

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE

SHORELINE

*A News Journal of Natural Resources, Public Affairs and
Community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia*

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Number 1

Career Mentor Program Launched at Northampton High School

By John Ordeman

The Career Mentor Program that is being instituted at Northampton High School pairs boys and girls in grades 9 through 12 with adult volunteers who provide guidance and assistance in directing the students toward a successful academic experience and ultimately gratifying career opportunities. The program, the creation of Andy Teeling, a cabinet maker by trade who is a longtime promoter of activities in support of the public schools, is recruiting men and women who are willing to devote their time and employ the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their careers to advise and assist the students for whom they serve as mentors.


The objectives for the student, according to Teeling, are: develop an awareness of business and career opportunities, improve self-esteem, increase knowledge of the relationship between school and work and increase potential to contribute to society. Teeling also believes the program has benefits for the volunteers, for the mentors will enjoy the satisfaction of making a difference in both the students' lives and the goals of the schools, contribute to a higher percentage of successful

graduates and increase the number of competent citizens and responsible employees.

Teeling initially directed his recruitment efforts at men and women who had retired from their professions; however, after receiving requests from people who were still actively employed who wanted to volunteer, he decided that any person who has the experience and interest required to counsel the students could be an appropriate mentor. The Career Mentor Program, in addition to the one-on-one mentorships, will sponsor Career Roundtables, Career Fairs and job shadowing and volunteering opportunities for individual students.

“We all realize the importance of raising kids to be responsible contributors to our world,” said Teeling, when asked why he had initiated the Career Mentor Program, “and I recognized the vast wealth of career experiences we have here on the Shore and thought we could all benefit from putting our kids together with these civic-minded adults.” The Career Mentor Program is simply one way in which the educational opportunity afforded Northampton students can be enriched, and Teeling believes, “If we had no other asset in our region than good schools, people would want to live here, and that would certainly contribute to our efforts to turn our economy around.”

Teeling volunteered to be the first career mentor, and he describes the experience as “extremely satisfying.” He is confident that the program will prove to be an experience that is enriching for the children and satisfying for the volunteers and that it will bring the community together and “make a positive difference.”

The school coordinator for the program is Keith Bell, the Career Technical Education Director at Northampton High School. Anyone who may be interested in serving as a Career Mentor volunteer can contact Mr. Bell, whose e-mail address is kbell@ncpsk12.com, or go online to www.ncpsk12.com for further information and then follow the prompts for the mentor application form. 

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In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of Betty Brown of Kirwan Hall Farm, Eastville on December 3, 2015.

Betty and husband Garrison retired here in 1998 and immediately embraced the Shore community. Betty put her love into action by finding countless ways to help her neighbors. As a Lifetime CBES Member, she was a strong advocate for protecting the Shore's natural and cultural heritage. We are blessed that she was with us, though it was much too short a time.

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore is deeply honored that the Brown family has designated CBES as an organization to which memorial gifts can be made.

To donate to CBES in memory of Betty you can visit www.cbes.org and learn more about Betty's commendable life. Checks can also be mailed to CBES, P.O. Box 882, Eastville, VA 23347.

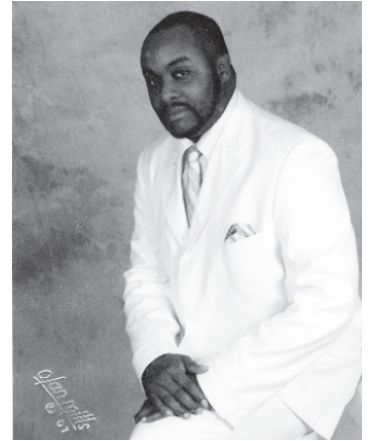
Community Unity Celebration

By Jane Cabarrus

Jane Cabarrus is the president of the Northampton County Chapter of the NAACP and is a former CBES board member.

The celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday is attributed not to one man or to one race, but to principles that are universal. To remember Dr. King is to affirm the nonviolent pursuit of freedom, justice, and equal opportunity for all. In that spirit, the citizens of the Eastern Shore will again join to celebrate Dr. King's ideals and to recognize the progress our community has made toward those ideals.

