

## 2014 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS / ISSUES OF CONCERN

### GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee Legislative Day January 27, 2014

The Garden Club of Virginia is an active association of 47 clubs, whose members together form a group of more than 3400 civic leaders from around the commonwealth. Guided by its mission statement, the Garden Club of Virginia considers the following positions (or the bills that are substitutes for these topics) currently before the 2014 Session of the Virginia General Assembly commensurate with its mission. Therefore, the Garden Club of Virginia:

- **Supports continuation of the Moratorium on Uranium Mining in Virginia**  
**NO BILL** In November 2011, The Garden Club of Virginia held a balanced and objective Conservation Forum at the University of Richmond to educate our members, the public and members of the General Assembly on the complexity of uranium mining and milling in Virginia. Since the GCV Forum, studies have been made and reports have been discussed by legislators, community leaders and private citizens. Many cities, counties, planning districts, water authorities, and organizations have publicly opposed uranium mining in Virginia. Science has not shown that uranium mining, processing, and storage can be accomplished safely in Virginia. *The Garden Club of Virginia strongly urges the General Assembly of Virginia to continue the moratorium on Uranium Mining in Virginia and that the General Assembly vote accordingly on issues before it pertaining to the moratorium.* The GCV President will repeat a letter to our legislators reiterating our position and concerns as in 2013.
- **Supports Legislative Action on Recurrent Flooding Mitigation Plans**  
**HJ16** (Del. Christopher P. Stolle) and **SJ3** (Senator Mamie E. Locke)  
These resolutions would create a joint Senate and House subcommittee fostering the development of a comprehensive and coordinated flood mitigation action plan. Report to be submitted by Nov 1, 2015. The proposed joint committee would implement a recent Virginia Institute of Marine Science study that recommends that the commonwealth intervene to assist regions and communities attempting to manage recurrent flooding. The City of Norfolk, the City of Virginia Beach, and others strongly support this effort, as does the Virginia Conservation Network, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others.
- **Supports Water Quality Efforts and Opposes Efforts to Weaken Clean Water Initiatives**
  - **Support Funding** of \$50 Million Annually for stormwater pollution reduction strategies (budget)
  - **Support SB48** Stuart. (prohibition of oil and gas drilling in Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area.)
  - **Oppose HB915** Poindexter (fracking on state owned uplands)
  - **Oppose HB697** Poindexter (delay in stormwater management requirements)
  - **Oppose HB16** Marshall (enabling legislation to allow national park, specifically Shenandoah, to become a Virginia State park)

In addition, the Garden Club of Virginia considers the following continuing issues:

- **Plastic and paper bags** - The Board of Directors of the GCV agrees with the concept of spearheading a grassroots action in order to control the proliferation of disposable plastic and paper bags
- **James River View Shed** - The Board of Directors of the GCV recommends that the Conservation Committee and the larger GCV maintain its strong interest in protecting the view shed of the lower James River, and continue to participate in all useful ways.
- **Billboards** - The Board of Directors of the GCV recommends continuing vigilance over the placement/replacement permitting of large roadside advertising. Opposing three bills: HB377 Anderson and counterpart SB295 Puckett, and HB756 Rust