



# DHCD COMMUNITY

# CONNECTION

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## Letter from the director



**Bill Shelton**  
Director

Welcome to the second edition of the DHCD Community Connection newsletter. We are proud to again share some of the great work that is being done by our partners and staff throughout the Commonwealth.

In this edition we celebrate new announcements, including shelter grant awards, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards, and the designation of three new Virginia Main Street (VMS) communities.

We also focus on the importance of downtown revitalization in Virginia's rural localities. Virginia's small downtown areas often define the culture and history of their communities, and are vitally important to the overall economic health of the area.

Many Virginia communities are facing the strain of economic transition from their historic economic base. During this time of change, the importance of downtown again cannot be understated. The health and wellbeing of Virginia's downtowns plays a key role in the success of the economic restructuring needed to revitalize communities.

Both the VMS and CDBG programs have garnered success in their revitalization efforts in Virginia's downtowns.

Governor Timothy Kaine has toured many of the results from the work of these programs, including

revitalization efforts in Marion, Lynchburg, Exmore, South Boston, and Franklin.

He has commented on the successes of these programs – and expressed his pride in the Great American Main Street Awards bestowed upon Virginia's Lynchburg, Staunton, and Manassas Main Street communities by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center.

With three new VMS communities designated this year – Abingdon, Altavista, and Blackstone, more awards may be yet to come.

Just a few weeks ago, the Governor toured the CDBG revitalization efforts in the Town of Chincoteague during his Cabinet Day on the Eastern Shore, and witnessed first-hand an example of the remarkable revitalization efforts going on throughout Virginia.

Many of the challenges that face economic and community

development in Virginia's communities intersect in Virginia's downtowns. Downtown areas are the economic engines that drive many of Virginia's localities.

As a community development agency, we are focused on utilizing the resources at our disposal, in collaboration with state and local partners, to address the unique needs facing communities across Virginia.

Our mission is to create safe, affordable, and prosperous communities in which to live, work, and do business in Virginia. While DHCD has many different programs and services, they are all unified by the mission of our agency.

I encourage you to learn more about DHCD's programs and projects by visiting our Web site at: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov). Thank you for taking the time to read this summer edition of the DHCD Community Connection newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Bill Shelton, Director  
Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

# *Housing and Community Development News*

## The 2030 Challenge strives to bring awareness to energy conservation and reduced Green House Gas emissions

By Paula Eubank,  
Associate Director, Technical Assistance Service Office

Did you know that buildings are responsible for nearly half of all energy consumption and Green House Gas (GHC) emissions each year in the United States? Globally, the percentage is even greater.

Throughout the total 30 to 40 year lifespan of a public building, the initial construction cost represents only 20 to 30 percent of its operational costs. The rest is energy.

Transportation, at 27 percent, and industry at 25 percent, trail behind the 48 percent of energy consumption and resource depletion of residential building construction – and thus the negative impact of environmental and atmospheric deterioration and global warming by the construction community.

The annual energy required to operate residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and their equipment, in combination with the embodied energy of industry-produced building materials such as steel, concrete, glass, carpet, and tile, exposes the built environment as the largest energy consuming and greenhouse gas emitting sector.

It has been consistently demonstrated that a conscientious and effective design, it may be possible to reduce building energy consumption by 50 to 80 percent. In addition, this could be achieved at minimal or no additional cost. Since the 1980's, countless efficient and effective buildings have been designed and constructed both in the United States and abroad that reiterate this point.

Within the next 30 years, 75 percent of the built environment in the U.S. will be either new or renovated construction. These 30

years represent a transformational opportunity for the architecture and building community to reverse the most significant crisis of modern time, climate change.

### **The 2030 Challenge**

To reduce the impact that buildings have on the environment, Architecture 2030, a nonprofit and non-partisan organization sponsored by New Energy Economy, has created the 2030 Challenge.

The 2030 Challenge targets immediate and subsequent levels of incremental building performance relative to energy efficiency, to reach a built environment which emits zero carbons into the atmosphere by the year 2030.

Echoing this call to action, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted strong policies and resolutions for governmental entities to actively



and effectively reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution. The federal government, as well as numerous state and municipal governments, have adopted sustainable and green performance standards and fostered agency programs toward this end.

New construction and renovation projects of city buildings should immediately be designed to and implement energy efficiency performance standards of a minimum delivered fossil fuel consumption of half of the U.S. average for that building type, as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

All other new municipal construction, renovation, repair, and replacement projects are encouraged to immediately be designed with, and implement, cost effective energy efficient green building practices and performance standards to the maximum extent possible.

All new buildings should achieve a carbon-neutral goal, to operate totally with an energy source that utilizes no depletable fossil fuels, and to emit no greenhouse gases by the year 2030.

The goal should be accomplished incrementally with a 10 percent reduction every five years as follows:

- A 60 percent reduction by the year 2010;
- 70 percent by 2015;
- 80 percent by 2020; and
- 90 percent by 2025.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging mayors nationwide to develop plans and programs to fully implement the above mentioned targets for all new municipal construction and renovation projects within their cities.

### **The 2030 Challenge in Virginia**

On a statewide level, the 2030 Challenge echoes the goals of Governor Tim Kaine with the institution of an energy policy and plan to protect natural resources and reduce environmental consequences.

Effective April 9, 2007, Governor Kaine issued an executive order directing state agencies to improve energy efficiency, mandating an increase in energy efficiency by 20 percent and a reduction in non-renewable energy consumption and its associated purchase cost by 20 percent over that of 2006 by the year 2010.

In the future, Virginia's government facilities, including both new construction and renovation, are expected to utilize new innovative conservation technologies and employ energy efficiency standards when determined practical and cost efficient, in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council standards and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy's Energy Star Ratings.

The 2030 Challenge has been signed by Richmond Mayor Doug Wilder and five other mayors across Virginia.

Upon the request of the administration of the City of Richmond, the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects convened a progressive collaborative meeting on March 30, 2007 at the Virginia Center for Architecture to provide viable ideas and to fashion a feasible plan for its implementation in the City of Richmond.

Federal, state, and local governments are encouraged to follow suit with the adoption of resolutions for sustainable, green, and energy efficient building practices and standards.

### **The USBC and energy efficiency**

It is also important to acknowledge that the current national building codes and standards, as adopted and amended by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), also promote energy efficient sustainable and green design and construction through the permissible use of alternative and innovative technologies.

Localities and municipalities should recognize that the USBC provides local building officials with the ability to accept and encourage alternative building options, when conforming with the spirit and intent of the codes, and complying with the equivalent requirements for fire resistance, strength, durability, quality, effectiveness, and not compromising public health, safety and welfare.

In substantiation of a modification request, the Building Official may consider future editions of nationally recognized model or performance codes and standards, as well as statements from registered design professionals.

Each locality is encouraged to learn the premises, functions, and properties of these sustainable and green practices and materials and the ability to apply them more and more frequently in the field.

The Division of Building and Fire Regulation encourages you to consider taking part in the 2030 Challenge. Richmond's 2030 meetings have provided an opportunity for participants to combine forces and produce a collaborative resolution, with amplified effects on both the potential participation of other localities as well as the environment.

