

## ***Stormwater Management Bulletin from the Village of Pelham Manor***

***In response to Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, the Village has implemented a Stormwater Management Program.***

***The goal is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drainage systems including, lakes, streams, Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River. The Village encourages using BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP's) to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections***

***The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes into local lakes, streams, Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River without any treatment.***

***The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the waste is treated.***

***Best Management Practices (BMP's) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems. Pollutants of Concern include pathogens, floatables and nitrogen for Long Island Sound and floatables, oil & grease, dissolved oxygen and oxygen demand, priority organics (PCB's), nitrogen and pathogens for the Hutchison River.***

### ***Illicit Discharges or Illicit Connections***

***Discharges non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contributes to water pollution.***

***Urban Runoff is rain and other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually into local lakes, streams, Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River.***

### **Pet Waste**

Pet waste left to decay on the sidewalk, or on grass near the street, may be washed into storm drains by rain and snow melt. Water entering storm drains does not receive treatment before it goes to our water resources. All stormwater in the Village eventually flows to the Hutchinson River and Long Island Sound. Many substances deposited on the land cause pollution of our waters including; pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, household chemicals, oil and antifreeze. When pet waste is washed into storm drains, the waste decays, using up oxygen and sometimes releasing ammonia. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. Most importantly, pet waste may carry disease causing organisms, which make water unsafe. When pet waste is disposed of improperly, not only does water quality suffer, your health may be at risk to. Pets, children playing outside, and adults gardening are most at risk for infection from some of the bacteria found in pet waste.

**You can make a difference** by cleaning up after your pet using a plastic bag or pooper scooper. Double wrap the pet waste in a second plastic bag, securing it tightly and put it in either a street waste receptacle or your garbage can at home.

For further information, or to assist the Village in its efforts, contact Stormwater Management Coordinator John Pierpont Village Manager at 914-738-8820 or visit the following websites:

<http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/water.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8468.html>

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### **Retail Gas and Diesel Fuel Outlets**

Of any size are potential sources of stormwater pollution. Areas in retail fueling outlets for fuel dispensing, waste receptacles, vending machines and air / water supply areas can lead to the accumulation of automotive fluids, grease and other waste fluids on the ground. All owners and employees of retail fueling outlets can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution.

### **Best Management Practices**

#### ***SPOT CLEAN ALL AREAS IMMEDIATELY***

*Use dry methods such as rags or absorbent materials to clean up leaks and drips. Leaks are not considered cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.*

***SPILL RESPONSE PLAN*** *Maintain and update an acceptable Spill Response Plan.*

***TRAINING*** *Regularly train all employees on proper methods of handling and disposing of waste. Ensure all employees are familiar with the Spill Response Plan. Educate employees on Best Management Practices (BMP's) and stormwater and wastewater discharge requirements and prohibitions.*

***LABELING*** *Label all drains within the facility boundaries using paint or stencil, or indicate whether flow is to the storm drain, sewer or oil / water separator.*

***INSPECTION*** *Annually inspect and clean storm drain inlets and catch basin.*

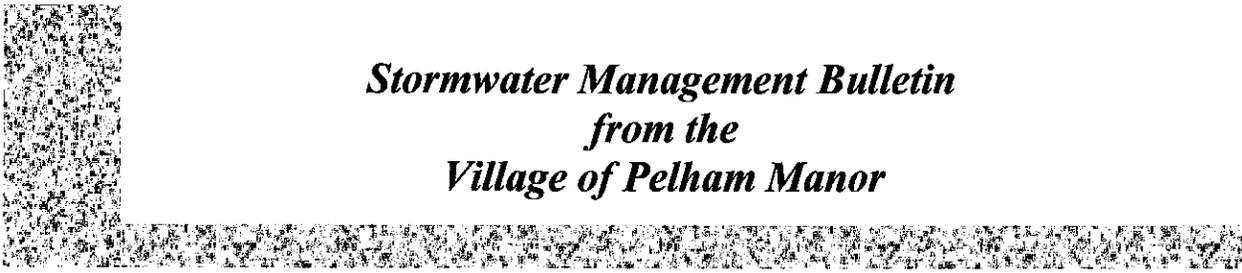
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### **What is Stormwater Pollution:**

Stormwater pollution refers to many types of harmful materials that are carried by water (rain water, wash water or snow melt) through the storm drain system to our creeks, Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River. These pollutants can include: pathogens, floatables and nitrogen for Long Island Sound, and oil and grease, dissolved oxygen and oxygen demand for the Hutchinson River.

