



# CHANNEL MARKERS

A Quarterly Publication of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

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Mr. Dan Kavanagh

## Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership Issues Loan

Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership (MPBDP) closed on its first loan on July 5, 2001. The loan was provided to Dora and Dickie Gordon, owners of Nightingale Uniforms Unlimited in Tappahannock.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have worked with the Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership since March 2001 through attending business training classes, receiving technical assistance, and applying for loan funding in anticipation of pursuing Mrs. Gordon's lifelong dream of operating her own business. Mrs. Gordon is an L.P. N. and is employed with Warsaw Healthcare Center in Warsaw, Virginia. She has been in the medical profession for more than 20 years, so she understands the needs of the medical community.

Through the help of the MPBDP, family, and friends, Mrs. Gordon opened Nightingale Uniforms Unlimited at 200 Prince Street in Tappahannock on Friday, August 3, 2001. MPBDP assisted with location, financing, pricing, supplying, registration, advertising, and bookkeeping for this new venture. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(See MPBDP- Continued on page 4)



Opening day at Nightingale Uniforms Unlimited. Pictured (left to right) William Smith, MP-BDP Program Director, Jim & Linda Thomas, Dora and Dickie Gordon, owners of Nightingale Uniforms Unlimited.

## MPPDC Holds Second Annual Open House

The June monthly meeting which is regularly scheduled as a Dinner meeting has now become the Annual Open House of the MPPDC office. This year the office was open to the public at 6:00 PM with light hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

The purpose of the open house is to allow the Commission to network with one another and to view the many products that the staff produces. It also allows the Commissioners to speak with the staff members and discuss projects in greater detail.

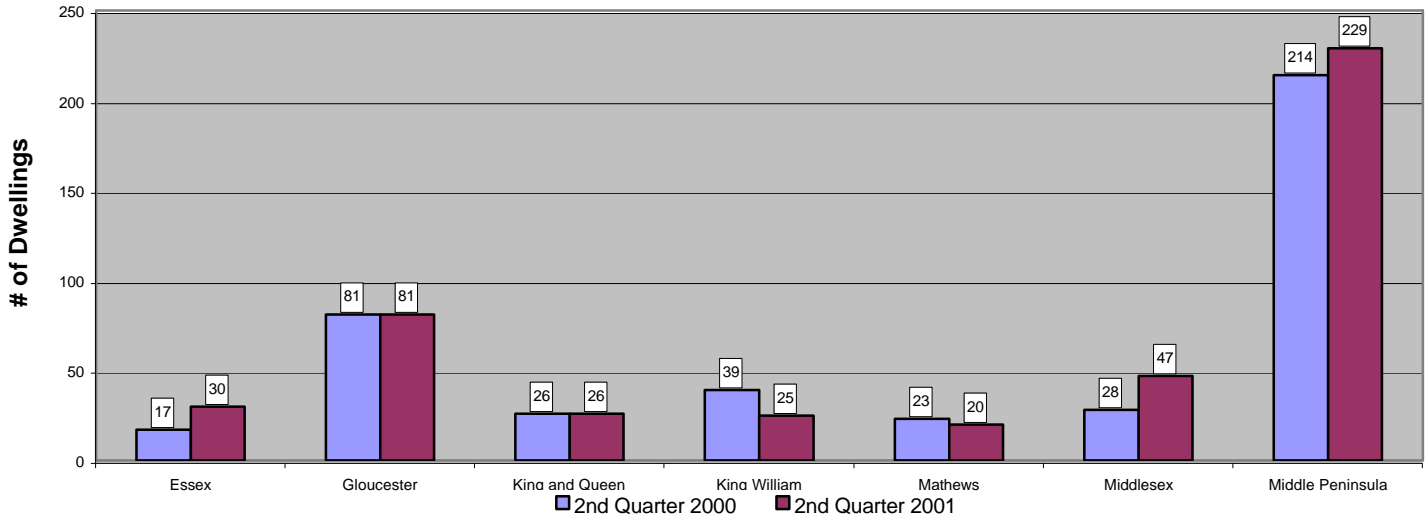
The regularly scheduled monthly meeting followed at 7:00 PM. During the meeting the Board agreed that the current slate of officers be reappointed to their offices for another term.

