

YARD SALES GALORE: Don't miss any — see page 36

Eastern Shore Post

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THE VOICE OF ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES ON VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE

FREE OF CHARGE

SOFT OPENING AT THE IMPACT CENTER IN CAPE CHARLES



EASTERN SHORE POST/JIMMY SHOCKLEY

Pictured from left are Beth Walker, treasurer; Kim Abod, project manager and secretary; Tevya Griffin, founder and president; and Dianne Davis, board member and committee chair, during the soft opening Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Impact Center, located at the historic Cape Charles Elementary building in Cape Charles. A \$3.5 million project has turned the former Washington-Rosenwald school into a community hub. See story, page 33.

ACCOMACK

Plan would pump poultry waste a mile underground

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

A Texas-based company has proposed to pump liquefied poultry litter more than a mile underground on a property in northern Accomack County, an operation that would create dozens of new jobs but which critics fear would imperil groundwater.

Officials from the company, called Vaulted Deep, say they have worked to address concerns from residents from the Eastern Shore and from areas around other similar sites that inject organic waste underground.

"It's so important we do a good job and are a good neighbor," said Katherine Morille, the company's director of external affairs.

The company made a presentation at the October meeting of the Eastern Shore Ground Water Committee.

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Cape Charles' Impact Center has soft opening

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore Post

In 1962, Dianne Davis and her classmates left segregated Cape Charles Elementary School to continue their education.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, she and many others who tirelessly worked to restore the former Washington-Rosenwald school welcomed alumni back to the soft opening of the building, now called the Impact Center.

"It's an exciting time," said Davis, now a board member and chair of the alumni committee for the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative.

The initiative was founded in 2009 by Tevya Griffin, who is now the president of the organization.

Griffin first saw the former school in 2009 in its long-abandoned state and quickly recognized the history of the building and the need for it to be preserved.

"Our first priority was to preserve the history of the students, faculty, and community," she said.

She knew the long-term goal was restoring the building, but that was far into the future at the time.

Ten years later in 2019, the organization purchased the building for \$275,000. Then the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress and funding in 2020.

In the summer of 2023, construction on the building began with the replacement of the original roof.

Over the last two years, exterior and interior work were done to get the building to where it is today. In total, the project \$3.5 million.

The school was built in 1928 and opened in 1929 as part of an initiative to educate African-American children during legalized segregation, according to the initiative's website.

The school closed in 1966 and the building became a seafood processing plant, which closed in 1977. The building after that was basically untouched until 2019.

"I'm so glad they did this," said Cape Charles resident Wayne Stratton, who attended the school when he was in first grade.

"It's been a long time coming," he said.

Starting in January, the Impact Center will be a community hub for the town of Cape Charles, offering classes through Eastern Shore Community College so students from lower Northampton County can take classes without having to travel to Melfa.

The Impact Center will also serve as a hub for non-profits, a business incubator, and a gathering place, among many other functions.

None of the progress would have been possible without the continued support of the community and the hardworking people of the initiative, Davis said.

"We have been blessed to have these people and this community," Davis said.



Above, Cape Charles resident Wayne Stratton stands inside the Impact Center at the historic Cape Charles Elementary School during its Oct. 18 soft opening. "I'm so glad they did this," said Stratton. The building, at left, once served as the segregated school for area Black students.

EASTERN SHORE POST/
JIMMY SHOCKLEY