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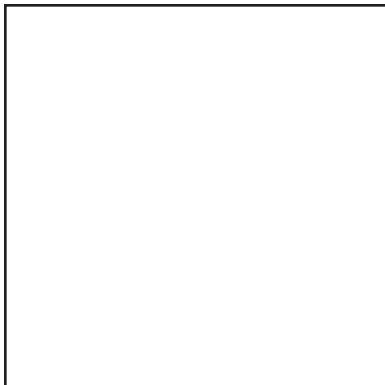
CLEAN

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORTSMOUTH CLEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION

A New Year. . . and New Challenges

From the Mayor



The Clean Community Commission is moving full speed ahead with strategic planning for progress. The Commission met for a Winter Retreat on January 13, 1999. For three hours we shared our visions, where we need to make further efforts, and the creation of our overall strategic action plan. Headed by the energetic **Anne Lyons**, of Behavioral Health Care Services, the Saturday morning breakfast retreat was attended by fif-

teen of Portsmouth's finest commissioners. Commissioner **Janette Whitley** captured the spirit of the group, envisioning Portsmouth as a place where "people entering the city feel that they have arrived in a 'paradise'. . . in a 'garden city.'"

Commissioner **Madalyn Morris-Grimes** envisions this Commission as the "go to" group, where citizens go to get things done, to help make Portsmouth a more beautiful city. Together, we assessed our strengths, weaknesses, and have each pledged to oversee the following top priorities.

Action Items Pledged by our Commissioners:

- Advocate a \$1.00 voluntary donation from citizens for the Clean Community Commission.
- Advocate a \$1000 Budget Allocation for Adopt-A-Spot signs.
- Work with city staff on improving communications and relations.
- Work closely with schools, civic leagues and businesses our mutual interests in making Portsmouth a cleaner, more beautiful and livable city.
- Expand our staff support.
- Organize an annual big-name/big-draw event.
- Explore an organizational name change.

EARTH DAY '99

Hints of spring are in the air, and the Portsmouth Clean Community Commission is avidly promoting **Earth Day '99**. The event is scheduled for **May 2, 1999**, at Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk. The event is presented by the cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and supported by Portsmouth.

This year, Portsmouth is Headquarters for all Southside Hampton Roads Earth Day Volunteers. So if you, or your school group would like to volunteer in a day of fun, educational, and entertaining activities contact us at **393-5628** to participate as a volunteer in one of the following areas: Food Vendors, Entertainment, Golf Tournament, Logistics, Information and Welcome, Trash Free Event, Participatory Activities, Sponsors, Fund Raising, and Environmental Exhibits.

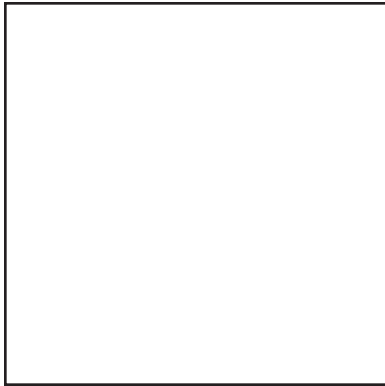
The U. S. Navy is a strong financial supporter of this year's event, and will have big name local and national celebrities at three stages from **1:00 to 7:00 p.m.** This year's Earth Day theme is "**A Good Planet is Hard to Find**" and the celebration promises to be hard to top. Go ahead, volunteer, enjoy and celebrate life on planet Earth!

SPSA

ATTENTION: Portsmouth and all of Hampton Roads' fourth grade teachers and students! Come and join SPSA at an Environmental Awareness Day Celebration of Earth Day! We will be enjoying a fun day of educational and environmental sharing at the Khedive Temple in Norfolk, on **April 21, 1999**, from **10:30 a.m. until noon**. Contact **Sharon Harris** at **399-8924** or at: sharris@spsa.com.

The Broken Window Theory or... We Can Make a Difference In Portsmouth

By Claudia Cox-Wynn and Barbara Ward, Clean Community Intern from Virginia Wesleyan College



The Broken Windows Theory* states that even in small housing communities, “damage” has to be repaired immediately or else people’s destructiveness will escalate into an uncontrolled spiral of vandalism, with the additional feature of increasing criminality.

Here in Portsmouth, we are working hard at changing our image and improving our appearance. There are some things that you and I can do to become more informed and understand why things are the way they are. In our home city, we have all seen some areas that never change. These areas are little ‘pockets’ on and around the fringes of the Port City.

