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## Weekly Watershed Announcements March 23, 2018

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Thank you for your continued support of the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT)!

If you have information that you would like shared in the MJRT weekly announcements, please send it to [dur24@henrico.us](mailto:dur24@henrico.us).

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### In The News

#### Investigators stay tight-lipped on Hopewell chemical plant probe

*(Richmond Times-Dispatch)*



Federal agents raided the AdvanSix chemical plant in Hopewell on Tuesday, with a spokeswoman for the company saying the swarm of police and environmental regulators stemmed from a federal search warrant. They have said next to nothing since.

"We can confirm that our people were there; beyond that we have no further comment at this time," said David Sternberg, a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on Friday.

To read the full article by Robert Zullo, click [here](#).

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#### Funds for Chesapeake Bay survive in federal spending bill

*(Public News Service)*



The spring snowstorm didn't stop Chesapeake Bay advocates from making their way to the nation's capital this week, where they warned members of Congress that many of the bay-restoration programs will be placed on ice if they don't get full funding.

It's the second year the Trump administration has proposed cutting federal funds for the Chesapeake Bay Program, a regional partnership between states to help restore the bay. This year's proposal would have cut the \$73 million budget by 90 percent.

But Chanté Coleman, director of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, says her group of about 200 members stormed Capitol Hill with success stories about the progress of the bay cleanup efforts - and it worked.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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#### Expanded measures to protect clean water

*(CBA19 News)*



Virginia's ability to protect clean water has been expanded.

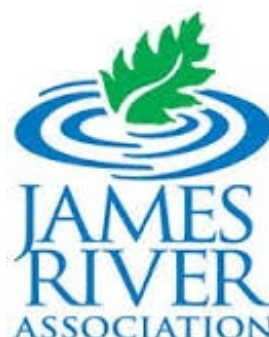
Governor Ralph Northam announced two bills from the Virginia Senate, SB698 and SB699, that establish processes for stop work orders on all or part of land-disturbing activities associated with national gas pipeline construction.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality would be able to issue such orders if it determines the activities caused or will imminently cause a substantial adverse impact to water quality.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### James River Association Upcoming Events (March 2018)



For more information and to register for upcoming events, see <https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=jamesriverassociation&>.

- ++ Mink Creek Native Plant Planting - March 24, 2018** (9:30am-12pm) - Scottsville, VA
- ++ Invasive Species Removal - March 26, 2018** (1-3pm) - Chapel Island, VA
- ++ Trash Clean-Up - March 31, 2018** (10am-12pm) - Great Shiplock Park, Richmond, VA

### 2018 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference (April 10, 2018)



Next Gen Watershed Protection:  
*Fresh Ideas for Funding and Management*

Join us on April 10th for a unique conference, uniting in-person discussion with online participation while concurrently addressing local and national watershed issues and tools. The major conference focus is on emerging trends to protect and restore watersheds and manage stormwater. Learn about case studies, special regional considerations, and recent research from experts around the country highlighting effective tools and innovations!

To learn more about the about the conference go to <https://www.cwp.org/2018-national-conference/>.

How the 2018 National Watershed/ Stormwater Conference Works  
As a registrant, you can choose to register on-line or at an in-person attendance location. Spots for both of these are limited.  
As an on-line registrant, you will be able to:  
- watch the nationally broadcast portions of the webcast from your computer  
- ask questions online through a chat  
If you register at one of in-person locations, you will be able to:  
- Watch the nationally broadcast portions of the webcast with your peers and other registrants  
- Hear local presentations and participate in discussions about issues in stormwater and watershed management that directly affect their community, locality, and/ or region.  
- Network live with local speakers and peers and sponsors  
Locations  
\* Baltimore, MD - Maritime Institute in Linthicum MD  
\* Falls Church, VA - Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center  
Register today at: <https://www.cwp.org/ways-to-attend-the-conference/>  
. Be sure to check the website for special offers on attendance!

### VWEA Stormwater Committee Presents: The Changing World of Stormwater (April 26, 2018)

Join us on April 26, 2018 at the Westin Hotel in Richmond for our Annual Spring Seminar as we discuss the impacts of more frequent, intense storm events and sea level rise on resiliency planning efforts across the nation and here at home in Virginia. The speakers will provide a national, regional and local perspective on this timely issue.

For more information and how to register, click [here](#).

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**Rain Barrel Workshops**  
(May 10 and June 28, 2018)



Join Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District for its Spring 2018 Rain Barrel Workshops.

**May 10, 2018** at the Varina Library, 1875 New Market Road. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

**June 28, 2018** at the Henrico Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive. To register for this workshop, click [here](#).

For more information on our workshops, click [here](#).

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**Rain Barrel Workshops**  
(Multiple dates in May and June 2018)



Join James River Soil and Water Conservation District and Chesterfield Environmental Engineering for our Annual Rain Barrel Workshop. Create a customizable Rain Barrel to help keep your garden green all summer long. Conservation starts in your own backyard!

Click here for more information and to register:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/james-river-swcd-17107705488>

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**James River Association Treeathlon**  
(May 19, 2018)



The James River Association, in partnership with the Robert E Lee and Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation Districts, will be planting 3,000 trees at farms along various tributaries of the James River this spring as part of the [James River Tree-athlon](#)! If you love our River, join us to protect the James by volunteering to help plant the native tree seedlings.

The plantings are at various properties within Albemarle, Amherst, and Nelson Counties. As a thank you to our volunteers, on May 19, 2018 we will host a James River Tree-Athlon Thank You Event at [James River Adventures](#) in Lynchburg. This fun day on the river will include lunch and a 6 mile paddle trip or 3 mile tubing trip. Each volunteer that participates in a tree planting day during James River Tree-Athlon will receive one voucher for a free river trip to be used at the event or at a later date.

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**Festival of the River**  
(June 8-10, 2018)



## FESTIVAL OF THE RIVER

Three Days of Music, Art and Environment  
June 8-10, 2018

Brown's Island, Richmond, VA – Festival highlights will include contemporary art installations, performances under the Richmond Symphony's "Big Tent," cleanups along and around the River and family-friendly environmental education activities. For more information, see <https://www.richmondsymphony.com/who-we-are/media-press-kit/save-date-festival-river-three-days-music-art-environment-big-tent-browns-island-june-8-10-2018/>. Hosted by The City of Richmond, Venture Richmond, the Richmond Symphony, VCU Institute for Contemporary Art, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, 1708 Gallery, James River Association, Capital Region Collaborative and other partners.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Volunteer Opportunity (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)



Are you interested in learning more about your local stream? The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay needs volunteers to collect important data on streams in Virginia. Through the River Trends program we will provide training and supplies. All you have to do is commit to attending a training and monitoring a site once a month.

You'll be analyzing water to collect data on core parameters such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, water clarity and bacteria. All of these tests will be performed in the field using kits and equipment provided to you.

Next training date TBD. For more information, contact Amy Hagerdon at 804-793-8786 or [ahagerdon@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:ahagerdon@allianceforthebay.org).

### Grant Opportunities

#### Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)



This program provides incentive payments for several Best Management Practices such as rain gardens, cisterns, green roofs, and conservation landscaping. This program is now available to the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.

See <http://vaswcd.org/vcap> for an overview or contact VCAP Coordinator Kevin Mclean at [kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org](mailto:kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org) for more information.

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