

NEWS RELEASE
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Suffolk Showing “Can Do” Spirit in National Recycling Contest

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA (October 20, 2010)—Suffolk is entering the homestretch in a very exciting competition which will help preserve our City’s environment. Residents are doing a great job in the Cans for Cash™ City Recycling Challenge. But we’ll need everyone to pitch in to get Suffolk over the finish line.

The recycling challenge encourages cities across the country to collect recyclable aluminum beverage cans during October. So far, Suffolk Litter Control says a 14-yard container at one of its drop off points is three-quarters full. Also, students at four schools – Southwestern Elementary, John F. Kennedy Middle, Nansemond River High and Robertson Elementary – are busy doing all they can to collect cans. So far, the schools have combined to drop off 400 cans for the cause.

The contest is sponsored by The United States Conference of Mayors, Novelis Corporation and Keep America Beautiful, Inc. Suffolk is competing with other cities for up to \$15,000 in awards, which are to be used to support recycling efforts. One \$5,000 award will be presented to the city collecting the most total tonnage of recyclable aluminum cans per capita, another for the city with the most innovative ideas for promoting recycling and another \$5,000 award to the city submitting the best recycling video in the American Recycler Video award

category. If Suffolk wins, the funds will be used to support the Clean Community Commission's new battery recycling program.

Suffolk Litter Control Coordinator Hattie Lester is very excited about the effort. She says, "It's not too late to get involved. I am confident that Suffolk can win this Challenge. We can all rally together and show the nation that Suffolk recycles. The benefits of recycling are countless, and first on the list of benefits is saving landfill space."

The contest doesn't end until October 29th, and there are two special collection sites open this Saturday.

On October 23rd from 2 until 4 p.m., the Suffolk Clean Community Commission will sponsor two aluminum can recycling drives, accepting only cans for the Cans for Cash™ Recycling Challenge. The drives are at Bennett's Creek Park (3598 Bennett's Creek Park Road) and the Public Works Operations Complex (866 Carolina Road).

If you can't make it Saturday, bring cans to the Public Works Sanitation Complex, 277 Pine Street, or the Public Works Operations Complex, Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 3 pm. Lester is encouraging everyone, including Civic Leagues, Churches, and Homeowner Associations, to become part of the final push.

Suffolk's recycling efforts will not end with the contest. Litter Control is encouraging residents to sign up for curbside recycling. All you need to do is log onto the Suffolk City website (www.suffolk.va.us) and look for the green recycling button on the navigation bar. Once there, signing up is very easy to do. For more information about recycling in Suffolk, contact the Litter Control Office at (757) 514-7604.

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