1986 CLEAN BLOCK CAMPAIGN

Awards Ceremony—Wednesday, August 13 7-9 p.m. Hopkins Plaza
Closing Party—Godfrey's Famous Ballroom Sunday, August 24 7p.m.

Inspection Dates:
City Blocks - Sat. Aug. 9
Housing Projects - Sun. Aug. 10

—Helpful Hints—

Save the Bay — Start in your own backyard

By Pamela B. King
Extension Agent

The Chesapeake Bay provides us with food and recreation, cools our power plants and fuels our economy — and most of us tend to take it for granted. We expect clean and plentiful water to swim and boat in, to nourish the Bay's famous crabs and fish, and water in abundance when we turn on the tap.

Remember, however, that the bay is a chemical repository. Water can be considered a kind of universal solvent. So every time we wash our hands, clean our drains, or water our lawns, we add our wastes and excesses into the water flowing into the Bay.

Ordinary citizens must also get involved in saving the Bay. What you and your neighbors do does matter — there are 5 million of us living on and around the Bay and a little bit of pollution from each of us adds up to an enormous amount.

What is Happening to the Bay?
- Large amounts of nutrients washing off farmers fields, urban areas and from inadequately treated sewage are causing huge algal blooms, which deplete the oxygen in the water and disrupt aquatic life.
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) is dying due to decreasing water clarity from algae and sediment. It provides important food for waterfowl, a haven for young crabs and fish and an anchor against erosion.
- Oyster harvests are declining.
- The number of fish caught is decreasing.

What you can do.
*Plant trees and preserve vegetation near streams to control erosion.
*Control runoff. Rainwater from homes, driveways and lawns in 90 percent of Maryland ends up in the Bay carrying our pollution. Think about where rainwater goes. Does the sewer dump it into a stream causing it to erode?
- Resod bare patches in the lawn as soon as possible to avoid erosion.
- Plant trees and shrubs to promote infiltration.
- Use wood decking, bricks, interlocking stones or other permeable paving for walkways and patios.
- Divert and allow water to spread from paved surfaces onto grass or other planted areas to permit gradual absorption.
*Good landscaping will help reduce erosion and pollution from runoff. Preserve trees in your neighborhood. Trees, shrubs and groundcovers helpo insulate your home, attract wildlife and require less maintenance, fertilizer and herbicides than lawns. Choose appropriate plants that:
- are Drought resistant, like Acuba, Juniper, and Barberry (less watering = less surface runoff).
- are pest resistant (less pesticides = less toxic pollution)
- have low nutrient requirements (less fertilizer = less nutrient pollution)
- are native plants adapted to this area.
*Maintain lawns properly. Well kept, they can prevent erosion and absorb and filter rainwater.
- Plant the right grass in the right way. Bluegrass and fescue lawns should be planted in the late summer between August 15 and September 30.
- Use the right amount of fertilizer by taking a soil test. Kits are available through your local Extension Service office. Fertilizer should be applied in the fall-September through December. Improper application can encourage disease and weeds, reduce the turf's ability to withstand temperature and moisture extremes and cause excessive top growth.
- Identify and control weeds and other pests properly. If chemicals are needed, use the right one, at the right time, in the right way. Follow label directions.
- Mow high. Bluegrass lawns should be mown frequently and kept to a height of 3 to 4 inches.
- Do not overwater. Water established lawns only during very dry periods and water slowly and deeply.
*Use good gardening techniques for vegetables and flowers.
- Take a soil test and fertilize properly.
- Garden across slopes and terrace to reduce erosion.
- Add organic matter to the soil to make the soil more workable and aid water penetration and water retaining capacity.
- Mulch to reduce erosion and hold in moisture.
- Consider all the alternatives for pest control, then choose the best one for you.
- Use and dispose of pesticides properly and safely.
- Use other pest control techniques when possible, like pulling to control weeds instead of using a chemical weed killer.