To learn more about the 2030 challenge, and to find out where meetings may be held in your area, contact Ed Mazria, FAIA at <http://www.architecture2030.org/> or <http://www.mazria.com/>. The national AIA website at [http://www.aia.org/adv\\_sustainability](http://www.aia.org/adv_sustainability) also provides many links to various resources regarding green construction practices and environmental sustainability.

On a statewide level, the 2030 Challenge echoes the goals of Governor Tim Kaine with the institution of an energy policy and plan to protect natural resources and reduce environmental consequences.

A recent cost benefit analysis performed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory concluded that the financial benefits of green design and construction equal \$50 to \$70 per square foot, more than ten times the additional cost investment of green building.

## DHCD focuses on downtown revitalization as three new Virginia Main Street communities are designated

Across the state, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is working with localities to assist them in revitalizing historic downtown areas.

Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Virginia Main Street (VMS) programs, DHCD is taking a comprehensive approach to addressing the unique needs and maximizing the assets of Virginia's downtown areas.

### Virginia Main Street

The Virginia Main Street program takes a comprehensive, community-based approach to downtown revitalization based on the Four Point Main Street Approach™. Developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the 1970s, the approach uses an innovative, incremental methodology to restore economic vitality to the historic commercial core of a community. It's underlying premise is to promote economic development within the context of historic preservation in a way that is appropriate for the individual community and the market.

"What started as an effort to stop the loss of historic commercial buildings has evolved into a powerful tool for community economic development," said Louellen Brumgard, associate director of the Division of Community Development. "In the case of downtown commercial districts, the link between historic preservation and economic development is critical."



*Downtown Marion*

DHCD's Virginia Main Street program, established in 1985, currently has 21 designated communities and has assisted in the creation of more than 11,500 jobs and \$433 million of private investment into VMS designated communities.

"What makes Main Street so effective is the way its unique four points – design, promotion, economic restructuring and organization – work together to comprehensively address all the factors that impact the success of downtowns as the center of commerce," said Brumgard.

"Sustainable economic restructuring may be the end result, but you don't get there unless you address design, promotion, and organization."

In reality, the approach is not much different than what a mall would use – the goal is market-based commerce (economic restructuring) to successfully achieve the mall's focus on their appearance (design) and marketing (promotion). Additionally, to be sure the mall

can succeed as the marketplace changes they must have ongoing management (organization).

“Downtown commercial districts obviously have different challenges than malls, but they also have many more assets,” said Brumgard. “Together, by addressing the unique aspects and history of each downtown and applying these four points we have seen great success in revitalizing the economic development and architecture of our communities.”

In the mid-1990s, the Town of Marion in Southwest Virginia was suffering through an economic downturn. A once strong base of manufacturing employment was shrinking as textile and furniture industry jobs were outsourced or automated. When a big-box discount retailer entered the equation, many downtown businesses were forced to close their doors.

In 1994, with a nearly 50 percent vacancy rate downtown, the Town of Marion formed the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association and became a designated Virginia Main Street community.

Through assistance from the VMS program and dedicated volunteers and staff, Marion’s historic Lincoln Theatre was renovated, streetscapes improved, and downtown stores began to reopen.



Inside Marion’s historic Lincoln Theatre

To-date, Marion has seen more than \$21 million in public and private investment, as well as a net gain of 47 businesses and 184 jobs. Downtown property values are up more than 30 percent and now downtown faces a new challenge – parking.

“Using the Main Street Four Point Approach was critical to our success,” said Executive Director of the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association Ken Heath. “It provided us with the comprehensive methodology and long-term mindset necessary to stay focused and use our resources effectively.”

### New communities

This summer, the VMS program announced the designation of three new communities – **Abingdon, Altavista, and Blackstone** – into the program.

Becoming a designated VMS community means that these localities will now benefit from the services provided through the program – which include technical assistance, training, marketing and promotional assistance, and access to an architect to assist with façade improvements.

The three newest VMS communities each face unique challenges that hope to be addressed by assistance through the VMS program.

- One of the greatest strengths of the Main Street Approach is its adaptability to take advantage of local resources and opportunities. The Town of Abingdon has a well established base of arts and cultural attractions, such as the Barter Theatre, Virginia Creeper Bike Trail, and the Martha Washington Inn, but its downtown’s retail offerings and evening dining offerings are weak and scattered along a one-mile stretch of Main Street. Abingdon plans to use the resources and training provided to aggressively pursue new downtown retail and restaurant development.
- The Town of Altavista is the smallest of the newly designated

communities, with a population of 3,425 – and it’s getting smaller. Between 1990 and 2000, the community lost seven percent of its population. While the original economic base of manufacturing



Altavista’s clock tower

continues to erode, many of the town’s key downtown buildings are blighted. However, Altavista plans to utilize a relatively strong retail core downtown with Virginia Main Street and other resources, to build upon and encourage greater private investment into its building stock.

- The Town of Blackstone in Southside Virginia had a booming downtown up through the 1950s, thanks in large part to activity at nearby Fort Pickett. With the decline of the army base, and the area’s economy in general, Blackstone was left with a relatively



Blackstone’s downtown

solid, but largely vacant building stock. One of the community's greatest assets, however, is its energy and capacity to make its community better. Blackstone plans to use the Main Street Approach to help convert the community's interest and desire to do something about its traditional commercial district into real results for downtown.

There are now 21 designated Virginia Main Street communities in Virginia.

### Virginia Main Street communities

- Abingdon
- Altavista
- Bedford
- Berryville
- Blackstone
- Culpeper
- Franklin
- Harrisonburg
- Luray
- Lynchburg
- Manassas
- Marion
- Martinsville
- Orange
- Radford
- Rocky Mount
- South Boston
- Staunton
- Warrenton
- Waynesboro
- Winchester



residents of the community or eliminating slum and blight. "The CDBG program has very specific outcomes that need to be realized for each project in order to qualify for funding," said Todd Christensen, deputy director of the Division of Community Development.

"However through the CDBG program we are able to be creative in how we

In 2006 the grant period closed and many of the revitalization project results were unveiled. Through the grant, the town was able to acquire a vacant one and a half acre waterfront lot and develop a multi-use outdoor public area/park.

"This park has truly become what we hoped that it would, an anchor for the downtown commercial district and the community," said Kat Edwards, Director of Housing Services for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission.

"On any given day you can see visitors and residents strolling through the park, reading the informational panels or making use of the picnic areas. It has been the site for everything from weddings to charity motorcycle events."



Chincoteague waterfront



Chincoteague waterfront area

Additionally, beautification improvements for 350 feet of walkways between Main Street and the waterfront was completed, replacing deteriorating sidewalks and installing cross walks for tourists. Along with the façade enhancements for commercial and residential properties and the loan pool for business start-up or expansion and marketing efforts, the Chincoteague downtown revitalization initiative is now a shining example of the payoffs for community residents and businesses from this type of revitalization effort.

reach those goals and how we can use grant funds."

Recent successful downtown revitalization projects include Chincoteague and Exmore on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

In 2001, DHCD awarded the town of Chincoteague \$750,000 in CDBG for downtown revitalization. The goals of the revitalization effort were to improve the economic viability of the downtown area through the development of a multi-use outdoor public area to serve as a downtown anchor, façade and infrastructure improvements, and the creation of a loan pool for local businesses.

The program qualified for CDBG funds through the goal of eliminating physical and economic slum and blighting influences.

