

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE SHORELINE

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Community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

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In My Opinion

Northampton's Proposed Rezoning

Does it Provide the Protection the County and its Citizens Need?

By Mary Miller

(Ms. Miller served for a decade on the county Planning Commission, most of that time as Vice-Chair.)

Both the Code of Virginia and the county Comprehensive Plan give the Board of Supervisors the authority and responsibility, through zoning, to create a harmonious community, consider the use of property for various uses, provide for public health and safety, protect and preserve the county's assets, resources and economic engines, and conserve properties and their values.

These are ways communities can improve and protect their people and places. Is that what's happening in Northampton County as it is about to be rezoned? Many of the proposed changes can leave homeowners unprotected and taxpayers at the mercy of development interests. Here are the Top 10 Ways this rezoning can do some real damage to homeowners and taxpayers.

- 1 – Upzoning and redrawing Willis Wharf and Oyster and other Village boundaries, and increasing density dramatically in most of the acreage in what used to be called Waterfront Villages – then allowing, by right, an additional housing unit for every home in the county, with no plans for providing or paying for essential services or infrastructure – except to raise taxes on the rest of us.
- 2 – Eliminating the current Town Edge zoning structure that would have allowed for orderly development and provision of services, with costs and planning shared by the Towns, the county and developers' proffers. The Board proposes to give away a 400% increase in houses, assumes the Towns will foot the bills for services, and asks nothing in return from developers.
- 3 – Creating haphazard and arbitrary new Residential Districts – adding more building lots to the thousands of undeveloped parcels all over the county. These new Districts, with lots as small as ½ acre, could be created anywhere in the county with a developer's application and a willing Board of Supervisors – again, with no plans to fund or provide services.
- 4 – Undermining home values and historic neighborhood character by removing development standards and allowing high impact uses like arcades, RV campgrounds and skateboard parks in places like Franktown and Treherneville.
- 5 – Rewriting District Intent Statements to meaningless "anything goes" language, leaving homeowners defenseless against non-compatible development in their neighborhoods.
- 6 – Removing the Affordable Housing Density Bonus and the Mobile Home Park overlay, diminishing the probability of both subsidized housing for poor, elderly or disabled residents, and low-cost housing options for the workforce.

See Rezoning, cont'd on p. 4

**Public Hearing
on Rezoning
Monday, November 2**

Make your voice heard at the joint public hearing of the Northampton Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission.

**Northampton High School
7 PM**



Elections for state and local officers, including Boards of Supervisors, take place on Tuesday, November 3. Turnouts are generally low for these types of elections, so each voter's participation is even more influential than normal. Get out and vote!

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Don't Rig our Coastal Economy

Submitted by Eileen Levandoski, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club

For almost 30 years, there has been a ban on offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. Our coasts are too special and fragile to risk to offshore oil and gas development. Treasured for generations, our Atlantic shores attract millions of tourists, anglers and other visitors from all over the world. The beautiful and biologically rich coastal areas off Virginia feature some of the most productive waters in the country and provide critical breeding and feeding habitat for migratory birds, turtles, and whales, many of which are globally rare.

In Virginia, our coastal environment and economy are intricately interconnected, and offshore drilling puts them both at risk. In 2013, tourism generated \$21.5 billion in direct travel related expenditures, \$1.42 billion in local and state tax revenue, provided 213,000 jobs, and paid out \$4.9 billion in salaries to folks employed in the tourism industry. Additionally, our marine products sector is the 3rd largest in the nation, employs thousands of Virginians, and brings in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.



Completely dependent on clean beaches and healthy ocean waters, our valuable Atlantic coastlines will be forever changed if industry is given a green light to drill. In areas where drilling already occurs, the detrimental effects can be seen and the effects acutely felt.

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster dramatically demonstrated how drilling can destroy fishing and tourism industries and cost jobs. America's worst oil spill killed 11 people and gushed 210 million gallons of oil into the ocean, affecting 16,000 miles of coastline. Today at least 14 animal species, including birds, fish and dolphins are still struggling to survive, and the once lucrative fishing, tourism and recreation economies of the Gulf have still not fully recovered.

