

NEWS RELEASE

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Suffolk Residents Pitch In for Clean the Bay Day

SUFFOLK, Va. (June 8, 2009) Though assigned to three different sites throughout the city, Suffolk volunteers had one common goal on Saturday -- a cleaner bay. One hundred and thirty volunteers pitched in to clean up Suffolk on June 6th for the 21st annual Clean the Bay Day.

The groups of dedicated citizens cleaned up 6554 pounds of trash along Suffolk's streets and waterways in the three-hour period. Groups cleaned up Bennett's Creek and Sleepy Hole Parks and Tidewater Community College's Portsmouth campus.

Along the way, they picked up 2005 cigarette butts, 2785 plastic bottles, straws, and cups, 1171 aluminum and metal containers, and 911 pieces of paper. Styrofoam/polystyrene, fishing debris, tires and glass were also commonly found.

Some unusual items found included a home radiator, portion of a car bumper, a bed frame and a pickup truck liner. In addition to family and individual volunteers, several groups rallied together for the cause. Among the groups cleaning up were members of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard's Federal Managers Association and the Federal Women's Program, youth groups from West End Baptist and Holland Baptist Churches, a group from Kings Fork Middle, Suffolk Master Gardeners, and Cub Scout Pack 73.

“Each volunteer deserves a pat on the back for making the decision to be good stewards of the environment and to Suffolk,” said Hattie Lester, Litter Control Coordinator for the city of Suffolk. “If uncontrolled, litter will eventually wash into our waterways and harm our precious animals. We all should take action and keep Suffolk beautiful.”

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Photos by Hattie Lester
Suffolk Litter Control Coordinator

Photo 1: Austin and Ashlee Havens, of Gates NC, tag-teamed to clean up along the waterfront of Tidewater Community College Portsmouth campus.

Photo 2: Pictured is some of the 6554 pounds of trash picked up Saturday, June 6 at Clean the Bay Day in Suffolk. These bags of trash were collected at TCC-Portsmouth, where Darin Kwasniewski, of Suffolk, was the Zone Captain.