This year's 25th Annual Community Unity Breakfast will be held on January 18, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria of Northampton High School. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and no charge for students. The featured speaker for the breakfast will be the Reverend Milton Palmer Bunting, 2nd Vice Moderator of the Eastern Shore Virginia/Maryland Baptist Association and its Ministries. Reverend Bunting is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Wardtown, VA, employed with Cooper and Humbles Funeral Service and owner of Bunting Produce Farms. He is a graduate of St. Paul's College and Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology.



Reverend Milton Palmer Bunting

The focus will be on the youth of our community. The ES Community Services Network, Inc., and Optima Health & Family Care will coordinate a health booth on health education and disease prevention. In addition, Voter Registration will also be available. Other community-related organizations are welcome to set up a booth.

Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable foods for the needy. A special commemorative souvenir booklet will be sold for \$3 a copy to help fund this event.

Music will be provided by Rev. Roland Major as well as Broadwater Academy's Varsity Voices.

The breakfast will be followed by the 26th Annual Unity Walk, which is dedicated to "Walking for Good Health." Participants will walk to the Eastville Courthouse grounds, where the speaker will be Tasha Church Hoffer, a Family and School Connections Facilitator with the Worcester County Public Schools, Maryland. Tasha is an honor alumna of Northampton High School and Old Dominion University. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Liberty University and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



Tasha Church Hoffer

The event is sponsored by Northampton County Schools, Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore, and the Northampton County Chapter of the NAACP. Participants in the walk to the Eastville Courthouse are strongly encouraged to wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes. Please join us in this celebration of unity.



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Rezoning Wrap-up

...in spite of continued public opposition, Board adopts rezoning

By Mary Miller

In a pattern that's become familiar to attendees at Northampton County meetings, on Dec. 8, 2015, the Board of Supervisors was still deliberating changes to the county-wide rezoning – 20 minutes before they called for the vote. Even though the public had been told that their comments would not be included in the rezoning process public record, citizens again asked the Board to delay a vote until the new Board took office in less than a month. Several very personal, and sometimes emotional, statements were made by property and business owners – who stated both the damage their businesses and their property use would suffer, and the personal distress they had felt in their rezoning conversations with elected officials.

Just a few weeks previously, a Joint Public Hearing had been held on yet another version of the evolving county rezoning. Elected and appointed officials heard, yet again, that the community was opposed both to the changes in land use, and to the process, which had left residents and property owners out of the picture. After another very short review, the Planning Commission recommended to the Board that they adopt a document, with still more last-minute changes, a document they had not only been prevented from fully reviewing, but one for which the Board had denied the professional planning and scientific help the Commission had requested to aid in analyzing the effects of the changes.

More last-minute changes

The Board was presented with another series of changes from the Planning Commission – *57 pages of text and maps*. Among the recommendations:

- Some technical changes of Solar Energy Facility Standards
- Removal of requirement for water supply and septic service for a permanent commercial establishment called “Event Venue”
- Several minor changes to the sign ordinance
- Accessory Dwelling units changed from Special Use Permit to By Right, and removal of the requirement for owner-occupancy of one unit
- Page after page of District Use changes and revised definitions

In response to 16 requests for map changes, the Planning Commission had agreed with Staff recommendations on most requests. One Northern Virginia owner of eight lots totaling nearly 300 acres on the Seaside, all of which are currently included in an AFD (Agricultural Forestal District), requested a change from Agricultural to Residen-


tial zoning. Both Staff and Planning Commission agreed to deny the request. However, several of the Staff- and Commission-approved recommendations appeared inconsistent with rezoning for similar properties, included no written justification, and in some cases, might be considered arbitrary.

Major changes need another Public Hearing

Among the Planning Commission recommendations which would need future Public Hearings and were *not* adopted, were significant additions to the Town Edge District, currently rezoned to a primarily residential District with 1 acre lots. The Commission proposed 32 By-Right Uses, mainly Commercial, many of them high-impact, and 22 Special Use Permit Uses, mostly Industrial, in these mapped areas around the Towns. It was unclear whether or not the Towns or affected property owners were included in discussions about these major changes. Proposed substantial reductions for setbacks for industrial poultry houses will also require a separate Public Hearing and could *not* be included in the rezoning.

And the vote...

Almost none of those changes, to the rezoning text or to the map, were reviewed or discussed by the Board before their vote. After a very brief discussion of a few of the 57 pages, Supervisor Trala attempted to move to adopt the rezoning. He was reminded that there was a two-page motion included in his packet that he was required to read into the record. The Motion was restarted and seconded. The only discussion was from Supervisor Hogg, who stated that the document was one which he could not support.