"We are proud of the work that has been accomplished by the VMS program," said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. "The program has already seen three of its communities - Lynchburg, Manassas and Staunton - receive the Great American Main Street award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their excellence in revitalization."

### The CDBG

While the VMS program focuses on economic development through historic preservation, revitalization projects coordinated through the CDBG program are focused on assisting low-to-moderate income

"Our goal through the CDBG program is to make communities better, for people to live in, work in, and for businesses to thrive in," said Christensen. "We look at the whole community to make sure that the work we are doing is benefiting the low-to-moderate income workers, the businesses, and the community as a whole."

## The Virginia Main Street Four-Point Approach

Communities develop individual strategies, working in each of the four key, interconnected areas:

**Design** – Enhancing the unique visual quality of downtown by addressing all design elements to create an appealing environment.

**Promotion** – Creating and marketing a positive image based on the unique attributes of the downtown district.

**Economic Restructuring** – Strengthening downtown's existing economic assets and fulfilling its broadest market potential.

**Organization** – Establishing consensus and cooperation by building effective partnerships among all downtown stakeholders.

The CDBG program and the VMS program are similar in the economic development goals that they strive for. While VMS comes from a technical assistance approach, the CDBG program utilizes the financial investment approach.

Where they most closely meet is through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Affiliates Community Program.

The Affiliate option is for communities exploring downtown revitalization and who may be interested in VMS designation, but who may or may not be eligible. Affiliate status provides access to all VMS training and limited on-site assistance, as resources permit.

“The Affiliate option provides communities with the training and assistance that they can use to either become a VMS community or to apply for CDBG funding for revitalization programs,” said Christensen.

Another area where the two philosophies intersect is in the growing heritage tourism movement.

“Many communities have unique histories and cultures that can be a real pull for tourists,” said Christensen.

While the CDBG program has been heavily involved in The Crooked Road, Virginia's Heritage Music Trail program, the VMS program has also made heritage tourism a priority. In fact, the VMS program recently held a Heritage Tourism Summer Toolkit Training in Luray, a designated Main Street community since 2004. This two day event was focused entirely on heritage tourism and how downtown development organizations can promote their community's cultural and historic assets and attract visitors.

“This training emphasized how Main Street communities can tell their own, unique story to visitors and to ensure they have an experience that will keep them coming back,” said Catherine Stewart, executive director of the Luray Downtown Initiative, Inc.

## The importance of downtown revitalization

Historically, and even today, downtown areas constitute the largest central tax base for most communities, and have the potential to become a critical economic development engine as well.

“It's important for economic development officials and community leaders to understand the importance of downtown revitalization,” said Brumgard. “By having businesses locate downtown and looking at the community as a whole, downtown revitalization can have many economic as well as cultural benefits for localities.”

While there is no one silver bullet or formula for downtown revitalization, the key is in determining what assets a community has, and what type of businesses and revitalization the community can support over the long haul.

“For some localities heritage tourism may hold the key,” said Christensen. “For others, it may be different events

or activities that draw visitors from surrounding areas – or a unique mix of businesses and culture.”

“You have to understand what downtown's market niche is within the region,” said Brumgard.

## Downtown online

Additionally, both agreed that reliable, affordable broadband access is becoming a requirement for successful downtown revitalization.

“Some entrepreneurs start their small businesses downtown, but to make it a more profitable venture they need to take their business online,” said Christensen.

Additionally, small communities cannot as successfully compete for larger businesses without the broadband infrastructure needed in today's global market. Access to high speed internet service, or broadband, is an essential need for many of Virginia's small towns as they strive to compete.

The Virginia Rural Broadband Planning Initiative (VRBPI), administered by DHCD, was created to assist communities in identifying and implementing a plan to create broadband networks.

The VRBPI accepted applications through June 30, 2007 for localities seeking financial and technical assistance in developing broadband networks.

The need for rural broadband access is a statewide and national effort.

In June, Governor Timothy Kaine's announced a Broadband Roundtable, to be led by former Governor Mark Warner and Virginia Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra, and supported by national expert Dr. Ted Rappaport and Karen Jackson, Director of the Commonwealth's Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance.

“Broadband access is a priority for my administration, and we intend

to build on the successes of the Warner Administration, which worked to install 700 miles of broadband in our rural communities,” Governor Kaine said in the press release. “Today, our challenge is to find innovative ways to connect even more businesses to that network at the most affordable cost possible.”

### Moving forward

Through DHCD’s revitalization programs and others throughout the state, Virginia’s small downtown areas are seeing revitalization programs begin and end each year. For more information about the VMS or CDBG programs, visit: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov).

## DHCD awards nearly \$9 million to emergency shelters statewide

Imagine shuffling from one relative’s house to another, looking for a place to sleep. Imagine doing this as a single mother of a young daughter.

This is the situation facing, “M,” a client served by Hope House in Scott County Virginia, after being asked to move out from the home she and her daughter shared with her father when he remarried.

Luckily for M and her daughter, Hope House was able to provide counseling and educational resources while providing shelter for her and her daughter for the two years they were enrolled in the program. While she received training in financial management and prepared to enter college, her daughter thrived in Hope House’s daycare and after-school tutoring program.

Now, 19 months after leaving Hope House, M remains self-sufficient, in permanent housing, and on her way to becoming a nurse. Her goal is to purchase a home in the future for her and her daughter.

These success stories are the result of the work of many dedicated staff and volunteers at emergency and transitional shelters across the Commonwealth. Many of these shelters, such as Hope House, are supported in part by shelter grants awarded by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).



This summer, DHCD announced grant awards for approximately 120 homeless shelters across the state totaling nearly \$9 million.

The grants are designated for operating and program support and include funding for childcare support for homeless families in job training programs.

“The homeless population in Virginia is among the most vulnerable in the state,” said DHCD Deputy Director of Housing Shea Hollifield. “These grants are important in assisting them to make positive changes in their lives – to become more productive members of the community, to strengthen their families through times of crisis, and to care for their children.”

Grant recipients are nonprofit and local government providers of emergency shelter and transitional housing for the homeless in Virginia.

The grants are being provided through four program areas: State Shelter Grants (SSG), federally funded Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Child Service Coordinator Grant, and the Child Care for the Homeless Children grant program.



SSG and ESG funding provide support for administration, operations and supportive services for both emergency and transitional shelters. SSG funding comes from state and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. ESG funds come to DHCD directly through HUD and are designated for non-entitlement areas.

The Child Care for Homeless Children program and the Child Services Coordinator Grant are designed to create a positive impact on the family environment at shelters.

The Child Care for the Homeless program provides funding for the provision of childcare for children in shelters whose parent(s) are enrolled in an educational or job training program, or while they are working.

The Child Services Coordinator Grant provides salary support for an in-house coordinator to provide tutoring and homework assistance, and ensure the children receive the health and mental health care that they may need.

“It is especially important for families in crisis to be able to provide some stability for their children while they are in the shelters,” said Hollifield.