The Gulf also suffers from drilling's routine and polluting operations, ongoing spills, and industrialization of coastal areas. Residual, un-degraded oil lasts for decades with the potential for chronic, lingering effects on wetlands. There is also significant coastal land loss due to drilling activities and subsidence following oil and gas extraction.

Offshore drilling operations have been responsible for hundreds of millions of gallons of oil spilling into our oceans over the past years. There have been at least 347 large spills (defined as more than 2000 gallons) in U.S. offshore waters since 1964. Smaller spills are a regular occurrence, and chronic – and chronically unaddressed – spills continue to this day from abandoned wells. The Gulf's Taylor Energy platform that toppled in a 2004 hurricane has for over ten years been spilling oil into the sea and is predicted to continue doing so unabated for a century or more. The Coast Guard in 2014 reported oil sheens as large as 1.5 miles wide and 14 miles long by the Taylor platform area wells.

Each year, U.S. drilling operations send an average of 880,000 gallons of oil into the ocean. The routine pollution and all-too-often spills associated with drilling destroy critical nesting areas, inhibit fishing and start a trophic cascade of poisons and sickness threatening marine life.

Offshore operations are especially vulnerable during hurricanes. In August, 2005, during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 9 million gallons of oil spilled from pipelines, storage tanks and industrial plants. The storms destroyed 113 of the oil platforms in the Gulf and damaged 457 pipelines. As climate disruption increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather, we can expect damages like these to become all too common.

Each drilled well generates tens of thousands of gallons of waste drilling muds (materials used to lubricate drill bits and maintain pressure) and cuttings. Drilling muds contain toxic metals such as mercury, lead, and cadmium that may bio-accumulate and bio-magnify in marine organisms,

See Rigging, cont'd on p. 3

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Staff Writers

Joyce Mendel
Hali Plourde-Rogers
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Production Editor and Design

Sarah Morgan, *Savoy Studio*

How to reach CBES

P.O. Box 882, Eastville, VA 23347
(757) 678-7157
info@cbes.org • www.cbes.org

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Rigging, cont'd from p. 2

including in our seafood supply. Offshore drilling also requires the construction of significant onshore infrastructure such as new roads, pipelines, refineries and processing facilities, which are often built on formerly pristine beaches.

So what has changed recently to allow the federal Department of Interior to propose opening new areas like our beloved and long protected Atlantic to offshore oil and gas development?

Answer: Very little.

Still today, Congress has yet to pass a single law strengthening federal oversight of offshore oil and gas development, drilling safety or environmental safeguards in the event of a disaster. And five years after the BP oil disaster, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has still not instituted any major recommendations of the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill Commission.

Up and down the Atlantic, coastal states have zero capacity to respond to an oil spill. Current cleanup methods are still incapable of removing more than a small fraction of the oil spilled in ocean waters.

The promotion of drilling and the use of its dirty fossil

fuels add another threat to our beaches. Sea level rise – the result of a warming planet and our burning dirty fuels – will cripple and remove beaches and wetlands and effectively sink our coastal tourist economy.

Suddenly, East Coast cities and towns are passing resolutions opposed to drilling, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, being the latest. As cities and towns do so, they apply pressure on state representatives to act in opposition. Building from local to state, the opposition campaign will move to members of Congress and all the closer to President Obama's ear.

While the BOEM will progress through its administrative processes towards 2021 Atlantic lease sale, the President has it within his power to reinstitute a moratorium on Atlantic drilling. Just like George W. Bush's parting gift was to lift the moratorium on drilling, Obama's parting gift could be to reinstitute it. Such a move would truly assure his legacy as a climate champion.

The Atlantic drilling moratorium has stood the test of time for good reason. Some places are just too special to risk, and the Atlantic Coast is one such place.



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Rezoning, continued from p. 1

- 7 – Spot zoning parcels on Rt. 13 including farm fields and empty lots and calling them Commercial, without regard to highway safety or commercial viability of Towns and current highway commercial areas.
- 8 – Wholesale upzoning of waterfront acreage, especially on the Bayside, to new Residential Districts.
- 9 – Permitting By Right Migrant Labor Camps – with only one resident required to be a migrant worker, and which would allow occupants living in tents, trailers, even cars – to be located within 15 feet of residential neighborhoods.
- 10 – Stifling rural economic development by removing the Industrial Floating District, the Rural Business designation, Gateway signs for town commercial districts and wayfinding signs for businesses “off-13.”

