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# THE PICKUP EXPRESS

NEWS AND IDEAS FOR ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEERS

## Fall cleanup set for September 16

Don't let summer trash serve as a backdrop for those beautiful autumn leaves. Summer is fading fast leaving behind travelers' trash. Virginia's Statewide Fall Cleanup is set for Sept. 16. Ask your Adopt-a-Highway group to fall into place and get ready to make plans for the final statewide cleaning of the year.

Going 18 years strong, Virginia's Adopt-a-Highway program is successful in part due to environmentally aware volunteers. Not only does the Adopt-a-Highway program help the environment, it also brings communities together.

Be sure report your fall pickup effort. Please call 1-800-PRIDE VA (1-800-774-3382) or send an e-mail to [adoptahighway@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:adoptahighway@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

### Did you know?

Such items as weed eaters, lawn mowers and chainsaws are powered by gasoline and contribute to pollution. When not maintained, these tools can affect ground-level ozone that contributes to respiratory problems in children and people who play and work outdoors.

### How can I help?

Avoid gas spills and overflow. Put the top back on the gas container and properly dispose of used oil and gas.

### Did you know?

Mayflies are indicators of the quality of fresh water. They are not tolerant of pollution and are used by scientists in various pollution-monitoring programs. Scientists use these insects because they lay eggs only in clear running streams or lakes.

### How can I help?

Don't throw trash into street gutters, drainage areas or waterways. Pick up trash laying around on the beach and areas around water. Be sure to properly dispose of any chemicals that could wash into streams, lakes, rivers or oceans.

Source: [www.Thehealthyplanet.com](http://www.Thehealthyplanet.com)

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	<u>16</u>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The International Coastal Cleanup (Clean Virginia Waterways)

Sept. 16, 2006 (same day as our pickup!)

## Inside

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- Why I volunteer
- Eye on the Environment
- Stories from the Roadside



Acting Commissioner  
**Gregory A. Whirley**



**Brownie, Linda Rose and Barney**

## WHY I VOLUNTEER

### COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

Just like you, I participate in Adopt-a-Highway pickups whenever I can. I have picked up trash on Beach Road in Chesterfield County on a regular basis as part of the Woodland Pond Homeowner's Association group. I just participated in a pickup this spring, and eight of us picked up 20 bags of trash.

Getting citizens involved in their community and helping to keep our roads clean through Adopt-a-Highway is great. It makes you feel good to be able to make a difference.

But I also want you to remember that safety is of paramount importance. I was very aware of the speed and amount of traffic on the road that we were cleaning, and I want you to be mindful that safety comes first.

Please always follow these rules:

- Do not pick up during peak travel times or when traffic is heavy.
- Work only in daylight and fair weather.
- Wear an orange safety vest so drivers can see you easily. Put on the vest before you leave the car, so you are visible the moment you are on the side of the road.
- Wear hard-soled shoes and work or gardening gloves.
- Put up or open the "Cleanup Crew Working" signs before cleaning, and close the signs after you've finished that day's pickup.
- Walk facing traffic, and stay with the team.
- Do not pick up litter in the road or close to the edge of the road.

Let's keep working to keep Virginia beautiful, but let's make sure to do it safely!

*Greg*  
Gregory A. Whirley

Three of a kind is what you would call Linda Rose, her chocolate Labrador retriever, Brownie and her French toy poodle, Barney. Rose rescued the brown Lab after he was abandoned in her neighborhood, and her husband, Earl, gave her the poodle. The threesome pick up on Route 614 in Partlow (Spotsylvania County), and have been Adopt-a-Highway volunteers since 2001. That's right, the dogs pick up too. On their first pickup, it took eight hours to collect 75 bags of trash.

**Why did you start picking up?** "I wanted to give back to my county after a tragic accident that nearly killed me and took my mother's life. I just felt like this was the only way I could repay my debt to those who saved me. I looked around for other volunteer opportunities but this one seemed to fit because I love nature."

**Quote:** "Keeping it [Route 614] picked up makes America beautiful, and it brings me closer to nature."

**The funniest thing that happened during a pickup:** "An owl was sitting on the roof of an abandoned house watching me pick up the trash. Once I finished picking up, he flew away."

**How do you help the environment?** "I wear gloves and pick up two and half miles doing a block at a time. I dispose of the trash after a half block. I pick up four times a year. During our walks, Brownie won't let me leave without picking up cans that he sees. No trash gets past him."

**How do you spend your spare time:** "We enjoy going to the park, hiking, going to the lake to fish and gardening. Brownie and Barney love swimming, going for walks and watching cows and horses."

### Eye on the environment

#### Global Warming

Global temperatures have gone up one degree in the last century, in part due to burning fossil fuels. These temperatures cause thermal expansion of oceans and glacier melts. Rising sea levels cause ecosystems to suffer and they damage property. Also, warmer oceans cause hurricanes to become stronger.

Global warming is caused when carbon dioxide and other air pollution collect in the atmosphere like a thickening blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing the planet to warm up. Coal-burning power plants are the largest U.S. source of carbon dioxide pollution and automobiles are the second-largest source.

**Source:** <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids>

# Value of Pickup Express Survey

Please take a minute to answer this survey.

Pickup Express is of

- A) great value to me
- B) some value
- C) little value
- D) no value

The section I read the most is

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I never read

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Suggestions for improvement:

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Would online version of Pickup Express be better than or just as good as a printed newsletter?

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Foxcroft School in Middleburg

## Walkin' and Pickin'

A walk-a-thon spring pick up was more than appropriate for students at Foxcroft School in Middleburg. That's because they were raising money to benefit high schools in Malawi, Africa where students must walk 10 miles to school to share a textbook with 14 classmates.

Foxcroft students raised more than \$15,000 by combining the walk-a-thon with their Adopt-a-Highway pickup. Even with a light drizzle, 80 Foxcroft students, faculty and parents participated in the fundraiser and clean up that even prompted a visit from the U.S. Ambassador of Africa, Bernard Sande. Sande also walked the four-mile stretch and helped to collect the 18 bags of trash.

The students decided to do the fundraiser after one student heard about the harsh conditions in Africa from a church she attends. High schools in Malawi are highly competitive because they lack teachers, facilities and textbooks for the large number of people who wish to attend school.

Foxcroft students decided to combine their pickup along with the fundraiser because the money was for a good cause and they were keeping their school clean. Foxcroft Junior Class President Shannon Walker coordinated the event.

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## STORIES FROM THE ROADSIDE

### Now that's entertainment!

Girl Scout Troop 621 in Grayson County would have been quite entertained during a break from their spring pickup. Along with a Slinky, they found a Nintendo video console with controllers and cables. Will Mario be able to save the princess in time?

### Dinner and a Movie

During their spring pickup, the Crazy Eights in Clarke County found a cooler with meat inside, a computer monitor, a television and nine tires. This brings a whole new meaning to dinner and a drive-in movie.

### The Stain Fighters

Someone left behind \$20 and a new bottle of laundry bleach for the Republic of Koznia Associates to pick up. Could this be the beginning of a prosperous laundry service?

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