

**The Maryland Municipal League's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
*Award for Excellence Competition*  
**Honoring "Green" City & Town Programs**

***Project Name:* Chestertown Goes Green**

***Municipality:* The Town of Chestertown, Maryland**

***Population category:* 3,000 to 10,000**

***Chief elected official:***

**Mayor Margo Bailey  
Town Hall  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
410.778.0500**

**Project Summary**

Mayor Margo Bailey initiated the Chestertown Goes Green project after signing onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in 2007. The goals of this project are for the Town to implement as many of the suggested action items listed in the mayors agreement as is feasible, to get citizens involved in the process, and to provide a working model for other townships on the Eastern Shore to use as a starting point for their own greening efforts.

The contact person for this project is Briggs Cunningham (410.810.7174, office), who is the Climate Action Coordinator at the Center for Environment & Society at Washington College.

## **Why was the program needed?**

Chestertown is the seat of Kent County, and a town steeped in history. Situated on the Chester River, the Town is surrounded by a tapestry of farmland and Chesapeake Bay estuaries. It became apparent that the Town needed to implement an environmental action plan when the science of global warming made it clear that a rise in the Earth's sea level could have catastrophic consequences for the Town and for the County.

Obviously, the Town's actions alone cannot forestall global warming. However, they can inspire other towns to act as well, and perhaps that will be enough to give momentum toward preventing coastal destruction. Saving taxpayer money in the face of rising energy prices and landfill fees, improving the Town's tree canopy, and maintaining the rural character of the Eastern Shore that is under increasing development pressure are some of the bonuses that go along with the project.

## **How is the program set up?**

The program is set up as a partnership between the Town and the Center for Environment & Society (CES) at Washington College. Using grant funds from Town Creek Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and Shared Earth Foundation, CES hired a Climate Action Coordinator to help the Town manage the program through the Town's Climate Action Committee. The committee works to identify action areas, make suggestions to the Town Council (such as an Energy Star purchasing policy, anti-idling rules, and tree management ordinances), and serves as a vehicle for greater citizen involvement.

## **What does it cost?**

The program uses grant funds from several private foundations and some operating expenses from CES, and so costs the Town nothing. The Town and CES have shared incidental costs of printing and mailing a recycling newsletter, the printing of some banners, and the production and maintenance of the town's green website (see <http://chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu/>).

## **Who benefits?**

The program benefits all citizens of Chestertown, as well as those in the rest of Kent County. Taxpayer money is being saved, and environmental issues are being resolved which helps the County retain its appeal to tourists, hunters, boaters, history buffs, and retirees.

## **Is the program innovative?**

The program is innovative because it involves a partnership between the Town and Washington College. Citizens of Chestertown are becoming more involved in the process, especially through “Neighbors for Neighborhoods” (an association of homeowners in the Town that is dedicated to being a model for the rest of the Town in maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment), and students at the College learn about the issues by assisting in some of the analytical work. Other examples of the partnership include: the chair of the Town’s Planning Commission having a seat on the College’s Climate Action Committee; use of the College’s Geographic Information System (GIS) lab to map out the Town’s tree canopy; and, having staff at CES help the Town draft tougher urban forest management ordinances.

## **Can you demonstrate tangible results?**

Tangible results from this program can be seen through a variety of examples: increased participation of citizens in the “Neighbors for Neighborhoods” program; involvement of citizens, local school students and college students in tree planting in the community (see pictures in appendix); increased awareness of the program through newspaper articles (see appendix) and radio spots; an improvement in recycling rates in the Town and in the County (according to the Kent County Recycling Program, 1,557 tons of post-consumer materials were recycled in Kent County in 2008, up from 1,454 tons in 2007; and, in Chestertown alone there were 122 new participant sign-ups for the recycling program in 2008, up from 97 in 2007); and, such a significant reduction in the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, and other toxins released into the Chester River from the Town’s improved wastewater

treatment plant that the strictest regulations imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment are easily met and surpassed.