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 Commuter Matching  
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**Middle Peninsula RideShare**  
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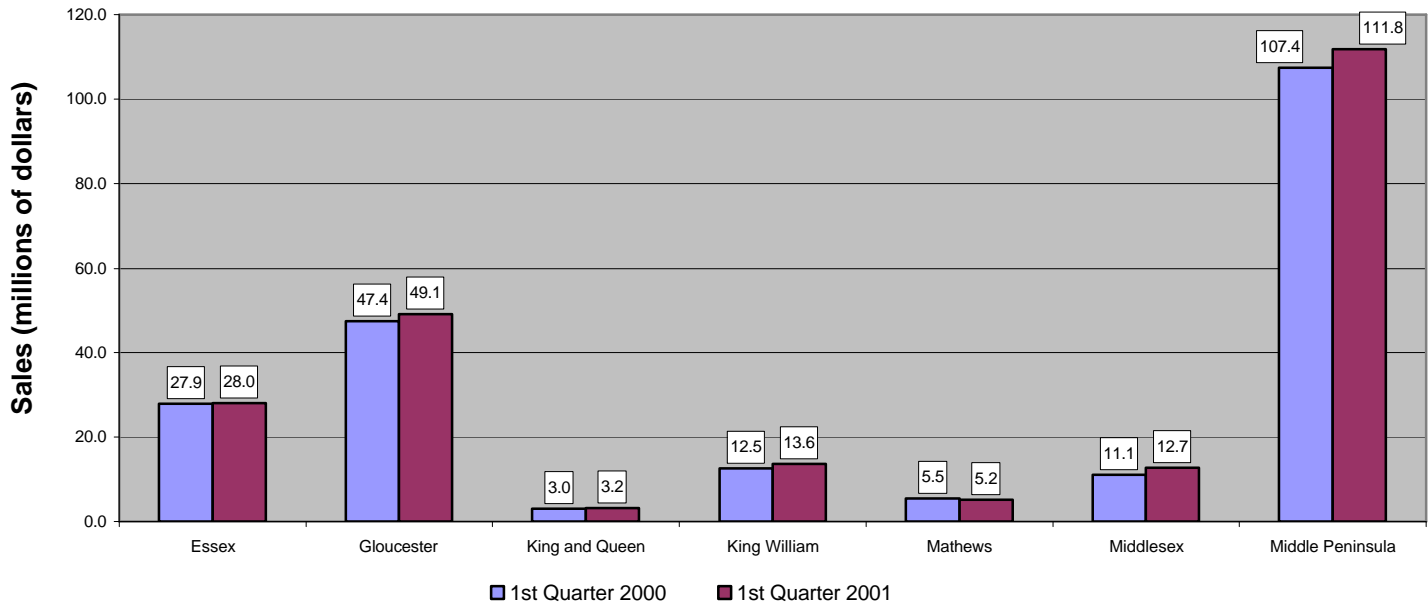
# Economic Data

## Residential Building Permits Issued



When comparing the second quarter of 2000 and 2001, Essex and Middlesex counties experienced increases in the number of new housing permits. The region as a whole increased from 214 permits issued in the second quarter of 2000 to 229 permits issued in the second quarter of 2001. (Each county reports this information)