The vote was 3-2 to adopt – a slim vote of confidence for the two years spent on the county-wide rezoning, which took effect immediately. 

Please remember...

...to renew

The year 2016 promises to be another interesting one for sure! Your ongoing support of CBES and your renewed membership help to ensure the organization's participation in and sponsorship of community events, as well as the publication of *ShoreLine* and email blasts. Please consider inviting a friend to join, or give a membership! New Shore residents will appreciate knowing about CBES and its missions. Thanks for your continued support.

Workshop Addresses State of the Chesapeake Bay

by Sue Mastyl

A workshop sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on November 13 addressed the overall health of the Bay, the status of oyster restoration efforts, the impact of agriculture, and the current status of fisheries. Approximately 50 local residents attended the event at Mallard’s at the Wharf, with “fish and fowl” tacos supplied by CBF, and breakout discussions on each topic.

Overall Health of the Bay

John Page Williams, Senior Naturalist for CBF, provided an overview of the current status of the Bay, focusing on the three categories of pollution, habitat, and fisheries. Each year the organization assesses the health of the Bay compared with what John Smith would have seen in the early 1600s; the current 2014 Health of the Bay index is 32, or a D+, with water quality improving, and fisheries listed as “a concern.” A score of 50 would be considered a “stable” Bay, while 70 would be considered “saved.” While the population within the watershed of the Bay has grown by over 50% in the last 40 years, efforts at reducing pollution since CBF was founded in 1967 have prevented any further degradation of the Bay.

The key in thinking about the Bay, Williams noted, is the enormous size of the watershed, and the relative shallowness of the Bay. “If the whole watershed were the size of a football field, the average depth would be the thickness of two dimes,” he said. Each creek in the Bay and throughout the watershed needs to be critically examined in terms of wastewater treatment, stormwater management, and agricultural impacts.

One cause for optimism, he noted, is that the scores for

pollution indicators (for nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and toxins) have improved 11% from 2012 and 21.5% from 2010, indicating that the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, implemented in 2010, is working. However, Bay-wide, “agriculture is not on pace to meet its 2017 goal,” and stormwater runoff is actually worsening.

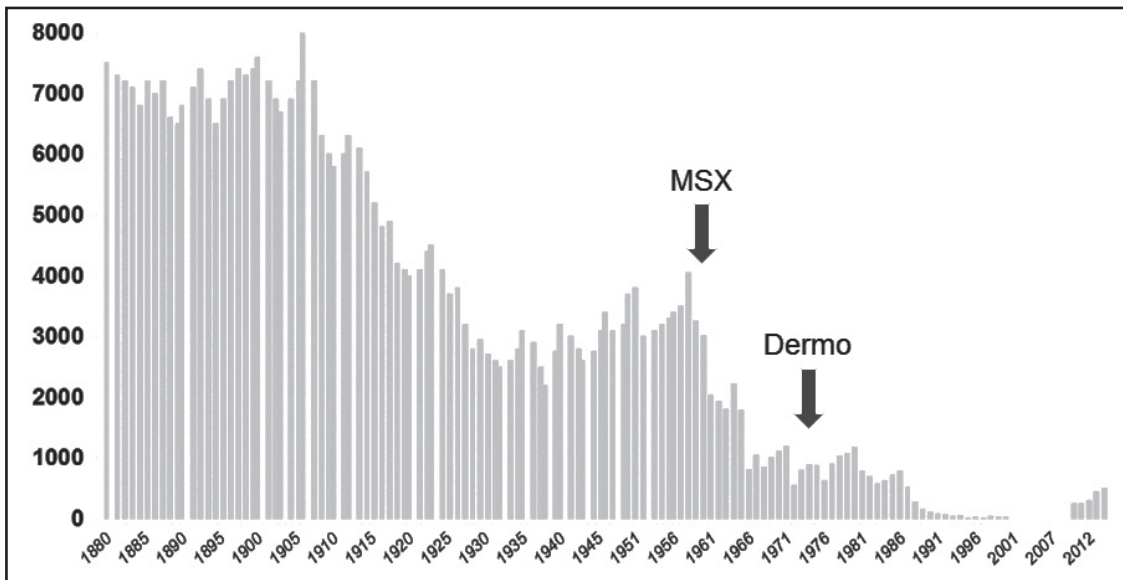
Oyster Restoration

Jackie Shannon, Oyster Restoration Manager for CBF, reviewed the work of the Virginia Oyster Restoration Center, located on the York River above Yorktown. Oysters, she noted, serve the important functions of filtering the water column; creating habitat for fin fish, shellfish, and other organisms; and contributing commercial value to the economy. During its natural life cycle, an oyster only has one chance to permanently attach to a substrate, after which it takes a year to become reproductively mature (for diploid “wild” oysters; the triploid oysters used in aquaculture are sterile). Shannon noted that although oysters are filter feeders, “they don’t digest everything; they’re actually picky eaters.” Undigested material (such as pollutants and sediment) is deposited on the bottom.

