



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER EASTERN SHORE SHORELINE™

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Culture on the Eastern Shore of Virginia*

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Social Equity and the Struggle for Just Plain Fairness... ...a look back at how diversity helped it along

By Mary Miller

Over the past 30 years, the Shore has had some contentious issues for citizens to deal with. There have been attempts to use the county as a dumping ground for out-of-state industrial and military waste, to jeopardize water resources, to control community assets, to withhold government information, to push for infrastructure people couldn't afford, and to deteriorate whole neighborhoods and otherwise disrupt and contaminate places where no opposition was expected.

Thirty years ago, environmental injustice and social equity were not familiar concepts to residents who saw these things happening, and who had no experience in opposing authority or expressing opposition. And there were few avenues for information-sharing among the disparate communities. But things were changing on the Shore – new people were arriving to retire or to set up businesses, community organizations were being formed, and a network of communication was emerging. Questions were being asked of local governments and agencies that no one had asked before. A backdrop was being created for public participation.

First Came the Questions

From the very beginning of this new public awareness, people who didn't even know each other started asking the same questions. Why were trucks rolling in at night and dumping

in certain areas, why weren't local officials responding to questions about permits and zoning, who was protecting the drinking water, and why did the community have to find out from a Washington newspaper that a huge state prison was coming to a tiny African-American neighborhood?

3 Va. Hamlets Vowing To Take No Prisoners

*Residents of Black Enclaves on Eastern Shore
Fight State Over Maximum-Security Facility*

By Donald P. Baker
Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington Post – February 9, 1995¹

Then Came the Organizing

Alliances started forming, at first groups around kitchen tables – often people who'd never met before, from different parts of the county, different churches. Information was exchanged, people from diverse neighborhoods provided new perspectives, and older residents helped to fill in the political background. It was a short step from the kitchen table to community organizing, setting goals, creating strategies – and it didn't matter whose neighborhood was vulnerable anymore, the issues became community-wide. Even though there was little local experience in organizing, it didn't take long for leaders to emerge, for neighbors to recruit neighbors, for those who were able to contribute dollars, services,

and food, for researchers and those with political savvy or public relations skills to join in, and the beginnings of a community effort began to take shape. Bayview Citizens for Social Justice, Cape Charles Citizens Against the Prison, and Mothers Against Contaminated Waste were some of the groups formed. Established organizations like the state and local NAACP and CBES *ShoreLine* provided vital lines of communication to keep the public informed.

Whether these diverse groups were created for either opposition or support, the need for information, structure, policy, goals, strategies, and communications were similar. A lot of noise had to be made – news stories, TV exposure, and attracting the interest of the national press worked.¹ Fund-raising events had to be organized to pay for signs and ads. If dumping of hazardous or contaminated

See Social Equity, cont'd on p. 3

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CBES Bike Tour: Community Letter

Dear *Between the Waters Bike Tour* Participants, Volunteers, Businesses, and Supporting Communities,

It is with great sadness that we are announcing that CBES will not be able to hold our Bike Tour this year. We have been carefully monitoring COVID-19 progression in our community and the communities of our riders. We had truly expected that enough progress would be made on the pandemic recovery that CBES could continue. But the reality is that despite Bike Tour Coordinator Kim Southern and her team's best efforts to think through how we could make the tour safer for our riders and volunteers, COVID-19 has not reached a stage where we can be confident in the safety of all involved.

As many of you know, our Tour is a critical fundraising event for our small nonprofit. It is heavily dependent on an army of volunteers and hosts for the rest stops, registration, and lunch locations. At this point, a number of our volunteers are not comfortable being involved, especially as many are in high-risk categories for the disease. The Governor still has Virginia in a Phase III status, which mandates limits on group activities such as our ride. That rules out most of our public locations from currently accommodating

the Tour. Our private hosts have also relayed their worries, with several having recently withdrawn from this year's Tour. Given all of this, we decided to regroup and put our efforts into planning next year's ride – making it the best it can be. We sincerely hope we will see all of you then.

For those of you who registered already for the ride, despite the cancellation risks we outlined in Tour information, we want to express a most sincere thank you for sticking with us and donating your registration fees to CBES. The number of you that told us you just wanted to support our organization during these hard times was truly gratifying. Truthfully, all those folks are the main reason we can look forward to next year's Tour, with the hope that our organization can continue despite the loss of most of the Bike Tour income and absorbing the expenditures already made on this year's Tour. Thank you so much for that critical support. We will be emailing you a letter later in the year for your taxes.