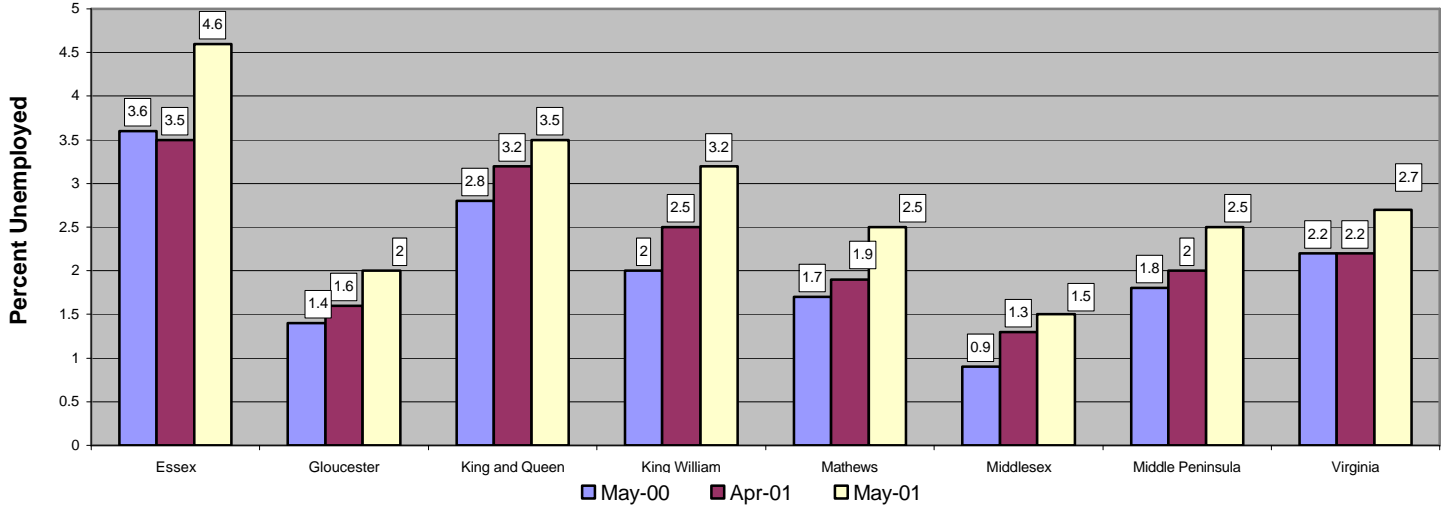
## Taxable Sales



Comparison of taxable sales in the first quarter of 2000 and 2001 shows a \$4,400,000 increase for the Middle Peninsula region, for an approximate total of \$111,800,000 in taxable sales. Five of the six counties experienced increases during this time period, including Gloucester, Essex, Middlesex, King and Queen and King William, while Mathews dropped slightly. (Source: Weldon Cooper Center)

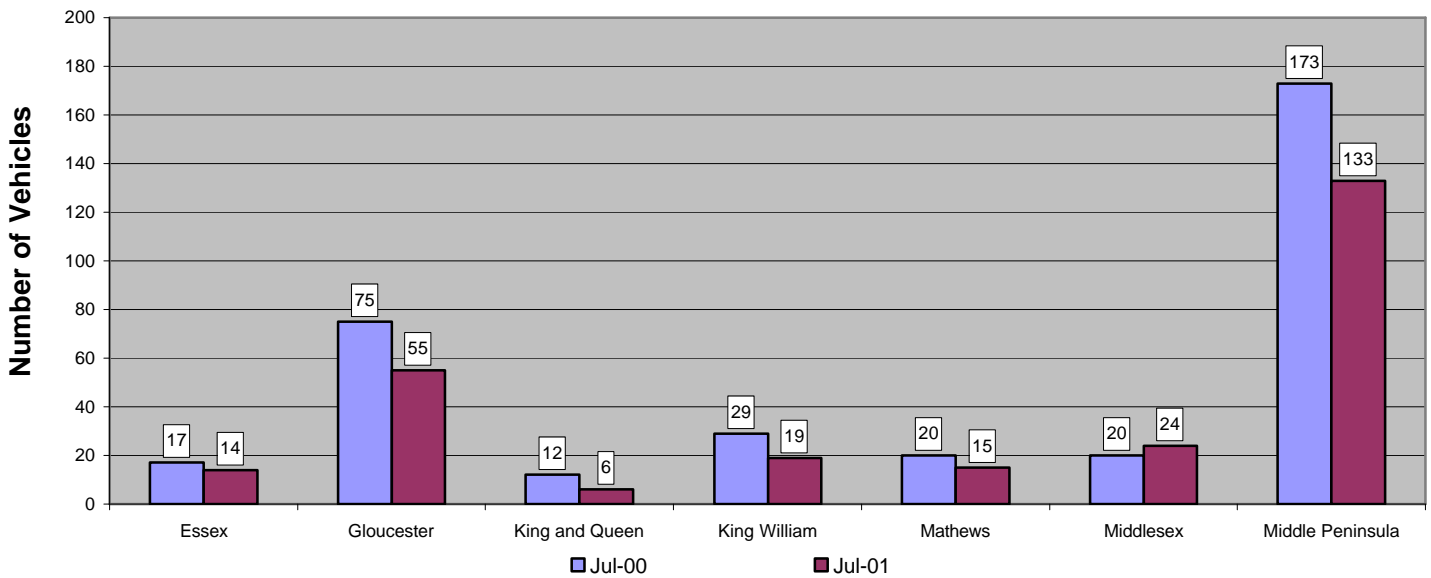
# Economic Data

## Unemployment Rates



The Middle Peninsula's unemployment rate for May of 2001 (2.5%) was lower than Virginia's (2.7%) for the month. Essex (4.6%), King William (3.2%), and King and Queen (3.5%) had rates higher than the state average for May of 2001, while the other counties were below the state level. Overall for the region, the unemployment rate increased from an average of 1.8% in May of 2000 to 2.5% in May of 2001. (Source: Virginia Employment Commission)

