

April 2010 Web Site Supplement

The Suburban

Volunteers, weather make Great American Cleanup a success in Suburban Acres

More Community News...

- Norfolk Public Schools forum on grading....Page 5
- Energy Efficiency Rebate program now open...Page 5



Great American Cleanup in Suburban Acres March 27th

Forty-plus volunteers from EARNN a big thanks for making the Suburban Acres Civic League / Archer's Green waterway & wetlands cleanup a huge success. SACL will be awarded an additional 15 EARNN (Environmental Awards for Recycling in Norfolk Neighborhoods) points. The SACL cleanup's focus on Saturday March 27th was on the "ditch" that begins behind Kroger and runs southwest, turning into a creek that runs beneath Suburban Parkway into a tidal creek that runs behind Granby Park, underneath Thole, then empties into the North Branch of the Lafayette River near Norfolk Christian High School.

Norfolk Christian High School's Bio-Eco Club, led by teacher Sue Royster provided 23 student

volunteers armed with hip waders, crab nets, and terrific enthusiasm. The NCHS students along with neighborhood volunteers and participants from the Norfolk Community Mediation Center worked from the shoreline on the Suburban Parkway side

Continued, Page 2

Civic League and Community News

More Photos from Great American Cleanup March 27th



Volunteer Thanks from Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Each year, Keep Norfolk Beautiful and the citizens of Norfolk take part in the Great American Cleanup, a program that encourages groups and volunteers to clean up their neighborhoods while simultaneously showing ownership and pride in where we live. Thousands of volunteers clean, restore, and beautify Norfolk's neighborhoods, streets and shorelines, preserving the health of both our city and the Chesapeake Bay. We sincerely thank you for your contribution to this year's efforts by participating in one of the many events held throughout the city.

Susan Ash, Environmental Program Coordinator

Cleanup *continued from Page 1*

of the creek, from Kroger to the rear of the Archer's Green property. Steve Martin and Steve Collins provided an aluminum boat and kayaks. These volunteers worked the waterway launching from the Granby Park side of the creek. Archer's Green maintenance supervisor Brandon Perkins and three of his maintenance staff assisted by collecting all the garbage with the Archer's Green pickup and golf cart.

During the 9 to 11 am cleanup more than 75 bags of garbage, 10 mattresses or box springs, 5 sofas, multiple tires, a child safety seat, a crutch and a cane, a car battery, a cylinder of flammable acetylene gas, the motherload of disposable diapers (used) and plethora of other trash was removed from the creek and shoreline. This was a great effort, good time, and terrific opportunity to volunteer and meet neighbors.

The Great American Cleanup is a National event that takes place during the month of March each year.

The effort is coordinated locally by Keep Norfolk Beautiful, when thousands of volunteers clean, restore, and beautify Norfolk's neighborhoods, streets, and shorelines.

Basic cleanup supplies were funded by Great American Cleanup sponsors like Glad trash bags, Pepsi, Troy-Bilt, Waste Management, Dow Chemical, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, and Solo. Keep Norfolk Beautiful distributed the supplies including garbage bags and gloves to registered cleanup groups, as well as Nestle Pure Life bottled water and snacks. Suburban Acres Civic League provided additional refreshments including coffee and donuts to volunteers.

The Suburban

5 WAYS TO GREEN YOUR LIFE

1. **Participate in your local recycling program**
2. **Skip the plastic bottled water and bring a filled, reusable bottle with you**
3. **Mulch lawn clippings instead of bagging them.**
4. **Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.**
5. **Shop & entertain locally—support the farmers, artisans, and businesses that make Virginia great!**

Civic League and Community News



Lots of garbage cleaned from the wetlands by SACL on March 27th.



Great American Cleanup in Suburban Acres



Clean the Bay day

Clean the Bay, Save the Bay
Saturday, June 5, 2010
 9 a.m. – 12 Noon

THE BAY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

On foot or by boat; gather your family, friends, groups, and co-workers for a fun way to help Save the Bay by collecting litter in your locality.

TO VOLUNTEER:
 visit cbf.org/clean
 call 800/SAVEBAY
 email ctbd@cbf.org
 or call a Local Contact

2010 LOCAL CONTACTS:

Arlington - 703/228-7636
 Charlottesville - 410/434-0572
 Chesapeake - 757/382-6411
 Eastern Shore - 757/442-5885
 Gloucester County - 804/693-1217
 Hampton - 757/727-1158
 James City County - 757/208-0624
 Mason Neck State Park - 703/200-3994
 Mattaponi & Pamunkey Rivers - 804/769-3939
 Newport News - 800/SAVEBAY
 Norfolk - 757/441-1347
 Poquoson - 757/868-3580
 Portsmouth - 757/393-8481
 Reston - 703/435-6560
 Smithfield - 757/365-3593*
 Suffolk - 757/514-7604
 Town of Shenandoah - 540/209-0080
 Virginia Beach - 757/385-4104
 Williamsburg - 800/SAVEBAY
 York County - 757/890-3542
 Other Localities - 800/SAVEBAY

* Cleanup date May 15

2010 LEAD SPONSOR



THE PORT OF VIRGINIA
 Building A Brighter, Cleaner, Greener Future.

