 12% (5 inches) reaches the Columbia. Water then slowly infiltrates through the confining layers into the lower aquifers. While water in the Columbia is less than 300 years old (most 50 years old or less), water in the Upper, Middle, and Lower Yorktown-Eastover aquifers is up to 3,000, 10,000, and 30,000 years old, respectively.

McMillan noted that, if a well head is inundated by flooding, the well head can be extended; this should only be done by a licensed driller.

Septic Systems

Jon Richardson, Chief Operating Officer of the Eastern Shore Health District, described the differences between conventional septic systems, with a tank and drainfield, which rely on the soils below the drainfield to treat the sewage; and alternative septic systems, with a tank, pre-treatment, and an above-ground dispersal system, which rely on technology to treat the effluent prior to dispersal. The latter are installed in areas with high seasonal water tables or soils that won't percolate.

Richardson noted that conventional systems should be pumped out every 5 years (or more frequently with more people in the home); alternative systems require maintenance twice a year. "If you don't maintain it, it will not last, and replacing it will be more expensive," he added. Ways to maintain a healthy septic system include –

- Remove any trees near the drainfield; species such as maple, willow, and cottonwood can put out far-ranging roots, which can strangle the pipes.
- Minimize the amount of food waste (fats, oils, and grease) that goes down the drain; dispose of these in the trash instead.
- Minimize the amount of cleaning supplies that go down the drain; most are ammonia- or bleach-based, and can harm the bacteria in the septic tank, which are necessary to break down waste.
- There is no need to add anything to the system to aid the bacteria in the system.

Richardson noted that "no sewage system lasts forever." If raw sewage appears on the ground, it's important to contact the Health Department or a licensed septic installer.



Wetlands Law and Regulation, *cont'd from p. 4*

afoul of this principle, and has contributed to section 404 emerging as the single most controversial part of the CWA. The courts interpreting the CWA hold that the USACE can regulate development in isolated wetlands where those wetlands have a "significant nexus" to a downstream navigable body of water.

Virginia decided to regulate isolated wetlands with its adoption of the Nontidal Wetlands Act of 2001. The Act places responsibility for regulating isolated wetlands with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), acting through DEQ's Virginia Water Protection Program. A person wanting to develop in an isolated wetland will need a permit from DEQ and perhaps might also need a permit from USACE.

For more information on this or other topics, go to pender&coward.com.



Ed. Note: Since so much land on the Shore is adjacent to water – tidal or non-tidal – questions regarding wetland designation are frequently considered when deciding whether a particular parcel qualifies for certain uses within its zoning classification. Wetlands are marked on each county's official land-use map; however, sometimes it is necessary to get a more formal assessment. At times, official wetland certification by USACE or an environmental consultant is required to help establish allowable density, delineate buildable areas, site water and septic service, and allow for required buffers. The 2 Shore counties, as well as Cape Charles, have local Wetlands Boards.

RECYCLING CORNER

By Sue Mastyl

Recycling ... Us

As we reduce our environmental footprint through recycling (and reducing and reusing), we can't forget about one of our biggest disposals – our own bodies.

Traditional funeral practices can have a significant impact on the environment. Cremation requires temperatures of 1,400 to 1,600°F and releases about 540 pounds of carbon per corpse, as well as mercury; annual cremations in the U.S. are roughly equivalent to burning 400 million pounds of coal. Embalming fluids get released into the environment, even with heavy caskets and vaults, and contain carcinogens. Concrete or plastic vaults are required by cemeteries, not for public health reasons, but so that the graves won't collapse during mowing. The mowing itself has environmental consequences, including fossil fuel and fertilizer use.

So what can be done for those who wish to avoid these environmental impacts? A growing green burial movement has begun to develop options, including:

- Home burials – burying on private property is legal in Virginia, although local town, county, or health department regulations may apply.
- Keeping it simple – Virginia law does not require embalming if burial or cremation is done within 48 hours. Virginia law also does not require a casket or coffin, or a vault, although policies vary for different cemeteries. Funeral homes are mandated by federal law to offer alternatives including unfinished wood, wicker, or cardboard.
- Green cemeteries – the Green Burial Council certifies 3 categories of natural cemeteries (hybrid cemeteries, natural burial grounds, and conservation burial grounds). Currently, there are 3 natural cemeteries in Virginia, in Penn Laird, Berryville, and Boones Mill.
- Donation – the Virginia State Anatomical Program accepts 300 to 350 bodies a year, which are distributed to medical schools and colleges, to train doctors, nurses, and researchers. Once the study of the body is complete, though, disposal will still have to be coordinated.
- Water cremation, or alkaline hydrolysis – this is approved in 19 states, but not Virginia; it uses water and chemicals to dissolve the body in 16 to 20 hours, leaving an ash similar to that after cremation. Although it uses less energy than cremation, it does use a lot of water.
- Human composting, or natural organic reduction – this process, approved in Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, involves adding wood chips, alfalfa, and straw to the body in a vessel until it is converted to soil.

Housing Study, cont'd from p. 1

possibility of streamlining the application process for certain developments is suggested. The need to provide clarity and consistency in County ordinances is stressed. Consultants also acknowledge that “the demand for housing will drive the specific housing products that are built...” The lack of water and sewer infrastructure to accommodate higher density for multi-family units, and potentially lower-cost housing, is recognized.

Each section of the study ends: “Solutions – Identify recommended reforms or further policy discussions for County and Towns.” The report will contain much of what has already been noted and discussed with regard to the lack of housing, especially rental property, that is affordable to the community workforce.

Is Zoning the Only Solution?