### **What is the expected future impact of this program?**

It is expected that this program will have an impact on how the citizens of Chestertown and Kent County perceive their roles as stewards of the land and the water around them. Over time, this shift in perception will help bring about a change in the way resources are managed, thus positively affecting the environmental health of the area. Already the Town is looking at long-term sustainable solutions, such as: LEED standards for new construction; greater flexibility for green retrofits to historic structures; tougher tree ordinances for increased tree canopy and decreased logging; and implementation of long-term tracking and management tools.

### **Were citizens or the private sector involved?**

The program is overseen by the Town's Climate Action Committee, which consists of a dozen citizens, the Mayor, and the Climate Action Coordinator at CES. The committee has been successful in also getting involvement from local businesses: they have improved their recycling rates; they are participating in a month-long "Earth Day" program for April whereby they will promote their "green" products and services; and, the Chestertown Rotary Club is sponsoring green totes to be given away at the farmers market in town on Saturday mornings.

### **Can other municipalities implement a similar program?**

One of the goals of the program is to provide a working model of Chestertown's experiences that other municipalities can use as a starting point for their own greening efforts. All of the procedures that are involved in this program are being posted to the Town's green web site, and a "toolkit" is being produced that will make available to the public and other municipalities the various "tools" used in the Town's environmental action plan.

# Appendix

Chestertown Goes Green newsletter that was sent to all residences

**RENEW**


**Find ways to renew your property**, which in turn will help renew the environment on the Eastern Shore. For a list of trees and bushes that are native to the Eastern Shore, go to [www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu/renew.php](http://www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu/renew.php).

**REDUCE**


**By consuming less**, we throw away less, and save money at the same time! Got too much stuff? Don't waste your hard-earned money on stuff you don't need. See [www.storystuff.com](http://www.storystuff.com) to learn more. Reduce the amount of electricity and water you use every day and save even more money. Take shorter showers, install low-flow showerheads, and use cold water for laundry.

**REUSE**

**Think of new ways to reuse every day** household items, rather than just throwing them in the trash. Only buy products that come in recyclable packaging. Use cloth napkins and towels rather than paper towels; use refillable pens and pencils; use rechargeable batteries. Donate reusable items to a thrift store (for example: the Women In Need store, or Hidden Treasures, in Chestertown); get together with your neighbors and have a yard sale; make some crafts; advertise your yard on eBay; recycling or Craigslist.



**Chestertown Climate Action Committee**  
**Town Hall**  
**Chestertown, Maryland 21620**  
[www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu](http://www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu)



**So, everyone, use the green bins!**

**Attention Chestertown residents!** You can effectively reduce your household's waste stream by recycling. Kent County Recycling Program offers FREE curbside recycling in Chestertown and all municipalities and rural areas in the county; visit the website ([www.kentcountygov.com/pubworks/waste.htm](http://www.kentcountygov.com/pubworks/waste.htm)), or call 410.778.7448 for information on how easy it is to begin recycling.

**Why Recycle?** First, it's good for our economy. Why? The Town of Chestertown spends on average \$6,000 a month on dumping fees for waste going into a landfill. We should be able to cut that amount at least by half and save tax money for other worthwhile municipal programs! Also, it's good for the environment; saves energy & resources; saves landfill space; helps prevent global warming; reduces water pollution; protects wildlife; and creates jobs. Kent County's recycling program continues to exceed the state-mandated 15% recycling rate with a rate of 41% in 2007. Chestertown needs all of its residents to be involved in the recycling program.

**Where can I get recycling bins?** At the Kent County Public Works Office at 709 Morgue Road (410.778.7448), or at Town Hall (410.778.0500).

**Can I use more than one bin, and sort items?** Yes, but please do not use trash bags or large trash cans which can get too heavy for the recycling crew. Use the recycling bins or plastic containers that are the same size as the green bins.

**Do materials for recycling need to be washed clean?** Not the way you would wash dishes. A quick rinse is sufficient for most materials. For stubborn containers like peanut butter and oil, a soak in the sink overnight will do the trick.