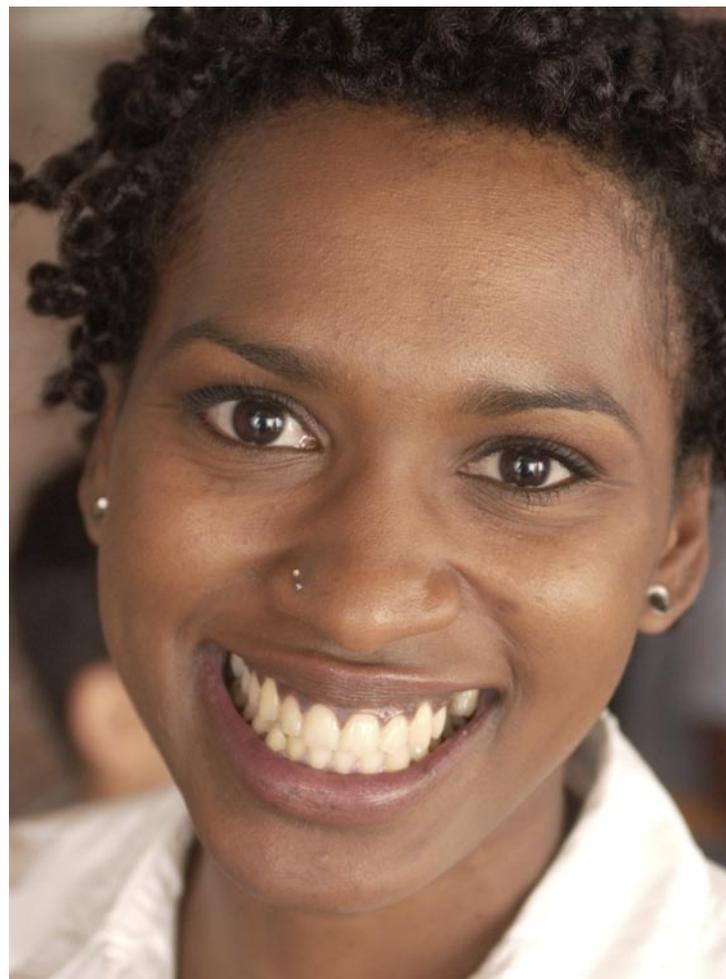
“In addition to providing funding for a coordinator who can ensure the children receive the services they need to stay healthy and on track with their development, these grants also provide parents with the ability to go out and prepare themselves for self-sufficiency by providing daycare assistance so they can attend job training programs or go back to work.”

Two new shelters are receiving funding this year – Bethany House domestic violence shelter in Fairfax, Virginia, and the Healing Place, a residential recovery program for the homeless in Richmond, Virginia.

Funding formulas are based on the number of beds housed by each facility, the utilization of those beds in the previous year (for those that received funding in previous years), and the level of supportive services provided to clients.

“The funding we receive from DHCD helps keep the lights on and the doors open so our clients can come receive the assistance they need,” said Pamela Garrett, executive director of Hope House. “If it weren’t for these grants, these ladies and their children would not have a safe place to go.”

“For many Virginians, the path toward self-sufficiency can be long and met with many ups and downs,” said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. “The support we provide for our homeless service providers is essential in providing a safe place for individuals, families, and children where they can work toward getting back on their feet with the help that they need.”



**Fiscal Year 2008 Shelter Grantees**

Action in Community Through Service  
 Alexandria Office On Women/Battered Women's Shelter  
 Alexandria, City of Department of Human Services  
 Alive, Inc.  
 Arlington County Government  
 Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.  
 Avalon: A Center for Women and Children  
 Bedford County DSS-Domestic Violence Services  
 Bethany House  
 CARITAS  
 Carpenter's Shelter  
 Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County  
 Christian Relief Services Charities, Inc.  
 Citizens Against Family Violence, Inc.  
 Clinch Valley Community Action (Family Crisis Services)  
 Community Housing Partners  
 Community Lodgings, Inc.  
 Community Touch, Inc.  
 Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter, Inc.  
 Crossroads Shelter, Inc.  
 Culpeper Community Development Corporation  
 Doorways  
 Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
 Ecumenical Family Shelter, Inc. A.K.A. The Dwelling Place  
 Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.  
 Family Resource Center  
 Fauquier Family Shelter Services, Inc.  
 First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.  
 ForKids, Inc.  
 Franklin County Family Resource Center  
 Freedom House  
 Friend of Guest House, Inc.  
 Genevieve Shelter  
 Good Shepherd Alliance, Inc.  
 Good Shepard Housing Foundation  
 Greater Orange Community Development Corporation, Inc.  
 Hampton Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions, Inc.  
 Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board  
 Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)  
 The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.  
 The Healing Place  
 Help and Emergency Response  
 Hilliard House  
 HomeAgain (formerly Emergency Shelter, Inc.)  
 Homestretch  
 Hope House of Scott County, Inc.  
 Hostel of the Good Shepherd  
 Judeo-Christian Outreach Center  
 Laurel Shelter, Inc.  
 LINK of Hampton Roads, Inc.  
 Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter  
 Loudoun County Department of Family Services  
 Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc.  
 Lynchburg Daily Bread  
 Menchville House Ministries, Inc.  
 Mercy House, Inc.  
 Miriam's House, Inc.  
 Monticello Area Community Action Agency  
 Mother Seton House, Inc. T/A Seton Youth  
 New Directions Center, Inc.  
 New Hope Housing, Inc.  
 City of Newport News, DSS  
 New River Family Shelter  
 Northern Virginia Family Service  
 Office of Human Affairs  
 Our House Families ( FormerlyCommunity Resource Network of Chesapeake, Inc.)  
 People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry  
 People Incorporated of Southwest Virginia  
 Portsmouth Area Resources Coalition, Inc.  
 Portsmouth Christian Outreach Ministries  
 Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Inc.  
 Prince William County Department of Social Services  
 Prince William County Office of Housing and Community Development  
 Project Horizon, Inc.  
 Rappahannock Council on Domestic Violence  
 Rappahannock Refuge, Inc./Hope House  
 Region Ten Community Services Board  
 Response, Inc.  
 Reston Interfaith, Inc.  
 Roanoke Valley Interfaith Hospitality Network  
 Safehome Systems, Inc.  
 Salvation Army of Alexandria  
 Salvation Army of Charlottesville  
 Salvation Army of Harrisonburg  
 Salvation Army of Lynchburg  
 Salvation Army of Norfolk (Tidewater Area Command)  
 Salvation Army of Petersburg  
 Salvation Army of Richmond  
 Salvation Army of Roanoke  
 Salvation Army of Williamsburg  
 Salvation Army of Winchester  
 Salvation Army Peninsula Command  
 Samaritan House, Inc.  
 Scenario, Inc  
 Serve, Inc.  
 Services to Abused Families, Inc.  
 Shelter for Abused Women  
 Shelter for Help in Emergency  
 Shelter House, Inc.  
 Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter  
 St. Joseph's Villa  
 Suffolk Shelter for the Homeless  
 Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, Inc.  
 Transitional Housing Barn, Inc  
 Transitions Family Violence Services  
 Trust - Roanoke Valley Trouble Center  
 Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation  
 Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Inc. Arlington Residential Program Center  
 Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Bailey's Crossroads Shelter  
 Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center  
 Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Virginia Beach Lighthouse  
 Warren County Council on Domestic Violence  
 Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley  
 YWCA of Central Virginia  
 YWCA of Richmond  
 YWCA of the Roanoke Valley  
 YWCA of South Hampton Roads

## CDBG funding announcements made

On Friday, June 15, Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced nearly \$10 million in Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG) funding, administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, for 18 Virginia localities.