In the late 1800s, 7 to 8 million bushels of oysters were harvested annually in Virginia. From 1920 to 1960, the annual harvest had been reduced to 3 to 4 million bushels. With the advent of two diseases (MSX around 1960, dermo around 1975), the harvest was further reduced; by 1990, it was essentially zero. Now, with aquaculture, the annual harvest has grown to 300,000 to 600,000 bushels.

Shannon also described the oyster gardening program, providing an opportunity for local homeowners and citizen

scientists to contribute to the restoration efforts. The Virginia Setting Facility is located at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at Gloucester Point. Prior to use, shells are washed and then aged for a year. “A series of four 800-gallon tanks, each holding 200 bushels of shell, are filled with seawater, and 3 million oyster larvae are added to each tank,” Shannon explained. “Newly set



Virginia Oyster Landings 1880 to 2014 (1000s of bushels). Adapted from VIMS, Stan Allen.

See “Workshop,” cont’d on p. 4

“Workshop,” cont’d from p. 4

larvae are allowed to grow for two weeks and then transplanted to sanctuary reefs.” From 2006 to 2014, the facility produced up to 9.8 million spat on shell. In 2007, only 1.2 million were produced; “hatchery capacity and water quality appear to be significant bottlenecks,” she noted. She described the different structures being used, including reef balls, which John Page Williams called “the coral reefs of the Chesapeake Bay.”

Agricultural Impacts

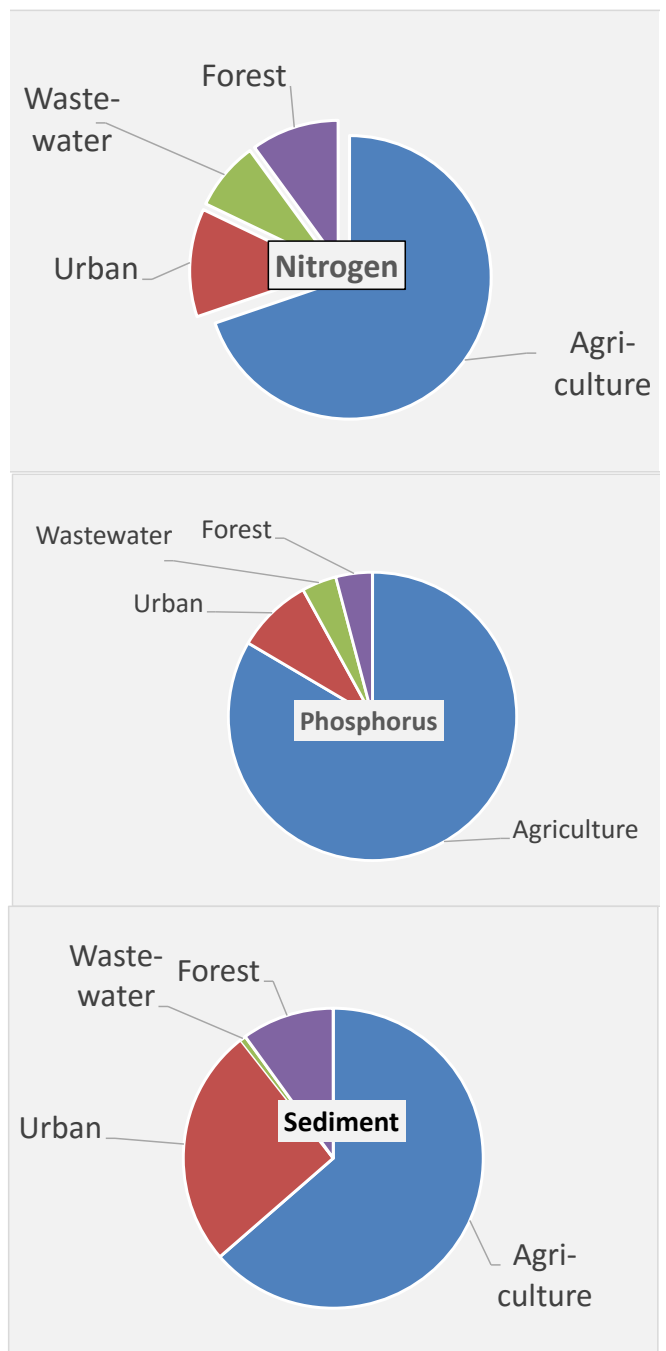
Joe Wood, a CBF Scientist, reviewed the issues of balancing agriculture, aquaculture, and water quality. “My background is nutrient dynamics in aquatic systems, [with] nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment, how they related to aquatic production and negative impacts associated with algal blooms; it’s actually very analogous to the questions farmers ask about how much fertilizer to apply to the land,” he noted.