**What to Recycle?** The following items CAN be recycled in the Kent County green bins:

- Corrugated cardboard
- Newspaper
- All mixed paper
- Shredded paper
- Aluminum & tin cans
- Glass bottles & jars (clear, brown, blue & green glass)
- Plastic bottles & jugs



**NOT accepted and must be removed from the cardboard.**

**What types of plastic can be recycled?** All clean plastic bottles and jugs with a #1 or #2 on the bottom; this includes soda bottles, laundry detergent bottles, most plastic jars. DO NOT include caps. Plastic bags, #4, can be recycled at Acme and Superfresh.

**What kinds of plastic can NOT be recycled in Kent County?** Yogurt and cream cheese containers, styrofoam and other plastic take out containers, plastic cups, forks and other dinnerware. Also, don't recycle solvent, oil, and chemical containers, such as for motor oil. Plastic lids cannot be recycled. These types of plastics can not be accepted because local markets do not yet exist for them.

**What kinds of glass can be recycled?** Clear, brown, blue, and green bottles and jars; remove the paper label and lid.

**What kinds of glass can NOT be recycled in Kent County?** Drinking glasses, pyrex or other bakeware, dishes, light bulbs, windows, mirrors, or other household glass. Broken glass should NOT be put in the bins.

**What metals can be recycled?** Aluminum and tin cans, preferably with the label removed. CLEAN aluminum foil can also be recycled. Don't recycle anything that held paint, solvent, or paint thinner. NO cookware, flatware, pots or pans.

**What other types of items can be recycled? What about computers?** Kent County now accepts computers and peripherals, (monitors, keyboard, mouse, speakers, etc.) at the Nicholson Drop-off Center on East Nicholson Rd., Monday - Saturday. Scrap metal, tires, used oil & antifreeze, boat shrink wrap, clothes & textiles are also accepted. Other electronics can be recycled at the regional Household Hazardous Waste/eCycle events each spring and fall.

**What about other items that may be hard to dispose of in the trash?** Certain items like fuels, oil-based paints and lawn and garden pesticides are accepted at the regional Household Hazardous Waste Events held each spring and fall. See [www.nicholsonrecycling.org](http://www.nicholsonrecycling.org) for details.

**What needs to be separated?** Only newspaper should be separated from other paper and placed in a paper bag or banded with string. Keep separate from mixed paper and paperboard. DO NOT PLACE IN PLASTIC BAGS. Plastic bottles, tin and aluminum cans, and glass can be placed together in the bins.

**What types of paper can be recycled?** White paper, colored paper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, office paper, shredded paper, newspaper, junk mail, envelopes with windows, books, paperboard such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, snack/food boxes and soda/beer cartons. Place in a paper bag or banded with string. NO paper towels, napkins, contaminated paper.

**What if rain is in the forecast?** Try to cover your bin with a tarp or plastic trash bag if rain is in the forecast, but DO NOT put in plastic bags.

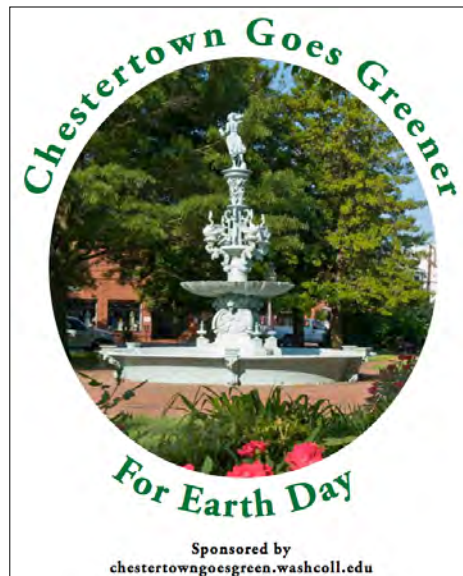
**Where does paper recycling go?** Mixed paper goes to Creafill Fibers Corp. in Worton, creating 25 jobs in Kent County. Newspaper goes to Dixon Valve Company in Chestertown, and is used for packing and shipping.