## New Domestic Vehicle Registrations



Middle Peninsula new domestic car registrations decreased 23%, from 173 in July of 2000 to 133 in July of 2001. All of the six Middle Peninsula counties but Middlesex, saw some level of decrease in the number of registrations. (Source: DMV)

# MPPDC Project Updates

## Business Training Classes to held in Mathews

MPBDP will hold its Fifth business training series in Mathews starting in October, 2001. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 p. m. – 9:00 p.m. Topics to be covered include Business Law, Business Insurance, Personal Credit, Record Keeping, Bookkeeping, Taxes, Advertising, Developing a Business Plan, Financial Forecasting, and Business Feasibility. Classes are open and free to the public.

The MPBDP will be holding its sixth business training series in King William County starting in November 2001. Call now! Classes fill quickly.

For more information contact the Business Development Partnership's Director William Smith @ (804)-758-4917 or E-mail [MPBDP@inna.net](mailto:MPBDP@inna.net).

## Construction Begins on Indian Road Housing Rehabilitation Project



The apprentices of GHP layout the foundation of Mr. Ward's new home.

Construction has begun in the Indian Road area. The Gloucester Housing Partnership (GHP) began work on the home of Elmo Ward in early July. Mr. Ward currently lives in a home that is over 100 years old and has no working indoor plumbing. GHP is using apprentices interested in learning home building skills.

The Gloucester County Indian Road Housing Rehabilitation Project has received funding to rehabilitate 21 homes in the Gloucester County Pinero area. Gloucester County has contracted with the MPPDC to be the project manager. The Chesapeake Bay Agency on Aging will be the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist and do the loan servicing. Rev. Leon Abbott of the Zion Hill Baptist Church which is located in the community will assist with community outreach during the program.

For more information concerning this project please contact Todd Rigler at 804-758-2311 or e-mail [mppdc@inna.net](mailto:mppdc@inna.net).

## Middle Peninsula On-Site Waste- Water Treatment and Disposal Revolving Loan and Grant Program

The MPPDC Revolving Loan and Grant Program provides financial assistance to individuals with malfunctioning, failing on-site wastewater treatment systems. The program is available to homeowners of property located in the Middle Peninsula Planning District. Applications are sought through referrals from local Health Departments and referrals from local government.

The MPPDC Revolving Loan and Grant Program has entered its third year of providing financial assistance to individuals. Between January 2000 and July 2001, 20 applicants have been enrolled into the program. If you or anyone you know has a failing septic system contact Lewis Lawrence, Director of Regional Planning, at (804) 758-2311 or [mppdc@inna.net](mailto:mppdc@inna.net) for more information.

## MPBDP (Continued from page 1)

The shop currently specializes in medical uniforms but hopes to expand to other service industries in the future. MPBDP will continue to work with the Gordons in the growing of their uniform shop.

Since the program began in October 2000, MPBDP has provided Business Training to 65 participants located throughout the Middle Peninsula. This was accomplished through 3 comprehensive training sessions. MPBDP has provided technical assistance to many of the training participants along with other small business owners in the area. There are additional participants in the process of applying for funds at this time. Applicants may apply for \$500.00 to \$25,000.00 to start a new business or to expand an existing one. Business training classes are currently being held in King & Queen County and preparation has begun to hold a session in Mathews County in October 2001.

For additional information on the MPBDP or if you would like to discuss Microenterprise as a topic for one of your upcoming meetings, please give William a call at (804) 758-4917 or e-mail [MPBDP@inna.net](mailto:MPBDP@inna.net).