Though we will miss preparing for the Tour and sharing our shores with you, CBES will spend the fall

continuing to support the Eastern Shore through challenges COVID-19 has brought to our rural community. We've partnered to provide delivery services to our at-risk neighbors. We are also working with localities to help find solutions to the limited internet connectivity that is straining our education system during remote learning. CBES will continue to step up at every opportunity to support a Better Eastern Shore. Your donations support all these efforts.

Lastly, we hope there will be those of you who will still come and enjoy cycling on the Eastern Shore. While we cannot offer the amenities of our tour, there are many quiet, flat country roads, golden fields, and scenic villages and small towns to explore on 2 wheels. To help plan your rides, we will post some previous routes for your use on www.cbes.org.

Again, your understanding and patience have been very much appreciated as we made this difficult decision. We thank you for continuing to support CBES.

Sincerely,

Arthur Upshur
President, CBES

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ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

On July 14, the CBES Board held its Annual Meeting, as required by its ByLaws. The Zoom meeting began with CBES President Arthur Upshur providing a recap of CBES activities since the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Members unanimously approved the slate of Board members for a 2-year term: Norman Colpitts, Lee-Ann Fick, Eleanor C. Gordon, Dr. Cora Ann Johnston, Laurie Jones, and Arthur Upshur.

The complete list of CBES current Board members is as follows:

Officers: President, Arthur Upshur; Vice President, Meriwether Payne; Secretary, Sally Williams; Treasurer, Dr. Michael Peirson.

Board Members: Norman Colpitts, Lee-Ann Fick, Eleanor C. Gordon, Dr. Cora Ann Johnston, Laurie Jones, Josh Lattimore, Bo Lusk, Sue Mastyl, and Margaret Van Clief.

Social Equity, cont'd from p. 1

material was the issue, those in charge of regulations and enforcement had to be discovered and called to account. If local officials had to be confronted in a public forum to justify a policy or a zoning decision, then a strategy to demand answers had to be created. If it involved identifying responsible State officials and renting a bus to go to Richmond and lobby, then that's what had to be done.

If a Federal agency like the EPA had to be challenged, then research on science and the law was essential. If a national health report painted a dismal picture of Shore well-being, then free public screenings and education forums needed to be organized. If the local industrial poultry plants' lack of health and safety precautions was affecting the wider community, then pressure on the Governor was a path to take. And the Shore could rely on organizations like CBES and the NAACP to keep community information flowing.

And Then Some Unexpected Results

Though many of these efforts began as opposition to an action, they often had other, extremely positive outcomes. Opposition to out-of-state dumping in poor rural communities with few regulations led to shut-downs at the state level, and more rigorous environmental rules and oversight. The lack of protection for the Shore's drinking water, brought to light by the contaminated waste dumping, led to a long legal struggle by a group of dedicated scientists from both counties to obtain the State's second EPA Sole Source Aquifer designation.²

The national and international publicity surrounding the opposition to the "super" maximum security prison at Bayview led to the creation of a new residential community to replace the extremely sub-standard, often dirt-floor housing, with no indoor plumbing, that surrounded the proposed prison site. And the recent diverse public opposition in Accomack to the poultry processing plants' operations led to the first-in-the-nation health and safety standards.³

Diversity was a major strength in many of the Eastern Shore's struggles for social equity over the past 30 years, where because of its small size and critical water resources, what happened to one of us happened to all of us. And as local groups organize now to fight for low-cost housing, better health protections for workers, social justice, and education reform, diversity can continue to create strength. New organizations on the Shore only need to look to the recent past to see that for themselves. 