A Process in Chaos?

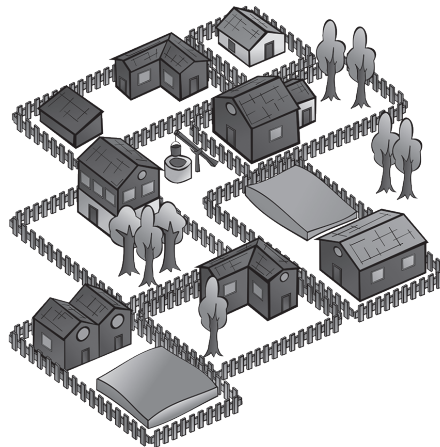
The Board was writing changes to the proposed rezoning up to 10 minutes before they voted to send it to Public Hearing. Not one Board member had the chance to read the entire document in its final form. There was not even time to proofread the changed wording. Remarkably, Virginia courts have upheld the concept that the text of the rezoning document need not be available to, or read by the Board, prior to a vote.

The Board was given a pre-written motion and an expedited calendar for voting – prepared for them earlier by the County Administrator. The Planning Commission started its 60-day review eight days later – a review of a document that they hadn’t yet seen in its entirety. The Commission had previously been ordered by the Board to stop its review half-way through the original document. The Commission now is charged with reviewing only the changes to the original document which they had not finished reviewing. The Public Hearing was scheduled for the night before Election Day. There

had still been no significant public input into the proposed changes.

Zoning Changes Ought to Address Reality

The current Zoning Ordinance was drafted from 2007-2009 – and it reflected and responded to the socio-economic circumstances and the realistic land use needs of the time. Extensive public input was sought from a diverse group of public and private citizens,



Building lots as small as ¼ acre are proposed for Willis Wharf, Oyster and other Villages

industries and organizations. Most input reflected a desire to retain a rural lifestyle, protect finite resources and provide opportunities for asset-based economic development.

In six years, the county has changed – the housing crash and the shattering national economic recession altered development patterns everywhere. The county’s recovery, like the entire nation’s, reflects a different outlook on lifestyles, use of resources and rural living. The aquaculture industry has grown by leaps and bounds, tourists and second-home buyers have discovered the county, and small entrepreneurial businesses have become a much greater segment of the local economy. Information technology has made it possible for self-employed people to live wherever the internet is available. Two of the towns have worked hard to bring new

life, new business, to their down-towns. All of these changes were supported by current county zoning.

On the other hand, the county’s population has both aged and declined, as in most rural counties. We’ve lost our hospital. We’ve discovered that citizens outside the towns don’t want to pay for central sewer. We’ve gone through a failed, very expensive economic development experiment. Existing zoned commercial corridors, industrial districts and highway commercial parcels remain unsold and undeveloped. Home values have declined since the speculative real estate binge. Our public schools are struggling to improve and the county now has four private schools. Volunteer fire and rescue services are stretched to the limit. We’ve lost a supermarket, we’ve lost a bank, we’ve even lost some fast-food outlets. Things have changed, but were not caused by county zoning.

What Justifies Proposed Changes?

Rezoning regulations are required to consider these changes—and demonstrate the results of the changes through studies and research. This has not been done. Careful consideration of both the changes and the county’s ability to work within and around these shifts of circumstance need to be part of a zoning analysis. Elected officials have the right and responsibility to weigh any changes with the realities of local, regional and national economies---and the need to preserve and protect a locality’s resources.

The implication by the Board that the proposed zoning changes will lead to prosperity hasn’t been validated or supported by anything but rhetoric. The bottom line is this: the county has at least three professionally prepared plans outlining the hard work required to make the best use of its resources for economic development. And not one of those plans recommends that elected officials spend two years fiddling around with a rezoning ordinance.



Poultry Issues Further Explored

Reported by Martina Coker

Martina Coker attended a forum in Maryland on poultry industry issues. What follows is her report on the session. CBES will be sponsoring an Eastern Shore Forum in January to help inform our community directly on some of these same issues.

