

Media Release

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Date: March 13, 2009

From: Caroline County Board of Supervisors

RE: Caroline wins CEDA Award

Percy Ashcraft, County Administrator

Caroline County received the Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) from the Virginia Economic Developers Association at its Spring conference in Williamsburg on Friday the 13th. This is the second time in three years Caroline has won the CEDA Award.

Caroline County is the only community to win two Virginia CEDA Awards, and the only Virginia County with a total of three.

Caroline won the CEDA in competition with other Virginia communities with populations from 15,000-40,000. Caroline has a population of about 26,000.

Caroline won for project innovation and marshalling support and funding for its development projects—most especially for the new County Visitor Center in Carmel Church with its Miocene era whale display; and the first phase of the Commuter Rail studies focused on the same area of the County.

The CEDA Award is especially gratifying to the County as it also implicitly recognizes the many citizens, businesses and agencies that have worked with Caroline to make possible important projects without utilizing General Funds that are free to be used for other vital services in the County.

The Visitor Center, built without General Fund monies, was made possible by a donation of land by Union Bankshares, a gift of \$1.1 Million from Frank and Linda Sealy's *Belmont* residential subdivision, and TEA-21 grants written by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to VDOT's Enhancement program.

The whale display project, the only one of its kind in Virginia, has been funded by the Kath and Litt Thompson Foundation, NiSource Foundation, VSE Corporation, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, MC Dean, Inc., Luck Stone, Inc., Herlong Associates, and an in-kind donation from Louise Spangler

graphic design. Additional pledges round out the funding of the project and additional donations will always be accepted.

The Rail studies have been funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. The rail project is currently under study.

This is the third CEDA Award Caroline has won. In addition to the two awards Caroline received from the Virginia Economic Developers Association, the County also won a third CEDA in 2006 from the Southern Economic Development Council in competition with the entire South for excelling in business recruitment.

Caroline will go on to compete for recognition in the South again in 2010 when the SEDC opens competition for their CEDA Award.

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