

Section 7: Community Facilities & Services

7 Community Facilities & Services

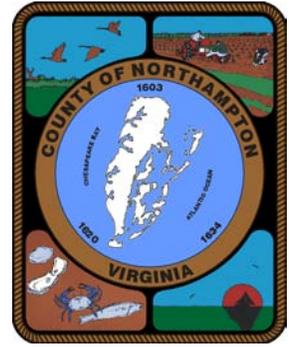
7.1 Introduction

Community facilities and services are the improvements, infrastructure, and programs made available to an area to serve the general public. They include not only those facilities owned by the public, but also those owned and operated by private enterprise for the benefit of the community. The following pages describe existing facilities, infrastructure and services in Northampton County.

The Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) total operating budget for Northampton County is \$25,022,965. Included in the sections below are allocations from the County's FY14 operating budget to sectors that provide community services and/or facilities.

7.2 Arts & Culture Resources

Many visual, graphic and performing artists have made Northampton County their home. Local and regional performing artists appear regularly at various private venues described below. Arts Enter and the historic Palace Theater in Cape Charles provide art, dance and theater instruction for children and adults. Now a venue for the nationally known Virginia Arts Festival, the theater presents performances by regional, national and international artists. The Cape Charles Historical Society regularly hosts traveling exhibitions from regional and national institutions. Eastern Shore's Own (ESO) in Belle Haven presents year round education programs in the arts, dance, culinary arts, yoga and science for both children and adults. It is the site of the annual Shore Made Music Festival in the fall. The Barrier Islands Center, a museum and cultural center presenting the history of the county's Barrier Island communities and life saving stations, is located in the old Almshouse Farm in Machipongo. It presents regional and national arts exhibitions and other events all year. The Arts Council of the Eastern Shore (ACES) presents an annual program of regional and national performance art at various sites on the Shore. The Eastern Shore Art League presents an annual member's show, a student show and offers post-secondary arts scholarships. The Artisans Guild-Eastern Shore of Virginia offers mentoring and professional development to its working members. The Guild holds an annual three-day



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Open Studio Tour every year over Thanksgiving Weekend. Local fiction and non-fiction writers, many nationally known, hold readings and book signings at county libraries and cultural events. “*A Walk Through Eastville – A Walk Through History*” provides tourists with a self-guided tour featuring Eastville area history and architecture.

7.3 Churches

There are approximately 45 churches in Northampton County, with most denominations represented.

7.4 Communications

Telephone service is provided by Verizon and other companies offering cellular and digital service.

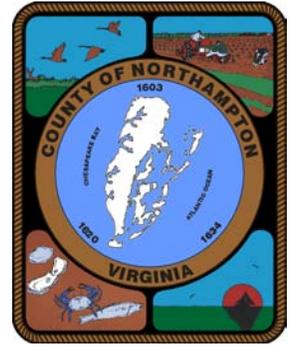
Four major television networks from the Hampton Roads metro area and one public television station from Portsmouth cover the County. Charter Communications offers 35 channels. Dish-satellite systems are heavily used and offer hundreds of channels.

There are several radio stations serving the area. Numerous AM and FM stations in the Hampton Roads metro area also serve Northampton County.

The Eastern Shore News, *The Eastern Shore Post*, and *The Virginian-Pilot* are newspapers serving the County. Publications from other areas such as Norfolk, Newport News and Richmond also cover the County. Various other local publications are available online. The Eastern Shore Broadband Authority is a public authority that was created by Accomack and Northampton Counties to construct the backbone of the fiber optic network. Other service providers are able to use the broadband network to connect to end users.

There are several service providers in Northampton County that provide internet, phone, and TV options. The main providers are Verizon, Baycreek Communications, Eastern Shore Communications, ShoreDSL, and Charter.

Northampton County established a County-wide Emergency Alert Program in 2012. The program provides critical information related to severe weather, road closures, missing persons and evacuations. Citizens are able to sign up on the County EMS website to receive notifications via text message, phone (cell, home or business), or email. The County paid \$10,000 for this service in FY13 out of the Emergency Medical Services budget.



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7.5 Electric Utilities

The County's electric power is supplied by the Accomack-Northampton Electric Cooperative (ANEC). This company is capable of supplying services to meet demands expected from future projected population growth. The transmission line is owned by Old Dominion Electric Cooperation (ODEC) and operated by PJM, Inc. A new transmission line is planned between Tasley and Exmore substations to increase reliable service to customers south of Tasley. The new line will be constructed in the current right of way and is planned to be in service by May 2016.

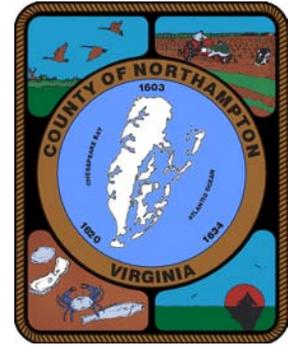
7.6 Natural Gas

Propane gas is available from local companies but no natural gas is available. These vendors are capable of supplying services to meet demands expected from future projected population growth.

7.7 Water & Wastewater Facilities

7.7.1 Municipal (Public) Water Systems

Cape Charles, Eastville, Exmore, Bayview, Riverside and the County Complex presently maintain municipal water systems. It is estimated that these systems serve about 25 percent of the total County population. All town systems draw water from deep wells that tap the Yorktown-Eastover aquifer system. Water quality is reported to be good and no treatment is administered in Eastville or Exmore. The Cape Charles municipal system includes a treatment plant capable of processing 940,000 gallons a day that provides iron removal and chlorination. Each town system utilizes elevated storage tanks and pressure maintenance. The remaining 75 percent of County residents and businesses rely on self-supplied wells for their water supply. For FY14, the County allocated \$130,000 towards a new wastewater project fund that will help extend sewer and water to the commercial properties near Cheriton and Cape Charles.



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Bayview

The Bayview Community water system began operating in 2003. The permitted volume is not to exceed 300,000 gallons per month for three consecutive months. The system has two wells which withdraw approximately 8,000 gallons of water per day (GPD). There is a 15,000 gallon storage capacity for the system. The County's Public Works Department now owns the Bayview water system. The Public Works Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water treatment system at the former Middle School.

Cape Charles

Cape Charles' system was built in 1930 and is the largest. The water supply comes from two wells which withdraw approximately 130,000 GPD. The water supply is stored in an award winning tower with a capacity of 300,000 gallons. Included in the public water system is a treatment plant with an onsite laboratory and treatment facilities for iron and manganese removal, water softening, pH adjustment, fluoridation, and disinfection. Extensive improvements to the public water system were done in 1992.

Eastville

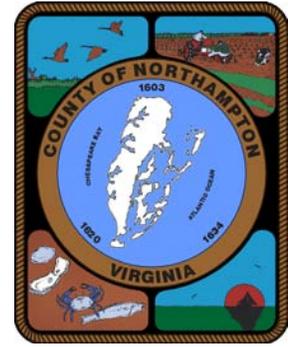
The smallest municipal system is Eastville and it was built in 1946. Eastville operates a municipal water supply system drawn from wells. The water tank has a storage capacity of 75,000 gallons, and average usage is 51,000 GPD.

Exmore

The Exmore system was installed in 1940 and expanded in 1967. The water tank has a storage capacity of 200,000 gallons, and average usage is 100,000 GPD. The town also serves the adjacent town of Belle Haven and village of Hadlock.

7.7.2 Municipal (Public) Wastewater Treatment Systems

Cape Charles' wastewater facility serves all residents and businesses in Cape Charles. The system was designed and permitted to treat 250,000 GPD and could be expanded to 500,000 GPD at a relatively low cost. Average daily flows are approximately 150,000 GPD. Treatment at the facility presently consists of secondary biologic decomposition of waste matter and includes ultraviolet light disinfection. Sludge from the facility is



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transferred to the County landfill for transport off site. The town's wastewater treatment plant has undergone inspections by the Department of Environmental Quality in 2012, and received a satisfactory rating. The current plan is to send reuse water to Bay Creek for golf course irrigation.

Exmore has two systems, the Downtown System and the New Roads drain-field system. The Downtown System was installed in 2006 and serves 250 taps with an additional 240 available taps. The permit capacity for this system is 60,000 GPD. The existing operational capacity is 25,000 – 30,000 GPD with an average operational capacity of 27,000 GPD. The New Roads system was permitted in 2000 and this system was allotted taps by the number of bedrooms, currently there are 150 bedrooms available on the New Roads system. The New Roads system is strictly for residential use and permitted for 50,000 GPD.

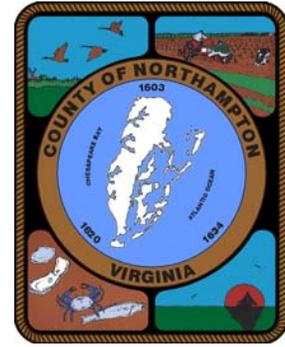
The Bayview wastewater collection and treatment system was placed in service in 2003 at the same time as the water system and it currently serves 74 units. The current system capacity is 97 units. In December of 2009 the County took over the responsibility of this system and in 2012 fully acquired it.

7.7.3 Private Wastewater Treatment (Septic Systems)

It is estimated that approximately 15% of the year-round housing units in the County are served by public sewer. The remaining units are served by septic tank and drainfield systems, cesspools or pit privies. The sandy nature of Eastern Shore soils coupled with typically high water tables may allow septic tank drainfield effluent to rapidly reach groundwater aquifers without adequate treatment. Nitrate levels are associated with pollution of the groundwater aquifers.

7.8 Solid Waste Management

The County is required to have a Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with State Code and the Virginia Waste Management Act. The County employs the services of Draper Aden to assist in solid waste planning. The County's Solid Waste Management Plan was recently updated on May 28, 2013.



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7.8.1 Collection

The County collects all residential waste from its six waste collection sites through a third party. The waste collection sites are located in Wardtown, Hare Valley, Birdsnest, Eastville, Bayview, and Cheapside. In addition, waste is collected from nine (9) non-public sites including each of the school facilities, courthouse,



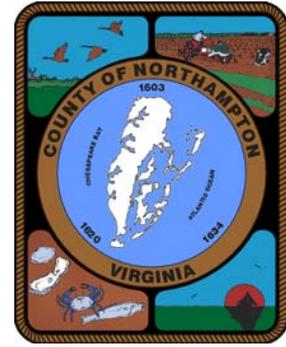
Indiantown Park, and Hare Valley Waste Collection site the Health Department. The FY14 budget for collection is \$452,000.

7.8.2 Disposal

Northampton County operates a transfer station near the community of Oyster. In addition to regular household waste, construction debris, yard waste, and bulk household items (referred to as white goods) are also accepted. The waste is transported by a third party vendor to the King and Queen Landfill for disposal. The FY14 budget for solid waste disposal was \$894,000 or 3.5% of the total operating budget. In accordance with state regulations, the Northampton County Landfill was closed and capped in 2009.

7.8.3 Recycling

Recycling services are also offered at the County's waste collection centers through a single stream contract with Tidewater Fiber Corporation (TFC). "Single stream" means that all acceptable recyclables are collected in the same container and then separated at the final disposal site. Plastic (number 1 and number 2), paper, cardboard, glass and metal are acceptable products. Additionally, the County continues to accept used motor oil, scrap metal and batteries for recycling purposes. The FY14 budget for recycling is \$29,000.



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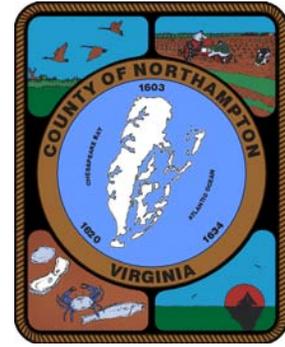
7.9 Emergency Services & Law Enforcement

The Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1 Communications Center serves the Counties of Accomack and Northampton, excluding the Town of Chincoteague (which has its own 9-1-1 Center). All 9-1-1 calls are received by the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1 Communications Center (located in Accomac, VA). Law enforcement calls are transferred to local Sheriff's Offices or the Virginia State Police for processing and dispatching. Fire and emergency medical services calls are processed and dispatched directly to fire and EMS agencies by the staff of the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1 Communications Center. In addition to receiving wire-line 9-1-1 calls, the Eastern Shore of Virginia 9-1-1 Communications Center also serves as an answering point for cellular and other wireless 9-1-1 calls.

The Emergency Operations Plan for Northampton County was rewritten in 2011 and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2012. Interagency cooperation and frequent updating is intended to provide the greatest possible protection to life and property from natural disasters and hazards. *“The Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) provides education and guidance for the County and responding partners and follows federal- and state-level guidance for developing response plans. The EOP describes the unique challenges posed by all disaster situations within Northampton County that may necessitate specific leadership decisions, response actions, and communication mechanisms, with the intent to limit the impact of a disaster, preserve continuity of essential government functions, and minimize social disruption and economic losses.”*

7.9.1 Fire Services

Volunteer fire departments are based in each incorporated town (except Belle Haven): Cape Charles, Cheriton, Eastville, Nassawadox, and Exmore. The County provides some funding, while the major portion must be obtained by the individual companies from bingo, fund raising projects, grants and appeals to the public. The County allocated \$199,985 for Fire response services.



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7.9.2 Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services are provided by a combination system of volunteer and paid providers.

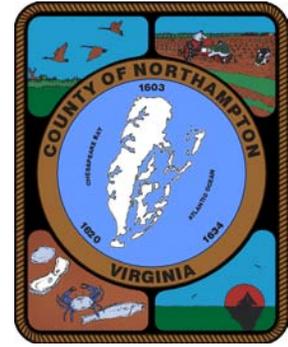
Three volunteer rescue squads serve the County. Volunteer EMS stations are located in Bayview, Nassawadox and Exmore. Northampton County provides funding for sixteen full-time and fifteen part-time EMS positions. The county provides three types of coverage. The first is 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, consistently staffing two (2) ambulances, one in the south at Cape Charles Rescue Service and one in the north at Community Fire Company in Nassawadox. The second is for nights, weekends and holidays with one staffed ambulance at the centrally located Machipongo station. The third type is supervisory personnel for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) vehicle that provide 24/7 coverage at the Machipongo station. Table 7.1 below shows the total calls and response times from 2010 through 2012.

Table 7.1 EMS Response Data

	2010	2011	2012
Total Calls	2803	2759	2758
Average Response Time Day	9.72 minutes	9.37 minutes	9.42 minutes
Average Response Time Night/Weekend	13.70 minutes	12.24 minutes	11.47 minutes
Maximum Response Time	45 minutes	50 minutes	44 minutes

Source: Northampton County EMS Department

Several private ambulance companies offer ambulance service throughout the entire Eastern Shore. Sentara Nightingale Air Ambulance Service based in Norfolk offers air ambulance transportation to Eastern Shore citizens. The FY14 budget for Emergency Services is \$1,430,387, 5.7% of the total operating budget. This includes \$1,165,754 for EMS operations, \$251,827 for 911 Emergency Services and \$12,806 for the Eastern Shore Emergency Services Council.



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The Director of EMS Services for Northampton County has projected a potential increase in costs for EMS services of \$1,000,000 per year. This projection is based on the planned move of the hospital to Onley and on the decrease in EMS volunteer staff. The hospital move will require Northampton County ambulances and staff to be out of the county more frequently and for longer periods of time necessitating increased staff. Additionally, Accomack County ambulances that are at the Nassawadox campus can currently be used for calls in Northampton County. That will not be the case when the hospital moves. The Director has also seen a trend towards less EMS volunteers. This trend is requiring consideration of more paid EMS staff.

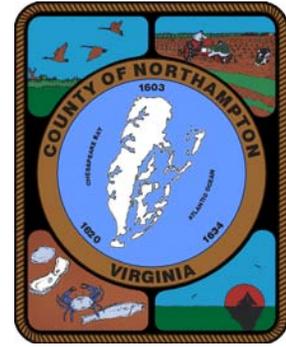
The emergency room will be moving to Onley leaving a potentially dangerous gap in care for patients. Transit times will increase for many residents of the county when the Emergency Department moves from its current Nassawadox location. Residents of Cape Charles, for example, will face an increase in ambulance transport time of 34 minutes, (from 21 minutes to 55 minutes) to the closest emergency room at Bay Side Sentara, while residents of Sand Hills Drive will face an increase of 14 minutes (from 26 minutes to 40 minutes). The “Golden Hour” refers to the first hour from incident to treatment, during which, if treatment is received, the chance of survival is greatly increased. The hospital move greatly decreases the chances many Northampton County citizens have of obtaining care within the “Golden Hour”. Traumatic injuries are more common in rural areas, and residents face worse outcomes and higher risk of death than urban patients due to lack of ready access to emergency services.

7.9.3 Public Safety & Law Enforcement

The Northampton County Sheriff’s Department and County jail are located just outside the town of Eastville. In addition to the Sheriff and Major, there are 20 law enforcement deputies, 40 jail deputies, and 6 communications officers. The jail also employs 8 persons for medical and kitchen staff. The County’s FY14 contribution to Law Enforcement is \$3,893,691, 15% of the total operating budget. This amount includes \$2,099,199 for the Sherriff’s Office, \$288,907 for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, \$20,566 for Victim Witness, \$35,455 for Judicial Court Services, and \$1,449,564 for the Eastern Shore Regional Jail. I



County Courthouse, Eastville



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The County allocated \$127,280 for Animal Control for FY14; \$33,138 for the Accomack-Northampton Animal Control Facility and \$94,142 for Animal Control.

The towns of Cape Charles, Eastville and Exmore also maintain small police forces. The town's officers are dispatched through the Sheriff's Office in Eastville and remain in radio contact with the Eastville dispatcher. The Town of Cape Charles presently employs five officers. The Town of Exmore employs seven full-time officers. The town of Eastville employs two officers. Cheriton employs four County deputies on a part-time basis.

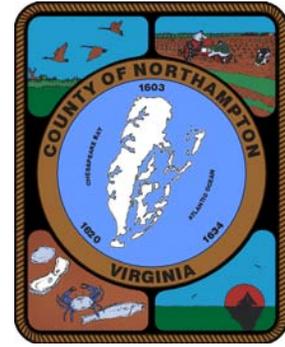
Northampton County also benefits from services provided by the Virginia State Police. The local headquarters is located near the town of Melfa in Accomack County. The Melfa office has 22 assigned officers and equipment that can be requested as needed. The State Police also offer technical support to the County officers and present safety programs to schools, churches, civic organizations and other groups that request their services.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Police Department employs 39 officers whose duties are not only to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth, but also to render services to the patrons crossing the facility.

Also contributing to the public safety are personnel of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. There are three officers in the County who are responsible for enforcing all laws relative to the taking of wildlife as represented in the Code of Virginia and Regulations of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Also, these officers are the chief enforcers of Virginia's boating safety laws. Boat safety and boating safety laws are also taught, inspected, and enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Charles and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Currently there is one National Wildlife Refuge officer with law enforcement authority. This officer is authorized to protect U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property and enforce wildlife and public use laws and regulations in the local area or as directed

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) has 15 officers assigned to the Eastern Shore, 7 of which are in Northampton County. This number may fluctuate depending on activity.



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7.10 Government Services

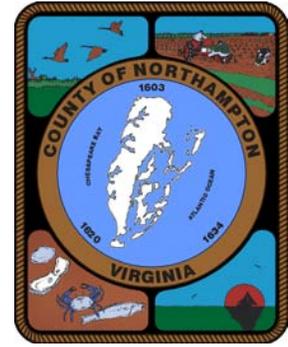
The County of Northampton has a five-member Board of Supervisors with a County Administrator overseeing the day-to-day operations and the implementation of policy established/adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The County's primary campus houses the court house, Social Services building, jail and sheriff's offices, and Juvenile Court services building. The old court house has been renovated to house various administrative offices. The FY14 budget for the Board of Supervisors and Administration is \$49,319 and \$390,116 respectively.

Northampton County implements a range of programs and services dealing with land management. For FY14, the allocation for land management was \$731,024 or 3% of the total operating budget. The majority of this amount was for Planning and Zoning (\$379,110) and Code Compliance (\$190,614). \$71,013 went to the Extension Service, \$32,518 went to the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and \$28,183 went to the Soil & Water Conservation Service. The remaining went towards Johnson Grass Control (\$12,538), Planning Commission (\$6,480), Wetlands Board (\$3,300) and the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council (\$7,268).

Northampton County provides plan review and inspection for building construction in accordance with the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. The County allocated \$192,985 to implement this program for FY14.

7.11 Hospital/Health Services

The Virginia State Department of Health in Richmond oversees the area's health planning services. Through its Eastern Virginia Regional Office, the State Department of Health is mandated to increase accessibility, acceptability, continuity, and quality of health care service. In addition, the Office monitors and evaluates the costs of health care to restrain cost increases and to insure that services are not duplicated. For FY14, Northampton County contributed \$359,175 to the Health Department. The ratio of patients to physicians in Northampton County in 2012 was 961:1 compared to a ratio 1053:1 in Virginia and a ratio of 631:1 in the US overall (Source: CountyRankings.org). Approximately 50 private health care providers including physicians, dentists, and chiropractors provide care to citizens of the Eastern Shore. The majority of the offices are currently concentrated in the Nassawadox area. The median age of residents has



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increased 12% to 47.8. The increasing age of residents will necessitate increased health care services.

Northampton County was federally designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) in 1978. A MUA is defined as a region that has a relative or absolute deficiency of health care resources—e.g., hospital beds, equipment and/or medical personnel. On the Index of Medical Underservice (IMU), where 0 represents completely underserved and 100 represents best served, Northampton County rates 59.7 (Health Resources Administration). Clinics serving rural areas designated as MUAs are eligible for certification as Rural Health Clinics by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems, Inc

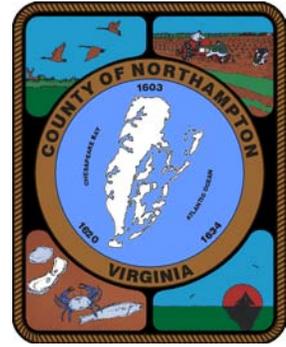
Eastern Shore Rural Health provides care to residents of Northampton County under the authority of the Rural Health Clinic Services Act (PL 95-21, as amended).

The Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems, Inc., (ESRHS) was established in 1976 with a Rural Health Initiative grant and is the only grant funded provider. There are currently two ESRHS locations in Northampton County, one in Bayview and one in Franktown. The Franktown location was initially established as a pediatric center and added adult services in 2003. The Bayview location opened in 1985 and expanded in 1994. ESRHS provides primary health care to all ages of citizens, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics (Franktown) and general dentistry (Franktown). Dental services are provided by 6 ESRHS dentists and two dental hygienists who rotate through ESRHS units. Staffing and hours of the centers are in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2 Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems

Location	Hours	Physicians	Physicians' Assistant	Nurse Practitioner	Patient visits per month
Franktown	M-F 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	3	1	2	1608
Bayview	M 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM T- F 8:00AM - 5:00 PM	1	1	1	678

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ESRHS accepts all major private health insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. In addition services can be obtained on a sliding scale to qualified individuals based on income and family size.

Eastern Shore Health District

The Eastern Shore Health District provides Health and Clinical services, Food and Environmental Safety, and Emergency Preparedness and response services to the citizens of Northampton County.



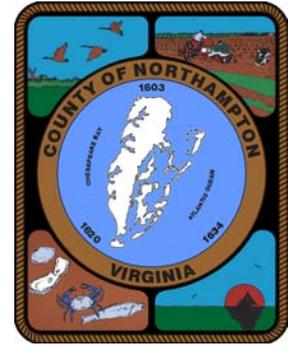
Franktown Community Health Center, Near Nassawadox

Public Health

Most health and clinical services are provided on a sliding fee scale. School immunizations are provided free of charge. Health services provided include a Maternity Clinic; a Resource Mothers Program to assist pregnant and parenting teens, a Family Planning Clinic; a Life Matters Program, providing comprehensive breast health care to women age 18 to 63 years old and symptomatic men via funding from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tidewater Affiliate; Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, providing supplemental food for financially and nutritionally eligible pregnant women, breast feeding women and children up to age five; Immunizations; investigations and support related to communicable disease exposures; community health education; the Ryan White program, providing medication for the treatment of HIV/AIDS for eligible individuals; and Nursing Home Preadmission screening.

Food and Environmental Safety

The Environmental Health Division manages programs such as a Beach Monitoring Program, Lead Poisoning Prevention, Mold Information, Marina Sanitation Program, Migrant Labor Camp Sanitation Program, Rabies Prevention and Control, Swimming Pool/Tourist Establishment Sanitation Program, Restaurant/Food Safety Program, Restaurant inspections, and sewage and water safety programs.



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Emergency Preparedness and Response

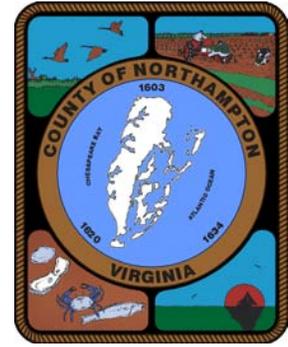
The Eastern Shore Health District responds to emergencies impacting public health through preparation, collaboration, education and rapid intervention in collaboration with local EMS, Ready Virginia, US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

Shore Memorial Hospital was purchased by Riverside Health Systems in 2009 and is now known as Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. This 130 bed hospital currently provides acute care services at its Nassawadox campus in addition to outpatient cancer treatment and a physician practice. They also operate a physician practice in Cape Charles. Riverside is planning to move out of Northampton County, to Onley Virginia by 2015. The plans for the current campus have not been clarified at the time of this plan. Riverside has stated that they plan to leave an urgent care center in what is currently the cancer center, but details pertaining to hours, etc., have not been presented. The median age of residents increased between 2000-2010 by 12% from 42.4 years to 47.8. The increasing age of residents will necessitate increased health care services.

Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall was built in 1981 and was extensively renovated in 2011. The building is located 33 feet above sea level and can withstand Level 5 hurricane force winds. Services include rehabilitation services, with physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy provided seven days a week, in addition to the provision of long term care. Heritage Hall has 145 beds and employs 130 staff members. They manage the only Alzheimer's unit on the Eastern shore, with 20 beds. An activity bus takes patients on outings such as visits to area restaurants, fishing, and to the botanical gardens.



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Mental Health Services

Mental health care services are provided via private psychologists, psychiatrists, clinical social workers and the Eastern Shore Community Services Board (ESCSB). There are no inpatient beds for psychiatric or substance abuse patients available on the Eastern Shore.

The Eastern Shore Community Services Board (ESCSB) was formed in 1971 and is comprised of local citizens appointed by the Board of Supervisors of both Counties. Its mission is to act as the agent in providing community mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services. The Administration and Emergency Service Offices are located in Nassawadox. The County contributed \$61,538 to the ESCSB for FY14.

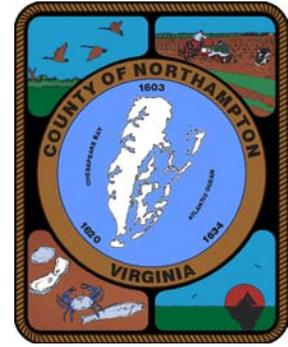
Mental health outpatient/case management offers psychological and psychiatric evaluation for adults, adolescents and children, as well as family, group and marital counseling. Substance abuse services include counseling, aftercare, family education, detoxification, and inpatient referrals.

Emergency on-call services are available on a 24-hour basis. Day support programs provide rehabilitation for chronically mentally ill clients recently discharged from a psychiatric hospital.

Services are provided at two primary locations for the developmentally disabled individuals and their families: Nassawadox for case management and parent-infant intervention and Exmore for day support, vocational training, supportive employment, and residential services. Programs are coordinated to enable clients to reach their maximum level of functioning and potential toward independent living. The Parent Infant Program on the Shore (PIPS) serves developmentally disabled/delayed and at-risk infants from birth to two years of age.

Mental retardation residential services are provided at ARC House, a group home in Belle Haven. This facility focuses on habilitation and supporting disabled adults through such services are psychological, psychiatric, medical, socialization and recreational activities.

The Dogwood View Apartments in Nassawadox was constructed in 1990 and has 24 units. This project has successfully allowed developmentally disabled adults to obtain maximum potential toward independent living.



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Northampton County also contributes to the Social Services Department's Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Program, a program for at risk youth and their families. In FY14, the County allocated \$104,000 towards this program.

Senior Services

A senior center is managed at the offices of Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging on Bayside Road in Exmore for people more than 60 years old. Programs provided for clientele include exercise, tai chi, speakers, field trips, crafts, etc.

7.12 Libraries

Library services for Northampton County residents are provided by the Eastern Shore Public Library. This regional library system is responsible for serving Northampton and Accomack Counties with a branch in Nassawadox, and the main branch in the Town of Accomac in Accomack County with plans to relocate to Onley. There is also an affiliated library located in Cape Charles. The library is an active participant in the interlibrary loan system. The County contributed \$117,567 to the Eastern Shore Public Library for FY14.

The Northampton Memorial Library located in Cape Charles was the first memorial library to be established in Virginia, dedicated in 1927 to the memory of local men who died in WWI. It has recently moved into a larger, newly renovated building in town. The County contributed \$20,000 to the Cape Charles Public Library for FY14.

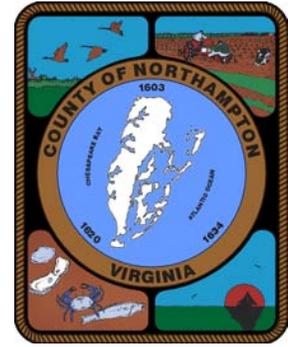
7.13 Parks & Recreation

7.13.1 Indiantown Park

This 52-acre area is the headquarters for the Northampton County Parks and Recreation Department. There is a full-time director, several part-time personnel, basketball league officials, aerobic and gymnastic instructors, and a summer play camp director and aides. The Park has a picnic shelter, a soccer field, a



Indiantown Park, Eastville



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playground, a softball field, an 18-hole disc golf course, and a two-mile nature trail. A recreation building houses the Department offices, restrooms, and a large multi-purpose room available to civic, church, and county organizations, as well as to individuals for a small fee. The Park was recently renovated with building upgrades, new stone parking area, playground equipment, new lighting for the softball field, signage and landscaping.

The Department offers a wide variety of activities: basketball, tennis, softball, soccer, flag football, volleyball, gymnastics, and aerobics. By utilizing facilities at several public schools as well as those at Indiantown Park, leagues are organized on a year-round basis. Various recreation programs are offered: summer play camp, runs, disc golf tournaments, children's parties for Christmas, Halloween, and Easter; food, toy, and clothes drives; and planned bus trips off the Shore.

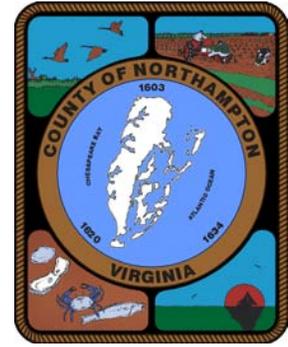
A small fee is charged for many of the programs. For FY14, the County allocated \$168,950 for Parks and Recreation.

7.13.2 Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge

In 1984, the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service acquired the Air Force Base at the southern tip of the County just north of the bridge-tunnel. The site formerly included Fort John Custis. The 653 acres of land is at the end of the East Coast Migratory Flyway; thus, it is an important habitat for wildlife, including several endangered species. School, scout, and conservation groups and the general public are invited to use the facilities, including a small but excellent museum, for interpretive and educational purposes. Scheduled tours are conducted to nearby Fisherman's Island from October to the beginning of March for nature walks and bird watching. Displays and informative material at the Welcome Center interpret the Refuge and the ecosystems of both bayside and seaside, as well as areas of environmental and historical interest in both Northampton and Accomack Counties. The USS Missouri gun barrel is on display at the refuge. This 120 ton gun barrel is similar to the barrel formerly in the bunker at the former Fort John Custis. It was on the USS Missouri at the time of the signing of the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.

The Southern Tip Hike & Bike Trail is a 2.5 mile paved trail along the old railroad bed that connects the Refuge to Kiptopeke State Park. There are plans to extend the trail further north to the Cape Center area.

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7.13.3 Kiptopeke State Park

Kiptopeke State Park is located along the Chesapeake Bay in the southern part of the County. It is a natural area state park for low-density, passive activities. Kiptopeke beach offers two beaches for public use with the payment of an entrance fee. The north beach is designated as a swimming area with no boats, fishing, or pets allowed.



Kiptopeke State Park

The south beach allows dogs on leashes and also allows fishing. Amenities adjacent to the beach include kayak rentals, bathrooms with outdoor showers and a store selling bait, floatation devices and ice cream. The beaches are connected to the campsite areas by boardwalks and 5.1 miles of nature trails.

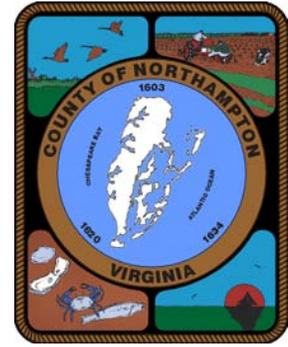
7.13.4 Town Facilities

Cape Charles has a large, Central Park offering landscaped grounds, evening lighting and a children's playground. It is the site of community and regional events and activities. The Town also has a newly renovated public library, a public fishing pier, a boat launch and a public beach and a town harbor. A public bathroom is located next to the beach. Golfing opportunities are found at Bay Creek Resort with both an Arnold Palmer and a Jack Nicklaus course.

Eastville has a large, well-maintained park in the center of town. A picnic spot is located next to the county "time capsule" monument, and the property has been the site of community events and fund raisers. A court garden is located next to the historic Courthouse Green area.

The Randy Custis Memorial Park in Nassawadox has multiple baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other athletic fields for organized team sports as well as a children's play center sponsored by Northampton Little League. There is also a town children's play ground.

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Exmore has a children's playground and a picnic park.

7.13.5 Boat Ramps & Beach Access

Three public beaches are located on the bayside of Northampton County, one in Cape Charles and two in Kiptopeke State Park. Recreational boating and fishing are very popular sports on the Eastern Shore. Boat ramps within Northampton County include: Cape Charles (town harbor with 51 slips); Kings Creek (privately owned with 125 slips); Oyster (County owned with 10 slips); Bayford; Red Bank; Willis Wharf



Willis Wharf

(County owned with 50 slips); Morley's Wharf (County owned) Wise Point and Kiptopeke State Park.

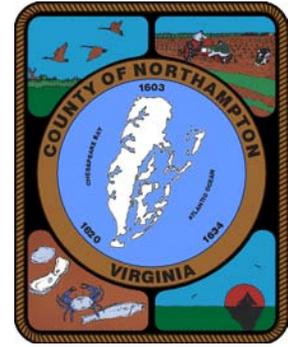
Recreational finfish in this area include striped bass, spot, croaker, gray and speckled trout, channel bass, black drum, flounder, bluefish, and channel catfish. There are public fishing piers at the Morley's Wharf boat ramp, Cape Charles and Kiptopeke State Park. For FY14, \$26,815 was allocated to boat ramps and harbors.

7.14 Schools & Education

7.14.1 Elementary & Secondary Education

Northampton County Schools consists of two elementary schools constructed in 1993, one 6-12 grade alternative school, and one comprehensive high school for grades 7-12 with an on-campus careers and technical center.

Northampton High School is organized on a hybrid-modified block instructional model. This instructional model provides the flexibility to structure class time to meet students' individual needs. Students may enroll in college courses at the Eastern Shore Community College or through Virtual Advanced Placements School. Students may enroll in the following ESCC Dual Enrollment courses: Calculus, US Government, Psychology, English Comp I and English Comp II, Early Childhood Education, Health



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Care Tech and Welding. Cultural events such as student concerts and student art exhibits are generally held several times a year.

As well, students at Northampton High School are able to take a variety of Career and Technical courses which could lead to industry certifications. Included among the student's options are: Agriculture Production, Automotive Technology, Building Trades, Culinary Arts, Marketing and various business offerings.

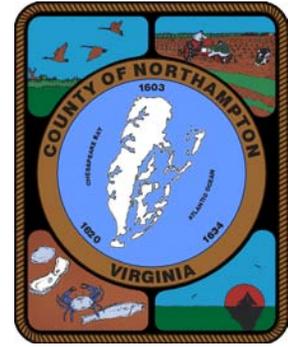
In September 2012, an NDCC (National Defense Cadet Core) program was established with the goal being to replace this program with a JROTC Program during the 2013-2014 school year. Advanced Placement Courses and Honors Courses are offered and include AP Statistics, AP U.S. History, AP European History, AP Psychology Honors English and Honors Biology.

In 2012, over 76% of graduates went on to further their education in institutions of higher education and the military. Graduating students may be awarded the following diplomas: Advanced, Standard, Modified Standard, Special, GED/ISAEP and Certificate of Completion.

Northampton County offers a universal Pre-Kindergarten program at both local elementary schools. The Pre-K program is a free, full day, traditional school year program that provides children with opportunities for social, cognitive, linguistic, emotional and physical development. Admissions are open to all children living in the county regardless of religion, race, national origin, at-risk, or economic status. Each class has a maximum of 18 students and is taught by a certified teacher and a teaching assistant. The program follows the Virginia standards for universal Pre-Kindergarten, as well as literacy and mathematics programs adopted by the district.

Gifted education is offered K-12. Potentially gifted students are identified at an early age. Academic programs and competitions as well as the Governor's School Programs challenge students beyond the classroom. Extracurricular and many athletic activities are also offered to provide enrichment beyond the regular classroom setting.

Special Education is available to students with disabilities who are provided services according to the student's Individualized Education Plan. Speech therapists, learning disabilities teachers, teachers of emotionally disturbed, an occupational therapist, and a



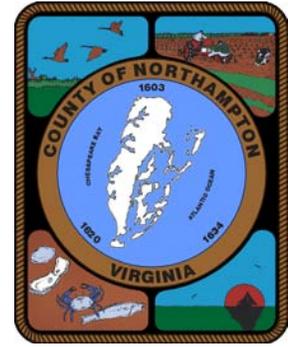
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school psychologist serve as resource personnel in the provision of a comprehensive program of services for students with handicapping conditions.

Northampton County Public Schools operates an annual summer Migrant Education Program for approximately 100 students over a period of four (4) weeks beginning in early July and ending in early August.

All Northampton County schools have wireless Internet. Promethean Boards, response systems/clickers, Elmo document camera, iPads, iPods and a variety of other technology devices are used daily to engage students in the delivery of the instructional content. Technology training is provided to teachers in support of the effective use and integration of technology in the classroom. In addition to textbooks, a great variety of supplemental instructional materials are provided by the Division.

The Northampton County Public School System is accredited by AdvancEd which provides accreditation under the seals of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). For the 2012-2013 school year, Kiptopeke was *Conditionally Accredited*, Occohannock Elementary was *Fully Accredited*, and Northampton High School was *Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate* by the Virginia Department of Education. *Conditionally Accredited* rating is given to a new school for one year in order to allow for tests to be given. This rating may also be given to a school that is being reconstituted. *Reconstitution* is a process used to initiate a range of accountability actions to improve pupil performance, curriculum and instruction to address deficiencies that caused a school to be rated accreditation denied which may include, but is not limited to, restructuring a school's governance, instructional program, staff or student population. *Fully Accredited* is earned by a school when students achieve an adjusted pass rate of 75 percent in third-grade and fifth-grade English, 70 percent in mathematics and 50 percent in third-grade science and history/social science. Otherwise, the student results must meet the adjusted pass rate of 70 percent in each of the four core academic areas – English, mathematics, science and history/social science. *Provisionally Accredited-Graduation Rate* is given if students achieve adjusted pass rates of 70 percent or more in all four content areas and a Graduation and Completion Index of 81-84 points. School capacity and enrollment information by school based on Fall Enrollment are provided Tables 7.3 and 7.4.



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Table 7.3 School Enrollment by School

School	Capacity	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Kiptopeke Elementary	550	481	616	581	589	534	493
Occohannock Elementary	550	494	588	592	610	552	531
Northampton Middle School	600	390	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northampton High School	800	553	638	626	601	723	697

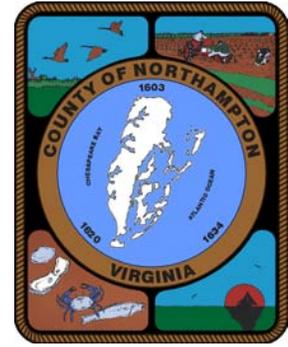
Source: Northampton County Public Schools

Table 7.4 School Enrollment by Grade

Grade	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
PK-3	701	686	656	647	670	630
4-7	536	518	517	552	546	523
PK-7	1237	1204	1173	1199	1216	1153
8-9	267	269	254	253	249	240
10-12	414	369	372	348	344	328
Total PK-12	1918	1842	1799	1800	1809	1721

Source: Northampton County Public Schools

For the 2012-13 school year, 33 students who live in Accomack County applied to attend Northampton County schools and 28 students who live in Northampton County applied to attend Accomack County schools.



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The Northampton County School Board Policies and Regulations provide a basis for the operation of the schools. The School Board employs approximately 175 professional staff persons for program coordination and implementation. At the present time, 99% of the Division's teachers and administrators are endorsed in their assigned field, and in 2012, approximately 40% had graduate/doctoral degrees.

School support services include health, dental, transportation, food services, operation and maintenance of facilities, instructional assistants, and clerical. Approximately 140 employees are involved in providing these services. Pupil transportation is provided with 38 school buses with 4 of those buses being handicapped accessible. In addition, buses are available for approved field trips, certain after-school activities, and scheduled athletic contests.

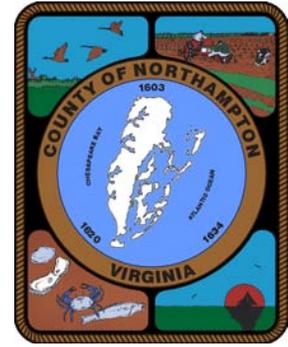
As in all rural counties, the educational budget represents the single largest budgetary commitment of the county government; 32% or \$8,108,000 of the County's FY14 operational budget is transferred to the Public School system.

Northampton County benefits from the school division's participation in the Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc (HRETA). Eighteen (18) school divisions currently comprise the HRETA, the parent corporation that owns the assets of WHRO. WHRO convenes over 40 regional educational planning/leadership meetings each year, involving local school board representatives, superintendents, key instructional leaders, and technology staff.

WHRO provides online educational resources for student education and for professional development of teachers, workforce development and quality children's programming 24 hours per day. Northampton County invested \$4,892 in WHRO in 2011-2012 with a direct return on investment of \$711,920.

7.14.2 Higher Education

The Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) near Melfa serves residents of both Northampton and Accomack Counties. It occupies a 43,000 square foot building on 115 acres. It has the capacity for 500 full-time students and enrollment averages approximately 450. ESCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern



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Association of Colleges and Schools and its degree programs are approved by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. It is a two-year institution offering transfer and occupational-technical certificate programs and a variety of credit and non-credit courses for residents of the two Counties. For FY14, Northampton County allocated \$20,723 to ESCC.

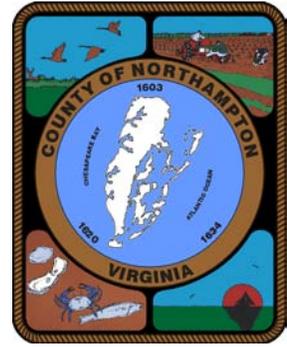
The Business Development and Workforce Training Center opened in January 2009. The 20,000 square foot facility enhances the effort to establish links between the College and the business community as well as individuals who need training and professional development in order to advance in their careers. The Division collaborates with business, local and regional government, social service agencies, and economic development authorities, as well as the College's academic departments to fulfill the educational component of community and economic development initiatives. A broad range of cost effective education and training services are available to individuals, as well as business, industry, government and professional organizations.

The college operates an Adult Basic Education Program in cooperation with both County school systems and the Eastern Shore Literacy Council (ESLC). These classes and free one-to-one tutoring by professionally trained volunteers are designed to serve the basic education needs of the 30% of the Northampton County adult population with less than eight years of schooling. Individuals may obtain their General Educational Development (GED) degree through the Adult Basic Education Program.

7.14.3 Private Schools

There are currently four private schools located in the County, Broadwater Academy, Shore Christian Academy, Franktown Montessori, and Cape Charles Christian School. Broadwater Academy is a private, coeducational, college preparatory school located in Exmore, Virginia. A campus of approximately 120 acres provides space for four classroom buildings, gymnasium, library, cafeteria, and fine arts space for the school's 334 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. The curriculum is academically oriented and 97% of graduates go on to college and universities. The school serves Accomack and Northampton Counties as well as the southernmost county of Maryland. It is accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools. Broadwater accepts students regardless of race, creed or national origin. A limited amount of scholarship aid is available.

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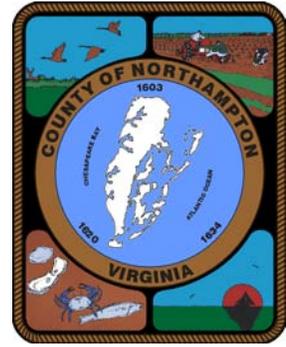


Shore Christian Academy started in 2004 and is located in Exmore. It is an extension of Exmore Baptist Church. The academic program is centered on the A Beka curriculum, which integrates the Christian principles into the classroom. The school currently has 71 students enrolled and is planning to construct a new facility to accommodate all grade levels.

The Montessori Children's House of Franktown (MCHF) was started in 2007 and is located at Franktown United Methodist Church (FUMC). MCHF focuses on the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori where the emphasis is on developing the child's unique potential. Currently, MCHF has 41 students enrolled. MCHF is building two new classrooms adjacent to FUMC. MCHF holds certification from the Association Montessori Internationale, the most stringent level of accreditation that follows Dr. Montessori's principles and practices.

Cape Charles Christian School (CCCS) opened in 2009 and currently enrolls 43 students. CCCS aims to educate and develop students in a non-denominational Christian setting. CCCS offers pre-K through eighth grade. CCCS is located on Tazewell Avenue in Cape Charles.

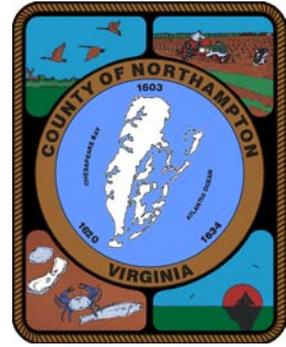
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7.15 Summary

- Northampton has numerous cultural and artistic venues throughout the county, attracting artists and providing entertainment for residents and tourists.
- Communication systems include telephone, numerous radio and television stations, newspapers, DSL and broadband.
- Private wells are the predominant source of water in Northampton County, with municipal water systems serving Cape Charles, Eastville, Bayview and Exmore.
- There are three municipal wastewater treatment systems in the county.
- Disposal and recycling is managed through waste collection centers in six locations.
- Emergency Medical services are provided through a combination of paid and volunteer staff from locations in Bayview, Nassawadox and Exmore. Sentara provides a Nightingale Air Ambulance service when needed.
- Fire Service is provided by volunteer staff with fire departments located in each incorporated town.
- Public safety and law enforcement is provided by the Northampton County Sheriff's Department; officers in the towns of Cape Charles, Exmore and Eastville; State Police, Virginia Marine Police, National Wildlife Refuge Officers, and back up by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Police Department.
- A Regional Jail is located at the county complex in Eastville.
- The hospital, currently located in Nassawadox, is scheduled to move to Onley, in Accomack County in 2015. As currently planned by Riverside, the emergency department will not remain in the County.
- Primary health care and dentistry is provided in the county through a combination of primary care physicians and private dentists, Eastern Shore Rural Health, and the Eastern Shore Health District.

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- Long Term care and Rehabilitation services are provided at Heritage Hall in Nassawadox.
- Mental Health and developmentally disabled services are provided with a network including private practitioners the Community Services Board, ARC House and a housing complex in Nassawadox, Dogwood View.
- An active Parks and Recreation Department includes facilities at Indiantown Park with many planned programs.*
- Access to the natural beauty of the county and protection for flora and fauna is provided at the Eastern Shore Wildlife refuge and Kiptopeke State Park.
- Parks, beaches, boat launches, golfing, baseball facilities, and bicycle and walking trails are available for public use.
- The school system includes public and private schools for K-12 and access to classes at ESCC.