**What kinds of cardboard can be recycled?** All corrugated cardboard that is dry and flattened. Contaminated cardboard, such as pizza boxes, and milk cartons or other wax-coated cardboard, and egg cartons, are NOT accepted. Peanuts, styrofoam or other types of packing materials are

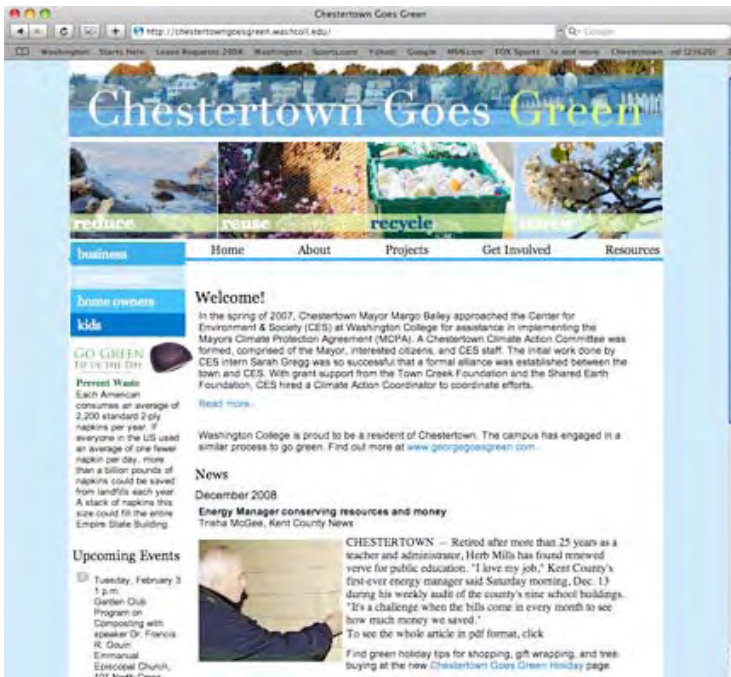
CGG Banner



Earth Day poster for local merchants to display during April



CGG Web site



“No Plastic Bags” flier



Neighbors For Neighborhoods program



## NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

February 2009

### CHESTERTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD GOES GREEN

The neighborhood in the vicinity of Campus Avenue has accepted the Town’s request to be a model for the Town in going green. We have a long-standing association of proud homeowners who have always placed a high value on maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment.

We have enthusiastically accepted the challenge to do even more as a test case for the Town in implementing “green” practices in the day-to-day maintenance of homes and yards.

We have formed a committee and have studied literature provided by the Mayor. We have prepared and distributed 60 copies of a survey with 30 questions to find out what specific practices neighbors now use or would consider adopting. We evaluated the results and will follow up within a year to determine what behaviors have changed.

We are promoting awareness and becoming better educated by holding monthly speakers and workshops, to which the public can be invited. A number of people have asked for information sessions with experts on various environmentally-sound activities in order to be better equipped to put green practices into practice. Topics include rain barrel installation and effective use of native plant species.

The neighbors have formed a partnership with Kingstown Farm, Home and Garden, Inc., to stock and purchase organic lawn food and eco-friendly products.

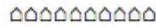
Taking the opportunity to widely promote the message, the neighborhood built a float for the Town’s Halloween parade on the theme of “Chestertown Goes Green”, using live plants, hay, a rain barrel, a solar panel, and signs. All participants wore specially-designed “Go Green” T-shirts, showing everyone that you can have fun going green. Washington college student service groups also participated. The float won first prize in the parade.

“I am thrilled that this neighborhood has picked up the gauntlet to go green,” says Margo Bailey. “This is the start of an effort that Chestertown can be very proud of and very grateful for. It’s enormously positive,” she added.



