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Weekly Watershed Announcements June 30, 2017

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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.

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In The News

Chesapeake Bay Dead Zones Are Fading, But Proposed EPA Cuts Threaten Success

(National Public Radio)



Drive east from Washington and eventually you run smack into the middle of the Chesapeake Bay, the massive estuary that stretches from the mouth of the Susquehanna River at Maryland's northern tip and empties into the Atlantic 200 miles away near Norfolk, Va.

The Chesapeake is home to oysters, clams, and famous Maryland blue crab.

It's the largest estuary in the United States. And for a long time, it was one of the most polluted.

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

Powering Virginia: Soil Testing

(CBS6)



RICHMOND, Va. - A lush, healthy yard may be easier and less costly than you're making it thanks to a simple test. Soil testing offers property owners a look at what will make their plants happy and healthy offering a customized analysis of missing soil nutrients. When you know what's missing you can target putting those specific nutrients back in rather than blanketing the area with unnecessary fertilizer that ultimately makes its way down drains polluting Virginia's waterways. The Henricropolis Soil and Water Conservation District offers the soil test voucher program for homeowners to test their soil for free.

To see the video by Virginia This Morning, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population Declines 18%

(NBC12)



Researchers are recommending jurisdictions "maintain a risk-averse approach" when it comes to blue crab fishing regulations after the overall population declined nearly 18 percent from last year.

According to the Blue Crab Advisory Report, the overall crab population decreased from 553 million in 2016 to 455 million in 2017. This is mainly due to the number of juvenile crabs decreasing by 54 percent from 2016 to 2017.

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

Rain Gardens, Dry Wells and Native Planting (CBS6)



RICHMOND, Va. - Water moving across paved surfaces, lawns and golf courses picks up natural and human-made pollutants dropping them into Virginia's waterways. Slowing down and filtering this runoff using a variety of strategies, like rain gardens, dry wells, native planting and more creates an opportunity for improving the water quality as it moves through Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program is an urban cost-share program providing financial incentives, up to 75% of cost share, for property owners to install 'best management practices' in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

To see video by Virginia This Morning, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

James River Association News (July-October 2017)



++ **How Do You River? Paddle Series** - Through October, 2017 - Interpretative paddle trips will be offered on multiple dates at five different locations. For more information and to register, see <https://jrava.org/whats-happening/interpretive-paddle-series-2/>.

++ **James River Splash & Dash** - July 15, 2017 - Richmond, VA - This 6K trail run or 1 mile walk includes a flat water tube across the James River. For more information and to register, see <http://www.jrsplashanddash.org/>.

Films On The Floodwall (September 13, 2017)



Submit a film to be screened at Films on the Floodwall! Films on the Floodwall is a free community film screening organized by the James River Advisory Council, James River Outdoor Coalition, and James River Association during James River Week in September. The event is held at Diversity Park in the James River Park System and films are projected onto the floodwall. Local filmmakers are encouraged to submit original films to be screened at the event.

[Click here](#) for more information about Films on the Floodwall.

Teachers
(October 3-4, 2017)



The VMI STEM Education Conference gathers educators and administrators who work with students in grades 3-8 across Virginia for professional development, enrichment, and fun.

Call for Presentations: <http://www.vmi.edu/about/center-for-leadership-and-ethics/conferences/stem/call-for-presentations/>

Attendee Registration: <http://www.vmi.edu/about/center-for-leadership-and-ethics/conferences/stem/registration/>

Virginia Environmental Education Conference
(October 10-12, 2017)



V.A.E.E. is proud to announce the 2017 Virginia Environmental Education Annual Conference October 10th, 11th & 12th, 2017 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center in Front Royal, VA.

This year's conference will feature many exciting events including the annual member meeting for the Virginia Association for Environmental Education, as well as Keynote Speaker Dr. Peter Marra, author of the book *Cat Wars*. Wednesday will showcase an exciting array of hands-on concurrent sessions. Thursday, the final day of the conference, has been reserved for a great selection of field trips in the Front Royal area.

Center for Watershed Protection Webcasts
(September-October, 2017)



For more information on all upcoming webcasts and to register, see <http://www.cwp.org/webcasts/>.

++ September 13, 2017 (1-2:30pm ET) - Stream Restoration: Where Are We Now?

++ October 18, 2017 (1-2:30pm ET) - Bringing Better Site Design into the 21st Century

Certified Stormwater Inspector (Municipal) Training
(September 11-12, 2017)



Richmond, VA – Covers inspecting construction, commercial, industrial, and municipal activities; what to inspect; limits of authority; and appropriate demeanor and discretion. Also includes information about the Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Minimum Control Measures, and MS4 programs. Graduates of the course receive certification for 5 years and continuing education units, and ongoing, unlimited support of the National Stormwater Center.

For more information and to register see <https://www.npdes.com/event/csi-ms4-richmond-va/> or contact Michele at 1-888-397-9414 or info@npdes.com. Offered by the National Stormwater Center.

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 Bay coordinator Kevin Mclean at kevin.mclean@vaswcd.org for more information.

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