1 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1995/02/09/3-va-hamlets-vowing-to-take-no-prisoners/149eeae8-be5a-473d-9076-4e6a95b1b337/>

2 <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-04-09/html/97-8978.htm>

3 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/06/24/virginia-safety-rules-covid/>

Septic Service Offered

Submitted by Shannon Alexander, Director of Planning, A-NPDC

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) is a blueprint for meeting total maximum daily load (TMDL) goals for reducing pollution entering the



Chesapeake Bay. During a series of stakeholder meetings in 2018, the Eastern Shore of Virginia developed a suite of best management practices (BMPs) that, if implemented, will meet our goals. The top 5 identified by our stakeholders include:

1. **Establish filter-feeding shellfish as a BMP**, including oyster diploid and triploid aquaculture and oyster reef restoration
2. **Explore new technologies and options for on-site septic systems**, since failing septic systems pose a threat to human and environmental health, and the cost of installing and repairing these systems falls almost exclusively on homeowners
3. **Promote working waterfronts**, including oyster aquaculture and blue-green businesses
4. **Address coastal flooding**, including forest buffers, stormwater runoff reduction, and other BMPs to help mitigate the impacts of coastal flooding
5. **Incentivize living shorelines**, including BMPs for vegetated shoreline erosion control and shoreline management

With special attention to the second priority, Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC) is currently offering free or discounted septic pump-out, repair, and replacement services for those who meet certain income or geographic criteria in coordination with the Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority and Eastern Shore of Virginia Housing Alliance. Septic systems should legally be pumped out at least every 5 years to protect human and environmental health, and keep your system operating longer.

Your property must be in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Call the A-NPDC at 757-787-2936 or email info@a-npdc.org, for more information and to identify your watershed if you're unsure. You can also explore for yourself at <http://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/maps/HUExplorer.htm>.

A new brochure has been developed to explain what the WIP and its associated BMPs are all about, including links to resources that could help with planning or funding for these on your own property. Find the brochure and learn more at www.a-npdc.org/wip. 

Remembrances of Jack Ordeman

Compiled by ShoreLine Staff

John T. “Jack” Ordeman, Past-President of CBES for 7 years, died on July 20, 2020. His passing was felt deeply on the Shore, where he was a respected and much-loved member of the community for nearly 30 years.

A few years ago, Jack and Mary moved to the Baltimore area to be closer to family, but his impact on the Shore and the friendships he made are noteworthy. The following anecdotes help to illustrate the lasting impressions he created here.

From Peter & Anne Holland:

“The first time we met Jack Ordeman was when we were helping out at the Barrier Islands Center. He was showing his fine collection of waterfowl art prints.

“We would see Jack and Mary often at Hungars Church and Christ Church, where we would chat at the coffee hour about our churches and about the Eastern Shore. He was so smart and passionate. When he spoke, you paid attention. He cared deeply about the betterment of things he loved, as well as the causes he believed would make life better for all on the Shore.”

From Mary Miller:

“Jack showed us what it meant to ‘step up to the plate.’ If he was on the team, we could count on him to be there until the last chair was folded up and put away.”

From Peg Volk:

“My late husband, Chris, and I moved to Cherrystone in 1995, and Jack and Mary were our neighbors. We met them at a neighborhood party, and they called soon after to invite us to join them for a dinner theater evening at the old Trawler. We had a delightful time, as anyone who knows them both can imagine.

“As time went by, Chris and I became involved with the Eastern Shore’s Own Arts Center, where Jack was on the Board. And, as more time went by, I joined the Board. Jack was a guiding hand for that organization that so many of us cherish. His dedication and intelligent input were something we all grew to count on and deeply appreciate.

“Jack had so many interests and gifts and talents and shared them with the Shore community all through his time here. We are all better for his lovely and generous spirit.

“My deep condolences to Mary on the loss of her dear Jack. He shall be missed by all who knew him.”

From Brigitte Bott:

“Although I have many fond memories of working with Jack, I always think first of [my son] Wescott, who

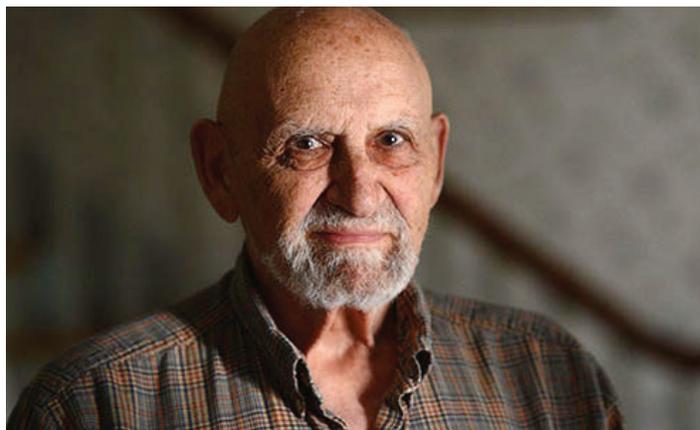


Photo by Jay Diem

has often said that he was a wonderful English teacher. He did a term paper on *Call of the Wild* and is still so fond of Jack London that he has an anthology of his novels that he started with his boys when they were really little.

