

# American Fork

## city scoop

### WHY STORMWATER, SNOWMELT, AND SPRING MATTERS IN PRESERVING WATER QUALITY

#### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

**Stormwater** is water that originates from rainfall and snowmelt. It should naturally soak into the soil. However, impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks and roads prevent stormwater from being absorbed by the ground.



As a result, stormwater collects at street corners or low points along the road through **catch basins**, or it collects in the storm drain system.

Along the way, stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, oil, grease, dirt, salts, pesticides, fertilizer, animal waste and other pollutants.

Collectively, this water is called, **stormwater runoff**. It is a concern because these pollutants can be carried in the water that enters a storm drain system. Subsequently, it is discharged (untreated) into rivers, lakes, streams or wetlands.

These toxins that enter our waterways can kill fish and other aquatic life, and make our waterways unsafe, affecting outdoor recreation activities such as swimming, boating and fishing.

#### HOW IS AMERICAN FORK PROTECTING OUR WATER?

The Clean Water Act is the primary federal law that governs water pollution and directs the EPA in enforcing environmental-protection regulations.

American Fork's Public Works Stormwater Division manages compliance with these federal regulations, and it leads the City's effort to protect resources by:

- Increasing public awareness and involvement;
- Eliminating illegal connections and discharges to the stormwater system;
- Increasing sediment controls at construction sites;
- Adding controls in new development to remove pollutants from stormwater; and
- Preventing pollution from facilities and improving housekeeping.

#### HOW CAN I HELP?

Residents play an important role in protecting water quality. Some tips are listed below:

1. Don't dump anything down storm drains.
2. Clean up after your pet.
3. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
4. Sweep, rather than spray wash.
5. Use grass, tree trimmings and leaves as compost, and use for fertilizer around the yard.
6. Recycle oil or dispose of fluids properly. (Most oil-change shops or auto parts stores accept up to 5 gallons of non-contaminated oil, free of charge.)
7. Never dump soil, compost or other materials in the curb and gutter, or on the roadway.

**ILLICIT  
DISCHARGE  
HOTLINE  
(801) 404-7167**

If you observe illegal dumping, hazardous spill or illicit discharges into the storm drain system, call the Illicit Discharge Hotline above.

## Party like a princess

Join Miss American Fork Jenna Brady on Friday, March 18, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Fox Hollow Golf Course for a fun Daddy Daughter Dance.

Formal dress is required. There will be music, dancing, activities, treats and photos.

The cost is \$25 per 'couple' (each additional daughter is \$5 dollars). All proceeds go to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

If your title is grandma, stepdad or mom, this event is still for you. To sign up, visit [www.missamericanfork.com](http://www.missamericanfork.com).

## FINANCIAL CORNER

Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents are a threat to taxpayers.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS who ask for money, **and you DON'T owe taxes:**

1. Do not give information. Hang up immediately.
2. Contact TIGTA to report the call at (800) 366-4484.
3. Report the incident to the FTC at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov).

**If you DO owe taxes,** call the IRS at (800) 829-1040.

## SPORTS AND SWIMMING SIGN-UPS

SPORT	SIGN-UP	START DATE	FEES
Baseball, Youth	Before March 17	April 26	\$35 - 90
Golf	Apr 1 - May 24	June 1	\$35 - 60
Skateboard Lessons	Apr 1 - May 24	June 1	\$65
Softball, Co-ed	Until full	April 26	\$425/team
Softball, Mens	Until full	April 26	\$610/team
Softball, Youth	Before March 17	April 26	\$35 - \$45
Swimming Lessons	March 30, all day	May 31	\$34 - \$39a
Tennis Lessons	Apr 1 - May 24	June 1	\$45
Tennis League	Apr 1 - May 24	June 1	\$95

\*Non-resident participants who must pay an additional \$20. To sign up, go to <http://www.afcity.org/290> Sports-Recreation.

## FREE SMOKE DETECTORS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Thanks to a grant from Firehouse Subs in American Fork, the American Fork Fire Department will be holding an open house for the public.

At the open house, residents can come and get a free smoke detector and learn more about fire safety.

The event will be on Saturday, March 26, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Firehouse Subs located at 218 NW State Street in American Fork.

If you have any additional questions, please call the American Fork Fire Department at (801) 763-3040.

## HEAT PROGRAM

The Home Energy Assistance Target Program, known as HEAT, is open to applicants through April 30, 2016.

This program provides a lump-sum benefit to help individuals and families pay for their higher energy costs during the winter season.

Eligibility and amount of benefit is based on income, household size and composition.

Applications are accepted by appointment, by mail or online. For information call (801) 229-3855, or go to [www.mountainland.org/heat](http://www.mountainland.org/heat).

