

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are dedicated to providing vital project news and information to the Craney Island surrounding community as well as the greater Hampton Roads region.



*Jodie Love*  
Community Relations Coordinator

Through an extensive public information campaign, the project partners are working to ensure citizens are engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the project team throughout project development. As a result, each component recognizes the importance of fostering a two-way communications approach that emphasizes listening to citizens, understanding their concerns, and proactively providing feedback.

This month we are happy to introduce The Port of Virginia's new Community Relations Coordinator, Jodie Love. Ms. Love is responsible for community and academic outreach and workforce development projects. In her new role, she has made presentations to the Long Point Civic League, the Peppercorn Condo Association, the Shorewood Area Civic League, the Wise Beach Civic League and the Sunray Farmers Association.

Ms. Love is available for project presentations and to speak on Port related matters at civic league and community organization meetings. If your civic association or community group would like an update on the project, please contact us at: 757-628-8222 or 757-683-2130.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will host a Contractor Open House for vendors and sub-contractors interested in upcoming contract opportunities associated with the Craney Island Eastward Expansion project.

The purpose of the Open House is to provide important new project details including information on project dike construction, scheduling, and materials quantities.

Don't Miss This Opportunity To Learn Important New Information About Upcoming Contracting Opportunities!

8 AM - 12 PM - FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2010  
Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel & Waterfront Conference Center  
425 Water Street  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704 USA  
1-888-839-1775

REGISTER ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.CRANEYISLAND.INFO](http://WWW.CRANEYISLAND.INFO)

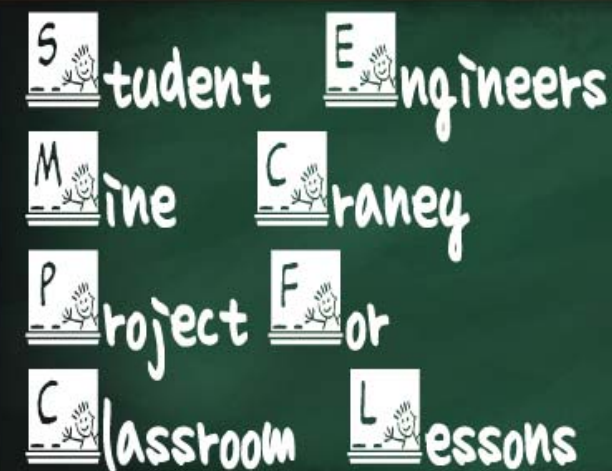


## THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION

CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION NEWS AND INFORMATION

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2009



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THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TO PROVIDE READERS WITH REPORTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTWARD EXPANSION OF CRANEY ISLAND. ARTICLES PRINTED HEREIN ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. WE INVITE READERS TO COMMENT ON ARTICLES AND SUGGEST FUTURE TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION.

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For over 300 years, The Port of Virginia has been integral to Hampton Roads' cultural, political, and economic fabric. With the Craney Island Eastward Expansion, The Port will remain a source of emerging job opportunities in a high demand and vital sector of the Hampton Roads economy. As project partners, The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and the U.S. Army Corps Engineers recognize that in order to fully capitalize on such opportunities, it is critical that local students—tomorrow's workforce—learn about the maritime industry and how science, technology, engineering and mathematics relate to it. Accordingly, members of the project team recently volunteered with local students involved in Western Branch Middle School's CHROME club—a regional after-school science and engineering initiative.

### THE CHROME CLUB

Founded in 1983, CHROME is a locally-based partnership of business, industry, government agencies, institutions of higher learning, public school systems, and civic and professional organizations. It serves as a planning, coordinating, and advocacy organization designed to complement and enhance the educational programs of local school systems. While open to all interested students, its mission is to increase opportunities for underrepresented minorities and females to enter math, science, engineering, and related technical career fields. Accordingly, by partnering with CHROME, the VPA and USACE hope to further promote student interest in these areas, as they represent fields critical to the continued growth of Hampton Roads maritime industry and development of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion.

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THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION  
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*CHROME students Evan Fernandez and Tyler Pool proudly display their "cargo ship," which was able to hold the most weight without sinking.*

### STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL WORKFORCE

1 out of eleven jobs in Virginia is port-related, and with the construction and operation of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion and Marine Terminal, more than 60,000 maritime jobs will be created over the next two decades. As a result, today's students will need to be equipped with the education, skills, and experience to take advantage of these emerging maritime opportunities.

Careers like industrial engineers, logisticians, accountants, and statisticians represent only a sampling of high-tech scientific and mathematics opportunities in the maritime industry. It is with these future careers in mind that the project team has been encouraging students in the CHROME club to learn more about The Port of Virginia, the Craney Island Eastward Expansion, and maritime careers.

Western Branch Middle School's CHROME club is co-sponsored by 7th grade life science teacher Catherine Roberts and 8th grade physical science teacher Sharon Davis. CHROME members at Western Branch are 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have demonstrated an interest in math, science, and engineering. Recently, club members learned how The Port of Virginia and the Craney Island project benefits the Hampton Roads community and how they might one day turn an interest in science and engineering into a maritime career.

