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.
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.
**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 asks 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.

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

**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.

**BUCKLE DOWN ON BUCKLING UP**

It’s simple: seat belts save lives. A fews 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 impaied, 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 less than 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 Safety Council website at www.nsc.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.

**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.

**Sports and Swimming Sign-Ups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>SIGN-UP</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>FEES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball, Youth</td>
<td>Before March 17</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>$35 - $90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>April 1 - May 24</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>$35 - $60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboard Lessons</td>
<td>April 1 - May 24</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball, Co-ed</td>
<td>Until full</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>$425/team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball, Mens</td>
<td>Until full</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>$610/team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball, Youth</td>
<td>Before March 17</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>$35 - $45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Lessons</td>
<td>March 30, all day</td>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>$34 - $39a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Lessons</td>
<td>April 1 - May 24</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis League</td>
<td>April 1 - May 24</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>$95</td>
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*Non-resident participants who must pay an additional $20. To sign up, go to http://www.afcity.org/290 Sports-Recreation.

**Gunning for Safety**

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

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