A Town Hall meeting in Princess Anne, Maryland, on September 16 addressed the issue of poultry industry expansion and related public health and community concerns. The meeting was sponsored by Assateague Coastal Trust and Assateague Coastkeeper. Marc Steiner, of the Marc Steiner Show, moderated and panelists included Dr. Jillian Fry of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future; Dr. Kirkland Hall of the Somerset County NAACP; Lisa Inzerillo of the Backbone Corridor Neighbors Association; and Maria Payan, a consultant with the Socially Responsible Agricultural Project. Members of the audience included citizens from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, indicating the broad impact of this industry and the high level of concern.

Impact on Quality of Life

Lisa Inzerillo first spoke of the impact of poultry houses on residential areas. Her neighborhood became aware of industrial scale chicken houses in close proximity to their homes only because of the need for a variance for planned factory chicken houses. Ms. Inzerillo is a fourth generation owner of a farm herself but stressed that these “are not the farmhouses that you and I grew up with, these are industrial scale, industrial exhaust, industrial damage, and damage to our beautiful Chesapeake Bay. In the case of the Backbone Road location, eight chicken houses were planned within three miles of their home, with water from those houses being discharged right into the Manokin River. A nearby daycare center would be within one mile of 60 chicken houses.”

Maria Payan told a story of shock and disbelief when working with communities in several states when these poultry factories move in. People live in a beautiful agricultural area and then these industrial factory farms are built. This is not a family farm, these are absentee developers, not people with a connection to the land.

Health Impacts

Dr. Fry discussed health risks related to Industrial Poultry production. “Animal Production is not inherently detrimental to human health but when you adopt an industrial model with extremely high animal density in one region then you will get environmental impacts and you are going to get public health impacts.” Dr. Fry described the top health concerns as being what comes out of the house and what seeps out of the manure, either stored or

spread on fields. Huge industrial fans are used to vent the houses because so much ammonia is produced by the tens of thousands of chickens in each house that if the fans turn off the chickens will die. These gases are pushed out into the community. A significant amount of dust is also pushed out into the community which can increase the risk for asthma. Excess phosphorus from the spread of manure is another health risk. Crops are able to utilize a certain level of phosphorus, but excess will go into ground and surface water and into the Chesapeake Bay. Dr. Fry expressed

that her top concern is for those using private wells, as those are not monitored by any entity. High nitrates in well water have been linked to blue baby syndrome which can be fatal for infants, and are also linked to high rates of bladder cancer. Health risks due to contaminated soil, air and water include liver damage, thyroid issues, and respiratory issues. There are also concerns for workers in these poultry factory houses due to the exposure to

gases, particulate matter, and pathogens which are resistant to antibiotics. Antibiotic resistant pathogens present a risk to the entire community, as workers carry pathogens out into the community.

Dr. Kirkland Hall discussed concerns with the proliferation of chicken houses and the health issues within the county including an increase in asthma, bronchitis, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He expressed frustration that, despite all of the research put forth, Somerset County leaders refuse to listen to concerns. He has found that many leaders are resistant to scientific studies, often stating “it doesn’t apply here.” He described going to a planning and zoning meeting and hearing a member of the board state “If you want to live in Somerset County, you are going to smell some manure.”

Hall described misguided County attempts to bolster the local economy such as the building of a prison and now factory chicken production, while Somerset County remains the poorest county in Maryland.

The Reality for Growers and Workers

Ms. Payan stated, “There is resentment because these family farmers that helped to build the industry are not getting the same deal that these Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) developers are. They are being



Poultry Issues, continued from p. 5

cut out of the pie and it is not right. The poultry contract grower is not a very profitable life. Seventy percent of these growers live below the poverty level.” Ms. Payan described the tournament system used in the contract poultry growing system. This system takes all growers in one region and puts them in a tournament against each other. A base price is established and if you meet a certain standard, you get above the base price and if you are below the standard, you get below the base price. You own the mortality of the birds, the manure and the mortgage. “Growers are afraid to speak out due to fears of retribution. If you do speak out you are given sick birds, because you are only paid for live birds.” Growers are forced to upgrade their operations continuously, requiring them to take on more debt. As long as the growers are in debt, they are under contract,” stated Payan. “These farmers have put their family farms on the line, resulting in them essentially being serfs on their own land.” Members of the poultry industry were present and were offered the opportunity to discuss the economics of the industry but declined to do so.