## BUCKLE DOWN ON BUCKLING UP

It's simple: seat belts save lives. A few years ago, the Utah Department of Public Safety reported that people who were unbuckled in a crash were 34 times more likely to die than buckled occupants.

Here are a few misconceptions about seat belts:

**1. "I don't need a seat belt when I'm going short distances or driving slow."**

Not true. According to the Department of Public Safety, 80 percent of accidents occur at speeds of under 40 miles per hour, and three out of four fatal accidents occur within 25 miles from home. Don't forget to buckle up while on short errands to the grocery store, the bank, or the dry cleaners.

**2. "I don't need a seat belt because I can brace myself."**

Doesn't work. Bracing yourself in an accident has a ZERO percent success rate. If you are in an accident at just 10 miles per hour, the force

of impact is equivalent to the force of catching a 200-pound bag of cement from a first story window. Yikes.

**3. "I'm a great driver; I will never be in a crash."**

The Department of Public Safety estimates that every driver will be in an accident once every 10 years. For one out of every 20 drivers, it will be a serious collision. Remember that you cannot control other drivers who may be impaired, sleep deprived or distracted. Your best protection against other drivers is to wear a seat belt.

**4. "Seat belts take too much time and effort to fasten."**

The average amount of time it takes to secure a seat belt is two seconds. Keep in mind that the minor inconvenience of wearing a seat belt may save your life.

For information, and for videos that will scare you into buckling up, visit the National Safty Council website at [www.ncs.org](http://www.ncs.org).

## SCOUT AND ABOUT AROUND TOWN



At the start of the year, the City started a monthly "Meet the Councilman night" for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who need to complete rank requirements by meeting with a civic leader and discussing issues that facing the community.

The next event will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 6 p.m. in Room 1 of the American Fork Fitness Center. For information, call Edi Ulloa at (801) 763-3084.

## GUNNING FOR SAFETY

If you have guns in your home, keeping your children safe should be your biggest priority.

The director of Project Childsafe, Bill Brassard has tips for parents.

- Keep guns locked and out of reach of children.
- Store ammunition in a place different from the guns.
- Never leave a gun out and unattended.
- Tell your kids never to touch a gun or gun parts -- in your house or anyone else's.

"It's important to keep firearms from falling into the wrong hands, and that includes children," Brassard says. "Kids are not mature enough to use good judgment around guns."

To protect children from guns you can use safes, trigger locks and fingerprint technology. You may feel confident that you have taught your children gun safety. The problem, however, is that you never know what other children have been taught, nor do you know if they've ever seen a gun, and they may be curious.

For information visit: <http://www.projectchildsafe.org/news/ten-tips-firearm-safety-your-home>. If you need gun locks, the Fire Department has some available. Please pick one up at our station: 96 N. Center St., American Fork.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are also listed on our on-line calendar at [www.afcity.org](http://www.afcity.org), Twitter or Facebook.

Date and Time	Event	Location	Details
March 3, 7 p.m.	Teen Thing	American Fork City Library, Gardner Community Room	Spring into new young adult literature, and enjoy a night of crafting and chatting.
March 5, 7:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.	HAST Last Chance Swim Meet	American Fork Pool, 454 N. Center St.	
March 5 to mid-April, 6:30 p.m.	In-n-Out, Cover-to-Cover Reading Club	American Fork City Library	Read five books and earn a coupon for a free sandwich, ages 4 to 12 ar eligible.
March 9, 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.	Especially for Teens Art Class	Historic City Hall, 31 Church St.	Ages, 12 to 15. Art supplies are provided.
March 7-25, ends April 27	Spring Storytime Registration	American Fork City Library	No classes will be held during Spring Break (week of April 4).
March 17, 7 p.m.	Create Cooking Class	American Fork City Library	The theme is 'Eat out at Home.' We will make stir fry.
March 18, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Daddy Daughter Date Night	Fox Hollow Golf Course	Sponsored by Miss American Fork Pageant, all proceeds to Children's Miracle Network
March 21, 10 a.m.	Afternoon Tea with author Jennifer Moore	American Fork City Library	Register online at <a href="http://aflibraryafternoontea.eventbrite.com">aflibraryafternoontea.eventbrite.com</a> .
March 24, 7 p.m.	Adult Coloring Night	American Fork City Library, Gardner Community Room	Coloring sheets and pencils will be provided. Adults only.
March 30, all day	Online summer swim lesson registration opens.	American Fork Fitness Center, 454 N. Center St.	Go to <a href="http://www.afcity.org/aquatics">www.afcity.org/aquatics</a>
June 7, 8 & 9	Tuacahn Trip for Seniors to see Tarzan and Peter Pan.	St. George	The total cost is \$170 to share a room and \$200 for a single room. A \$50 sign-up deposit is required.

City Council meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m.