Reviewing and reworking zoning details may provide a passive response to that lack of housing, but will any zoning changes produce the hoped-for results? Will increasing density encourage developers to build workforce-affordable rentals, or will it result in increasing the stock of the more profitable vacation rentals? Will acknowledging the lack of water/sewer infrastructure increase its availability – and lead to more developers investing in unsubsidized, low-cost rental housing? Will towns willingly extend their infrastructure? Will streamlining approval processes increase the stock of lower-cost homes, or will it accelerate the rate of construction of high-end homes in waterfront developments? In the consultants' own words, “...the demand for housing will drive the specific housing products that are built. ...” 

* All quotes from: Overcoming land use ordinance barriers to housing, Northampton County VA – Part 4: Assessment of land use regulations (draft), Berkley Group



As with other end-of-life choices, it is important to research these alternatives and have honest discussions with family and friends.

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Welsh Rarebit, the Dining Car, and Eleanor Roosevelt



Growing up, every year involved a few weekend-long shopping trips to the big city – all the way up and down the beautiful Hudson River valley on the legendary Empire State Express, the old New York Central rail line. Of course, it had a Dining Car! Great heavy silver coffee pots, great heavy china, silverware, and linens. The high point of the trip home was dinner in that Dining Car. But sometimes, just about dinner time, the conductor would call out: “Station Stop is Rhinecliff – No Passengers.” There were no stops for the first 150 miles of the trip home, so for my young self, this unofficial stop meant something special: Mrs. Roosevelt was on the train, also on her way home. Looking out the window, we watched her smile and shake hands with the conductor, pick up her bag, and walk to her car. Just about then dinner would arrive as the train rocked on – Welsh Rarebit, a rare treat then, \$1.45, and the vegetarian dinner option, I realize now.

- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp flour
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup beer
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- ½ tsp paprika
- ¼ to ½ tsp cayenne
- ¾ to 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1½ cup grated, sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 beaten egg

Melt the butter in a pan, remove from the heat and stir in the flour until combined thoroughly. Return to a low heat and add the milk, then the beer, a little at a time, stirring until well combined.

Add the mustard, spices, and Worcestershire sauce; stir to combine until sauce starts to thicken. Take it off the heat for 5 minutes, then quickly whisk in the beaten egg.

Return to the heat and stir in the cheese a little at a time, until melted and combined, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Spoon over toasted bread quarters and run under the broiler until browned.

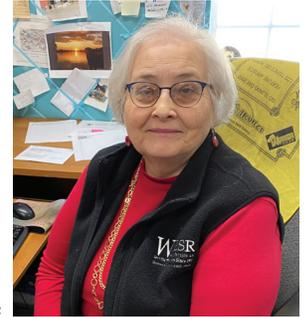
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Trailblazers, cont'd from p. 3

Board member of Common Bondz, a non-profit organization committed to expanding racial understanding, a member of the Northampton County Democratic Committee, a volunteer with the Virginia Grassroots Coalition leading the sub-committee on messaging, and a partner with Postcards For Virginia.

Nancy Russell, Rural Radio – Keeping the Shore Informed

Nancy Russell joined the WESR staff shortly after she graduated from Eastern Shore Academy in 1972 as an office assistant. She continued that role for 15 years, gradually assuming more responsibility. On June 1, 1987, Nancy and her husband Charlie took over the ownership and management of WESR. Since that time, Nancy has been MIP (Most Important Person) in the business. As Business Manager, Nancy handles all the bookkeeping and schedules ads, ensuring they are aired properly, and that every customer gets excellent service. Nancy, with help from Kathleen Garner, also handles billing. Her efforts are key to keeping WESR and Shoredailynews.com viable and available to perform the many community services they provide on a daily basis. Without Nancy, there would be no WESR as it is known today. She will celebrate her 50th anniversary at WESR in June of 2022.



Nancy has also served as organist at Hallwood Methodist Church for over 50 years.

ShoreLine asked each candidate a question: “What motivates you most when it comes to your community work on the Eastern Shore?”

Peaches: “We take care of our own. The challenge then becomes how we can do that best.”

Ava: “I think I find my greatest motivation in seeing the needle move. When I can set a goal that has a quantifiable impact and deliverables, it is such a meaningful experience to accomplish those goals.”

Finale: “Growing up on the Eastern Shore as a person of color is a very unique experience. It’s unique because it’s not the same for anyone. My experiences on and off the Shore have taught me that change is possible. I am motivated because I am unwilling to go along with the status quo and I am not afraid.”

Nancy: “Service comes in different forms and making a difference is something you can do anywhere.”

Join the Northampton Branch of the NAACP and CBES on March 22 at 6:30 PM as we celebrate this group of outstanding Shore Trailblazers. 

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
P. O. Box 882
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ANEC to Hold Member Engagement Forum

A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC) has announced a Member Engagement Forum on Thursday, March 17, at their Tasley facility, to provide members the opportunity to discuss local issues with cooperative officials. There will be an opportunity for members to ask questions starting at 3:00 PM, with a presentation from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Preregistration is required, and seating will be limited due to COVID protocols. Attendance is limited to one member per household.

Preregister at 757-787-9750, or email: billing@anec.com.

Preregistration closes on March 15.

"First Wednesdays" Celebrates 18th-Year Anniversary



Bob Sellers and the Bobettes perform at a First Wednesday event at the Clam Shack in Nassawadox. Always a crowd favorite, Bob brings obscure, groovy songs to the party. Shown here (l-r) are Peg Volk, Dawn Diamond, Bob Sellers, Dot Field, and Barb O'Hare. (See story on page 2.)