- Always read and follow label directions
- Store pesticides in their original containers with the labels intact, in a locked cabinet.
- Dispose of pesticides properly. Liquid materials sold in quantities less that a gallon or dry materials in quantities up to 10 pounds should be wrapped in at least 6 layers of newspapers, secured, and put out with the rest of the trash. Small quantities, when handled properly, do not present a hazard to trash collectors or the environment.
- Pesticides should never be bured in the yard, burned, or poured into storm drains, sinks or toilets.
- Clean up small spills with absorbent materials, like kitty litter, shovel into a plastic bag, and put in the trash.
* Beaware of common household chemicals.
- Read and follow label directions.
- Use less toxic materials when possible. Ordinary detergents and water may work as well as petroleum-based super cleaners that are not readily biodegradeable.
- Dispose of unwanted chemcials in the landfill. Sewage treatment plants are not designed to remove toxic chemicals from the waste water. Wrap unwanted chemicals in their original containers in several layers of newspaper, then wrap in a plastic bag and put in the trash.
- Take used motor oil and antifreeze to a gas station with a recycling program. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water. Antifreeze is poisonous to people, fish and wildlife.
* **Conserve water.**
What you do in your own home and garden really can affect the rest of the world. So do your part. If you need more information on what you can do to reduce water pollution at home call the Cooperative Extension Service, whose programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap, at 396-1888.

CLEAN BLOCK Assistant Director Elyn Garrett smiles broadly as she accepts a $2,500 contribution to the AFRO CLEAN BLOCK Fund from Russ Cooper of the Neighborhood Progress Administration.

How to handle trash

WASTE MATERIALS
All waste materials for collection (garbage, rubbish and ashes) must be placed in waterproof containers. A 20-gallon container is maximum size for garbage and mixed refuse. Maximum size for ashes is 10-gallon containers. Four 20-gallon containers of mixed refuse will be collected from each building twice per week. (Article 23, Sec. 5).

Garbage should be drained of liquids and wrapped or put in bags before being placed in containers. (Article 23, Sec. 4). Wrapped garbage may be placed in same containers with mixed refuse.

Bundles of newspapers, magazines and flattened cardboard boxes should be tied in bundles and placed on top of or alongside containers.

Tree cuttings must be tied in bundles not longer than 4 feet nor more than 2 feet in diameter. Grass, leaves, small cuttings from trees and shrubs may be put in regular containers. Larger quantities may be placed in baskets or plastic bags.

Christmas Trees should be put in alleys, where they are fire hazards. They will be collected by special trucks. Dates will be publicized in the newspapers and on the radio.

EXCESS MATERIALS
The City provides a public dumping area at its landfill. Cars and station wagons may dispose of items free of charge. Trucks from Neighborhoods sponsoring Clean-Up Campaigns can dump free of charge with prior notification to the Bureau of Solid Waste. The Landfill is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information please call 396-4515.

CLEANING PREMISES
Householders, occupants of offices, stores and other business places are responsible for keeping clean the sidewalks, gutters and that portion of the alley abutting the property. (Article 13, Sec. 910).

The owner or operator of any dwelling containing more than one dwelling unit is responsible for keeping clean the sidewalks, gutters and that portion of the alley that abuts the property. (Article 13, Sec. 1008).

Owners of vacant lots are responsible for keeping them clean and free from litter.

FINE
$1.00 to $25.00 FOR EACH OFFENSE — (Article 23, Sec. 13).

Complaints of any Clean-City violations may be reported to Housing Inspection Services, Neighborhood Progress Administration — 396-4176.

COLLECTIONS
MIXED REFUSE is collected twice weekly.

ASHES are collected once weekly during the heating season. Please call for service prior to the season — 396-4515.

Containers should be put out only on regular collection days, and must be taken in as soon as possible after collection. (Article 23, Sec. 8. Fine up to $25).

BULKY ARTICLES too big for regular collection trucks will be picked up twice monthly on regular schedule, by request only. Three times maximum.

For information call CUSTOMER SERVICE SECTION — 396-4515.

Removal of building materials such as plaster, broken concrete and old bricks resulting from repairs and construction, is the responsibility of the contractor or the property owner. (Article 23, Sec, 7). Do not put in trash can.

There will be no collections made on the following legal holidays: New Year's Day. Martin Luther King's Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Good Friday, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Refuse materials will be collected on your next regular collection day.

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SUPPORT THE CLEAN BLOCK CAMPAIGN

Win A Chance To Go Backstage and Meet

PHILIP BAILEY **PATTI AUSTIN** **GEORGE DUKE**

At The

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
Sunday, August 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Here's How To Win:
In 25 words or more, tell us why you'd like to go backstage and meet these artists. Clip out the coupon below and mail to:

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c/o Afro-American Newspapers
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Grand Prize: Limousine ride to the concert for you and a guest. Meet Philip Bailey, Patti Austin and George Duke backstage before the concert.

Runner Up: 2 tickets to the concert

Entry Form

Take me backstage to meet the artist because_____

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Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ ***Age***_____

Deadline: August 18, 1986

Winners Announced: August 22, 1986 edition of Friday Plus

AUG 1986