# Neighbors For Neighborhoods Go Green Programs

**The Town of Chestertown is hosting information sessions on home and garden practices that are environmentally friendly.**



**FACTS:**

- ❖ Residents play a critical role in protecting soil and water resources
- ❖ The Chestertown “urban forest” is the sum of individual yards, street trees, parks, and unimproved lots. The urban forest is critical to the health of local waters and the Bay
- ❖ A sample survey of Chestertown residents determined that 100% want to improve their knowledge of good environmental practices and products

**CHESTERTOWN TOWN HALL  
7:30-8:30 p.m.**

**February 11 - Affordable Solar Energy for the Home**

With Roy Mears and son, Dusty, local builders and renovators of historic homes. Learn about small and large home modifications for better energy efficiency as well as practices that can be adopted by residents for greater energy conservation.

**March 3 - Sustainable Gardening**

With Bob Bell, President of Bell Design, Inc. Learn about regional native plants, proper plant selection, water management, and the most important green garden practices. Originally from Easton, Bell is a landscape architect who designs gardens for historic properties and landscaping for small city spaces as well as urban roof decks and large estates. He has appeared as a guest designer on HGTV's "Curb Appeal".

**April 23 – Rain Gardens and Native Plants**

With Liz Starkey and Certified Professional Horticulturists Robyn Affron and Cindy King from Kingstown Farm, Home, and Garden. Benefit the Chesapeake Watershed by designing your garden with native plants, installing a rain garden and creating backyard habitats. The buzz word of the evening will

be biodiversity. We can all make a difference!

Robyn Affron is a member of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Council, a coalition dedicated to promoting and educating the public about conservation-based landscaping practices to benefit the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**May 14- Green Cleaning Basics**

With Paul McMullen, Maintenance Supervisor, and Buck Schuyler, Gardener, Adkins Arboretum  
Ingredients in commercial cleaners can pollute the environment both inside and outside your home. Learn about natural alternatives to toxic, caustic, and flammable cleaning products. Learn how to make your own “green” products and discuss those available in stores. Samples of both natural and caustic products will be on hand for comparison.

**June 11- Our River Needs Our Help**

Two Chester River Association volunteer Board members--- Marcy Dunn Ramsey, artist, illustrator, and author, and Andrew McCown, Associate Director of Echo Hill Outdoor School --- explain the role we play in the health of the River, the work of the Riverkeeper, and what we can do as residents.

*For though we may be the Earth's gardeners, we are also its weeds. And we won't get anywhere until we come to terms with this crucial ambiguity about our role - that we are at once the problem and the only possible solution to the problem.*  
Michael Pollan



Programs are coordinated by the Go Green group of Neighbors for Neighborhoods, an association of residents in the vicinity of Washington College and the Chester River. For questions, contact [campusave@dmv.com](mailto:campusave@dmv.com)



Pat Gates  
Sally Harding  
Phyllis Lauro  
Annie Warhurst



**GO GREEN PROGRAMS**

**WINTER/SPRING  
2009**

**Committee Members:**

Karen Ashley  
Anne Charles  
Muriel Cole  
Juli Dulmage

**Town of Chestertown**

[www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu](http://www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu)

Middle school students planting trees with help from college students and residents



Residents undertake a ground-truthing exercise for Chestertown's tree inventory



A section of a digital image of the Town's tree canopy with crowns outlined



# Bailey stumps for concepts of 'green'

**Banners, door hangers will tout conservation**

By Peter Heck  
Staff writer

CHESTERTOWN — A new banner will soon be visible around town. It says, "Chestertown Goes Green."

Mayor Margo Bailey is doing what she can to make sure that's more than just a slogan.

On Monday, Bailey and Briggs Cunningham, climate action coordinator at the Washington College Center for Environment and Society, displayed two new promotional tools for the green initiative they have been creating for the town.



BAILEY

The green-and-white banner bearing the slogan also touts the "four Rs" of responsible environmental practice: reduce, reuse, recover, recycle. It will be on display at Earth Day, Tea Party, and other community events.

Another facet of the campaign is a printed door hanger, like a hotel "do not disturb" sign, listing ways residents can save money while helping the environment. Plans are to enlist volunteers to distribute the door hangers door-to-door.