“I also know that he could teach ‘The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock’ like none other. In fact I believe that Michelle Whitaker would ask him to teach it for her English class, AP probably.

“Jack and Mary also bought Mom’s house in Nassawadox and Claudette and I were, of course, delighted to sell it but more importantly to sell it to someone who was genuinely interested in being actively involved in the community. It was just a pleasure to deal with him and Mary.”

From Jane Cabarrus:

“In the early 1990s, I met Jack Ordeman, Headmaster of Broadwater Academy, at the Trawler Restaurant in Exmore for lunch. He was a humble, devoted advocate for racial desegregation, diversity, equality, and education for all.

“I subsequently invited Broadwater students to participate in an essay contest on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday celebration. A 3rd-grade student from Broadwater was one of the winners. Jack was right there to cheer her on.

“We later started the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Unity Day Breakfast. Jack was there every year, serving wherever he was needed. He was an MLK Jr. honoree in 2014. I shall always treasure and remember his support for Education, Peace, Love, and Justice for all mankind. Jack’s wisdom, strength and courage help build a bridge that united all our schools and students on that day (MLK Jr.’s Community Unity Breakfast), which still remain.

See Remembrances, cont’d on page 5

Remembrances, cont'd from p. 4

"I thank Mary for the many shared hours that Jack spent with us to make this Eastern Shore a better place for all.

"My condolences to Mary and the family."

From Sara Goffigon:

Jack's and Janine's Lesson to Me

"In the spring of 1990, the Broadwater faculty met in the library to interview Jack Ordeman for the job of Headmaster. It was a good interview. Jack was interesting, liked learning, teaching, and students.

"Just as the meeting ended, I noticed a tattoo on Jack's forearm. Janine Murphy was sitting next to me, and I asked her, 'Did you see that tattoo on Jack's arm?' Bubbling with laughter, Janine replied, 'I love it.' There was, however, prim-proper doubt in my mind.

"Jack turned out to be a topnotch headmaster who always knew and talked easily with both the students and the faculty. He was the boss, one who gave helpful advice, constructive criticism, and compliments. I was always glad to see him at my classroom door. In a very short time, I became devoted to Jack and his many fine qualities – and his tattoo."

From Peggy Nottingham:

"Back in July of this year, Ms. Bozza contacted me to let me know that Jack Ordeman was in hospice care. Jack was Head of School at Broadwater from 1990 -1994. At that time I was an administrator and teacher. I sent Mr. Ordeman a note. I reflected on what a gentleman and scholar he was and how fortunate Broadwater had been to have his guidance and leadership.

"Several days later, I received a note from Jack. What a pleasant surprise. But it should not have been a surprise. Jack valued the relationships in his life. He was a good communicator, and to answer my note, though he was not well, was typical of his attentiveness to others.

"He was respectful to all constituents, faculty, students, parents, and Board members. He was soft-spoken and had a good sense of humor. During Jack's tenure at Broadwater, he started a Spanish program in the Lower School. Enthusiasm was high, and the program was very successful.

"After his retirement, he returned to Broadwater as a substitute High School English teacher. He had Master's Degrees in both English and Education. Jack Ordeman will be remembered for his quiet and kind manner, the respect he extended to all people, and his devotion to his school and community."

From Jean Mariner:

"I have missed Jack and the many ways he showed how deeply he cared for and loved the Shore and its people. His tireless contributions to so many organizations and his sincere friendliness made the Shore so much better in so many ways. In gratitude."

From Chris Gordon:

"I had the honor and pleasure of working under Jack Ordeman during his tenure as Head of School at Broadwater. During that time, he carried himself with compassion, caring, scholarship, generosity, respect for his faculty, staff, and students, and a great deal of his dry wit. He embodied the expression 'a gentleman and a scholar,' and I was disappointed when he left there.

"Fortunately for the Eastern Shore, he chose this area as his home for long afterwards, and he continued to serve the population at large in the same spirit with which he served us at Broadwater. I count myself fortunate to have been his friend and colleague, and I and countless others will hold him in our hearts for many years to come."