The impact of agriculture can be seen by examining the nitrogen/phosphorus/sediment (NPS) loads to the Bay, with agriculture contributing about 35% of the nitrogen load, over 50% of the phosphorus load, and over 66% of the sediment load. On the Eastern Shore, those numbers are even higher. However, he noted, we have to remember that agriculture only represents about 20% of the total acreage of the Eastern Shore (2.7 million acres, compared with 9.2 million acres in forest, 1.8 million acres urban, and 130,000 acres in surface water).

Wood noted that Best Management Practices (BMPs), including livestock exclusion, forested and grass buffers, and cover crops, can have a much bigger impact on agriculture’s contribution than on the other sectors. Support from the state for BMPs was increased after 2009, when the Clean Water Blueprint was implemented; in 2014, \$650,000 was provided to farmers in Accomack County and \$100,000 to farmers in Northampton County. Benefits of BMPs include improved water quality, leading to an improved aquaculture economy; and improved soil health, leading to an improved agricultural economy.

One practice that Wood described is a variable-rate infrared sensor GreenSeeker unit, which has been deployed on three farms on Onancock Creek. The unit attaches to the tractor and detects nutrients in the soil to adjust how much fertilizer to apply. Farmers with more than 2,000 acres can save over \$7,000 a year in fertilizer costs; the unit has a 7-year payback period, or 2 years with cost sharing. More importantly, use of these units can lead to nitrogen reductions of 11 pounds per acre for corn and 2 pounds per acre for wheat.

Wood also discussed CBF efforts with regard to new poultry houses, primarily at the state and Bay-wide level, to require new permits to include litter recordkeeping requirements, stormwater controls, and nutrient management.



Sources of Eastern Shore nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay. Source: Chesapeakestat, Chesapeake Bay Program.

Health of Fisheries

Chris Moore, Virginia Senior Scientist for CBF, discussed the status of the Bay fisheries, including striped bass, blue crab, and menhaden. The key, he noted, is adequate habitat, specifically underwater grasses. The goal is to have 185,000 acres Bay-wide; currently, we have about 80,000 acres. Another critical need is dissolved oxygen in deep water (greater than 30 feet), where we’re only at 20% to 30% of the goal.

See “Workshop,” cont’d on p. 7

Supervisors-Elect Hold Joint Town Hall Meeting

By Mary Miller

A grateful audience of close to 100 County residents crowded into the Nassawadox Fire & Rescue Hall on December 14 to talk with their newly elected Supervisors, Spencer Murray, District 4, and Robert Duer, District 5. The Town Hall meeting was called to give residents a chance to talk to the new officials, say what was on their minds about county business, ask questions, and actually get some answers. Neither of the outgoing District representatives had ever held a Town Hall Meeting with their constituents.

Rezoning

And Murray and Duer got an ear full. "Can someone explain the new zoning?" was the first question. It was met by general laughter from the crowd. After two years of county Staff time spent writing and rewriting a rezon-



Newly-elected Northampton Supervisors Robert Duer and Spencer Murray give residents a much-needed opportunity to express their opinions on County matters.

ing document, it was unclear if anyone knew exactly what it finally contained or how to explain the changes. "But it's the law now," said Murray. It had gone into effect the moment it was passed the previous week. A discussion of zoning changes impacting District 4 and 5 residents included the extensive upzoning from farmland to residential, the subsequent loss of many waterfront docks for aquaculture transport, greatly increased housing density, the removal of vested rights from many subdivision property owners, the elimination of the flexible Town Edge District, removal of the Use Charts and their accessible listing of uses for every District, and the creation of much "spot zoning."