Dr. Hall stated, “Workers in the industry are contract workers and they have no benefits. I do not see it increasing the standard of living.”

The fact that the farmers own mortality and manure was discussed, placing all financial risk on their shoulders. The industry will dictate when upgrades are needed, which then require a loan to complete the upgrade, keeping the grower in debt.

Dr. Wilson noted that the “development of a robust regional agricultural system that is safe for workers and the community and pays a living wage would be much more beneficial.”

Carol Morrison of Pocomoke, a former contract grower for 23 years, now raises chickens in pasture. Ms. Morrison stated, “This is not farming, these facilities are developments for chickens rather than people.” She queried, “What comes back to the community?” When Ms. Morrison started out, the industry advertisements touted part-time work for full-time pay; now factory chicken farming is advertised as supplemental income. “Why should you need to supplement your income with over a million dollar investment?” asked Morrison. The return on investment to the farmer is only 0-3%. There is not money coming back to the community. The community bears the costs related to this industry such as tax impacts related to state programs required to care for excess manure, decreased quality of

life, increase in illnesses, and impaired water quality.

“Why should the citizens in the community have to pay so a very few reap the benefits?” she asked.

A Health-Related Approach to Management

Ms. Payan described the passage of a health ordinance in York, Pennsylvania. Zoning ordinances only look at one parcel and address setbacks, etc. for the parcel, but a health ordinance addresses public health concerns. High density of these poultry houses increases the risk of avian flu, which can be devastating to a community and results in composting of chicken bodies on site. A health ordinance based approach is one way to mitigate risks of spread of avian flu.

The health ordinance in York, PA, calls for a health permit which must be renewed every five years, black lights are required to kill pathogens, biofilters are required and setbacks are determined by class, resulting in a lower density of poultry houses to protect from the spread of pathogens and disease. Payan stated, “We are not saying that you can’t build, but that you need to take precautions because your neighbors’ health is important and can’t be ignored.”

Dr. Wilson discussed the need to complete an environmental study along with each application. He observed that it is important to look at the number of birds per facility, the density of the houses, what components (such as gases and particulate matter) and how much will be released into the air. Psychosocial issues also need to be addressed. There is increased stress for those living near these factory houses, increasing susceptibility to illness. Zoning needs to be robust. This industry does not provide good jobs. We need to use the law, via ordinances, to create a better balance between economic interests and public health. Dr. Wilson discussed the moratorium placed on hog farms in North Carolina approximately 15 years ago, and he suggested that this might be considered for Poultry CAFOs in this area to allow time for research to be considered.

Water Utilization and Water Quality

Ken Hines, of Protecting our Indian River, stated that Delaware is planning a new processing plant, so chicken houses “down here will feed that plant”. It takes 7 gallons of water to process each chicken and that water will wash into the local creeks, decreasing salinity. “Twelve million gallons of water will change the ecosystem of my creek.”



Poultry Issues, continued from p. 6

Dr. Fry stated that when this industry started, we did not know what the impact would be, but “When you know better you do better.” No other water shed has the amount of information we have in this area on impacts due to proximity to the Chesapeake Bay. Epidemiological studies to assess the health risks are a challenge to complete. Due to polarization and an “us versus them” mentality, there are problems with access to poultry operations and cooperation from the poultry industry. One of the most straightforward studies we could do is robust water quality monitoring at different times of the year and look at levels of nitrates in proximity to poultry houses, but access is not allowed.



Bioscurity and safety measure are proposed to protect the chickens...but what about the neighbors?