From Jay Ford:

"Jack never met a cause he didn't care about, or a person, for that matter. Through our work at Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper we had the chance to discuss fisheries, pollution, community planning and zoning, legislation, and more. No matter what the subject, Jack was committed to pursuing the right and doing so in the most conciliatory manner possible.

"His Shore life was about service to others and to causes larger than himself. He was an educator, and that was how he approached his advocacy work as well.

"He wanted to bring people along through information, through words, and through kindness. Anytime someone brought up the idea of legal action, Jack would furrow his brow to remind me that only when civility had been exhausted was litigation a solution. He was old-school like that. Jack would always try to soften my edges and help me to see the best of every person and issue we worked with. It wasn't until we had worked together for years that I realized he had been mentoring me the whole time. He couldn't help himself – in his bones, Jack was a teacher.

"Jack Ordeman never once let a conversation end without telling me he was proud of me. I had no false illusions. ...I knew Jack said that to many people but it didn't make it any less heartfelt. Rather, it reminded me of how very many lives Jack had shaped over the years. I am sure he was proud, constantly and rightfully so given the countless persons he influenced throughout a life well-lived."



Cape Charles Quarantine Station: 1884 Through the Mid-1930s

Submitted by Melinda McPeck, Cape Charles Historical Society

There is a long history of quarantine in the U.S. to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, but did you know that Fisherman Island, off the cape south of Cape Charles, played a significant role in this history? In the summer of 1878, the southeastern U.S. was in the grip of a yellow fever epidemic. Protecting our nation against imported diseases fell under state and local jurisdictions, and was sporadic and largely ineffective.

In the wake of this latest epidemic, the National Quarantine Act was passed to increase federal involvement in quarantine activities. One of the first of 3 National Quarantine Stations in the country was located in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1884, the station was moved to leased land on Fisherman Island, becoming the Cape Charles Quarantine Station and Marine Hospital.

The station at Fisherman Island inspected foreign vessels for signs of infectious disease as they entered the Chesapeake Bay. The isolated location was ideal for quarantine, but it was sometimes difficult for ships to find, and the shifting sands of Fisherman Island were problematic. The *Peninsula Enterprise* in September 1889 indicated that a storm washed away the north end of the island, leaving the quarantine station hospital in the surf.

In 1892, a series of cholera outbreaks on passenger ships arriving from Europe prompted further legislation to increase federal quarantine authority. That same year, the federal government purchased 5 acres on Fisherman Island to update and expand the Cape Charles Quarantine Station and Marine Hospital. In July 1893, the *Peninsula Enterprise* reported that “The station at present consists of the steamer *Dagmar*, the receiving ship *Jamestown*, and the hospital ship *Ewing*. Bids have been invited for the construction of a pier at Fisherman’s Isle [*sic*], upon which will be placed a steam disinfecting apparatus. ... Bids have also been invited for the necessary buildings and tents for a disinfection camp. ... With these precautions, it is thought Norfolk and Washington will be protected from contagious diseases brought in by steamers anchoring at Cape Charles.” The *Wilkes Barre News* reported that “When completed, the Cape Charles Station will be one of the most effective in the country.”

In the *Annual Report of the Supervising Surgeon Generals of the Marine Hospital from 1894-1895*, the Cape Charles Station reported having inspected 104 vessels and disinfecting 5 that had outbreaks of yellow fever, and had the capacity to quarantine over 1,000 people. It was reported that the ship *Jamestown* had been outfitted with a

complex sulfur disinfecting apparatus. In requests for the upcoming year, the station asked for a library: “On account of the enforced isolation of those unfortunate enough to be placed in quarantine, and the employees of quarantine stations, it seems proper to recommend that each national quarantine station be provided with a small library of standard works.”

During World War I, the war department took over Fisherman Island, stationing troops and erecting guns and batteries to provide fortification. In 1917, Dr. Ward B. McCaffrey, who had been the medical officer at the Cape Charles Quarantine Station for several years, reportedly died of a nervous breakdown due to the heavy workload at the station since the start of the war.

With the increase of vessel traffic from the war effort and the outbreak of the influenza pandemic in 1918, \$377,326 was requested from Congress to remodel and rebuild the Cape Charles facilities for onshore quarantine. Six to 7 vessels a week were being quarantined near Fisherman Island due to influenza, and the station was in desperate need of repairs.