The door hanger offers basic environmental tips: driving less, turning off lights, using less hot water, and using compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent ones, among others. Following the tips can lead to

savings both of money and energy — and passing them on to friends and neighbors can spread the benefits to the whole community.

Bailey also called attention to the hanger and the banner at the Monday meeting of mayor and council, where she distributed a flyer promoting green practices for offices.

The hanger also urges participation in the Kent County recycling program, which does curbside pickup of recyclable materials in town. Bailey said that one of her major goals is to increase recycling, and eventually make it mandatory for businesses in town. Green recycling bins are available at town hall.

For details on the county recycling program and recyclable materials, see [www.kent-county.com/gov/pubworks/waste.htm](http://www.kent-county.com/gov/pubworks/waste.htm)

Plastic is a particular problem, (Please see GREEN, Page 20A)

## Chester I

By Jack Shaum  
Special from the Bay Times

CHESTERTOWN — The first report card on the health of the Chester River gives the tributaries of the grade of "C" and a grade of "D" main river into which they flow.

The report card, released April

## GREEN

(Continued from Page 1A)

Bailey said. Much of it does not break down in the environment and large amounts of it have accumulated in landfills. Items such as plastic bottles are recycled at only a 3-percent rate, she said; the rate for plastic bags is even lower.

Bailey described a "plastic plume" in the Pacific that covers an area as large as from Hawaii to Japan, which is causing massive deaths among such seabirds as the albatross, which fill their stomachs with the indigestible plastic items and starve. Fish try to eat plastic, as well, she said. She says that "trying to educate people not to use plastic bags" is one of her major priorities.

Cunningham added that some supermarket chains are now offering small price incentives to customers who use cloth or mesh shopping bags instead of plastic.

Bailey's initiative has been building momentum since Chestertown signed onto the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in April 2007. Bailey's signature committed Chestertown to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and to urge action to achieve those goals by state and federal officials.

The UN-sponsored Kyoto Protocol sets specific targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels. The U.S. has not ratified the proposal, but 174 other nations had as of November 2007. Opponents, including President Bush, have questioned the effectiveness of the proposal and criticized the burden they say it places on the economy. Bailey is one of 831 mayors, from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have signed the climate protection agreement.

Bailey also enlisted allies from Washington College, which under Baird Tipson, president, has made a commitment to becoming carbon-neutral in its energy use. The college hired Cunningham late last year to work with Bailey and Town Manager Bill Ingersoll to identify opportunities to further green agendas that benefit both the campus and the town.

Cunningham's resume includes work with the National Park Conservation Services and the Smithsonian Institution. He said he had spent a lot of time addressing environmental issues in both positions, and "I knew all the stuff," including the low budget priorities the federal government assigns conservation efforts.

He spoke on Monday of vari-

ous strategies his office is exploring, including purchase of a Pennsylvania-made biomass burner that could provide energy for some of the town's facilities. The biomass burner can be fed with switchgrass, which he described as a "perfect crop" for riparian areas and roadsides. "It prevents soil loss, it grows by itself, and it's a good winter habitat for birds," he said. And since switchgrass doesn't play any role in the food chain, its use as fuel won't add to already high food prices.

Cunningham said the biomass burner can also use phragmites, an invasive plant common along Eastern Shore waterfronts. "It's better to use the plants as fuel instead of killing them with herbicides," he said. Phragmites is also used in Europe as roof thatching material, and Bailey said there have been discussions with the Historic District Commission and the planning commission about encouraging the use of green building materials in the district.

The college is also contributing to Chestertown's green initiative by using a geographic information system to map the town's tree canopy. Grants from Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Shared Earth Foundation will let the town identify where it needs to plant, Bailey said.

The late Ginny Gough left the town a bequest for tree planting, and Bailey said she felt it would be appropriate to put some of those trees on Cannon Street, where Gough lived. Campus Avenue is another street where tree cover is lacking, Bailey said. She also said she would like to restore the stream that runs parallel to Horsely Lane.