# MPPDC Project Updates

## Disability Services Board to expand Virtual Historic Tour

The Middle Peninsula Disability Service Board (MPDSB) has contracted Todd Rigler, MPDSB Staff Support, to develop a pilot project that will involve an expansion of the existing Middle Peninsula Virtual Historical Tour. The Middle Peninsula Disability Services Board is a partnership of consumer, local government, and business working to increase access and develop consumer oriented, community-based services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

The MPDSB's 1999 Needs Assessment identifies accessibility, transportation, housing and information and referral as the four issues considered to be the most crucial to the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities. This project will meet three of the four areas. The objectives of this project are to provide for all persons, disabled or not, the opportunity to experience the historical importance of the Middle Peninsula Region. The project will expand the existing Middle Peninsula Virtual Historic Tour to produce a multi-media presentation that can be viewed by the use of a personal computer. It will be made available by use of a computer located in the MPPDC office, the Internet via [www.MPDSB.org](http://www.MPDSB.org) and [www.MPPDC.com](http://www.MPPDC.com), and will be available on CD-ROM that can be picked up at MPPDC or mailed to anyone who requests it.

The current Middle Peninsula Virtual Historic Tour can be viewed at [www.MPPDC.com](http://www.MPPDC.com). Click on Historic Tour. For more information on this project or the DSB please contact Todd Rigler at (804) 758-2311 or [mppdc@inna.net](mailto:mppdc@inna.net).



Visit the Virginia Coastal Program Web site [www.deq.state.va.us/coastal](http://www.deq.state.va.us/coastal) for conference information and updates.

## Town of Tappahannock Waterfront Park Feasibility Study

The firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) recently completed a feasibility study for establishing a waterfront park in the Town of Tappahannock. The study was funded through the Special Grant Program of the Rural Transportation Planning Program administered by the MPPDC. VHB staff evaluated a 2.35 acre site between Prince Street and the Route 360 Bridge, near the historic town center. The resulting proposal links the current walking tour of the town to new waterfront amenities, and can be implemented as a multi-phase project.

VHB found that significant improvements are possible on the Tappahannock waterfront, and much of the land needed for implementation of the plan is part a Virginia Department of Transportation right-of-way that currently provides access to the bridge for maintenance and repairs. VHB proposes to begin using this area for recreational purposes; they plan to include picnic and restroom facilities, parking, and landscaping improvements on the site. An existing park would also be incorporated into the new larger park. Recreational water access is a primary focus of the proposal, and stabilization measures recommended by VHB would help curb shoreline erosion and create two small public beaches.

VHB identified several potential funding sources for the park project, including the Virginia Transportation Enhancement Program under the 1998 Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21). The proposal will be presented to officials from the Town of Tappahannock and Essex County for review and approval in late August.

For more information regarding this project, contact Claire Jones at (804) 758-2311 or e-mail [mppdc@inna.net](mailto:mppdc@inna.net).

[www.MPPDC.com](http://www.MPPDC.com)- Middle Peninsula PDC's Site  
[MPPDC@inna.net](mailto:MPPDC@inna.net)- Middle Peninsula PDC's E-mail

[www.MPDSB.org](http://www.MPDSB.org)- Middle Peninsula Disability Services Board's Site

[MPBDP@inna.net](mailto:MPBDP@inna.net)- Middle Peninsula Business Development Partnership's E-mail

# Employment

## GIS SPECIALIST

Excellent opportunity to live and work in a rural area on the Chesapeake Bay.

Responsibilities include management of MPPDC GIS system. Project responsibilities include management of special GIS projects including, but not limited to Coastal Zone Management mapping projects, transportation mapping projects, and economic development projects.

Requirements include a degree in planning or other appropriate field; experience with ESRI software a must. Hiring range \$30-35K with an exceptional benefits package. Letter of application and sample GIS products with resume to:

Dan Kavanagh, Executive Director  
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission  
PO Box 286  
Saluda, VA 23149.

Position open until filled. The MPPDC is an equal opportunity employer.

## PLANNING ASSISTANT/GIS COORDINATOR COUNTY OF MATHEWS

Mathews County is accepting applications for a Planning Assistant/GIS Coordinator position. Position requires Bachelor's Degree in Planning, Public Administration, Geography or related field, proficiency in the GIS field working with GIS software and application programming and development with ArcInfo and ArcView; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Candidates should have excellent oral and written communication skills, and an ability to work with the public as well as elected, appointed and employed officials. GIS abilities required to manage and maintain operation of the County's GIS to include developing and updating data; plotting maps; documenting and maintaining the GIS data archive; updating the Enhanced-911 maps; performing system hardware and software set-up, upgrades, back-ups and other maintenance; and develops and presents technical papers, reports, and demonstrations of agency GIS activities. Salary: mid \$20s, DOQ.

