

The

CLEAN

COMMUNICATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORTSMOUTH CLEAN COMMUNITY COMMISSION

Visit our website at www.ci.portsmouth.va.us

Green Thumbs for Everyone

By Dabney Morgan of Coleman's Nursery



I am going to be giving our local reading audience lots of tips. In the months to come, we are going to be sharing gardening articles and helping to make your garden a little bit better than it has been in the past. I am going to share with you the wealth of my experience, having been here at Coleman's Nursery since I graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Horticulture. I also have the distinct honor of gardening on TV with WAVY weekly. However, with this approach, thanks to the *Clean Communicator*, we will have a little more time and detail to share gardening advice. Now you can watch on WAVY-TV and read these articles!

Holiday Plants. Fresh poinsettias, Christmas Cactus, and orchids. When purchasing and taking from greenhouse to the car, drop in a paper bag to protect from the wind and weather. Poinsettias, the bloom is only the top part, the leaves turn green and red. Once indoors, medium to bright light is best. However, they prefer low light, protection from drafts and direct heat (fireplaces), and vents. *Keep plants damp but not wet.*

Christmas Trees. If you choose a live tree, it should not stay indoors more than 14 days. It will do better staying in a cool room rather than a hot room. With all live greenery, we want to keep them away from direct heat forces, fireplaces or electric heaters.

How to preserve your tree: Buy the trees as soon as they hit the lot! We can take them home and preserve the life by making a fresh cut in the bottom of the tree by removing 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch and then putting the tree in a preservative solution. A Commercial solution such as *Prolongis* popular. Your own home mix of 2 aspirin, 1 cup of Karo Syrup to 1 quart of lukewarm water will do the trick too. A fresh tree will soak this up quickly. Continue to keep the tree saturated as long as it soaks it up. Maintain the solution in the tree stand. Remember to cut lights out on the tree at night.

Seasonal Gardening Tips

- Planting Pansies or bulbs in ground. Plant them together, and _____ bulbs come up through the pansies. Anything that has lost its _____ leaves, we can prune now.
- Grapevines need to be pruned as soon as possible. Since the sap rises sooner than other things.

The next time we talk, we will talk about feeding the birds and attracting them to the yard. Have a happy holiday!!



Another Clean Community Partnership.

The Nuts & Bolts of Curb Appeal

For renters and homeowners

By Tom Eaton, Arborist and Manager • Division of Parks • City of Portsmouth



Being a good neighbor can be your holiday and yearlong offering by practicing these helpful hints:

1. Keep the grass cut between the curb and sidewalk in front of your property. It's your responsibility (not the city's!)
2. Get rid of debris from your yard. The city of Portsmouth provides weekly pick-ups. This activity reduces havens for vermin to live. Call 393-8663 for your neighborhood's schedule.
3. Sweep the curbside in front of your property. It greatly enhances the appearance of your home, business and neighborhood.
4. Edge all curbs and sidewalks to upgrade the appearance of your property.
5. Did you know that it is okay to remove sprouts from the bottom of Crepe Myrtle and other trees growing between the curb and sidewalk in front of your property?
6. Parks and Recreation 393-8481 has a helpful brochure available to inform you about city tree care and Parks and Recreation activities going on.
7. Mow your lawn weekly.
8. Help your neighbor! Make it a fun opportunity to get to know each other.
9. Set a good example for your neighbors to follow. This type of competition is a good thing.
10. Encourage your children to help keep the yard and curbsides looking good. Pass these good habits on to the next generation.
11. Keep alleys clear and clean of debris. City trash trucks and vehicles cannot get through to clean which helps your curbsides look appealing.

Portsmouth Salutes Its Hidden Heroes

3rd Annual Recognition Ceremony & Contest

Pretty pathways, clean causeways, and neat neighborhoods are admired by all, but who is responsible for these wonders? Volunteers. Volunteers are the hidden heroes that were recognized at the Clean Community Commission's Clean Awards.

On Wednesday, October 18, 2000, the Clean Community Commission held its 3rd annual recognition banquet and ceremony. This year's festivities were held at the elegant Sand Bar Center at the Naval Medical Center. The 60 guests were dressed in semi-formal attire - a definite cut above their usual denim, boots and sweat shirts for the many community clean ups and projects. Representatives from the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the media were there to hear commentaries from Mayor James W. Holley III, and speaker Terry Forehand, Director of Recycling at SPSA. Certificates were presented to all 66 Adopt-A-Spot participants and all guests were given a memento of gratitude compliments of the Commission.

Clean Community Commission Recognition 2000

Winners of this year's contest included:

Paul Bowman of Cradock
Outstanding Citizen Award

Hank Morris
Outstanding Citizen Award
& The Chairman's Outstanding Achievement Award

Larry Sarodsky & Hoffer Creek
Outstanding Community Group
& The Mayor's Outstanding Achievement Award

What A Difference NewFriends Make

*Make A Difference Days in Portsmouth
October 20 & 27, 2000*

The Clean Community Commission believes in helping its own, especially those who can not help themselves. Sometimes it's just a matter of motivation. More often than not, it's a lack of manpower. That's where partnering with the Naval School of Health Sciences truly did make a difference in Portsmouth communities. Ten homes in the neighborhoods of Cavalier



Manor and Truxton are a lot nicer thanks to the help of the medical corpsmen and women under the leadership of their Master Chief Bob Bayerlein. These brave men and women rolled up their sleeves, and cleaned up yards, trimmed bushes and trees, cut grass, and cleared out garages of junk and debris. In the words of Bayerlein, "it's our responsibility and the good thing is that we can actually see our results immediately."