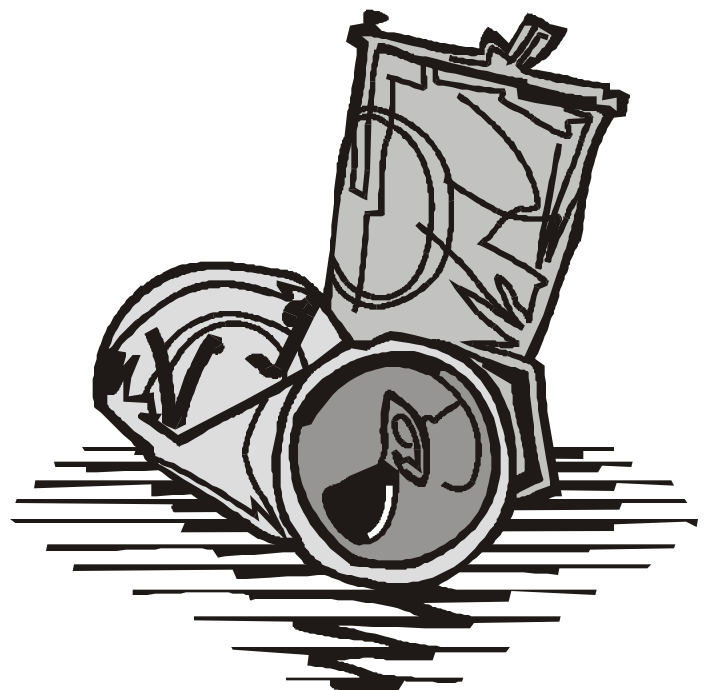
For the past couple of years, we have been working very hard at cleaning up our own city. But there is still more to be done! We, the citizens of Portsmouth need to convince businesses in the area to take ownership of their surroundings. They can take part in our Adopt-A-Spot program, landscape, clean up, and maintain their immediate surroundings. I am particularly interested in the maintenance of the midtown gateway entrance into our city. That is, the loop on and off London Boulevard, for the Mid-Town tunnel area can often appear as a no-man’s land. I am going to make a pitch to Virginia Department of Transportation personnel to “Adopt” this Loop. What can you do to put the Pride back in Portsmouth? Here are some suggestions:

- **Adopt-A-Spot.** *How?* Contact the Portsmouth Clean Community Commission at 393-5628. We provide landscaping plans, gloves, bags, and assistance on obtaining a sign.
- **Adopt-A-Highway.** Contact V-Dot at 1-800-PRIDE-VA.
- **Adopt-A-Stream.** Contact Jody Johns, at (804) 786-9732.
- Apply for a position on the Clean Community Commis-

sion. Several terms expire in June 1999. Call Monte at 393-8746.

- Be a **Clean Community Commission volunteer** – contact our office for a copy of our Comprehensive Plan.
- **Earn college credits**, like me, by enrolling in a college level class, and working in our CCC office.
- Become an **Earth Day Volunteer** or celebrate with us and enjoy the festivities on May 2, 1999.
- **Clean the Bay** with us on June 12, 1999.
- Encourage military involvement and ask your **military commander, or one you know, to organize or donate manpower** to assist us on our many clean-up projects.
- Get to know your **NEAT OFFICERS** 393-8063 and **Neighborhood Quality Inspectors** 393-8522. They have the info that you need to stay informed. Call 393-5628 for info.

*See <http://www.hel.ti/tietokeskus/brokenwi.html>



PORTSMOUTH'S FINE CLEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSIONERS

Members:

Joseph Preziotti, Jr., Chairperson
Vivian Curry, Treasurer
Katy Walden, Secretary
Sherry Clem
James Griffin
Raleigh Harsley
Walter Broda
Jenny Crowe
Sharon Harris
Madalyn Morris-Grimes
Brenda Turner
Janette Whitley
Carrie Byrum



THE CLEAN COMMUNICATOR

February, 1999 – Vol. 3, No. 1

A newsletter to promote and celebrate

*The Portsmouth Clean Community Commission's
participation in the appreciation, protection,
and enhancement of our environment.*

EDITOR: CLAUDIA COX-WYNN

Would you or your community group like to Adopt-A-Spot?

Then do it! Call **393-5628** and we will send you an information package that explains this excellent program!

The City of Portsmouth
Clean Community Commission
801 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-3822

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