



# Clean Community Communiqué

County of Gloucester

Volume 2, Issue 4

## You Can Help Gloucester's Environment

County residents are so fortunate to live in an area as beautiful as Gloucester, and we all play an active role in helping to protect our local environment. Here are some simple ways YOU can help Gloucester's environment, provided by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Naturally:

**Be an environmentally aware boater:** Boat wakes cause erosion, create shoals and stir up sediments. The cloudy water then blocks sunlight essential to aquatic plant life. Simply slowing down your boat can help! Also, be sure to keep trash aboard your boat in a closed container and dispose of it properly when you're back on shore. So, have fun on the water, but be cognizant of your environmental impact.

**Reduce and reuse waste:** Buying items in bulk quantities or finding other uses rather than throwing the excess packaging away helps to reduce the amount of solid waste that is thrown away everyday.

**Enhance healthy wildlife habitat in your own backyard:** You can do positive things to manage wildlife in your own backyard. Provide shelter, food sources, and nesting sites for birds by putting up birdhouses and feeders.

**Be a responsible park visitor:** Gloucester has beautiful parks—please be respectful of them! When hiking, carry a bag and pick up litter. When you picnic, use designated cooking areas.

**Reduce runoff from your property.** With the Chesapeake Bay in our backyard (literally), residents need to reduce runoff from your property. As rain falls, it picks up fertilizers and toxic chemicals on its way to the Bay. You can slow down runoff by minimizing the number of paved areas around your home. Porous surfaces, such as gravel driveways and prick walkways, allow rainwater to drain into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies.

**Plant a tree for our future:** Not only do trees provide oxygen, they cool our county, filter the air, buffer noise and provide homes and food for wildlife. Their roots reduce

erosion and absorb pollutants. Organize a tree-planting day in your area to help our future!

**Save water!** Water conservation can save money on your water bill and extend the life of your septic system. Repair leaky faucets. A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of

water a day! Switch to short showers instead of baths. (Short showers use 10 gallons of water compared to a bath that uses 30 to 50 gallons!)

**Drive smart**—keep your car tuned and its pollution control equipment working properly. Combine shopping with other errands to avoid unnecessary car trips or carpool with a neighbor to the grocery store.

**Be a good neighbor when visiting other Virginia areas:** When traveling to

another part of Virginia, remember to practice the good stewardship that you employ at home. You would hate it if a stranger came into your neighborhood and left a mess. Be sure to carry litter bags with you and recycle whenever possible.

For more environmental tips and "going green" ideas, visit [www.gloucesterva.info/clean](http://www.gloucesterva.info/clean).



### Clean Community Upcoming Events

Clean Community Committee Meeting Page Middle School	Sep. 28 6:30 pm
Visit the Clean Community Booth at the Guinea Jubilee	Sep. 26
Clean Community Committee Meeting Page Middle School	Oct. 26 6:30 pm

### Report a Litter Hot Spot in the County

Let the Clean Community Committee know where the litter hot spots are in Gloucester and we'll do what we can to get it picked up! Send an email to [llindsey@gloucesterva.info](mailto:llindsey@gloucesterva.info) or phone 804-693-5370.

---

# Peasley Middle School Receives State Recognition

For the 9th year, Peasley Middle School has been recognized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) on the 2008 Virginia Naturally Schools Recognition List. Schools recognized by DGIF are recognized for their efforts in supporting environmental conservation and stewardship. To qualify for recognition, Peasley submitted a plan in 2007 for the 2009

school year and carried it through, in addition to meeting additional criteria in order to be recognized in additional years. In addition to their recycling efforts, the Peasley staff worked with Dominion Virginia Power to create their own outdoor classroom.

Congratulations, and thank you, to Peasley for being good stewards of Gloucester's environment!



Peasley Middle School

---

## Up for Adoption: A Roadway Near You

The Virginia Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program has seen growth in Gloucester County in the past year. There are now 45 county roads that have been adopted by concerned citizens. Have you considered adopting a road in Gloucester? It's easier than you think!

**What is Adopt-a-Highway?** It is a program launched by VDOT in 1988, where volunteer groups and individuals "adopt" a two-mile or longer stretch of roadway and make a two-year commitment to pick up trash on the adopted roadway at least four times per year.

**Who can adopt?** Anyone can adopt a highway...families, businesses, civic and church groups, or even individuals. Children can participate with adult supervision as long as the adopted road is not an interstate or interchange.

**Why Adopt?** The program gives you a way to show pride in your community. You also get recognition for your efforts on the Adopt-a-highway sign along your adopted route. Pick-



ing up trash along the roadway is an easy, team-building project that takes no financial commitment and only a few hours each quarter.

**How does it work?** Your group picks a convenient date each quarter and everyone works together to pick up trash and debris along your route. Gloucester's Clean Community Office can provide signs, trash bags, bright orange vests, and gloves for use during the clean up. You can leave the bags along the side of the road for VDOT to pick up. Just notify the Clean Community Office once the clean up has been completed. Let us know how many bags were collected and an approximation of where the bags were left. You could

also take the bags to the convenience center on your own or turn in the recyclables for cash. Once your clean up is done, report back to the Clean Community Office (693-5370), along with the Virginia Department of Transportation Office (693-3070).

**Does it really make a difference?** Absolutely! Every year, more than 6,000 Adopt-a-Highway groups collect about 300,000 bags of trash from 14,000 miles of Virginia's roads. That's a quarter of the system.

**How do I get started?** Contact the Adopt-a-Highway coordinator in Gloucester at 693-3070. A contract with helpful information on conducting clean ups will be provided.

It's that simple and makes such a wonderful impact on the county! Consider adopting a roadway yourself. For additional information, please visit:

<http://virginiadot.org/programs/>

Gloucester County's Clean Community Program promotes litter prevention, effective beautification, waste management and recycling strategies, and acts in an advisory capacity to the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors on matters affecting the quality of the local environment. The Clean Community Program is governed by the Clean Community Committee - volunteer members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, administered by a Clean Community Coordinator, and supported by hundreds of Gloucester residents and businesses, who give of their time to help keep Gloucester County beautiful, clean and litter-free. For additional information on the Clean Community program, call 804-693-5370 or [lindsey@gloucesterva.info](mailto:lindsey@gloucesterva.info).