On the other hand, another questioner asked why there were any Special Use Permits at all. Again, Murray explained. Those permits help the county make sure that uses, especially industrial and commercial, are located where the county intends them to be. Those permits also

provide notification to adjacent property owners and help protect them against the impacts of uses that are incompatible with the surrounding areas.

Poultry houses

The second big item from the audience was about poultry houses locating in the county. "Call them industrial CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations)," was one comment. "That's what they really are – not chicken houses." Duer talked about the flourishing shellfish industry in Parting Creek. "I won't sacrifice 75% of Virginia's oyster production for chicken houses," he said. "This industry is not a fit for Northampton County," stated Murray.

What about the chicken manure that's coming into the county and getting spread on our fields, someone asked. This is a legal farming use for the manure and, "We're doing our share to dispose of it," said Murray, talking about the by-product of the poultry industry in Accomack County. And finally, it was confirmed that no notification to adjacent property owners was required for either field application of manure or construction of poultry houses.

And other county issues

The fast-paced evening continued, covering a wide variety of community concerns:

- **County government's relationships** with citizens, Towns, Emergency Services people: all in disrepair and all "need to be fixed."
- **PSA (Public Service Authority)** – "Disband it," a call from the audience. "How much money has been spent on the PSA?" from another voice. Murray said he was still trying to find out. "I know you know the numbers," he said to the two newly hired county employees, the Finance Director (John J. Andrzejewski) and the Director of Economic and Community Development (Kris Tucker).
- **Information and transparency** in county government – a good start? CBES suggested that the county post the Board of Supervisor's monthly work packets online, so citizens can know what will be discussed.
- **School District** – the county collects \$18 million a year in local taxes – \$8.5 million goes to the schools, up \$321,000 over last year; the county doesn't control how the schools spend those dollars, that's done by the elected School Board.
- **County debt and other expenses** – Murray knew the numbers by heart: most of the debt was incurred in 2001-2002, for the jail and the county complex; the county spends \$3.5 million a year in debt repayment, \$1.5 million a year to run the jail, then add in the \$8.5


See "Town Hall Meeting," cont'd on p. 7

“Town Hall Meeting,” cont’d from p. 6

million allocated to the schools – “that leaves about \$5 million of your tax dollars left to run the county”

- **County administration** – “There’s trouble at the top,” called from the audience; the tone at the top sets the standard, “leadership is the key,” said Murray; there were calls to cut expenses and to cut the high paying jobs at the top; further discussion about restructuring the administration, ensuring that county employees understand who pays their salaries, and resolving a leadership crisis.
- **Jobs** – “First fix the schools,” said Duer; the Shore does not have a reliable workforce; employers report a workforce scarcity even for low level jobs.
- **Entrepreneurship** – looking for outside industry to come to the county hasn’t worked; “We need to help ourselves,” said Murray; discussion of the several new start-up businesses by young people who decided to stay on the Shore.

During the evening, both Duer and Murray talked about dividing up the work of running the county amongst the Board members. They frequently referenced the variety of work they would direct to District 1 Supervisor, Granville Hogg, a surveyor and engineer well known for his interest and abilities in transportation and county infrastructure management, his outspoken views and his detailed nuts and bolts expertise. The last question of the evening from the audience: “We’re new here – who is Granville Hogg?” The question was met by 100 people laughing appreciatively and insisting that a slightly self-conscious Supervisor Hogg stand up and introduce himself.

That interchange ended the evening on a high note and people left the hall talking about their hope that the county was heading in a new direction. 

“Workshop,” cont’d from p. 5

For striped bass, he noted, the challenge is that it is a shared fishery. “Although 75% are born in the Bay, Chesapeake stripers migrate through the waters of 12 states,” so a “range-wide” approach is needed, with a coastwide management plan through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. There are key differences between the Bay stock and the coastal stock, with the Bay stock being significantly younger. The Bay stock is also experiencing a higher mortality, probably due to poor nutrition and water quality, he observed.

Blue crabs have seen a modest gain, and are no longer considered a “depleted” stock. The total number of crabs is up to 411 million, although Moore noted he “would like to see 700 million.” Crab catches are “still way down, at approximately 30 million pounds, compared to the goal of 75 to 80 million pounds.” “Improved habitat is the priority, and there is a commitment through the Bay Agreement to evaluate the possibility of quotas,” he added.

