

Announcing the 2012 Clean City Award Winners

The Hampton Clean City Commission is pleased to announce the 2012 Clean City Award winners. These outstanding individuals and groups have contributed significantly to keeping Hampton beautiful through their work in beautification and community improvement, environmental education, litter prevention, solid waste awareness, and water quality improvement. Awards will be presented to these exemplary environmental citizens at the Hampton Clean City Commission's Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Thursday, October 25 in the Spratley Gifted Center auditorium.

The **Elizabeth Lake Morning Walkers** have been cleaning up the Elizabeth Lake Estates neighborhood for a long time – they started reporting their cleanups in 2008, but they were cleaning up before then. The group has averaged 7 volunteers per cleanup for 478 cleanups over that time, they've contributed 13,829 hours toward cleaning up their neighborhood, picked up 970 bags of trash, and removed 133,827 cigarette ends from the roads and sidewalks. Just a reminder – that's approximately 14,550 pounds (*more than 7 tons*) of trash they picked up, and in the process prevented the pollution of 267,654 gallons of water by cigarette litter.

David Felton's work with TFC Recycling involves persuading businesses to recycle, but Dave considers it a mission as well as a job. He has served on the Clean & Green Businesses Committee for many years, and has been a central figure in identifying and evaluating Clean Business Award winners based on their solid waste management as well as their litter prevention and beautification efforts. He attends meetings, assists in presenting awards, and much more in his quest to recognize green businesses. He is a passionate environmental advocate and devotes time to environmental presentations and assisting groups in becoming greener.

The **Hampton University Marine & Environmental Science Club** has been an integral part of environmental education efforts in Hampton for the past three years. Club members have spent a great deal of time conducting environmental education programs, which have reached hundreds of students through afterschool and classroom programs. More importantly, the club has sponsored and implemented the Youth Environmental Conference for two years, involving more than 100 secondary and post-secondary students in high-quality environmental education programs at a conference they could call their own.

Carla Lessig, a teacher at Barron Elementary School, was instrumental in getting a successful recycling program going at the school. Last March, she led the school in a wildly successful plastic bag collection that netted 464 pounds of plastic bags (that's nearly 36,000 of them). The school won the plastic bag competition with the prize of a plastic bench from Trex Inc. She shares her enthusiasm for recycling with her friends and neighbors, influencing all who know her.

The **Phoebus High School Garden Team** initiated and implemented a school vegetable garden just outside the school's doors. Staff, students, and the community were involved in the effort. The project included reusing loading pallets and old bricks, and also using toilet paper rolls as plant starters. The vegetables harvested from the garden were distributed to participants and the school cafeteria.

Jessica Scott, a teacher at Andrews School, has been an enthusiastic advocate for a cleaner environment for two schools and her city. Jessica led recycling and litter prevention efforts at Moton Early Childhood Development Center, then moved to Andrews and led the school to build a recycling program and a butterfly garden. To raise money for the garden, she implemented a juice box recycling program with TerraCycle. In the classroom, she uses innovatively reused materials as teaching tools, one recent example being her use of polystyrene packing blocks as

a tool for her students to practice hand-eye coordination. She is also a participant in the Adopt-A-Spot program in her spare time.

Corlease Sills has been active in keeping Hampton beautiful for decades, first as a teacher at Machen Elementary School, and then later as a member of the Litter Awareness Committee. Corlease led numerous beautification efforts at Machen, teaching thousands of students how to plant flowers and to feel pride in their school's appearance. Corlease has actively promoted Great American Cleanup and Clean City Month campaigns by providing schools with slogans and morning announcements that focused student attention on recycling and litter prevention. She was an active member of the development of a litter plan that was presented to the City Manager and has written letters, brochures, and other publications on behalf of the Clean City Commission.

Megan Tierney continues to be a moving force in improving water quality in the City of Hampton. As Hampton's Cooperative Extension Agent, she oversees the activities of two volunteer groups that contribute dramatically to water quality education and action through their programs – the Virginia Cooperative Extension Hampton Master Gardeners and the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. In addition, Megan, with the help of enthusiastic volunteers, coordinated the Hampton Environmental Summit last June – its theme was "Keeping the Crab in Crabtown." Not only does she work hard within her job, but she also volunteers for various environmental activities and programs, including the Hampton Clean City Commission.

Terri Weaver has been an advocate for recycling and environmental quality for many years. More recently, she was a founder of God's Earth Ministry, a non-denominational stewardship organization that works to encourage church leadership in the areas of energy use, waste reduction, recycling, and environmental education. She helped organize an energy reduction workshop in 2011 and an energy stewardship contest among peninsula churches in 2012. She encouraged her church to recycle old sneakers and plastic bottle caps. Her concern for the environment is a beacon for our community.

These citizens set high standards for the rest of us to follow. The Hampton Clean City Commission salutes and appreciates them. The public is invited to send congratulatory messages to them through HCCC.

Photos of Clean City Award Winners:



Photo 1: David Felton, left, assists in the presentation of the Hampton Clean Business Award to the Peninsula Foodbank.



Photo 2: Megan Tierney, on the far right, drives the van for the Litter & Community Appearance Index annually



Photo 3: Some members of the Phoebus High School Garden Team at the groundbreaking in spring 2012



Photo 4: Corlease Sills, fourth from the left, is committed to the monthly cleanups sponsored by the Litter Awareness Committee



Photo 5: Carla Lessig working with student members of the Barron Recycling Team in 2010



Photo 6: Members of the Hampton University Marine & Environmental Science Club after the first Youth Environmental Conference in 2011

For more information about Hampton Clean City Commission programs and activities, contact us at hccc@hampton.gov, call 727-1130, or visit our web page (www.hampton.gov/hccc) or Facebook page.

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