As the national network of quarantine stations expanded and more knowledge was gained on how to combat transmission of mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, the Cape Charles Quarantine Station was no longer as essential as it had once been. The station ceased operations in the mid-1930s, yet for over 50 years it played a vital role in protecting the nation from the spread of infectious disease.



A recent photo of Fisherman Island, just off the southern tip of Virginia’s Eastern Shore, where a U.S. Quarantine Station was located and used for over 50 years.

Conserving Water on a Well and Septic System

By Sue Mastyl

The dry spell earlier this summer reminded us all that we do experience periods of drought here on the Shore. And it's important to remember that water restrictions, when they're announced, apply to all homeowners and businesses, not just those on municipal water and sewer systems. The Eastern Shore relies on a sole-source aquifer, so it's a good idea to conserve water in all conditions, but especially in a drought.

Managing Your Well in Dry Conditions

The first thing to understand is that your well is not a storage tank, so trying to "fill" it during wet periods will not alleviate any issues you may have – that water will just leach out into the aquifer. If your well begins to experience problems, you may be able to lower the pump (if it is the submersible type), or you may need to drill a new (or deeper) well.

Some signs of problems include the pump running more frequently, air bubbles in the water stream, "pulsing" of water, dwindling water supplies over the course of the day, or brown water (caused by clogged pipes further strained by excessive water use).

It's also important to remember that the pump uses electricity; more water usage means higher electric bills.

How Does Water Use Affect Septic Systems?

Most homeowners don't think about the impacts of water use on their septic systems. If you overload your septic system with heavy water use, it won't be able to properly treat the wastewater. That untreated wastewater can leach into the soil, polluting nearby creeks, and the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Heavy water use can also cause drain field problems and clogged pipes, shortening the life of the system.

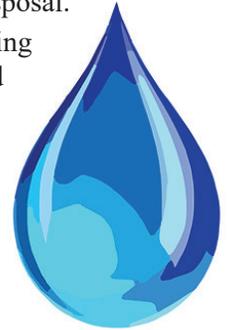
Some Tips for Conserving Water

The average household uses 130,000 gallons of water annually, or 350 gallons a day. Using water conservation practices can reduce that usage by as much as 35%, or 125 gallons a day.

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Avoid unnecessary flushing (and putting anything but toilet paper in puts a strain on the whole system).
- Reuse water (e.g., dog bowls, bird baths, kiddie pools, or when you filled the tub for the last storm) for other non-potable uses (e.g., watering plants).
- Store drinking water in the refrigerator, to avoid running the faucet until it's cold.
- Scrape dishes rather than rinsing.
- Dispose of non-animal food wastes in your compost

pile, rather than using the garbage disposal.

- Only operate the dishwasher or washing machine with a full load. Do one load a day, instead of all loads in one day, to reduce the amount going into the septic system at one time.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing off.
- Repair all leaks, including toilets, faucets, and irrigation systems.
- Install water-saving faucets, shower heads, and toilets.
- Don't connect a sump pump to the septic system; this water doesn't need to be treated.
- Water the garden during the coolest part of the day, typically early morning. Install drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses where possible.
- Avoid watering lawns if possible.
- Find more tips at <https://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to- conserve/>.



Sources:

- Conserve well water. Greco & Haines, Derby, CT. 2020. <https://www.grecoandhaines.com/conservewellwater/>
- Gibb T. Water conservation can prolong septic system life. Michigan State University Extension. Nov. 27, 2018. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water-conservation-can-prolong-septic-system-life>
- Water conservation and septic systems: What's the connection? Here is why it's so important. Paradise Septic, Cave Creek, AZ. Dec. 20, 2018. <https://www.paradisevalleyseptic.com/water-conservation-septic-systems-whats-connection-important/>
- Water conservation guidance for homeowners with wells. Quinnipiack Valley Health District, North Haven, CT. Nov 1, 2016. <http://www.qvhd.org/ounce-of-prevention/water-conservation-guidance-homeowners-wells>

Correction

In the August *ShoreLine*, we incorrectly attributed the sponsorship of a recent event. The correct information follows:

The COVID-19 memorial service was hosted by members of a community coalition who are a part of Virginia Organizing Eastern Shore Chapter, under the direction of Reverend Willie Justis, the organizer for the group.

The Eastern Shore Diverse Coalition of Preachers (ESDCP) did not host the memorial service. Several of the local preachers pictured in the photo are members of both groups.