As with all VCDBG funding, the grants will benefit low- and moderate-income residents and will support community and economic development projects such as housing creation and rehabilitation, public water and sewer systems, downtown revitalization, and health care programs.

“Every Virginian deserves safe and affordable housing, access to clean water and quality health care facilities, as well as the ability to live in communities where they can make a decent living,” said Governor Kaine. “Each year, these grant awards help more of our communities reach those goals.”

Since 1982, the federally-funded VCDBG program has been administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and Virginia receives up to \$19 million annually for this “small cities” grant program.

VCDBG grants are awarded through a competitive process. Most projects benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and many projects are targeted for the prevention or elimination of slums and blighting conditions.

Grant recipients are listed below.

From the 19 approved projects, seven will focus on housing rehabilitation, four on economic and downtown revitalization, six on water and sewer services, and two on healthcare provisions.

Several projects are noted as either Multi-Year or Letter-of-Intent projects. Multi-year projects are those that will receive a contract allocating funds for one year, and after achieving specific performance targets, will then be eligible for another year of funding. Letter-of-Intent projects are those which will be awarded after the locality meets specific targets.

“At DHCD we are focused on creating a higher quality of life in Virginia communities,” said Bill Shelton, DHCD Director. “These grants address the quality of life in Virginia from the standards of housing and water, to the provision of healthcare and the revitalization of downtowns and economic opportunities for Virginians.”



<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Bon Secours Blackstone Medical Center	Blackstone, Town of
Lynn Camp creek Waterline Extension, Phase 1	Buchanan County
Long Forks Sewer Project	Clintwood, Town of
Cassell's Chapel Clinic Wastewater Extension Project	Dungannon, Town of
Galax Downtown Revitalization Project	Galax, City of
Washington Park Community Development, Phase III	Greensville, County of
Georgia-Pacific Site Redevelopment Project	Halifax, County of
Cherry Street Neighborhood Improvement Project	Martinsville, City of
West Fairview Housing Rehabilitation Project	Northampton, County of
Witcher Road Water and Sewer Project	Pittsylvania, County of
Town of Pound Business District Revitalization Project	Pound, Town of
Elberon Heights Comprehensive Improvement Project	Surry County
Route 102/Falls Mills Road Water and Sewer Project	Tazewell County
Jackson and 3rd Street Homeownership Project	Waynesboro, City of
Bold Camp Sewer Project	Wise, County of
Castle Trailer Park Community Improvement Project	Blackstone, Town of
Craig County Health Project	Craig, County of
Saint Paul Business District Revitalization Project	Saint Paul, Town of
Rush Creek Road Housing Rehabilitation Project	Washington, County of



## Virginia’s first urban policy report released

This spring Governor Timothy M. Kaine released the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Urban Policy Report. The report, Virginia’s first comprehensive and formal report on urban policy, focuses on the economic, social, and fiscal conditions of Virginia’s urban communities.

The report was developed with the assistance of the Governor’s Urban Policy Task Force, a Cabinet-level group chaired by Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk and created through the Governor’s Executive Order number 32.

“The challenges of urbanization present a diverse range of policy issues – economic development, education, transportation, public safety, and human services,” said Governor Kaine upon announcing the creation of the task force.

Today, approximately two-thirds of Virginians live within the state’s urbanized areas, and four-fifths reside in localities within metropolitan areas. Today’s urbanized communities bare little resemblance to the pre-World War II Virginia when barely one-third of all Virginians lived in urban areas.

The expansion in Virginia, and throughout the country, of urban development into once rural areas has widespread effects on transportation, housing finance, education, and land-use policies.

As population growth in Virginia’s metropolitan areas is expected to continue increasing, the urban policy task force has been asked to review these changes and develop benchmarks to track the effectiveness of state programs serving residents of urban areas, and recommend approaches that encourage collaboration among localities within Virginia’s metropolitan regions.

Staff from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), under the Commerce

and Trade Secretariat, assisted the task force by hosting various formal input sessions with citizens in metropolitan areas in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Roanoke, and Tidewater to gather feedback for the report.

The report concentrates on key strategic policy issues, such as: concentration of poverty; education and workforce; public safety; disparities; transportation; affordable housing and infrastructure; and regionalism.

The final report outlines five key goals with benchmarks, targeted toward preserving and sustaining quality of life in urban communities. The goals are:

- Goal 1:** Promote greater economic integration in urban jurisdictions and the surrounding regions.
- Goal 2:** Improve the educational attainment and workforce readiness of urban populations.
- Goal 3:** Strengthen the economic competitiveness of urban jurisdictions and the surrounding regions.
- Goal 4:** Ensure a high quality of life in urban areas.
- Goal 5:** Ensure that urban infrastructure, transportation systems and the environment will support a prosperous future for current and future citizens.

“The reports bring many important issues to the forefront - education, housing, transportation, and the environment,” said Gottschalk. “Together with support from our partners across the state, we can work to implement the goals outlined and ensure a higher quality of life for all Virginians.”

The task force will continue to meet each year to review state agency actions in meeting benchmarks, and will provide a yearly report to the Governor on the progress being made.

In addition to Secretary Gottschalk, five Cabinet-level secretaries who contributed to the report include: Secretary

of Education, Dr. Thomas R. Morris; Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Marilyn B. Tavenner; Secretary of Natural Resources, L. Preston Bryant, Jr.; Secretary of Public Safety, John W. Marshall; and Secretary of Transportation, Pierce R. Homer, as well Dr. Earl H. McClenny, Jr., Special Advisor to the Governor on urban policy.

"I want to thank all of the members of the Urban Policy Task Force for their contributions to this important report; and all Virginians who took the time to attend an input session and let their voice be heard," said Gottschalk.

The full Urban Policy Report with goals and benchmarks can be found online at: <http://www.commerce.virginia.gov/>.



### Urban Policy Task Force members:

- Secretary of Commerce and Trade Patrick O. Gottschalk;
- The Honorable Barry C. Bishop of Norfolk, chairman of the Norfolk School Board;
- Darlene L. Burcham of Roanoke, city manager of Roanoke;
- B. David Canada of Petersburg, city manager of Petersburg;
- The Honorable William D. Euille of Alexandria, mayor of Alexandria;
- The Honorable Joe S. Frank of Newport News, mayor of Newport News;
- The Honorable John C. Hamlin of Danville, member of the Danville City Council;
- Warren D. Harris of Chesapeake, director of economic development for the City of Chesapeake;
- The Honorable John J. McGlennon of James City, member of the James City County Board of Supervisors;
- The Honorable Ilryong Moon of Fairfax, chairman of the Fairfax County School Board;
- The Honorable Dave Norris of Charlottesville, member of the Charlottesville City Council;
- The Honorable Meyera E. Oberndorf of Virginia Beach, mayor of Virginia Beach;
- James B. Oliver of Portsmouth, city manager of Portsmouth;
- The Honorable Harry J. Parrish, II of Manassas, vice mayor of Manassas;
- The Honorable Philip E. Pate of Winchester, member of the Winchester City Council;
- L. Kimball Payne, III of Lynchburg, city manager of Lynchburg;
- The Honorable Kimble Reynolds, Jr. of Martinsville, mayor of Martinsville;
- The Honorable J. Walter Tejada of Arlington, member of the Arlington County Board;
- The Honorable Frank J. Thornton of Henrico, supervisor of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors;
- The Honorable Rhet Tignor of Hampton, member of the Hampton City Council;
- The Honorable Thomas J. Tomzak of Fredericksburg, mayor of Fredericksburg;
- The Honorable Rita S. Wilson of Staunton, member of the Staunton City Council; and
- The Honorable Clarence T. Woody, Jr. of Richmond, sheriff of the City of Richmond.