Send letter of application and resume including salary history to  
Department of Planning and Zoning,  
Post Office Box 839,  
Mathews, Virginia 23109.

A job description can be obtained at the Planning Department or by calling (804) 725-4034.

Position open until filled. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations during the selection process. EOE.

For information on all of the MPPDC current Projects go to

[www.MPPDC.com](http://www.MPPDC.com)

or e-mail

[MPPDC@inna.net](mailto:MPPDC@inna.net)

# Events Calendar

## September 2001

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Labor Day-Office Closed	4	5	6 Master Gardeners 9:30 AM	7
10 NOAA Fisheries Meeting 9:00AM MP Land Trust 7:00PM	11	12 Local Planners 9:30 AM MP Business Development Partnership Board 7:00PM	13	14 MP/NN LGA 9:00 AM
17	18 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	19 PSAP 10:30 AM	20 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM Middlesex County Museum 7:30PM	21
24 MPPDC Staff Meeting 9:00 AM	25	26 MPPDC Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM	27	28

## October 2001

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	3	4 Master Gardner's 9:00AM	5
8 Columbus Day- Office Closed	9 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	10 Local Planners 9:30AM MPBDP 7:00PM	11 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	12 MP LGA Meeting 9:00AM
15	16 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	17	18 Public Education Consortium 9:00 AM Middlesex County Museum 7:30PM	19
22 MPPDC Staff Meeting 9:00 AM	23 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	24 MPPDC Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	25 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	26
29	30 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	31		

## November 2001

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1 Master Gardeners 9:30 AM	2
5	6 Election Day Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	7	8 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	9 MP LGA 9:00AM
12 MP Land Trust 7:00 PM	13 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	14 Local Planners 9:30 MPBDP 7:00PM Dragon Run Steering Committee 7:30 PM	15 Master Gardner's Class 9:00AM	16
19 PDC Staff Meeting 9:00 AM	20 Middlesex County Communications Meeting 7:00PM	21 PSAP 10:30 AM	22 Thanksgiving-Office Closed	23
26 PDC Staff Meeting 9:00 AM	27	28 MPPDC Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM	29	30

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held at the MPPDC Offices in Saluda. The site of the Quarterly PDC Dinner Meeting will be announced in a mailing prior to that meeting. All times and dates are subject to change. Call the MPPDC at (804) 758-2311 information.

# MPPDC News



Claire Jones recently joined the MPPDC as Regional Projects Planner. Claire earned a B.A. in History from Old Dominion University in 1998, and a Master of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia in May 2001. She has a special interest in historic preservation and environmental issues, and completed the Preservation Certificate at Virginia. She will bring those skills and interests to the Rural Transportation Planning program at the PDC. Claire is a native of Norfolk, Virginia, and currently lives in Newport News with a yet-to-be-named cat.



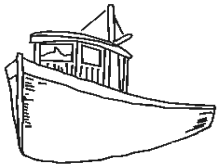
Dan Kavanagh, MPPDC Executive Director, attended the Environmental Systems Research Institute's annual conference in San Diego, CA.



Look for the Winter issue of Channel Markers to be in your box in December 2001.

## Staff

Executive Director	Director of Planning	Administrative Assistant	Business Development Partnership
Dan Kavanagh	Lewis Lawrence	Barbara Zimmerman	William Smith
Regional Projects Planner	Regional Projects Planner	Secretary	GIS Specialist
Todd Rigler	Claire Jones	Rose Lewis	Vacant



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<http://www.mppdc.com>

Created in 1972, pursuant to the Regional Cooperation Act, the Commission is a Confederation of nine local governments established to plan for the orderly and efficient physical, social and economic development of Virginia's Middle Peninsula region. Activities and policies of the Commission are set by Commissioners, who are appointed by the local governing bodies. The Commission provides its member local governments with planning, coordination, technical assistance, policy analysis, and management services in a wide array of program areas including information management, water quality, community development, demographic and economic analysis, transportation, and housing services.  
 Channel Markers is published quarterly by the MPPDC, PO Box 286, Saluda, Virginia 23149. The Executive Director is Dan Kavanagh and the editor of Channel Markers is Todd Rigler. Comments should be addressed to the Editor.