

The

CLEAN

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORTSMOUTH CLEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION

From the Mayor

Signs of Changing Times in West Park View

By Commissioner Brenda Turner and Claudia Cox-Wynn



Citizens of West Park View and their community league continually set the standard for trends in community development and empowerment. With a great deal of initiative, pride, and a sense of community, several individuals in this quaint small town community have taken on projects

to knit their unique brand of livability into a style of their own.

Brenda Turner is chair of the Beautification Committee in the Community League and an active, energized board member of the Clean Community Commission. Brenda has a special flair for beauty, and has a talent for getting things done. This combination of talents mixed with the leadership of her civic league, and community resources has resulted in her taking a leadership role in the Commission's Adopt-A-Spot program. She markets the program aggressively throughout the community on an individual basis to anyone who is willing to help — homeowners, businesses, and churches.

Next she impresses on each potential enlistee that they can make a difference, one spot at a time! If the individual or group promises to maintain an area, say a key intersection or gateway, through cleanup or by merely setting out potted plants, then the entire community and city benefits.

Spots Adopted so far: **Suzanne Valez** at Ann Street; **J.C. Cooper & Shawn Griffey** at Leckie Street; **Janet Vann** at the West End of Spratley Street.



Claudia's Corner

The Clean Community Commission's Unsung Hero

You would be hard pressed to find anyone who has heard of the Clean Community Commission and doesn't know **Joe Preziotti, Jr.** Joe is one

of those big stick carriers that legends are made of. He constantly exceeds expectations of a commission chairman. Recently Joe once again stepped up to the plate and hit a major home run.

The Commission was faced with funding one of its two most important events. This intrepid

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leader marched out to the battle field of corporate sponsorship and came home with a big prize. He was responsible for recruiting 10 of the 12 sponsors who donated food, money, and other valuable items to Clean the Bay Day. All totaled that effort amounted to over \$1000.00 in donations. The Commission is fortunate to have a leader like him on board. *Way to go Joe!*

Eco-Troops in Action

Clean the Bay Day '99

By Intern Suzette Leathers

Clean the Bay Day '99 in Portsmouth was a huge success! Over 450 volunteers participated. Together they cleaned 11½ miles of shoreline and removed 71,500 pounds of discarded materials from the shorelines and in the waterways surrounding our city. Everyone from children to members of the military banded together to collect debris from 17 sites throughout the city.

Workers at several locations had a pretty big job on their hands. At the Portsmouth Boating Center over 50 volunteers pulled the eyesore dubbed "The Eco-Raft" from the creek. These volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty by spending a whopping five hours cutting away tires, bottles and barnacle-laden ropes. Eco-troopers worked busily, undaunted by the rain, mud, and foul smell. Zone Captain **Ed Giles** expressed that "without events like Clean the Bay Day and organizers like the commissioners, this never



would have been possible." Individuals and groups have spent years trying to find a way to remove the craft from the creek.

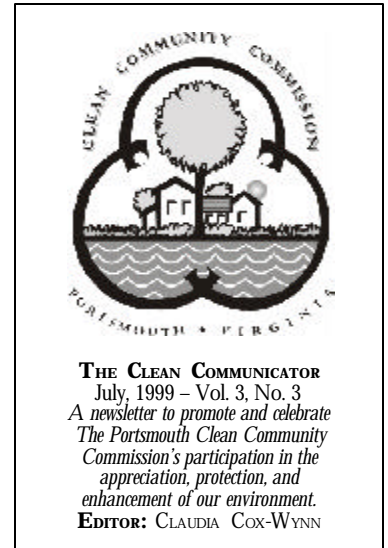
Not to be outshined the Shea Terrace crew braved plastic bottle-strewn shorelines to get to and clean the water below. They not only removed the plastic bottles on the shoreline but they also cleared the area of dangerous hypodermic needles left in the waters.

Nancy LeMartin of

Shea Terrace remembered her zone captain training, "We had to remove them to protect our volunteers." They were placed in glass and plastic bottles. Back at headquarters, reports went out to the fire department to see that the needles were safely disposed of.

Headquarters received reports of other unusual items, the strangest of which was probably the bag of ladies panties found in City Park. After the cleaning was finished, the fun began. Volunteers met at **Pfeiffer's** to swap stories of the trash that got away.

All of the volunteers at our sites did an outstanding job. Thanks to you our bay is a much nicer place to splash in and our neighborhoods are cleaner. We appreciate all of your hard work and want to congratulate you on a job well done.



The City of Portsmouth
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Ways You Can Reduce Stormwater Pollution

Scoop the Poop! Pet waste increases levels of bacteria within waterways leading to pollution and fish kills.



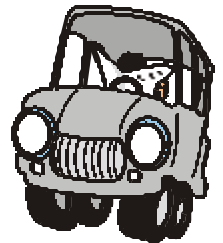
Don't Overfertilize! Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions. Excess chemicals wash off during rainstorms and cause an overabundance of algae in the nearest waterway, resulting in fish kills.

Bag that Grass! Grass clippings and leaves should be raked, bagged and disposed of in the trash. If dumped in waterways, they contribute to excess nutrients that result in algae blooms and fish kills.



No Dumping Allowed! Dispose of used brake fluid, oil, antifreeze, grease, paints and other household chemicals properly, not in the storm sewers or down drains. Take them to the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) plant on Victory Boulevard to be recycled.

Contain those Spills! If you spill brake fluid, oil, grease or antifreeze, don't hose it into the street where it can eventually reach local streams and lakes. Pour kitty litter on the spill and after it absorbs, sweep it up and put in the trash.



Stormwater Management and You

Stormwater: What is it?

Do you know where the water goes when it rains? What about the water you use to wash your car or water your lawn? Some of this water soaks into the ground but the rest of it runs off the land surface. It is this runoff water that we call stormwater. Stormwater, by itself, is not harmful to our environment. As it travels, however, stormwater picks up a variety of pollutants, trash and debris that all end up in the nearest storm drainage inlet which, ultimately, drains into a nearby waterway.

These pollutants can harm fish, wildlife, and plants, contaminate drinking water, and even clog the storm drainage system, which contributes to flooding. Some of these pollutants come from everyday actions, such as overfertilizing your lawn or washing your car on the pavement. Some may be due to deliberate or careless actions, such as emptying motor oil into the street or parking lot or washing down a spill of gasoline, oil, antifreeze, or any other chemical into the storm drain.

Stormwater Fee Increase

Effective July 1, 1999, the stormwater utility fee was in-

creased from \$8.40 to \$9.90 per quarter, or \$3.30 monthly. The stormwater fee is billed as a line item on your quarterly real estate tax statement.

The stormwater fee increase will be used to administer expanded stormwater maintenance programs, construct necessary stormwater management facilities, update our storm drain mapping system, increase our education efforts and implement our new lake and pond management program.

Stormwater Management in Portsmouth

By Tanya Williams, Dept. of Public Works, Intern

In compliance with federal and state regulations, the City of Portsmouth implements a stormwater management program to reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality in our municipal storm sewer system, which ultimately drains into state waterways. Program activities include construction of water control structures such as ditch and pipe maintenance, water quality monitoring and testing, lake and pond management, enforcement of program standards and public education.

For more information contact the Department of Public Works at 393-8592