### **Get Involved:**

Volunteers are needed to assist with waterway and roadside cleanup efforts, beautification projects, storm drain stenciling and neighborhood cleanups. Put together a group of friends, plan to meet over coffee and help keep trash and other pollutants out of our waters. Contact the Village's Stormwater Management Coordinator for details.

### **Dispose of Household Products Carefully:**

Many products under the sink or in the garage can harm water quality. Never pour paints, preservatives, brush cleaners and solvents down the drain. Sewers or septic tanks do not treat these materials and they can enter waterways untreated. Buy a product with the least amount of toxic materials. Read labels carefully for use and disposal instructions. Learn about Westchester County's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. For information call 914-813-5425 or log onto the County website at <http://www.westchestergov.com>

### **Care for your lawn cautiously:**

Lawns with trees and shrubs prevent erosion, soak up nutrients before they run off into waterways, and improve soil by adding organic materials. Plant the right grass by testing the soil annually. Use the proper fertilizer, and do not over-fertilize. Improper fertilizing can lead to disease, poor root growth and weed problems. Water your lawn and shrubs only when it is dry by soaking the soil thoroughly. If you have a lawn service, make sure it is customized to your needs.

### **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:**

Items which find their way into waterways and storm drains, either by accident or deliberately, decrease water quality and create unsightly conditions. Carelessly discarded trash, illegal connections of waste water and other products, household chemicals, oil, and nutrients from over fertilization of lawns can be washed into drains when it rains and eventually end up in our waterways. In 2007, the Village began a program to locate and identify discharges from illegal connections which decrease water quality and take enforcement action where appropriate. If you think your home or business may have an illegal connection to the storm drain, Contact the Village's Stormwater Management Coordinator to learn how to correct the condition.

For further information, or to assist the Village in its efforts, contact Stormwater **Management Coordinator** John Pierpont, Village Manager at 914-738-8820 or visit any of the following webpages:

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### **Supermarkets, Restaurants, Fast Food Outlets and Grocery Stores**

Businesses selling food products can conduct common sense practices that require modest changes to routine operations or maintenance practices to reduce or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Follow these Best Management Practices (BMP's) to control pollutant discharges:

**PAVEMENT CLEANING:** Sweep parking lots and other paved areas periodically to remove debris. Dispose of debris in the garbage.

**EQUIPMENT CLEANING:** Discharge wash water to the sanitary sewer only.

**SPILL CLEANUP IN OUTDOOR AREAS:** Have commercial spill containment kits in convenient locations for immediate access.

**GREASE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL:** Store grease in separate covered containers. Recycle.

**WASTE DISPOSAL:** Inspect dumpsters periodically and replace broken or leaking units. Keep dumpsters covered to prevent stormwater from entering the container. Never dispose of food wastes or liquids associates with food wastes in storm drains.

**LITTER CONTROL:** Provide an adequate number of trash receptacles for customers and employees. Pick up litter and other wastes daily from outside areas.

**LANDSCAPING:** Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

**TRAINING:** Train all employees on what to do in the event of a spill. Designate a person to insure BMP's are followed.

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### **Parking Lots**

**K**eeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our creeks, streams, Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River. Materials swept, blown or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. In general, wastewater discharged to storm drains is illegal.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, the Village will institute a business education campaign. Information will be provided to businesses owners and large residential facilities in an effort to control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Property and business owners are responsible not only for their own activities, but the activities of their contractors as well.*

Stormwater runoff from parking lots and sidewalk areas can contribute significantly to urban runoff pollution. Automotive fluids, food wastes, grease pesticides, litter, exhaust residue and rubber generated from friction between tires and paved surfaces, as well as landscape wastes are some of the pollutants that can get into the stormwater conveyance system which ultimately flows to Long Island Sound and the Hutchinson River.