ShoreLine regrets the error.

RECYCLING CORNER

Push for Plastic Bags and Single-Use Plastics With Coronavirus

Going Backwards With Reusable Bags

In February and March, the plastics industry and conservative groups raised alarms that reusable grocery bags could “sustain the COVID-19 and flu viruses – and spread the viruses throughout the store,” according to John Tierney in an op-ed in *City Journal* from the conservative think tank Manhattan Institute. The claims are based on a small study of 25 volunteers, showing that, when reusable bags were sprayed with a harmless substitute for a norovirus, the virus was found throughout the store. However, other research indicates that coronavirus can remain on plastic surfaces as well, for up to 72 hours.



“The timing of these messages suggests a concerted public relations campaign by the plastics industry,” noted *Mother Jones* researcher Rebecca Leber. This campaign has caused many states to reverse their bans on single-use plastic grocery bags, including California, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Many grocery store chains (but not Food Lion or Walmart), big box stores, and smaller stores have prohibited the use of reusable bags during this time.

What can an individual do? Ask if you can use your own bag as long as you bag your items yourself. If not, ask the clerk to put the items back in the cart, and bag them when you get to the car. Or ask for a paper bag – at least it’s more easily recyclable.

Single-Use Plastics

A similar backslide has been seen with single-use cups, containers, and utensils, exacerbated by the increase in takeout and delivery services. A June 22 statement from 119 scientists from 18 countries indicated that there is no increase in the risk of transmission with reusable containers. The statement noted that “Single-use plastic is not inherently safer than reusables, and causes additional public health concerns once it is discarded,” referring to the issues of microplastics in the environment, mounds of plastics that can’t be recycled, and the public health issues near plastic manufacturing sites. Charlotte Williams, Chemistry Professor at Oxford University, added, “In terms of the general public’s response to the COVID crisis, we should make every attempt to avoid over-consumption of single-use plastics, particularly

Keeping Track

Poultry Permit Up for Renewal

In Virginia, poultry farms, also known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), are permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the Virginia Pollution Abatement (VPA) Regulation, which assumes no discharge to local waters. The regulation is currently up for renewal (which only happens every 10 years); the proposed language has been posted at <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/ViewStage.cfm?stageid=9001>.

Public comments can be submitted to betsy.bowles@deq.virginia.gov through October 2. Two public hearings (via Zoom) will be held on September 14 at 7:00 PM, and on September 16 at 9:00 AM. The final draft will be scheduled for approval by the State Water Control Board (SWCB) at their next meeting (via Zoom); anyone who has submitted comments in writing or at either of the public hearings will be able to speak at the SWCB meeting.

Joe Wood, Virginia Senior Scientist for Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), noted in a recent webinar (<https://www.cbf.org/events/webinars/bec-learning-series-chicken-litter-the-sky-is-falling.html>) that DEQ should be thanked for 2 things – adding language to require end users of poultry manure to report their usage to DEQ (rather than just keeping the records), and maintaining the requirement that temporary manure piles be covered after 14 days. He added that CBF is asking DEQ to include language for poultry farmers to report the amount and type of litter amendments used, since these amendments are used to mitigate ammonia emissions within the houses.



in applications like packaging.”

What can we do? Talk with our local restaurateurs. Standard industry practices, including dishwashing at high temperatures, are more than adequate to prevent transmission. And, even with a #1 or #2 on the bottom, plastic cups aren’t recyclable (see Recycling Corner, July 2020 *ShoreLine*). Ask if you can bring your own reusable cup, bottle, or container.

Sources:

- Davidson J. Reusable cups, bags and containers can be safe during COVID-19, scientists say. EcoWatch. June 22, 2020. <https://www.ecowatch.com/reusable-containers-coronavirus-health-science-2646222334.html?rebellitem=6#rebellitem6>
- Leber R. How big plastic is using coronavirus to bring back wasteful bags. Mother Jones. March 27, 2020. <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2020/03/coronavirus-plastic-industry-bags/>
- Rome V. Paper or plastic? Neither! Grocery shopping during COVID-19. Natural Resources Defense Council. June 29, 2020. <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/victoria-rome/paper-or-plastic-neither-grocery-shopping-during-covid-19>

FREE COVID-19 Testing Available

You can get tested for COVID-19 at Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc. even if you don't feel sick!