To obtain an electronic copy of the Governor's Urban Policy Report, please visit: <http://www.commerce.virginia.gov/>.

## DHCD partners with Boaz and Ruth

Imagine being released from prison, determined to start a new life on the right foot. This is the outlook of many of Virginia's prisoners, however this outlook can be quickly dampened when met with the serious challenges facing ex-offenders trying to re-enter society.

These challenges range from finding a job and a place to live, to re-entering a world where much has changed, and the need to interact successfully with others in the community is a challenge within itself.

Many programs that focus specifically on job-training and readiness do not address some of these greater issues. At Boaz and Ruth, the focus is on relationships.

"Our counselors and mentors help ex-offenders rebuild their lives by focusing on relationships and helping them to develop a renewed respect for themselves and others," said Boaz and Ruth President and Chief Executive Officer Martha Rollins.

"That respectful relationship is multiplied and practiced an average of

50 hours a week in classes, counseling sessions, on-the-job training and community service projects."

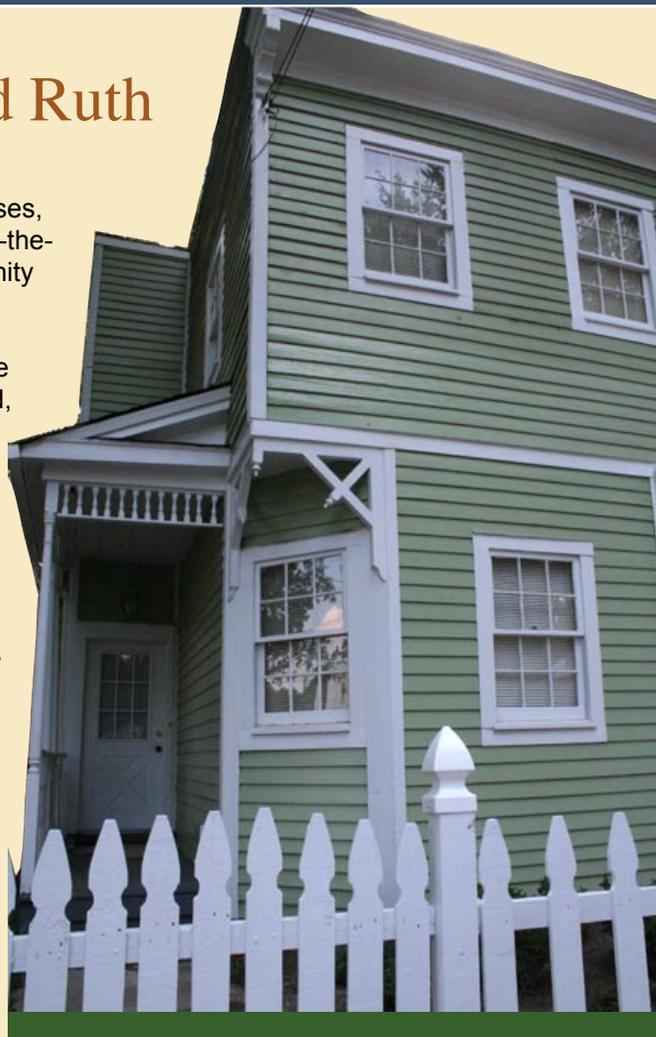
Throughout the intensive 12-month training period, staff and mentors encourage, challenge and applaud the perseverance of individuals determined to do the right thing.

"The overarching goal is that persons completing the program will no longer look to society to support them but will look to themselves to support society," said Rollins.

Boaz and Ruth, a nonprofit based in Richmond, Virginia, was established in 2002 as a faith-based organization dedicated toward providing released prisoners with the job and life skills training needed to re-enter society as healthy, productive citizens.

Boaz and Ruth supports its mission through the operation of several businesses, including furniture restoration and sales, a moving business, and a catering service with attached café. Each business provided Boaz and Ruth participants with a way to build their job skills while attending program

*Boaz and Ruth is in the process of purchasing this building, which will house the expanded Diamond Café and Catering business on the first floor, and several units of efficiency apartments for Boaz and Ruth clients.*



*This building is currently being renovated and will provide transitional housing for Boaz and Ruth clients.*

activities to help them improve their life skills.

One client, Ed Smith began working with the program in 2004. During his time with Boaz and Ruth, he focused his skill development on cooking and catering. Now, he manages the Diamond Café and catering business.

"Here, I have found more than just housing and a job, I have found friends," said Smith

Now, Boaz and Ruth is working with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)'s Division of Housing to expand the focus to the housing needs faced by prisoners re-entering society. Nearly 60 percent of homeless persons are ex-offenders.

"Boaz and Ruth is looking toward



developing housing opportunities for their clients, while at the same time providing renovation and construction experience for them in the process,” said DHCD Deputy Director of Housing, Shea Hollifield.

Currently, Boaz and Ruth has been awarded a pre-development funds from DHCD to assist in identifying housing opportunities in and around their Highland Park neighborhood. The nonprofit organization is looking into the purchase and renovation of several buildings within the neighborhood.

“Our goal is to create a campus-style feel around the area,” said Rollins.

The buildings would be purchased through grant funding from DHCD, among other sources. The renovation would be done by Boaz and Ruth clients, helping to build their job skills and work experience. Subsequently, the housing opportunities created through the program would be available to provide transitional housing for clients as they prepare for self-sufficiency.

“We look forward to this new relationship with Boaz and Ruth,” said Hollifield.

“Our goal is to create communities where citizens can find housing, and have access to work and a better quality of life,” said Hollifield. “The work that is being done by Boaz and Ruth intersects with our goal by striving to provide housing, in addition to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, for their clients.”

The pre-development grant period runs from May, 2007 through May of 2009, at which time Boaz and Ruth can apply for additional implementation funding through DHCD’s HOME program.



*The nonprofit is looking into the purchase of this building as part of the proposed new housing program.*

The housing aspect of Boaz and Ruth’s program is a new and important vision for their executive director, Martha Rollins.

“Whole people need whole neighborhoods,” said Rollins. “Our vision is to see the person restore the neighborhood, and the neighborhood restoring the person.”

Eventually, Boaz and Ruth would like to expand their efforts by partnering with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO), and others who work to provide affordable housing opportunities, to provide affordable homeownership opportunities for their program graduates.

For more information about DHCD’s housing programs, contact Kevin Hobbs at (804) 371-7120 or: [kevin.hobbs@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:kevin.hobbs@dhcd.virginia.gov).

“ “ Our vision is to see the person restore the neighborhood, and the neighborhood restoring the person.

- Martha Rollins.

” ”



## State Fire Marshal's Office distributes 131 carbon monoxide detectors to firefighters and building inspectors/code officials

On Friday, July 22 Emory Rodgers and other staff from the Division of Building and Fire Regulation and the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) presented 131 carbon monoxide detectors to three organizations representing firefighters and building inspectors/code officials.

