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Green Summit coming here

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By RUSTY DENNEN

Renewable energy and green industry are the focus of a business session here next week.

Green Summit 2010 will be held Tuesday and Wednesday at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center in Central Park. The summit is sponsored by the Fredericksburg Area Builders Association, George Washington Regional Commission and the Germanna Center for Workforce and Community Education.

Keynote speaker is Stephen Walz, director of the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. He will be discussing new state policy and plans for federally funded energy projects.

The George Washington Regional Commission recently received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to develop a regional home energy efficiency and conservation pilot program.

That program will help homeowners upgrade their properties to save energy and create jobs in construction and supply companies.

The grant is part of the \$787 billion federal economic stimulus package created by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The stimulus fund builds on tax credits made available the past few years as consumers become more energy conscious. That has created a big incentive for businesses to cash in on the trend.

Also, new technology has been improving products. Tuesday's session keys into that topic. It is titled "Green Opportunity 2010: Making and saving money through green technology."

Presentations include the green design for Germanna Community College's Fredericksburg campus, green commercial construction, green building tax credits and best policies and practices, and green jobs.

Green building seminars are scheduled for Wednesday. Those cover topics such as Energy Star advanced lighting, green building and the international building code, and construction and demolition waste planning.

A separate EarthCraft certification training will be held next Thursday. EarthCraft is a green building program.

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WHO: Fredericksburg Area Builders Association, George Washington Regional Commission, Germanna Center for Workforce and Community Education
WHAT: Green Summit 2010
WHEN: March 16, noon- 5 p.m., March 17, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.
WHERE: Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center, Central Park
DETAILS: The summit is an opportunity for area businesses to see what federal economic stimulus funds are available for green-industry and renewable- energy projects.
ON THE NET: To register or view brochure: fabava.com/Events/documents/GreenPro2010seminars_000.pdf.
To register for the EarthCraft certification training March 18, see ecv.virginia.org.
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