Impacts on Other Industries

Joseph Fehrer described the thriving aquaculture industry in Northampton County, which demands clean water and presented the concern that perhaps one industry would be sacrificed for another with the support for the poultry industry’s presence in the County. He stated that this would present a terrible loss for the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Working at the State Level

Michele Merkel, of Food and Water Watch, Washington, DC, described the need to work at the state level and not just the local level. There are several relevant pieces of legislation proposed in Maryland. First, legislation to require poultry companies to manage their waste, as for all other industries. Second, a Farmers Right Act to prevent retaliation to farmers who share their contract, or who speak out, and to allow them to organize a Growers Association. Third, legislation to strip dirty energy sources from the Renewable Energy Portfolio. The Renewable Energy Portfolio requires the state to purchase a certain amount of their energy from renewable energy sources by 2020.

In 2008, the poultry industry was able to get poultry litter designated as a tier one clean energy source so they get funding for poultry litter incinerators. Hundreds of thousands of tons of excess waste is being produced in the state. Maryland signed a contract in 2013, leading to plans to build the second-ever poultry incinerator in the country and Somerset County is being targeted as a site. However, the current incinerator in Minnesota emits more toxic chemicals and greenhouse gases than the current coal fired plant in Maryland and results in concentrated heavy metals in its ash.

Importance to our Counties

This forum presented many perspectives on the community impacts of industrial chicken farming, and brought forward many concerns. These concerns warrant further consideration before the industrial poultry industry moves forward with an expansion without considering effective means to mitigate impacts on the community.



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Public Seminar Series

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 • 7:30 PM

Flagship species concepts in the ocean: using a bizarre humpheaded fish to conserve coral reefs

Dr. Kevin Wang

Assistant Professor

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Extinction risk is closely tied to body size, home range, and species distribution. Quantifying home range is critical for conservation, and can enable the use of concepts such as “umbrella species,” whose conservation protects other species due to shared habitat. Dr. Wang will discuss a multi-year study of humphead wrasse at Palmyra Atoll. The results of this complex research have major implications for the “flagship species” concept and suggest that most Marine Protection Areas are too small to effectively protect the humphead wrasse.

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Wachapreague, Virginia

The Chubbs Fly South

By Sarah Morgan

John and Ive Chubb have been Shore residents since the mid-1990s, after they both retired from the Navy and moved to Old Town Neck near Eastville. It wasn't long before both had been welcomed into the ranks of volunteers with various Eastern Shore organizations. They have recently sold their house and moved to South Carolina, and will be sorely missed.

The Chubbs' enthusiasm for service to others was soon evident at CBES, where John served on the Board of Directors for two decades. He was chair of the CBES Natural Resources Committee for over ten years, and both he and Ive worked the Between the Waters Bike Tour and the Pig Roast. From planning to registration to preparing and serving food, the Chubbs have been tireless in their wholehearted involvement in CBES events.

In the mid-1990s, John began his work with CBES when he coordinated the organization's participation with a Virginia Tech research program to determine the cause of *E. coli* contamination in The Gulf (a bayside creek). DNA analysis, very new at that time, determined a heavy raccoon population to be the cause of contamination. Subsequently, John developed a more comprehensive study program of three creeks (The Gulf, Mattawoman and Hungars) for CBES, but unfortunately the study was never funded.

John was also a regular contributor to *ShoreLine* with articles on a broad range of subjects. For several years, prior to the establishment of the Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper organization, he prepared an annual "State of the Creeks" article, including statistics regarding creek closures and pollution levels that compared current conditions to those from the previous year.

John Chubb didn't limit his community service to CBES, however. As an associate director of the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District, John was a presenter at the annual Watershed Walk, an event designed to educate Shore residents about conditions and challenges to the health of Shore creeks and aquifers. He was also the coordinator for two Adopt-a-Stream sites, overseeing efforts to prevent or mitigate creek closures due to contamination.

John and Ive were also members of the American Legion Post 56 in Cheriton, where John was historian as well as a member of the Executive Committee, and Ive served as Special Program and District Red Cross coordinator. She was Adjutant for the post as well as District 1.

They have been passionate in their commitment to public and private education as well. Both worked in various



capacities at the Eastern Shore Community College, and Ive used her knowledge of Spanish in migrant summer programs, the Children and Infants Program, and as a translator for Northampton and Accomack courts.

