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Weekly Watershed Announcements June 7, 2019

In This Issue

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 may be healthier than recent report indicates

(Eye On Annapolis)



.The Chesapeake Bay score decreased in 2018, but maintained a C grade, according to the 2018 Chesapeake Bay Report Card issued recently by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). This was due to extremely high precipitation over the year. Despite extreme rainfall last year, the overall trend indicates that Chesapeake Bay health is improving over time.

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

Decorative Stencils Provide Lesson

(Betty McCracken, MJRT)



There are newly painted drop inlets at Powhatan schools? Each is a representation of an animal that lives in or around the James River. And each is reminding us "This is where your river begins. Only rain down the drain."

Elliot Gibbs, PHS Science teacher, reached out to the Dept. of Environmental Quality for grant funding to stencil the drop inlets, aka storm drains, with an environmental message. Skipping a few steps in the story, a representative from the Middle James Roundtable (MJRT) heard about his request. Timing was right for his request to be written into one of that group's grants and funding became available. This is the first grant with which Mr. Gibbs has been involved.

"STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education is on the forefront of what we do. Part of that is working to be a good steward to the James River Watershed which feeds to the Chesapeake Bay", he commented.

Little did Mr. Gibbs know at that time, but an environmental education stencil program (Paint Out Pollution) had already been developed by the James River Association and Art On Wheels of Richmond. Six artists created 38 stencils of animals that call the James River home.

The stencils are applied in layers with special, colorful, long lasting spray paint. The student volunteers picked up quickly on the process.

On the first day, Mr. Gibbs's class was able to install 30 stencils between Powhatan High and Flat Rock Elementary Schools. Day 2 required transportation of a class to Powhatan Middle, Elementary, and Pocahontas Elementary to paint 16 more storm drains.

Examples of the stencils include a sturgeon, painted turtle, American eel, osprey, beaver, foxes, dragonflies, Monarch butterfly, mink, brown water snake and catfish. See if you can find them all!

With the summer upon us, let these bright stencils remind us to respect waterways and habitats by keeping pollution out!

Availability Of And Public Comment On Virginia's Draft Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (VA Department of Environmental Quality)



The Office of the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), announces the release of Virginia's Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan for meeting the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (the Draft Phase III WIP) for public review and comment.

The comment period is now open and will end June 7, 2019. The draft can be found on [DEQ's Phase III WIP website](#).

Written Comments:

Written comments on the Draft Phase III WIP can be submitted by any of the three methods listed below. Please include the name and mailing address (or e-mail address) of the commenter.

1. E-mail: chesbayplan@DEQ.Virginia.gov
2. Postal mail: DEQ, ATTN: Chesbayplan, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218
3. Hand-delivery: DEQ, ATTN: Chesbayplan, 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., except on state holidays and any other days on which state offices in the Richmond area are closed)

Job Opportunities

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program Assistant Coordinator

(Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)



The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) is currently accepting applications for its full-time Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) Assistant Coordinator position. Primary job responsibilities include receiving and reviewing project applications on a monthly basis, acting as liaison with district field staff, providing ongoing program and policy guidance for participating districts, assisting with onboarding of new district VCAP staff, managing project and grant files, leading ongoing improvements to program procedures and documentation, assisting with training programs and outreach events, presenting applications and project status updates to the VCAP Steering Committee, and providing ongoing assistance to the VASWCD Executive Director and VCAP Coordinator with program growth, management and promotion.

To apply for this opportunity, applicants must submit a (1) cover letter indicating relevant education and experience, (2) resume, as well as a completed (3) VASWCD application. A resume in lieu of a completed application will not be accepted. Applications should be submitted electronically to kendall.tyree@vaswcd.org. The deadline for the submission of applications is June 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

The full job description, required application, and other details are available at www.vaswcd.org/employment. Questions should be directed to the VASWCD Executive Director, Dr. Kendall Tyree. The VSWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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