

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP OUT PROGRAM

SUFFOLK, VA (May 23, 2012) Approximately two-thirds of the City of Suffolk is located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and, as a result, is part of a State of Virginia Septic System Pump Out Program. Within this watershed, the City has assigned five zones for compliance which began implementation in July 2009 and will continue through June 2014. Areas outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and further to the south drain toward the Albemarle Sound and are not required to pump out but are encouraged to do so on a regular basis.

(more)

As of **July 1, 2012**, the City will be sending letters to those property owners who live in Zone 4 and who are served by a septic system. The property owners in Zone 4 will have until **June 30, 2013**, to get their tanks pumped out. A copy of the receipt from the hauler, as well as the Property Owner's Certification form, will need to be returned to the Suffolk Department of Planning and Community Development in order to ensure compliance with this requirement. This cycle will continue over a 5-year period with letters being mailed out in July of each year for each of the zones. For property owners who have had their tank pumped out within the past 5 years, a copy of the haulers receipt would need to be provided to the City. For newly constructed houses that are less than 5 years old, owners would only need to let the City know when the house was constructed and the address of the house.

The septic tank pump out program is mandated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board with no funding provided by the State to implement the program. The property owners are responsible for paying for the pump out. There is assistance, however, for qualifying low income residents. The Planning Division can provide more information regarding the eligibility criteria. The Health Department can provide a list of sewage haulers who have been certified by the State for providing this service.

For questions or for more information, contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 514-4060, or the Health Department at 514-4751. Further information is provided on the City's web site at www.suffolkva.us/PCD/.

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