Atlantic menhaden represent a unique challenge. As Moore noted, the menhaden fishery is managed by the General Assembly, which sets the quota every year. Menhaden convert algae, which then moves up the food chain to summer flounder, rockfish, and ospreys. As the algal community in the Bay changes, habitat is removed for menhaden, which are now concentrated on the Eastern Shore. Dissolved oxygen is also critical for this species. “We’re seeing record low numbers of fish, with more big fish, so the total biomass is higher,” he observed.

Moore also commented that, as water temperatures rise in the Bay, eelgrass will die off, species such as striped bass and menhaden may move farther north, and we may see more southern species such as speckled trout and redfish.

For further information about the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, please contact the Eastern Shore representative, Tatum Ford, at tford@cbf.org. 

Community Impacts of Industrial Poultry Operations

Join our expert panel as we examine environmental, health, and safety-related issues associated with Industrial Poultry operations.



Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6-8 pm,

Broadwater Academy, Exmore, VA

Sponsored By

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore

in partnership with

Moderator Marc Steiner, Center for Emerging Media

CBES 2016 - Focus on the Future

By Donna Bozza, Executive Director

Timing is everything.

In 2015, far-reaching issues faced the Eastern Shore. This fortuitously coincided with the first year that Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore operated as a full time organization.

In Northampton County, a radical rezoning was steamrolling its way over public concerns. Across the Delmarva Peninsula, industrial poultry exploded in number and intensity directly involving Accomack County, with Northampton far from escaping the ramifications.

During these last 12 months, CBES ability to make a difference informing and engaging citizens, as well as standing up for public input in land-use and policy decisions, confirmed our Board's previous decision. Clearly, our part time organization had needed to expand its role.

As we move into a new year, this need has not decreased. In fact, it could very well intensify as our community continues to examine these and other issues, including those not yet realized.

With your support, CBES pledges to utilize the following to help empower Shore citizens to shape our collective future.

CBES information network

Feedback from both Shore folks and local government uniquely demonstrates the relevance of CBES monthly *ShoreLine* news journal. Yes, even when that feedback is from officials who are less than thrilled with having their actions questioned.

CBES works hard to delve into the complicated topics so that you can better understand the issues that will affect your family's quality of life. We are often the only source of pertinent news, news citizens need to assess local government policies, which is ignored by the Shore media or given only superficial coverage.

In 2016, CBES will continue to expand its coverage of Accomack and Shore-wide reporting. *ShoreLine* Editorial Board Member Sue Mastyl, a recently retired writer, now heads coverage of Accomack meetings and issues. Long time *ShoreLine* writer and researcher Mary Miller continues to lead the focus on Northampton and regional issues. CBES editorial board and guest writers provide expert coverage on countless subjects.

Thanks to the power of social media and email blasts, plus the man-hours now available to utilize them, we can

keep CBES members and policy makers abreast of *ShoreLine's* latest research, along with upcoming county meetings, town halls, and forums.

CBES sponsored forums, like the previous Northampton County Zoning Forum co-sponsored with Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper, provide not only information but also an opportunity for citizen dialogue. This is especially important when local government does not adhere to a process that encourages such dialogue.

Undoubtedly, our tiny coastal enclave will continue to face an onslaught of pressures to overdevelop our most fragile locales...

On January 20, CBES is sponsoring the forum "*Community Impacts of Industrial Poultry Operations*" moderated by Peabody Award-Winner and radio talk show host, Marc Steiner. Join

our expert panel as we examine environmental, health, and safety-related issues associated with Industrial Poultry operations. The forum will be held at Broadwater Academy in Exmore, and begins at 8 PM. [See insert for more information.]

Citizen involvement

Being informed on local matters is the first step. Participating in our own governance must be the next step—and it starts at the polls. We need to recognize the inherent danger of candidates running unopposed. We also need to exercise our freedom to vote, a vote that should be from an informed electorate.

To that end, the 2015 series of three CBES Candidates Forums saw record-breaking attendance. Partnering with WESR Shore Daily News allowed those unable to attend the forums to hear the candidates address local issues. Many of you thanked us for that opportunity. We look forward to continuing these forums.

Face time

Often underrated but essential for an effective civic organization, is face time. As a full time organization, CBES has been able to attend Board of Supervisors meetings as your government watchdog—your advocate for transparency and good process.