Bailey is in the process of cre-

ating an environmental tool kit, "including procedural guidelines, sample documents and other materials," that can be provided to other Eastern Shore municipalities. She said that the incoming president of the Maryland Municipal League, Mayor Sidney Katz of Gaithersburg, will be making a strong effort to get other state towns to adopt green policies.

The Web site of the Center for Environment and Society, [ces.washcoll.edu/campusustainability/townclimate.php](http://ces.washcoll.edu/campusustainability/townclimate.php), gives a full description of the program. The site includes a timetable for various benchmarks, including encouraging other Kent County towns to sign onto the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, or to adopt those aspects of it that fit their circumstances.

Bailey has been speaking along green tips at town meetings for several months, and a lot of useful links and information can be found on the redesigned town Web site at <http://chestertown.com/green/ccap.php>

## REPORT

(Continued from Page 1A)

that gave the bay as a whole a minus.

While the center used data from bay agencies to determine the tidal areas, Walls said the used to determine the grade for was gathered last year by a group of volunteers called Chester Testers, lected at 25 monitoring sites throughout the watershed.

"I just sent them the data processed it," he said.

The CRA said in a statement though creek health was somewhat better than the main river, it is necessa-

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USE YOUR TAX RELIEF & DR  
AT COLON  
\$25 WITH E  
'08 Chevy Cobalt \$12995 (as low as \$209)  
'07 Mercedes Benz C230 Sport Sedan \$29995  
'04 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD 4x4, only 49K

# Planner proposes Radcliffe Creek canoe trail

By Peter Heck  
heck@chespub.com

CHESTERTOWN — "Radcliffe Creek is an incredible greenway," said Chris Cerino, addressing his fellow members of the Chestertown Planning Commission on July 16.

He backed up his claim with images of deer tracks, beaver dams and other evidence of untamed nature along the neglected waterway west of town. The images, part of a presentation on making the creek into a canoe and kayak trail, stood out brilliantly in the darkened meeting room. They made Cerino's case for the project as eloquently as his words.

Radcliffe Creek rises north of town near Mary Morris Road and runs behind Radcliffe Creek School, where it expands into a millpond before crossing Route 20 at Radcliffe Mill. Thence it flows west of town past Stepany, and empties into the Chester river. Cerino

said that, with the imminent development of Stepany, the time has come to ensure public access to the waterway, which he described as "adjacent to the core of town."

Cerino pointed out the fit of a canoe trail with the green programs the town has recently adopted, noting its variety of habitats and ecosystems in less than a mile of its length. In that short space, it is home to "tons of animal life," from deer, beavers and otters to frogs, turtles and spawning shad.

The creek also fits in well with the Rails to Trails program, paralleling the old railroad right-of-way along Cannon Street for much of its length. Cerino suggested a "millstream park" at the point where the creek flows under the Route 20 bridge, near Radcliffe Mill.

He said that the creek is about a foot deep at its entrance and too narrow for powerboats, which means it's unlikely to turn into a noisy nuisance for those living near its banks. A certain amount

of dredging will be necessary to make it accessible to canoeists past the first mile or so of its length.

A key to making it into the canoe trail Cerino envisions is creating access points along the water. He identified several points where the banks might be reached from town streets, and others where approaches could be created as part of the development of property along the creek.

Cerino said the use of the creek as a canoe trail would require only minimal space for parking, since most canoeists and kayakers transport their craft on top of their cars. That means that parking lots for the trail wouldn't need to provide space for boat trailers.

Cerino said that a main priority should be to provide the creek with "TLC" to remedy years of dumping along its banks. He quoted one friend who saw his pictures and said the creek

(Please see TRAIL, Page 26A)



# Kent County News Editorial

May 1, 2008

4A

## It would be better to say 'Kent County goes green'

Last year the Chestertown Mayor and Council began a "Chestertown Goes Green" theme that continues today with increasing momentum.

Mayor Margo Bailey has been the champion of this admirable campaign to encourage town residents to conserve energy, recycle and protect the environment. Most recently she has begun a push to get businesses to recycle.

None of the concepts are particularly new – Chestertown has supported conservation for 27 years in its Tree City USA program. Galena has done the same for 19 years.

It follows the example of Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki who has touted his "10 ways" of reducing energy consumption and preventing global warming with recommendations of flying less, walking more, planning travel more efficiently, recycling and composting trash and conserving energy and using or encouraging more alternate energy sources (see [www.davidsuzuki.org](http://www.davidsuzuki.org)).

But there is renewed emphasis due to the skyrocketing costs of fossil fuels and the continued degradation of our environment. The Chesapeake Bay is in worse condition than when active cleanup plans were started decades ago. Bay fish, crab and oyster populations have been on a decline. The Chester River Association graded the water in the river a "D."

Last week, Bailey unveiled promotional tools including banners and door hangers. The banners encourage people to use the "four Rs" – reduce, reuse, recover, recycle.

Bailey is to be commended, not only for promoting a good program and sound ideas to live by, but for keeping the issue in the spotlight.

Even as we asked last year, we wonder why the other government agencies, such as Rock Hall, Millington and Betterton, are not doing the same thing. Why are only two of our five towns Tree Cities? Why do not all of our towns have banners and door hangers?

Given the size of this county, Kent could easily set a good example for its local effort, for the state and nation.

Going green is a concept we all need to support.

## Monthly sessions teach people ways to go green

By Peter Heck  
[pheck@chespub.com](mailto:pheck@chespub.com)

CHESTERTOWN – Do you want to learn about solar energy for your home? Or are you thinking of starting a rain garden? You're in luck – those are just a couple of the topics to be explored in a series of "Go Green Programs" sponsored by the town of Chestertown.

The information sessions, coordinated by the Go Green group of Neighbors for Neighborhoods, are part of a series of Go Green Programs inspired by Mayor Margo Bailey's green agenda for the town. They will be held monthly during 2009. All programs are in town hall, and run from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Roy and Dusty Mears, a father-son team of builders and renovators, will discuss "Affordable Solar Energy for the Home" on Wednesday, Feb. 11. They will discuss small and large home modifications that can improve energy efficiency. Also on the agenda will be a variety of techniques for residents to conserve energy in the home.

March 3, landscape architect Bob Bell will present "Sustainable Gardening," with information on regional native plants, plant selection, water management, and other green practices for gardeners. Bell's background includes designing gardens for historic properties and landscaping for small city spaces including urban roof decks.

Liz Starkey of Kingstown Farm, Home, and Garden will be the presenter for "Rain Gardens and Native Plants" on April 23. Assisting her will be Cindy King and Robyn Affron, both of whom are certified professional horticulturists at Kingstown Farm, Home, and Garden.

April 14, the topic is "Green Cleaning Basics," with Paul McMullen, maintenance supervisor, and Buck Schuyler, gardener, of Adkins Arboretum. The program will explore alternatives to toxic, caustic and flammable commercial cleaning products. Both do-it-yourself and store-bought alternatives will be discussed.

The June 11 program is titled, "Our River Needs Our Help," and features artist and author Marcy Dunn Ramsey and Andy McCown, associate director of Echo Hill Outdoor School. In their role as volunteer board members of the Chester River Association, they will explain the work of the Riverkeeper, and how residents can play a role in improving the health of the river.

The series got off to a strong start in the January program on rain barrels, given by Starkey, King and Affron, along with Bill Thompson, manager of Kingstown Farm, Home, and Garden. The presentation drew a full house, according to Sally Harding, one of the committee members for Neighbors for Neighborhoods. Muriel Cole, also a committee member, called the large turnout "encouraging."

"We had no idea how many people we were going to get," Harding said on Tuesday. She described the session, which included a PowerPoint presentation on rain barrels by Affron, as "really good," and said she was looking forward to the February presentation on solar energy.

Neighbors for Neighborhoods is an association of Chestertown residents, many of whom live in the East Campus Avenue area.

For more information, visit [www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu](http://www.chestertowngoesgreen.washcoll.edu) or e-mail Cole at [campusave@dmv.com](mailto:campusave@dmv.com). Also, a brochure describing the programs is available at town hall.