Tests at No Charge for ALL - Including Those with No Symptoms

Testing is offered at no charge to you; the fee will be billed to your health insurance with no copay. If you don't have health insurance, there is no charge. Results typically come back in a few days – we will contact you confidentially with test results. You must call in advance to schedule an appointment for testing at the Atlantic, Onley, or Eastville Center (<http://www.esrh.org/covid-19/>).

Contact:

Atlantic Community Health Center
757-824-5676

Onley Community Health Center
757-787-7374

Eastville Community Health Center
757-331-1086

Hummingbird Cake



This popular, luxurious, 2- or 3-layer Southern cake was made by Cozzie Lockwood, a fabulous home cook, for the joyful celebration of the new Bayview Community housing development in Northampton County. Located on the site of what was almost a huge super-maximum-security prison, the community event was attended by a diverse group of state and local supporters who had helped to make the new homes possible.

Also attending, with his young family, was the project's architect, former Charlottesville Mayor Maurice Cox, now the Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Chicago. The event, breaking bread (and cake), also celebrated the many new relationships forged during the struggle for social equity and decent housing.

- Toss 1 cup finely chopped pineapple with ¼ cup flour
- Whip together ¾ cup each white sugar and light brown sugar with 3 eggs, until light and fluffy (3 - 4 minutes)
- Slowly mix in 1 cup vegetable oil and 1 tsp vanilla
- Whisk together 2¼ cups flour, 1 tsp baking soda, 1 tsp cinnamon, ¼ tsp nutmeg, and ½ tsp salt
- Add half of the flour mixture to sugar/egg mixture, and stir to just combine
- Add 2 mashed, over-ripe bananas and stir to combine
- Add remaining flour mixture and combine
- Fold in pineapple mixture, then fold in 1½ cups chopped, toasted pecans
- Bake batter in (2) 9-inch or (3) 8-inch well-greased round cake pans at 350° for 35 - 40 minutes
- Cool thoroughly and frost with cream cheese frosting
- Decorate with coconut or chopped nuts if preferred

Cream Cheese Frosting: With electric mixer, beat 12 oz. softened cream cheese, ¾ cup soft butter, 4 cups or more sifted confectioners sugar, and 1 tsp vanilla until mixture is fluffy and spreadable.



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*Help CBES continue our Mission
– and keep ShoreLine going –
during this challenging time.*

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

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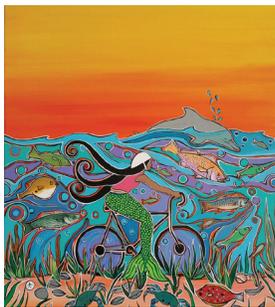
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www.cbes.org



CBES, P.O. Box 882, Eastville VA
23347 or online at www.cbes.org

THANK YOU

Community Calendar*

**NOTE: For current status of public meetings, go to the appropriate website or contact by email or phone.*

Accomack County
757-787-5700

www.co.accomack.va.us

- 1st Wed **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Accomac
- 2nd Wed **Planning Commission (PC)**
7 PM, Accomac
- 3rd Tues **School Board**
6:30 PM, Accomac
- 3rd Wed **Board of Supervisors (BOS)**
5 PM, Accomac
- 4th Tues **PC Work Session**
7 PM, Accomac
- 4th Thur **Wetlands Board**
10 AM, Accomac

CBES and Other Activities

- 1st Wed **VIMS Public Seminar**
7:30 PM, Wachapreague
- 3rd Tues **ES Ground Water Committee**
10 AM, Accomac
- 3rd Tues **CBES Board Meeting**
7 PM, Eastville or Belle Haven

Northampton County
757-678-0440

www.co.northampton.va.us

- 1st Tues **Board of Zoning Appeals**
10 AM, Eastville
- 1st Tues **Planning Commission (PC)**
6 PM, Eastville
- 2nd Tues **Board of Supervisors (BOS)**
6 PM, Eastville
- 2nd Thurs **School Board Work Session**
6 PM, Machipongo
- 3rd Wed **Wetlands Board**
Meets as needed, Eastville
- 3rd Wed **PC Work Session**
6 PM, Eastville
- 4th Tues **BOS Work Session**
5 PM, Eastville
- 4th Thurs **School Board**
6 PM, Machipongo

**For membership and other
CBES information:**
www.cbes.org