A Broadwater Academy teacher for 12 years, John taught oceanography and advanced math, and coached the school's Blue Crab Bowl and Envirothon teams. He was a leader in promoting environmental awareness amongst the student body, especially regarding the Shore's unique ecosystem and felt that each student's impact on the environment was important. Each year, he coordinated an oceanography field trip at a Chesapeake Bay Foundation site on the Bay, where he and his students conducted experiments, cataloged species and experienced the marsh "up close and personal." John delighted in photographing the students as they played "capture the flag" and "predator and prey." And he especially enjoyed the perennial race across a mud flat that resulted in the students being covered in marsh muck!

The Chubbs' volunteerism was not limited to secular initiatives; both have been enthusiastic members of Cheriton Baptist Church, where both helped with the AWANA youth program as well as participating in various other programs. Ive was Chief Librarian, managing over 4,500 titles and tutoring in the church's After-school Program; John was Chair of Building and Grounds, Stewardship, and the deacons.

John and Ive have been the kind of volunteers that many organizations depend on and have been an important part of CBES success in the community. We wish the Chubbs well and will miss their cheerful and positive attitudes as well as their contributions to CBES and other community organizations.



Solar Farm Proposed for Eastville Area

Hecate Energy Cherrydale LLC, has submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality a notice of intent to submit the necessary documentation for a permit by rule for a small renewable energy project (solar) in Eastville (Northampton County), Virginia.

The Project will be located on a 236 acre parcel on the southeast corner of Seaside Road and Cherrydale Drive and will consist of 79,800 x 310-watt panels plus 10 x 2-mega-watt inverters which will provide no less than 20 MWs of nameplate capacity.

On July 10, PJM Interconnection, the regional electric grid management organization, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission an executed Interconnection Service Agreement with Hecate Energy Cherrydale LLC, the developer of the project, and with interconnecting transmission owner Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. The power line is about 1,700 feet from the project site. The notice was posted October 14, 2015. Under the agreement with PJM, on or before November 30, 2016, Hecate must demonstrate commercial operation of all generating units.

The Northampton County tax rate for solar installations is about one-third the rate for farm equipment and machinery.

Sources: VA Dept of Environmental Quality; *GenerationHub.com*, an online industry forum



New Star Transit Route in Lower Northampton County

On Monday, October 28, Star Transit buses began the "Yellow" bus route, which begins at the Cape Charles shopping center and serves Cape Charles, Cheriton, Cherrystone Aqua Farm and lower Northampton County. This is a regional effort of Northampton and Accomack County to bring opportunity to the citizens of lower Northampton County to access medical assistance, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, job and Community College opportunities as well as access to other areas of the Eastern Shore and other facilities. The cost to ride the "Yellow" bus route is \$0.50.



The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will celebrate the Eastern Shore community at a free evening dinner seminar on Friday, November 13. The public is invited to dine with CBF experts and friends of the Bay while socializing, networking, and brainstorming. Attendees will hear updates on local fisheries, agriculture, and water quality issues, along with a smattering of science and a peppering of policy. Join CBF on November 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mallards at the Wharf, 2 Market Street, Onancock, VA 23417.

Space is limited. RSVP is required. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Tatum Ford at 757/971-0366 or tford@cbf.org

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SHORELINE

Community Calendar - November 2015

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

CBES and Other Activities

- Nov 4** **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague
- Nov 9** **CBES Exec. Committee**
5 PM, CBES Office
- Nov 12** **Shorekeeper Meeting***
3 PM, ES Chamber of Commerce
- Nov 17** **CBES Board Meeting**
7 PM, Eastville
- Nov 17** **ES Groundwater Committee**
10 AM, Accomac

Accomack County

- Nov 4** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers
- Nov 11** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Nov 17** **School Board**
7 PM, BOS Chambers
- Nov 18** **Board of Supervisors**
5 PM, BOS Chambers
- Nov 19** **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Sup. Chambers

Northampton County

- Nov 2** **Board of Zoning Appeals**
1 PM, Conference Room
- Nov 3** **Planning Commission**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Nov 10** **Board of Supervisors**
7 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Nov 18** **Wetlands Board**
TBA, Conference Room
- Nov 23** **BOS Work Session**
5 PM, Sup. Chambers
- Nov 24** **School Board**
5:30 PM, Sup. Chambers

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

www.cbes.org