The detectors were donated to the Virginia State Firefighters Association (VSFA), the Virginia Building and Code Official Association (VBCOA), and the Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association (VPMIA).

"Last year in Virginia, several persons died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning, and many more were injured," said Rodgers. "We are hoping that this giveaway, in addition to a larger upcoming grant program, will help spread the word about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, and encourage more Virginians to take precaution."

Recipients of the carbon monoxide detectors are required to provide them at no cost to vulnerable populations they serve, including the elderly and low-income families with children. This summer, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs is leading the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Grant Program, in coordination with DHCD, where more than 5,000 detectors are expected to be available through grantees to eligible individuals in their localities. Awards have recently been made to 39 organizations around the Commonwealth. Distribution of the CO Alarms to the grantees will take place later this summer at 7 regional events.

For more information on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, visit: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



(L to R) – Guy Tomberlin, Michael Clift, Emory Rodgers



(L to R) – Emory Rodgers, DHCD Deputy Director; Guy Tomberlin, President, Virginia Building and Code Officials Association; Michael Clift, Secretary treasurer, Virginia Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors Association



(L to R) – Emory Rodgers, DHCD Deputy Director; Richard "Dickie" Harris, President, Virginia State Firefighters Association; Charles Singleton, Virginia State Firefighters Association

# DHCD Developments



## Virginia Enterprise Zone program designation rounds this fall

Interested in Virginia Enterprise Zone (VEZ) status?

The VEZ program was established by the General Assembly in 1982 to encourage economic growth and revitalization throughout the Commonwealth by supporting businesses and investors.

VEZ is a partnership between state and local government designed to stimulate job creation and private investment within designated areas throughout the state through job creation and real property investment grants.

To date, qualified enterprise zone applicants have created more than 39,000 jobs and spent more than \$800 million in qualified investments within the enterprise zones.

Currently, Virginia has more than 50 designated enterprise zones.

This fall, the VEZ program will

designate four new zones, resulting from the expiration of Galax, Halifax County/South Boston, and Waynesboro, which were designated in 1988, and the termination of the Wise County zone.

Competitive applications will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) through Oct. 1, 2007 for these designations. The application process is open to all cities and counties.

Application information and materials are available online at: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ezones](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ezones). Localities are strongly encouraged to review these materials before completing the application.

Any applicant should feel free to contact the DHCD at (804) 371-7030 with questions about the designations or application materials. Applications are due Oct. 1, 2007.

## Governor's Housing Conference Web site redesigned!

The redesign is complete! The 2007 Governor's Housing Conference Web site has been completely re-designed, and has a new URL. The new site can be found online at: [www.vagovernorshousingconference.org](http://www.vagovernorshousingconference.org), and features information about sponsorship, exhibit hall rentals, schedules, and more. Registration for the 2007 conference, to be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center Nov. 14 – 16, is available online now.



AUGUST

### **Appalachian Regional Commission How to Apply Workshop**

Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, 1 – 4 p.m.  
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Room 240  
One Partnership Circle  
Abingdon, Virginia  
(276) 619-4601

The Virginia Appalachian Regional Commission How-to-Apply Workshop is being held for the Area Development and Regional Initiative programs. Staff will present information on project development, proposal preparation and evaluation of ARC Area Development and Regional Initiative grant proposals.

For more information, contact Chris Thompson at (804) 371-7056 or: [chris.thompson@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:chris.thompson@dhcd.virginia.gov).

OCTOBER

### **Virginia Housing Rehabilitation Workshop - 2007**

Oct. 10 - 12, 2007  
Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel  
36th Street, Virginia Beach, VA

The Project Management Office of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and The STOP Organization (STOP) invite you to join us at the 2007 Housing Rehabilitation Workshop. Workshop topics will explore various housing rehabilitation policies and procedures of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR) programs, as well as best practices from successful practitioners. The workshop will also provide you with plenty of opportunities to network with DHCD staff, old friends and new acquaintances.

For more information contact Brad Belo at (804) 786-1161 or: [brad.belo@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:brad.belo@dhcd.virginia.gov).

# Calendar & Observances

### **2007 Governor's Housing Conference**

Thursday, Nov. 14 – Friday, Nov. 16, 2007  
The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center  
Roanoke, VA

The 2007 Governor's Housing Conference, Virginia's largest and most comprehensive affordable housing event of the year, will be held Nov. 14 – 16 in Roanoke, Virginia. The conference is expected to bring together more than 800 affordable housing advocates, providers, and policy makers to discuss a host of important issues.

Registration is now available online at:  
[www.vagovernorshousingconference.com](http://www.vagovernorshousingconference.com).



**DHCD calendar of events**  
[Web site](#)

NOVEMBER

## Award winning Sunnybrooke Housing Project breaks ground on Phase II

On Tuesday, May 22, DHCD staff joined staff of Southside Outreach Group for the groundbreaking of Sunnybrooke II, the second phase of the highly successful Sunnybrooke Housing Production Project in South Boston.

The Sunnybrooke project is targeted at providing affordable homes for income eligible families in the area. Sunnybrooke I, which opened in 2004, provided ten affordable homes for residents of the area, and received the Best Housing Development Award at the 2006 Governor's Housing Conference.

The Sunnybrooke project is a collaboration between The County of Halifax and the Southside Outreach Group, Inc. Funding is being provided by a number of sources, including \$496,500 in HOME funding, and \$429,775 in Virginia Community Development Block Grant funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

"The approach taken with the Sunnybrooke project is a model for communities across the Commonwealth," said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. "The partnership between local government and a community-based nonprofit offers a strong development team, and the results of these efforts are being witnessed here today."

Sunnybrooke II is planned to produce 12 homes for families at or below 60 percent of the area median income.

"These are workforce houses," said Earl Howerton Sr., executive director of Southside Outreach Group.

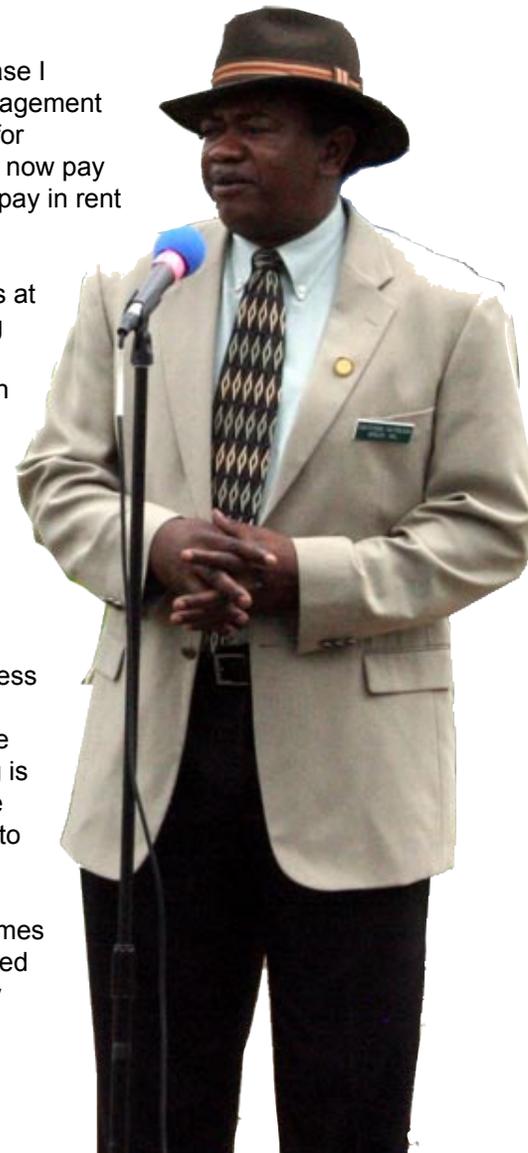
And as the ground was being broken, four individuals have already been pre-qualified for financing for homes in Phase II.