### LOADING A SHIP: A BALANCING ACT

For their first lesson conducted on November 18, the VPA's new community relations coordinator, Jodie Love presented a lesson on Port of Virginia operations. The Ports 101 presentation addressed the kinds of goods that enter and leave The Port on cargo ships and how such ships manage to float despite the weight of the cargo they carry.

Utilizing the basic engineering principle of buoyancy and floating known as the Archimedes Principle, the students divided into groups and conducted an experiment to understand why cargo ships can float.

With modeling clay, marbles, a bucket of water and a five-inch diameter bowl, students measured the water displacement created by the mass of clay. Next, they molded a "cargo ship" out of the clay, again measuring the water displacement. The students then loaded the clay cargo ship with marbles, representing containers, to see how many it could hold before sinking. The teams "re-engineered" their vessels several times to find the design able to hold the most "containers." The winning team loaded 31 marbles into their vessel before it sank, which earned them a Port of Virginia light-up key chain.

### LESSONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

On December 2nd, Ms. Love returned to the CHROME club to discuss The Port's environmental initiatives. During the discussion, students shared the ways they help the environment, including recycling, using reusable grocery and lunch bags, and turning off the water when they brush their teeth.

In developing the Craney Island Eastward Expansion, environmental stewardship has been a priority. Students learned how the project's mitigation plan will clean-up sites along the Elizabeth and James Rivers that were severely polluted during Hampton Roads industrial past.

To model how to clean up such industrial pollution, the students poured cooking oil on a surface and used materials such as peat moss, kitty litter, and industrial drop cloths to clean it up. After dividing into groups, the students then created a "river" using a bucket, sand, water, and feathers.

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# Local Students Practice Environmental Stewardship

CHROME co-sponsor Catherine Roberts' 7th grade life science classes are already taking part in environmental stewardship activities that are very closely related to The Port of Virginia's environmental initiatives and mitigation plans for the Elizabeth River. Every year, the classes participate in an Oyster Restoration Project, growing and then planting oyster reefs in order to promote ecological stability in the waters of Hampton Roads.

This year, the students will grow oysters at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve in Portsmouth, VA and place them in the river. Hoffer Creek is very close to Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area, and is one of the areas where oysters will be placed during completion of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion mitigation plan.

Every two weeks throughout this school year, the students take a field trip to the preserve and collect water quality and oyster

growth data. In the springtime, they will plant oysters in the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River. They will be placed in a sanctuary reef very near the West Norfolk Bridge. The area is marked in the water with a sign. Approximately 2,000 oysters will be grown during the course of this project.

The Oyster Restoration Project reinforces the scientific method and experimental design lessons that the students have been focused on in class. Oyster reefs provide significant ecological benefits by providing a habitat for more than 300 aquatic species and acting as a natural water filtration system.

The Craney Island Eastward Expansion Mitigation Plan will create 20 acres of restored oyster reefs in the Elizabeth and James Rivers by placing multiple piles of old oyster shell on hard bottom areas of the river, allowing young oysters to grow and reproduce.

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They spilled oil into the water to simulate industrial pollution and attempted to clean it up using a variety of materials.

The group determined that all of the materials worked to some degree, but that cleaning up an oil spill is a scenario that should be avoided, by preventing pollution from occurring in the first place. For their efforts, participants received baseball hats with lighted brims.

### CONCLUSION

The maritime industry is and will continue to be a source of emerging job opportunities in the Hampton Roads economy. It is critical that today's elementary, middle, and high school students learn how an interest in math, science, and engineering could one day lead to a maritime career.

The Craney Island project team is interested in expanding their academic outreach activities to other elementary, middle and high school students in regional schools. Please contact us to learn how your math, science, or engineering classes or organization could benefit from learning more about this exciting project.

## Port Customer Spotlight: Dollar Tree

In strip malls and retail centers across United States, Dollar Tree stores do a swift business in low-cost housewares, toys, seasonal gifts, food, health, and beauty products. In fact, Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., is the nation's leading \$1 discount variety store chain.

With most items priced at a \$1 or less, the retailer relies on The Port of Virginia to provide high-quality goods at low prices. One of the chain's nine distribution centers is located in Chesapeake, VA, next to the company's corporate headquarters. In 2009, Dollar Tree has shipped over 1,300 containers through The Port of Virginia to the Chesapeake distribution center. From there, products reach markets up and down the eastern seaboard and across the Midwest.

Dollar Tree is a growing company with over 3500 stores nationwide. Import Operations Manager, Melanie Wingler emphasized the importance of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion to supporting the companies future growth. "The Craney Island [Eastward] Expansion will ensure that The Port has enough capacity to not only handle Dollar Tree's future growth, but will help attract new services and strings from steamship lines calling on Norfolk."

