

City of Long Beach, NY

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Long Beach, New York 11561
www.longbeachny.org

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Important Stormwater Management Information

What we're doing to help!

- ◆ A city ordinance was passed requiring strict enforcement of stormwater regulations for building and landscaping contractors.
- ◆ Established a stormwater fund with fees from developers to help build & maintain the storm drain system.
- ◆ Increased fines for unauthorized use of hydrants that could wash debris into the storm drains.
- ◆ Removal of debris from storm drains with a Vactor Rodder truck.
- ◆ Increased street sweeping schedules to remove debris before it gets into the drains.
- ◆ Installed Pet Waste Stations throughout the City to encourage proper disposal of pet waste.
- ◆ Improved monitoring of improper use of leaf blowers that results in debris in our streets and drains.

You can help too!

1. Read and participate in the "Ways To Keep Our Local Waterways Clean" inside this newsletter.
2. Bring toxic household waste to the Spring **S.T.O.P. event Sunday, April 10, 2011 behind Long Beach City Hall from 8 am-3 pm.** For a list of items included in the program and for a list of other S.T.O.P. dates and locations visit **www.longbeachny.org**
3. Take part in Earth Day events on April 22, 2011 or plant a tree on Arbor Day on April 29, 2011.
4. Participate in the International Coastal Clean-Up Day in September and encourage your neighbors to join you.
5. Don't allow dirt and debris to collect on storm drains.

Household Repair and Improvement Tips:

- Before planning an outdoor project, protect the nearest storm drains from debris and other materials.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors.
- When using hazardous substances like paints & solvents, use the smallest amount possible; clean up spills immediately.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.

City Council

Thomas R. Sofield, Jr., *President*
Mona Goodman, *Vice President*
John McLaughlin
Michael Fagen
Len Torres



City Manager
Charles T. Theofan

City of Long Beach Official Community Update

www.longbeachny.org

Stormwater Management

January, 2011



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT KEEPING OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN



**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT
ONLY RAIN GOES DOWN THE DRAIN!**

Dear Neighbors,

We take great pride in our City's pristine beaches and ocean, and every effort is taken to keep them free of pollution. Unfortunately, there are many environmental hazards that threaten our environment and our coastline, and the greatest of these is **stormwater runoff**.

Stormwater runoff is caused when household waste and debris are carried into our storm drain systems. This runoff pollutes our coastal environment, poisoning aquatic life and contaminating our drinking water.

The City of Long Beach has made a commitment to keeping our water clean and safe. In 2008, the City passed an amendment to its Code of Ordinances that established Stormwater Management requirements that comply with those issued by the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Chapter 25, Articles VI and VII of the Code ensures that the City fully enforces the control, reduction and prevention of illicit discharge of stormwater pollutants from land developers, builders, landscapers, residents, businesses and municipal operations. Violations to the Storm Management articles are subject to fines.

This newsletter offers simple preventive measures we can all take to reduce the amount of pollutants that seep into our water. The steps toward cleaner water are simple and take little effort. Picking up after your pet, avoiding pesticides and checking your car for oil leaks are just a few examples.

Please take a few moments to read this newsletter. It's up to all of us to protect our coastal waters so that we can enjoy them now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Sofield, Jr., City Council President

Where to Get More Information

Log on to the following sites for information on stormwater management:

NYSDEC-Stormwater Information: www.dec.ny.gov

US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/nps

To report oil or chemical spills: Call 800-424-8802

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a stormwater sewer system or directly to our coastal waters.



Anything entering our stormwater sewer system is discharged directly into Reynolds Channel!

What are the effects of storm water pollution?

Polluted stormwater runoff can have adverse effects on plants, fish, animals & people.

Sediment can cloud the water making it difficult for sea life to grow.

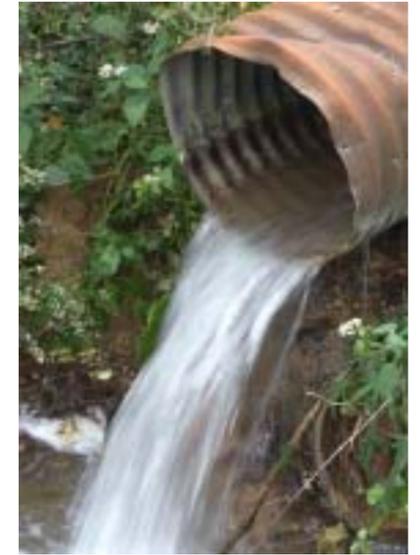
Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms & deplete oxygen, which fish need to survive.

Bacteria can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Debris washed into waterways can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life.

Household hazardous wastes like pesticides, paint, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.

Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.



Working Together to Keep Our Waterways Clean!

PET WASTE

When left in the street, pet waste can increase health risks for humans, fish and other wildlife by allowing bacteria and excess nutrients to wash into storm drains and into our canals and bay.

Just 1 gram of pet waste contains approximately 23 million fecal coliform bacteria which can cause gastrointestinal, ear, eye and throat infections in humans and can suffocate fish and plant life.



Remember to pick up pet waste and then dispose of it properly. Remove waste from the bag and flush it; bag it and throw it in

If not disposed of properly, pet waste can wind up in our waterways!
the trash; or use one of the City's Pet Waste Stations.

DO YOUR PART

Education is essential to changing people's behavior. In addition to "No Dumping - Drains To Bay" markers, we have listed important "pollution solutions" to minimize the contamination of our bays.

Pick up litter. Place your trash in secured receptacles so that it isn't carried into the storm drains. Recycle plastics, glass and

paper, and dispose of household chemicals properly.



Clear away dirt and debris from storm drains so they don't enter our waterways.

GARDENING

Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Don't rake leaves, grass clippings & debris into the street or let them accumulate on sidewalks.

If you apply fertilizer before it rains, much of it will then wash into the storm drains, causing problems for marine life due to the oxygen-consuming materials. You



may consider using organic, slow-release fertilizers. Do not over water your lawn and consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

AUTO CARE

Washing your car at home can send detergents and other contaminants into storm drains.



Use soap sparingly; empty your bucket of used soapy water down the sink - not in the street. The best way to wash your car is to take it to a commercial car wash - most reuse wash water.

Don't dump automotive fluids in the gutter or drain. Check your car for leaks and recycle used motor oil. (See your local gas station.)

WHERE TO DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

S.T.O.P., a program run by the Town of Hempstead, disposes of household hazardous waste. The program will take place in the parking lot behind Long Beach City Hall on **April 10, 2011** from **8am to 3pm**. Log onto www.longbeachny.org for a complete list of disposable items. **Electronic equipment** such as TVs, VCRs and cell phones can be deposited at any time in the "Big Blue" receptacle in front of the Recreation Center.

