

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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J. Sargeant Reynolds  
Community College



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## "AN EVENING WITH ENVIRONMENTALIST LOIS GIBBS"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

7:00 PM

PARHAM ROAD CAMPUS, GEORGIADIS HALL IN THE GALLERY

**Richmond, VA (March 19, 2008)**—How often do you get an opportunity to meet a living legend, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and a person that changed America? On March 26, Lois Gibbs will share her story of Love Canal, New York, designated as the first National Environmental Disaster Area in the United States.

Gibbs was raising her family in Love Canal, near Niagara Falls in upstate New York, when, in 1978, she discovered that her home and those of her neighbors were sitting next to 20,000 tons of toxic chemicals. That shocking discovery spurred her to lead her neighbors in a three-year struggle to protect their families from the hazardous waste buried in their backyards. Gibbs and her neighbors soon discovered that no local, state or national organization existed to provide communities with strategic advice, guidance, training and technical assistance to deal with such environmental issues. By trial and error, they developed the strategies and methods to assess the impacts of toxic wastes on their health and challenge corporate and government policies on the dumping of hazardous materials. Her leadership led to the relocation of 833 Love Canal households.

Through Gibbs' relentless work, America's concerns and efforts to deal with hazardous chemical waste expanded. Her personal story will be covered during her presentation, with a question and answer session to follow. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

Serving over 17,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

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