More Community News

Norfolk Public Schools hosts first of two public forums on grading

On Thursday, April 1, at 6 p.m. in the Granby High School auditorium, Norfolk Public Schools hosted the first of two public forums to review the recommendations that have been drafted by two stakeholder committees charged with revising the division's grading and promotions practices.

The committees, one focused on elementary schools and one on secondary schools, are made up of teachers, parents and administrators, and they have been working for several months. The committees have received a large amount of input already from various sources, including Norfolk Public Schools' public feedback e-mail, as well as from other teachers and administrators and the members of the Superintendent's Student Cabinet. The elementary committee also conducted a survey of parents of students in primary grades.

The committees' recommendations will be posted on the division's Web site, www.npsk12.com. Feedback will be invited throughout a public comment period, which will conclude with the second public forum, tentatively scheduled for April 12. (The date, time and location will be announced soon.) After hearing and incorporating public feedback, the committees are scheduled to present their recommendations to the School Board on April 20.

Norfolk Public Schools began using new grading and promotions procedures in September. Some teachers, parents, students and community members expressed concern, particularly about a new stipulation that a zero was to be given only when a student made no reasonable effort to complete an assignment. Otherwise, the lowest grade is a 61. The change was designed

Vote May 4th in Norfolk city-wide elections



A voter uses the Premier Election Solutions Accu-Vote TSX electronic voting machine, the machine used in Norfolk elections. The Norfolk Office of Elections provides links to both a video describing how to vote using the touch-screen voting system, and a live demonstration of the system at www.norfolk.gov/elections

to give students more opportunities and incentives for achievement. However, some people were concerned that not enough public input was sought before instituting the new grading practices, so the committees were formed to take another look and to involve more stakeholders.

Norfolk Division of Communications

State Energy Efficiency Rebates Announced

Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling, Virginia's Chief Jobs Creation Officer, announced in March that \$10 million in rebates will be available to help home owners and small businesses reduce their energy costs and harness energy from the wind and the sun. The rebate program was effective beginning March 22, and is a continuation of the energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates made available last October.

"I encourage Virginians to take advantage of this opportunity to lower their energy costs and create jobs," said Lieutenant Governor Bolling. "An energy efficient home or business will continue for years to save money. And both of these popular programs help to provide jobs for the workers who make the improvements or install the renewable energy systems."

The first round of funding for efficiency and renewable energy rebates totaling about \$20 million was sold out in less than three weeks when the programs opened in late October.

Approximately \$6.5 million will be available for a second round of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Rebate Program to make homes and businesses more energy efficient. Energy efficiency improvements include upgrading heating and air conditioning equipment, adding insulation, replacing leaky windows, and other improvements that reduce energy consumption and utility costs. Homeowners are eligible for rebates for 20 percent of the costs of qualifying energy conserving products and services, up to \$2,000. Commercial consumers are eligible for 20 percent of their costs, up to \$4,000.

An additional \$3.5 million will fund a second round of the Virginia Solar and Wind Incentive Program, which defrays the costs of solar electric, solar thermal, and small wind energy systems for residents, businesses, and non-profits.

Applicants can reserve a rebate for a qualifying system and then have six months to complete the work and redeem their reservation for a rebate check. Applications for rebate reservations will be processed in the order they are received. Once reservations deplete available funds, applications will be placed on a wait list in the order received. Wait-listed applicants may be approved for rebate reservations if additional funds become available.

The rebate programs are administered by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Rebates can be reserved in on-line applications available at the website of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. The website also has information on the rules of both incentive programs.

Lieutenant Governor Bolling noted that many Virginians also might qualify for the federal Home Energy Efficiency Improvement Tax Credit Program, which provides a 30% tax credit, up to \$1,500, for some residential energy conservation products. Qualifying products include energy-efficient windows, insulation, doors, roofs, and heating and cooling equipment in existing homes. More information on the federal tax credits, which are available until December 31, 2010, is available at www.energystar.gov. More information on the Virginia Energy Efficiency Rebate program and the Wind and Solar Incentive program is available online at www.dmm.virginia.gov.

To apply for the rebates, go to <https://epm.virginiainteractive.org/eerebate/>

Norfolk Division of Communications