Owners and operators of parking lots can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Whether your parking lot holds 5 cars or 1,000 cars, a scheduled maintenance program including repairs, sweeping, stormwater catch basin cleaning and debris removal is needed. Your efforts to maintain your parking lot in as clean a condition as possible, along with the efforts of your fellow business persons, will help in safeguarding our waters from pollutants and unsightly debris.

## Best Management Practices (BMP's)

Follow these BMP's to control pollutant discharges. The objectives are: 1) to keep pollutants from contacting rain, and 2) to keep pollutants from being dumped or poured into storm drains. The goal is "only rain in the drain"

- Sweep parking lots frequently, at least weekly, daily if needed. Small areas can be swept with a broom, whereas larger areas may need a vacuum truck or mechanical sweeper. Dispose of sweepings properly.
- Post signs to control litter and prevent patrons from working with automobile fluids in your parking lot (changing oil, adding transmission fluid, etc.). You could be liable for the mess on your property!
- Use absorbent material to clean up automotive fluids on the parking lot. Dispose of the absorbent properly. Read the instructions on the container or Material Safety Data Sheet for disposal instructions.
- Pick up litter daily, dispose of it in the garbage.
- Keep dumpster and trash cans covered and areas free of litter.
- Wash water from all cleaning operations must be discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- If cleaning with water and detergent is needed, use a mobile washing unit that is self contained; do not allow wash water (whether or not it is soapy) to discharge to the storm drain system.
- If using a self-contained mobile cleaner is not possible, collect the washwater and dispose in indoor sinks or drains for discharge to the sanitary sewer. Contact the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities for approval.
- Stencil any storm drains on the property with "No Dumping"
- If you do not have one, prepare a plan of your parking area indicating where stormwater catch basins are located and where they flow to. This information will be helpful to responders should a spill occur.
- Clean stormwater catch basins at least once a year, preferably in the Spring. Dispose of materials properly.

## **Stormwater Management Program Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

**Illicit Discharges** are substances which find their way into waterways and storm drains, either by accident or deliberately, decrease water quality and create unsightly conditions. Carelessly discarded trash, illegal connections of waste water and other products, household chemicals, oil, and nutrients from over fertilization of lawns can be washed into drains when it rains and eventually end up in Long Island Sound. In 2007, the Village of Pelham Manor began a program to locate and identify illicit discharges and take enforcement action where appropriate.

### **Examples of Pollution in Stormwater and their impact:**

- Nutrients such as nitrogen can promote the overgrowth of algae, deplete oxygen in the waterway and be harmful to other aquatic life.
- Bacteria from animal wastes and illicit connections to sewerage systems can make lakes and streams unattractive and capable of generating odors.
- Oil and grease from automobiles and illegal dumping causes sheen and odor and makes transfer of oxygen difficult for aquatic organisms.
- Sediment from construction activities clouds waterways and interferes with the habitat of living things that depend upon those waters.
- Careless application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers affect the health of living organisms and cause ecosystem imbalances.
- Litter damages aquatic life, introduces chemical pollution, and diminishes the beauty of our waterways.

### **How can residents and businesses help the Village in fighting illicit discharges:**

- Cleanup after pets both in your yard, along sidewalks and streets, in parks and along the waterfront.
- Insure that lawn clippings are either mulched in place on your lawn or disposed of with the Village's Yard Waste Collection Program. Insure that grass clippings **are not** raked to the curb loose or into the street.
- If you observe illegal activity such as dumping of trash or oil, household goods or construction debris, note the vehicle license number and description as well as the location (street address if possible) where the material was dumped and alert the Village of Pelham Manor Police Department.
- Get together with a group of neighbors and perform a "neighborhood cleanup" one or two days a year and dispose of the materials collected either as trash or recyclables.
- Alert the Village if you observe discolored water, an oil sheen, or unusual odors in streams, lakes and storm drains or at drainage pipes which empty into Long Island Sound.

### **Who do I call if I observe any type of illicit discharge:**

- Residents may contact the **Stormwater Management Coordinator** John Pierpont at 914-738-8820.