Face time with Shore citizens is also important, as we can't operate effectively in a vacuum. Whether at events around the Shore or at the CBES Annual Meeting, CBES needs to hear your concerns, your hopes for our community, and how CBES can better serve you. Our small, informal CBES Chats have been very successful. Four such gatherings were held in 2015 and we look to contin-

See "*CBES 2016*," cont'd on p. 9

CBES 2016, cont'd from p. 8

ue those this year. [If you or your club are interested in hosting a CBES Chat, contact me at donna@cbes.org.]

Build CBES Membership

A new emphasis for 2016 will be growing our membership. Not only does it help CBES to reach financial sustainability as a full time organization, a diverse membership provides a strong, unified voice that those in government hear.

Undoubtedly, our tiny coastal enclave will continue to face an onslaught of pressures to overdevelop our most fragile locales, e.g., the rush to place hundreds of Concentrated Animal Feed Operations. Also educating our youth, building a workforce, fighting poverty – all these challenges need addressing. CBES wants to play its part, but working part time is clearly not the way.

With your continued support in 2016, CBES will continue to work full time for our community.

Godspeed,

Donna Bozza, CBES Executive Director

The Shore needs CBES, and CBES needs the Shore.



FHCASA's Cultivate the Chesapeake Foodshed Conference 2016

**Thursday, Jan 14, 2016 - Saturday, Jan 16, 2016
Hyattsville, MD**

This conference is for anyone who:

- Wants to meet other sustainable farmers of all kinds.
- Wants to learn the latest sustainable farming practices.
- Is a new or “beginner” farmer (“farming less than 10 years”).
- Is a farmer wannabe.
- Has family or friends who might be interested in small or sustainable farming as a potential career.

For information go to the conference website:
<http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/conference/2016-conference>.

And the Winner Is...



Congratulations to CBES Between the Waters Bike Tour Raffle Winner, Dan Scholtes of Chesapeake, VA . “I never won a raffle!” was Dan’s reply when he heard he scored the Diadora Palermo - hybrid fitness bike generously donated by VILLAGE BICYCLES, NEWPORT NEWS [Go see Walt and tell him CBES sent ya!]

Thanks too to THE GREAT MACHIPONGO CLAM SHACK for helping sell on-Shore tickets. Dan says he is looking forward to transiting from mountain biking. As a previous CBES Bike Tour rider, Dan heard about the raffle online. “I thought I would try [the raffle] and figured it was for ‘The Cause.’”

Happy New Year Cruising, Dan! Thanks to all for Pedaling to Protect the Eastern Shore!

CBES Membership 2016

New Renewal ShoreLine by email only

Name

Phone

Address

City ST Zip

Regular Membership (includes ShoreLine) \$25

Life Membership (includes ShoreLine) \$500

Optional add'l tax-deductible contribution of

ShoreLine subscription w/o CBES membership \$25

Send to CBES, PO Box 882, Eastville, VA 23347 • Join online at www.cbes.org

Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
P. O. Box 882
Eastville, VA 23347-0882

Nonprofit Organization
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Permit No. 8

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

SHORELINE

Community Calendar - January 2016

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

CBES and Other Activities

- Jan 6** **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague
- Jan 11** **CBES Exec. Committee**
5 PM, CBES Office
- Jan 14** **Shorekeeper Meeting***
3 PM, Barrier Islands Center
- Jan 18** **Community Unity Breakfast**
8 AM, NHS, Eastville
- Jan 19** **CBES Board Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Eastville
- Jan 19** **ES Groundwater Committee**
10 AM, Accomac
- Jan 20** **Poultry Impact Forum**
6-8 PM, Exmore

Accomack County

- Jan 6** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers
- Jan 13** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Jan 13** **BOS Poultry Work Session**
5 PM, Shore Bank Headquarters
Onley
- Jan 19** **School Board**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Jan 20** **Board of Supervisors**
5 PM, BOS Chambers
- Jan 21** **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers

Northampton County

- Jan 4** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
1 PM, Conference Room
- Jan 5** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Jan 12** **Board of Supervisors**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Jan 20** **Wetlands Board**
TBA, Conference Room
- Jan 26** **School Board**
5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Jan 25** **BOS Work Session**
5 PM, Sup. Chambers

* Alternating between the ES Chamber of Commerce and the Barrier Islands Center