Homeowners from Phase I attended financial management classes and prepared for homeownership. Most now pay less than they used to pay in rent for their new homes.

Not only are the homes at Sunnybrooke providing an affordable housing option for South Boston residents, the homes are impacting them physically, financially, and psychologically, Shelton pointed out.

"This is more than a physical development project," he said. "Access to quality housing is a foundation on which we build our lives, housing is so much more than the bricks and sticks used to construct it."

The first completed homes for Phase II are expected to be move-in ready by spring 2008



*"These are workforce houses,"  
said Earl Howerton Sr.*





(L to R) Teresa Gardner, SMHW Executive Director, emcee and WWBT-TV 12 anchor Sabrina Squire, and JoElla Dales, SMHW LPN



## DHCD grantee wins Outstanding Nonprofit Group award

This spring, St. Mary's Health Wagon (SMHW) received the Outstanding Nonprofit Group award at the 2007 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards, held April 12 at the Holiday Inn Select Koger Center South.

SMHW is a nonprofit mobile health clinic that has been providing healthcare to the medically underserved populations of Southwest Virginia for 25 years. Staffed by one certified family nurse practitioner, two licensed practical nurses, and two office staff, the organization operates



(L to R) Reverend Anderson Clary, Chairman of the Virginia Commission for Community and National Service, Teresa Gardner, SMHW Executive Director, JoElla Dales, SMHW LPN, and Gail Nardi, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

five days a week and visits eight established sites in some of Virginia's poorest counties – at no charge.

Among other sources, SMHW receives funding through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)'s Office of Community Capacity Building (OCCB), and since 2005 has participated in the ARC Flex-E Grant and SEED Capacity Building grant program.

Through these programs OCCB works with SMHW in the areas of organizational management, development and growth, community relations, and resource development.

Their award for outstanding nonprofit group was presented in recognition of the organization's 2006 massive regional healthcare outreach program. Last summer, SMHW coordinated a massive regional healthcare outreach through partnership with the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps (RAM) for the seventh year running.

What made 2006 phenomenal was the record-breaking numbers of clients served.

Over the three day outreach, more than 7,900 patients from surrounding counties and states were treated with more than \$1.3 million in free healthcare services. The 2006 RAM in Wise County surpassed a United States record for the number of patients treated in this type of event during a three-day period.

More than 1,200 volunteers – most of which are medical professionals – contributed more than 20,000 hours of time to this endeavor. Care provided included general medical care, eye exams, dental care, mammograms and pap smears, hearing tests, coloscopies, biopsies and more. "We felt honored and privileged to win such a prestigious award," said SMHW Executive Director Teresa Garner. "Our staff goes above and beyond the call of service to help those in need, and is composed of highly compassionate individuals who work diligently to provide health care

for patients that would otherwise not have access."

"Since we began working with the health wagon, they have begun holding monthly board meetings, initiated new partnerships, hired new staff, added new services, created a logo, and began to recruit volunteers," said Ramona Chapman, community planner with OCCB.

"We are extremely proud of the growth we have seen in working with them as a grantee, and look forward to continuing to watch and help them build their capacity as an organization."

Recently, SMHW completed drafting an organizational strategic plan, and is planning two major fundraising events for 2008.

The OCCB SEED program is a two-year capacity building program for providing support for organizations who have identified a gap in their capacity, and have a need for technical assistance. Participating organizations receive training in strategic planning, board and staff development, financial management, fund development, marketing and communications, and information systems.

For more information about OCCB, visit: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov). To learn more about SMHW, visit: [www.stmaryshealthwagon.com](http://www.stmaryshealthwagon.com).

# Governor tours Chincoteague revitalization and Wallops Island project site as part of Cabinet Day on the Eastern Shore



On Monday, July 9 Governor Timothy M. Kaine and members of his cabinet began their first Cabinet Day on the Eastern Shore with a trolley tour of the newly revitalized Town of Chincoteague.

Chincoteague recently underwent a \$3.7 million downtown revitalization program, of which \$750,000 was funded through a Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG), administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The revitalization included the development of the Robert N. Reed Waterfront Park, including the construction of the park's pavilion. Additionally, the revitalization efforts included beautification improvements to 350 feet of walkways between Main Street and the waterfront, as well as façade enhancements for commercial and residential properties throughout the downtown area.

The revitalization program also provided for the creation of a loan pool for business start-up or expansion, the

development of business training, and cooperative marketing efforts.

During his stop at the pavilion in the park, Kaine introduced each member of his Cabinet and noted that one of the many purposes of the trip was to learn about the challenges communities are facing, and put a Cabinet member face to those issues.

"It's so nice to be on Chincoteague and the Shore today," said Kaine.

"We just all want a chance to meet folks and learn about some great Virginia initiatives. And I want to make sure we know the challenges that communities are facing."

Next, Kaine and the Cabinet visited the nearby NASA-Wallops Flight Facility's Visitor Center, to learn about the facility and plans for a research park on the island.

NASA representative Caroline Massey presented information to the Governor and his cabinet about the planned research park.

The Wallops Island Research Park, in development for more than ten years, will have significant importance as an economic development engine for the Northern Neck of Virginia.

The park, at 240 acres, will be designed to provide educational and workforce training opportunities to students trained in high-tech and research areas – which will be needed to meet the workforce needs of existing and new businesses locating in and around the park.

The first business to locate in the park, Baysys Technologies, an aircraft design and engineering company, is planned to be the first of many high-tech businesses moving into the park. Northrop Grumman, a contractor service for the Navy, is also expected to locate in the park.

DHCD has been involved in the planning of the park from both a collaborative and funding perspective for more than ten years. The



*After touring the newly revitalized Town of Chincoteague by trolley and visiting with local farmers market merchants, Governor Kaine and his cabinet stopped for words at Chincoteague's Robert N. Reed Waterfront Park*

preliminary concept and design of the park was initiated through an Industrial Site Development Fund grant provided by DHCD, and a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has been committed to assist with the planning and infrastructure build-out of the park.

The Research Park Management Team planning the project includes participants from NASA, the Marine Science Consortium, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Navy, Chincoteague and Accomack County.

“The Eastern Shore and Virginia in general has a great deal at stake in Wallops Island being successful,” said Governor Kaine.

Recently, a \$40,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was awarded to Accomack County to hire a project manager, Amy Bull, to oversee the activities associated with the park as the project moves forward.



*“It’s hard to stay on a diet when you’re Governor,” said Kaine after receiving a basket of goodies from local Chincoteague merchants during his visit.*



**Virginia Department of Housing  
and Community Development**

[www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov)