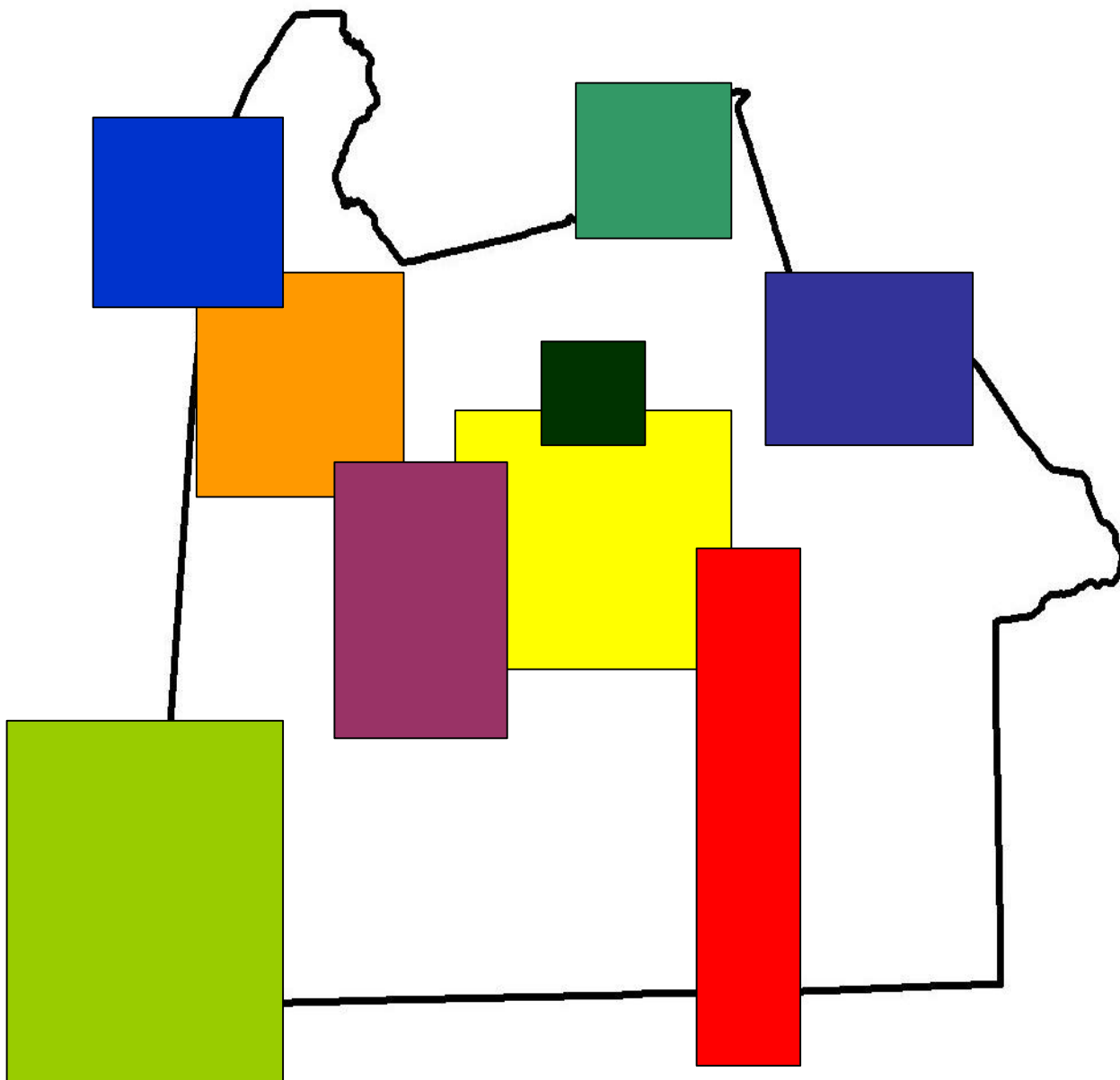


Chesapeake Planning Department Annual Report



Fiscal Year 1999 - 2000

CITY OF CHESAPEAKE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Mission Statement

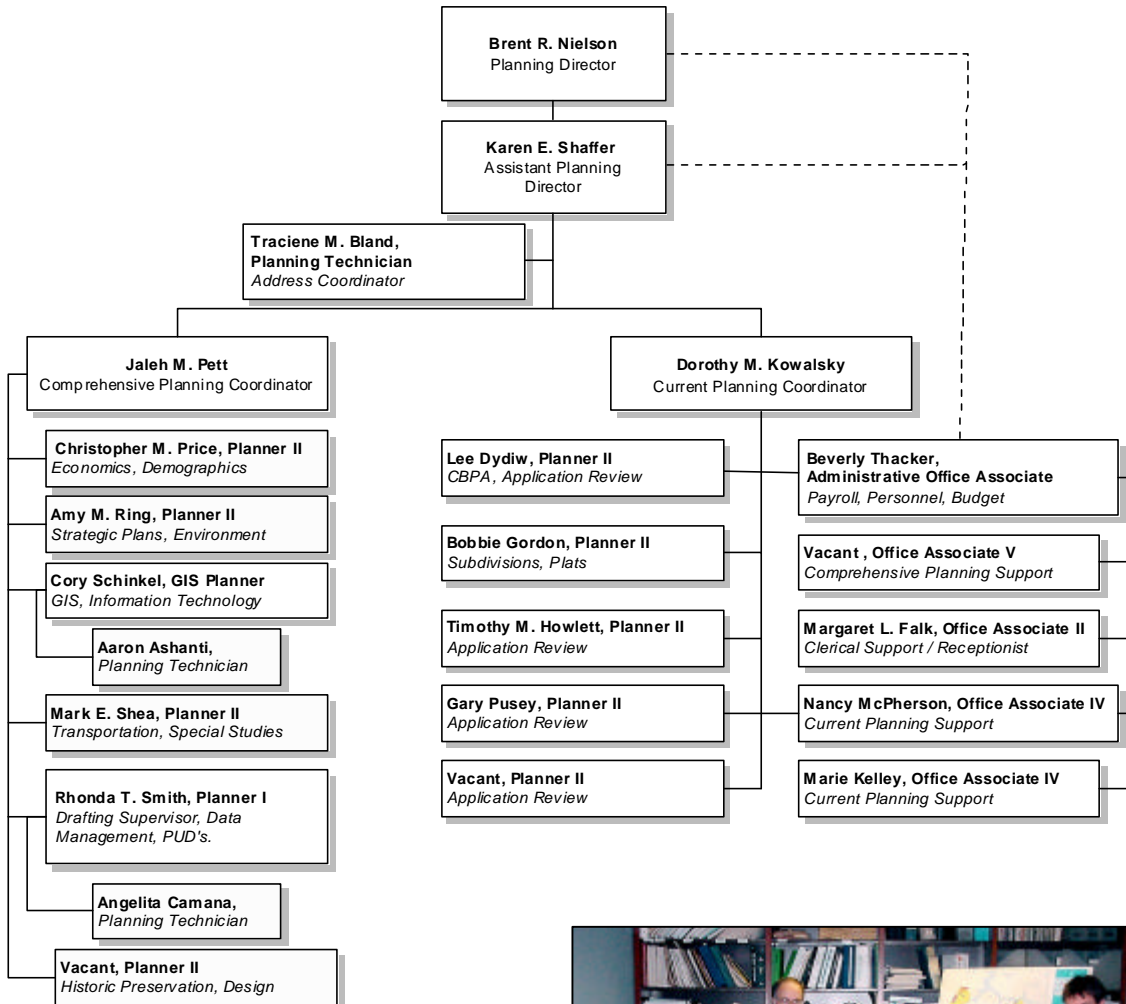
The City of Chesapeake Planning Department provides guidance and expertise in strategic planning, land use, and development in order to maintain a high quality of life for all of our citizens while promoting efficiency in the utilization of public services and facilities. As such, it is our mission to:

1. Develop, monitor, and update as necessary, strategic plans pertaining to the physical form and economic development of the City;
2. Provide technical expertise in the application of City, State, and Federal codes to the comprehensive planning and development review processes while following sound planning principles;
3. Provide timely and accurate information to our community; and
4. Serve as an integral component of the City's regional presence.

The Planning Department provides staff support to:

- Planning Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee

Planning Department Personnel

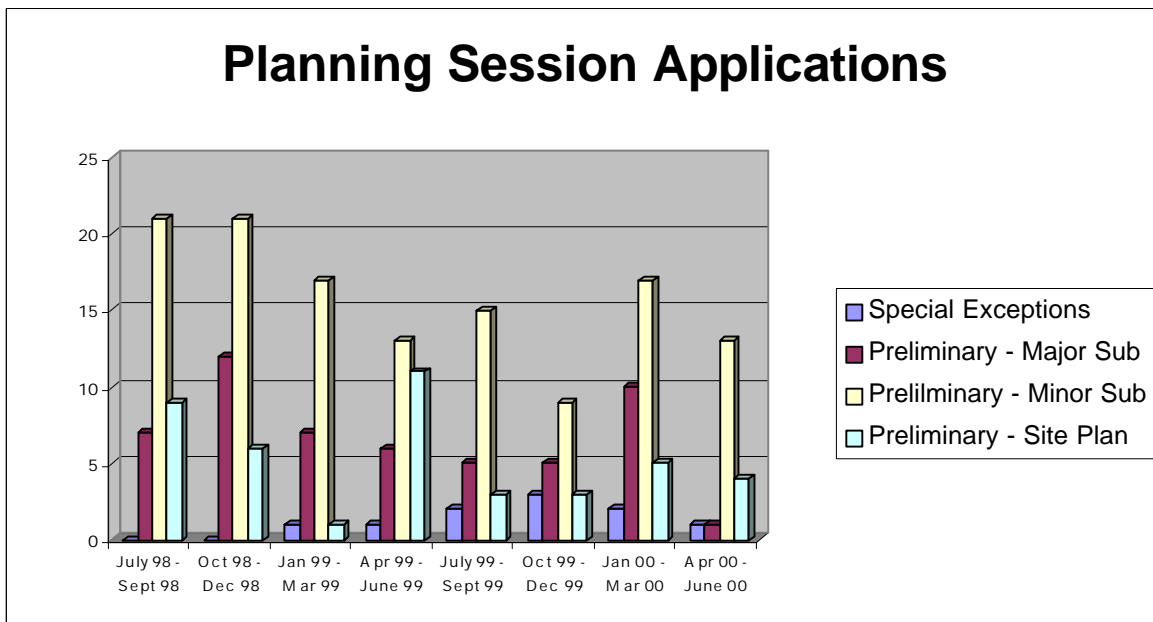
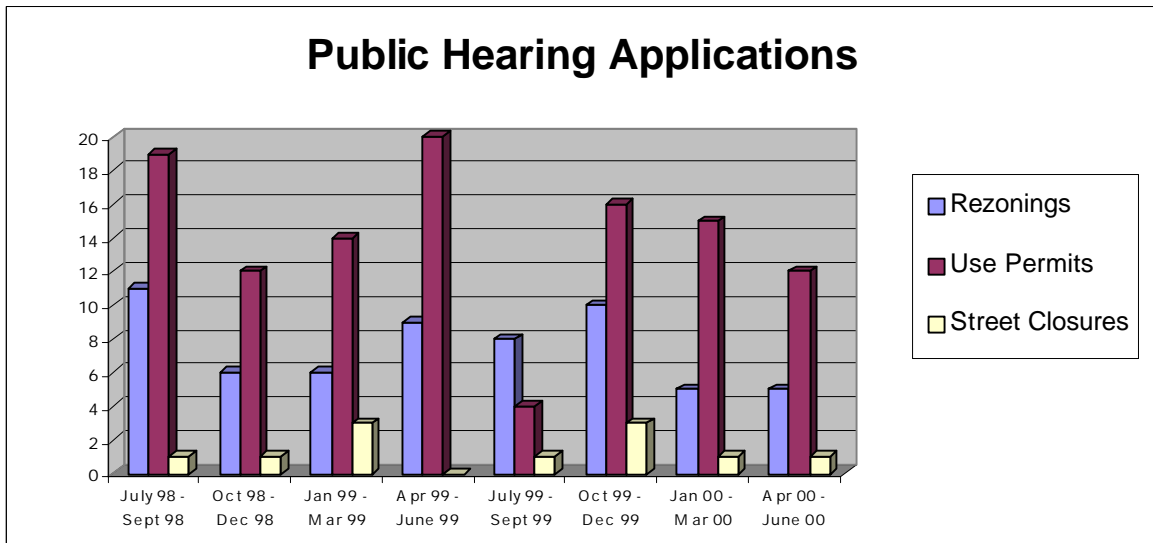


CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

Development Review

- **Application Review**

Current Planning staff successfully completed the review of more than 1100 development applications in the past year. This included rezonings, conditional use permits, street closures, preliminary subdivision plans, preliminary site plans, subdivision variances, and other development applications.



- **Greenbrier Architectural Review**

The Current Planning Division coordinates the activities of the Greenbrier Architectural Review Committee. The Planning Department approved seventeen (17) plans during the last fiscal year, including the expansion of the Yupo paper plant.

- **Chesapeake Expressway Borrow Pits**

Current Planning staff coordinated the review of the borrow pits needed for the construction of the Chesapeake Expressway. The first pit approved on March 21, 2000, is located on the east side of Battlefield Boulevard just south of the Northwest River. The second pit, approved on April 18, 2000, is located at the Hillcrest interchange.



Chesapeake Planning Commission readies for the vote.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING DIVISION

Long Range and Strategic Planning Projects

- **Transportation Corridor Overlay District**

The Comprehensive Planning Division coordinates all special area / corridor plans related to the physical development and growth of the City. During the last quarter of 1999, Comprehensive Planning staff coordinated the development of a Transportation Corridor Overlay District plan to provide development policies along Route 104 and the new Route 168 alignment in advance of increased development pressures. The goal of this policy is to preserve economic development opportunities at key interchanges while protecting the rural character through sprawl prevention. The policy includes guidelines for future rezonings and conditional use permits, including design guidelines. Staff worked with both citizen and business interests to further refine the guidelines. City Council adopted the policy on June 13, 2000.

- **Section “2232” Reviews**

Section 15.2-2232 of the Virginia State Code requires a finding of substantial conformance with the City’s Comprehensive Plan from the Planning Commission for all capital improvements. The



Comprehensive Planning Division coordinates the review of these projects and makes recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding their consistency.

During the past year, staff reviewed several capital improvement projects for Comprehensive Plan consistency including the Oak Grove Park, the City’s proposed 800-megahertz radio system, and the Lake Ahoy Park.

Oak Grove Park

- **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Planning staff presented a process framework for the City’s Comprehensive Plan update to City Council at the June 13, 2000 work session. At this time, Council gave Planning staff a directive to begin the process. Staff has since gathered input from other departments and prepared a Request for Proposals for the completion of the project. Work is anticipated to commence in fall of 2000.

- **Western Branch Land Study**

Staff has worked with a consultant toward the development of a series of alternative land use plans for areas in Western Branch formerly included in the New Boone Farm development. Staff has assisted in the facilitation of community meetings and identification of citizen and business goals and interests. In addition, staff has provided assistance in the review of existing conditions and background information and in the review of alternative development scenarios.

Environmental Programs

- **Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

On July 18, 2000, the Chesapeake City Council adopted an amendment to the Chesapeake Comprehensive Plan, the South Norfolk Area Plan and the Western Branch Area Plan pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Chapter 21, Title 10.1, Section 10.12-2100 et seq. of Code of Virginia) The amendments consist of recommendations for both appropriate policy changes and research efforts needed for management of land use and development in a manner that protects both surface water and ground water quality, as well as aquatic resources. These recommendations will be considered during the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update process.

- **Wetlands Task Force**

In June, the City Manager appointed the Planning Department to chair and oversee the activities of a City Wetlands Task Force. This ad hoc committee consists of representatives from various city departments, including Public Works, Public Utilities, Economic Development, Schools, the City Attorney's Office, Planning and the City Manager's Office. The task force will review the recent changes to the federal Nationwide Permit program as well as the proposed State regulations for non-tidal wetlands. The task force will determine the impact of the new Nationwide Permits and proposed State regulations on City operations, advise the City Manager of these impacts, and provide comments to the State on behalf of the City. Assisted by two outside consultants, the task force is currently developing a Wetlands Regulatory Process Management Strategy for City projects requiring permits.

- **Rural Area Preservation Program (RAPP)**

Together with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, City staff participated in the selection of a consulting firm to develop the RAPP. Progress over the past year includes a series of site visits, meetings, and workshops with stakeholders, city staff, HRPDC staff, and consulting team members. Some materials developed during the work sessions included identifying parameters, scenarios, and values that will help determine

land capability and policy direction. A set of initial implementation strategies is contained in the Phase I Report dated May 15, 2000.

Current efforts include the development of a series of community character studies to help define local rural character, an analysis of existing ordinances and regulations, and the refinement of recommended implementation strategies. Final recommendations on strategies and tools to implement the RAPP will be included in the Phase II Report to be published by June 2001.

- **Multiple Benefits Conservation Program (MBCP)**

Through the MBCP, the Cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach are seeking to identify alternatives for wetlands compensation and to provide additional benefits to city residents. Together with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, City staff participated in the selection of a consulting team to develop the MBCP.

Substantial progress has been made during Phase I of the project, including participation in a Technical Advisory Committee composed of local, State, and federal representatives; identification of the key goals of the MBCP; preliminary identification of policy issues; assembly of key electronic data sources for development and utilization of resource mapping; development of an attribute matrix for use in identifying multiple benefit conservation areas; and the preliminary identification of multiple benefit focus areas. The Phase I Report for the MBCP contains a synthesis of preliminary data collection efforts as well as activities of the Technical Advisory Committee. Production of the final MBCP is expected in June 2001.

- **Strategic Plan for Agriculture**

The Strategic Plan for Agriculture is a joint effort between the cities of Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, the HRPDC, and Virginia Tech. The goal of the plan is to develop an institutional framework and methodology to assist with sustaining agriculture as a viable land use. Activities in the first phase of the project have focused on gaining an understanding of the physical, cultural, and political context of the Southern Watershed Area through the use of GIS, citizen surveys and workshops; assembling data sets necessary for assessment and analysis; and initial development of water quality impact models.

Preliminary results of this analysis are contained in the September 1999 Phase I Report entitled, "Development of a Strategic Plan for Agriculture in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach." The final Strategic Plan for Agriculture is expected by September 2000. Results of the plan will be presented during a stakeholder workshop for elected officials, city staff, and agency personnel in the Fall of 2000. Findings of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture will be critical in the development of final recommendations for the RAPP, MBCP, and the Comprehensive Plan Update.

- **CBLAD Public and Private Waterfront Access Study Grant**

Staff applied for and received a \$15,000 grant through the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLAD) to conduct a shoreline access study, called the Public and Private Waterfront Access Study. The results of the study will be used to ensure the upcoming revisions to the Comprehensive Plan are in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Regulations. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission will conduct the analyses and prepare the results.

The study will address access for boating, commerce, fishing and passive recreation. Potential waterfront access sites will be identified and evaluated in accordance with environmental, economic, and social considerations. A summary of existing uses, land use designations, current access areas and water uses will be conducted. Carrying capacities of pertinent waterways will be evaluated. Current City programs and policies will be evaluated in reference to public and private waterfront access. Access management options will be evaluated and recommendations for changes to the Comprehensive Plan or city codes and programs will be made as they are appropriate.



The Jordan Bridge

- **Waterway Use Conflict MOA**

Planning staff participated in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement To Improve the Water Use Conflict Education for the North Landing River. The MOA is a product of the Southern Watershed Area Management Program (SWAMP). The purpose of the Agreement is to improve public education on potential conflicts among competing uses on the North Landing River as well as raise awareness of recreational use impacts on the rare and unique ecosystems found along the River. The Agreement proposes to enhance public education through the development of educational materials for use in boating safety classes, informational brochures, and signage at key public access points along the River. Development of these materials is to be achieved through a voluntary collaboration of the signatory agencies. Once the MOA is signed, Planning staff will assist in the development of boater education class materials, signage, and the user survey along the North Landing River.

- **Green Sea Festival**

The Third Annual Green Sea Festival was held in October 1999 at Northwest River Park. The Festival is a cooperative venture with the City of Virginia Beach, funded through the Southern Watershed Area Management Program. The purpose of the festival is to heighten public awareness of the natural and cultural resources of the Southern Watershed Area. The Green Sea Festival received its second Communications Award from the Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council for this year's event. The festival will be returning to Virginia Beach's Munden Point Park in October of 2000.

Transportation / Trails Programs

- **Transportation / Land Use Studies**

Comprehensive Planning staff provides support to the City's transportation studies concerning the analysis of land use patterns, neighborhood impacts, and socio-economic trends. During the past year, the Planning Department assisted the Department of Public Works and the City's transportation consultants with significant analysis and technical support.

Staff worked with a consultant to generate several alternative development scenarios for the Chesapeake portion of the Southeastern Expressway corridor. In addition, staff prepared socio-economic background and projection information, including the provision of fiscal impact analyses for each alternative. The Planning Department also assisted the Fentress Loop Study with demographic and GIS land use analyses and provided a "build-out" scenario for the southern portion of the City.

- **TEA-21 Enhancement Grant**

On June 14, 2000, the Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded Chesapeake \$258,000 to begin work on the Poindexter Street improvement project. This grant allocation includes funds for project design and streetscape improvements. In addition, \$11,000 was awarded to the previously funded project to construct the Gum Road multi-use trail.

- **Trails**

The Planning Department coordinates many of the activities associated with trail development within the City including providing staff support for the Bikeways and Trails Committee. The realignment of Route 17 is nearing the end of the Planning process and the Comprehensive Planning Division has begun work to examine the potential for use of the existing Route 17 alignment as a multi-use trail when the new highway is completed. The City also works to incorporate a trails system using available City resources such as the City's parks.



Oak Grove Park

Special Programs and Activities

- **Census 2000**

Planning staff coordinated the City's Census 2000 preparatory activities along two fronts. First, staff coordinated the City's Complete Count Committee to promote the importance of a complete and accurate Census to Chesapeake's citizens and business interests. The Committee spoke at civic leagues and community events and distributed promotional literature several times during the first few months of 2000. In addition, Planning staff performed extensive review and verification of Census Bureau address records to ensure accuracy. Chesapeake was the only Hampton Roads City to achieve its initial response rate goal (a five percent increase over the 1990 response rate) and one of only 15% of jurisdictions nationwide to do so. In addition, the City achieved the highest municipal response rate in the State.

- **Fiscal Impact Modeling**

The Comprehensive Planning Division coordinates the activities of the City's fiscal impact modeling program. Fiscal impact analyses are used to gauge the projected costs and revenues associated with a given land use scenario. Staff prepares fiscal impact analyses and reports for long range planning studies, alternative growth and development scenarios, transportation projects, and development / rezoning proposals. In addition, Comprehensive Planning staff reviews and updates the model based on current demographic and socio-economic conditions, existing levels of service, and the City's operating and capital budget trends.

- **Demographic / Socio-Economic Studies**

The Comprehensive Planning Division prepares semi-annual population estimates and provides information at the citywide, planning area, and census tract levels. In addition, staff reviews and prepares population and employment projections; both Citywide and for specific area long-range planning studies. This information is used by a variety of City departments, citizen groups, the media, economic development interests, and federal and state government agencies.

The Planning Department published its annual Statistical Profile in early February. This publication allows users to examine trends in the City's demographic and economic characteristics including population, income, physical development patterns, and residential / commercial development.

- **High Growth Localities Coalition**

The High Growth Localities Coalition consists of 22 Virginia localities that work to promote growth management legislation in the General Assembly. Chesapeake is a member of this coalition. Planning staff provides information and support to our council liaisons, legislative liaison, and City Attorney's office regarding proposed legislation throughout the year. Planning staff also provides expert testimony to General Assembly committees as requested.

- **Historic Preservation**

Comprehensive Planning staff provides support to the City's Historic Preservation Commission. The City of Chesapeake has applied for a cost-share grant to prepare National Register nominations for Fentress, Oaklette / Kemp Lane, and Sunray. The Comprehensive Planning staff also participates in the activities of the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Foundation that was recently formed to plan a visitor center for the battlefield site.



Historic South Norfolk