



## Welcome to our new executive director!

We welcome Jennifer Cole, who recently joined the Clean Fairfax Council as the Executive Director. She is taking on the role that Rosemary Byrne, who has retired, held for the past 19 years.

Jennifer is a recent transplant to Fairfax County from Providence, Rhode Island, where she worked. Most recently, she was Executive Director of Groundwork Providence, an agency whose programs include street tree plantings, recycling education, neighborhood cleanups, “green” job training, youth environmental education and stewardship, city beautification, and community garden management.



In addition, she has served as Director of the Providence Neighborhood Planting Program, planting over 4,000 large trees on city streets with the help of residents and volunteers, and as Advocacy Coordinator for the Rhode Island Office of the Conservation Law Foundation, working on difficult environmental justice issues and successfully suing polluters.

Since 2000, she also has been very involved with several community groups, some of which she helped found, that are working to make Providence a better place to live, work, learn, and play. She has received several awards for her outstanding service to the community.

Jennifer lives in the Braddock district with her husband and grandfather-in-law.

## Why YOU should care about litter

Litter looks bad. But did you know that it makes people feel badly, too? That’s right! When people see litter, they think that residents don’t care about their community or each other. When businesses see litter, they wonder what kind of employees or customers they will find.



In addition, litter can be dangerous to humans and animals. Whether the litter is in the street or on the sidewalk, swerving to avoid it in a car or on a bike can be dangerous to oncoming traffic. When litter is thrown from moving vehicles, it creates a hazard for the cars behind. Broken glass on the sidewalk or edge of the roadway can cut you, your bike tires, or your dog’s feet. Plus, animals sometimes try to eat litter, thinking that it is food.

Here’s one more reason you should care—litter is expensive. Road and highway departments, parks departments, and businesses pick up and dispose of litter that was accidentally or carelessly tossed by others. In doing so, they spend time and money on someone else’s trash. We all have to pay for litter, whether through taxes for government agencies to pick it up or in the price of products to businesses which must charge more to cover the costs of disposal.

Here are some of the things that you and your friends can do to put an end to litter:

- ▲ Don’t litter! This one should be obvious, but we just wanted to remind you. When you look for the proper bin for trash or recyclables, you set a good example, too.
- ▲ Pick up litter. After your game next weekend, leave the field and sidelines as clean as—or cleaner than—you found them.
- ▲ Make a litterbag for your car or bike (or both!). A plastic grocery bag or small canvas bag is all you need.
- ▲ When you take your trash or recyclables to the curb, make sure the lids are closed on the containers or carts. If your containers don’t have lids, be sure to put lightweight items underneath heavier things so nothing blows out.
- ▲ Organize a litter cleanup at school, at a park or ballfield, or in your neighborhood. Pick a day and invite your friends, classmates, teammates, and relatives. Remind everyone to bring a pair of gloves so their hands don’t get cut or too sticky. Clean Fairfax Council will provide the supplies to make your cleanup a success. Call the Clean Fairfax Council office at 703-324-5471, or visit our website, [www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org](http://www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org), and look under Cleanups. Remember to properly recycle or dispose of everything when you are done. Thank your volunteers!



## Johnie Forte, Jr. grant winners announced

The Clean Fairfax Council and the Fairfax County Recycling Program selected 15 area schools to receive grants as part of the Johnie Forte, Jr. Memorial Litter/Recycling Grant Program. Each school received a grant of up to \$500 in order to carry out their proposed environmental project. The projects had to address litter prevention, litter control, or recycling. Students will present their project results at an awards ceremony at the Fairfax County Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration on April 25 at 1 p.m.

Grants have been awarded to the following schools for these projects:

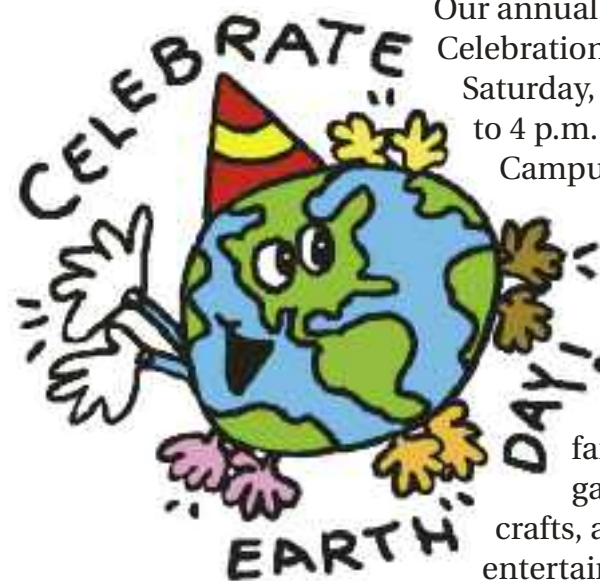
- Terra Centre – Discovery Schoolyard Project
- Colvin Run Elementary School – Keeping CRES Clean
- Haycock Elementary School – Conservation, Compost and Gardening
- Sunrise Valley – The Butterfly Garden
- Lake Anne Elementary School – Recycling: Weighs to Go!
- Lees Corner Elementary School – Recycle Today for a Better Tomorrow
- Clifton Elementary Recycling Club – Aluminum Can Zone
- Key Center School – Able to Make a Difference!
- Little Run Elementary School – Little Run Recyclers
- Marshall Road Elementary School – Marshall Road Green Team Composting
- Forestville Elementary School – Forestville Recycling Project
- Bailey's Elementary School SCA – Project Recycle
- Girl Scout Troop 3377 – Clean Green Stream
- Oakton Elementary School – Panthers Recycle!



- Lake Braddock Secondary School #2 – Expansion of Recycling at LBSS

Johnie Forte, Jr. was a valued member of the Board of Directors of the Clean Fairfax Council. He believed that litter prevention and recycling were extremely important to the quality of life in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Johnie Forte, Jr. Memorial Litter/Recycling Grant Program is a joint program of the Clean Fairfax Council and the Fairfax County Division of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling. The grant program is open to all Fairfax County Public Schools. Applications are due each fall.

## Mark your calendar for Earth Day/Arbor Day!



Our annual Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Annandale Campus of Northern

Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike. This event features lots of fun activities for kids and their families. There will be games, prizes, arts and crafts, animals, music, entertainment, food, and

more! Don't miss the booth with the

Clean Fairfax Council and Fairfax County's Recycling Program. Admission is free. For more information, call us at 703-324-5471, or visit our website, [www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org](http://www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org).



## Classroom recycling

On average, Americans recycle 360 pounds of paper each year and dispose of another 282 pounds, much of which could also be recycled. All Fairfax County Public School classrooms now have paper recycling bins. Are you using them to recycle your paper? We hope so! Recycling paper helps preserve forests, conserves resources, creates less pollution during manufacturing, and reduces solid waste. Learn more about paper recycling at [www.secret-life.org/paper/](http://www.secret-life.org/paper/).