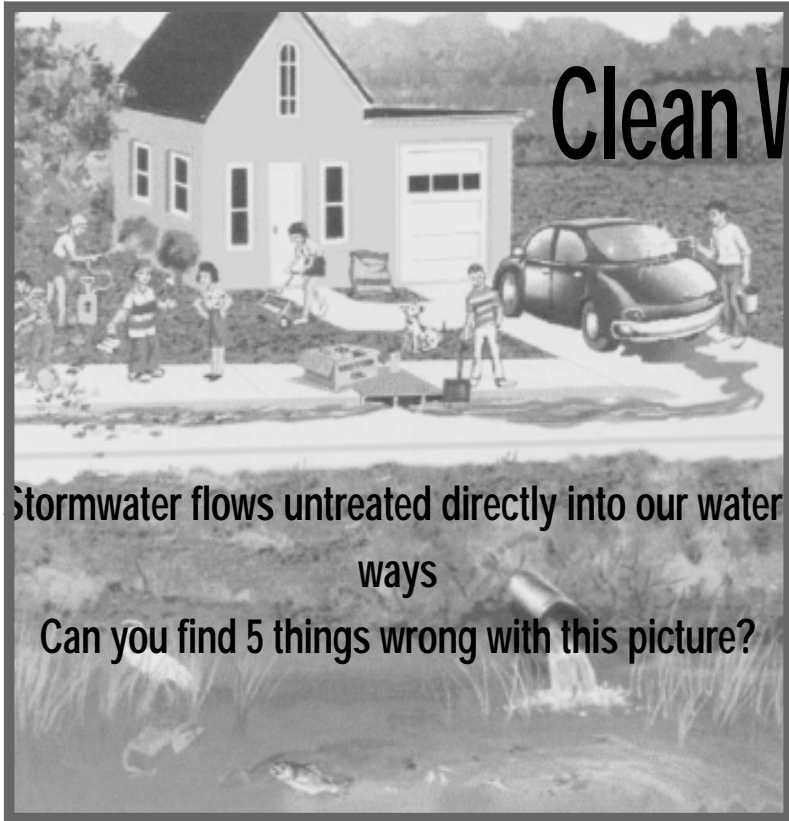
Rev. Clifford Barnette of Brighton Rock AME Zion Church also took part in the community service project by rallying 30 youths from his church and community and participating on Saturday, October 28, 2000. Armed with 'litter gitters,' metallic litter grabbers, and garbage bags donated by the Commission, these future community leaders led by their current leader Barnette

proceeded to clean the streets of the Brighton community. Thanks Brighton Rock Church and the Naval School of Health Sciences. We succeeded in carrying out your mission - partnerships were formed and Portsmouth is a better place.

FRIENDS MAKE

A DIFFERENCE





Clean Water Starts at Home

YOU CAN HELP:

- Keep pollutants out of storm drains and ditches
- Pick up litter
- Clean up after your pets
- Bag leaves and yard waste

Visit us on the web at:
www.hrstorm.org



Answers: Washing car in driveway, dumping oil in catch basin, not bagging grass clippings, pesticide use, over fertilizing, dumping dog waste in catch basin, litter

STORMING In To Inform

Have you spotted **HR STORM**?

HR STORM, initiated in 1997, is a Public Information and Education Subcommittee that grew out of the efforts of the Hampton Roads Regional Stormwater Management Committee. Both groups are represented by the 16 local cities and counties in Hampton Roads, along with staff from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). **HR STORM**'s main objective is to develop a regional approach to stormwater education by using the talents and economy of scale of all 16 localities.

HR STORM has developed a whole host of educational tools and materials to help explain the stormwater issues facing Hampton Roads. Some of their efforts include:

- Development of a traveling exhibit used at schools, museums and festival to "spread the message."
- Developed *Ecomasters*, an interactive environmental game, and distributed it to local schools and libraries.
- Completion and distribution of an educational booklet, "*Recipes for a Healthy Hampton Roads.*"
- Publications of a Best Management Practice (BMP) Maintenance booklet.

Most recently, **HR STORM** has been busy working on an ad campaign to help spread the word about stormwater and how to prevent stormwater pollution. This is the reason you may have spotted **HR STORM**. They have been airing on local TV stations, in area movie theaters, and on the radio.


If you would like more information on stormwater or on the activities of **HR STORM**, please call the City of Portsmouth at 393-8592 or **HR STORM** at 420-8300. **HR STORM** members are available to speak to your Civic Association or Homeowner's Association and can offer tips to businesses to help ensure that they don't add to the stormwater pollution problem. Remember, **FROM THE HOMEFRONT TO THE WATERFRONT, CLEAN WATERWAYS BEGIN WITH YOU!**

Claudia's Corner



Adopt-A-Spot participants awarded at the 2000 Recognition Banquet

Clean Community is gearing up for a great new year. Our calendar is already filling up with plans for a major gateway beautification project, the Great American Clean Up in spring of 2001, and a new fundraiser. We will continue to team up with our Clean Community partners, Coca Cola and our newest partner, Coleman's Nursery. Thank you for your part in making this a successful year for us. Happy Holidays.



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Commission's participation in the
appreciation, protection, and enhance-
ment of our environment.*
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