STORMWATER ARTICLES FROM NEWSLETTERS

SPRING 2004 - HIGHWAY DEPT. NEWS: Spring is finally here and that means it is time for green waste pickup. Green waste pickup will be on Thursdays. Please put green waste piles on the curb edge not in the street. The Highway crew will only pickup what we are allowed per regulations set by the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority. New York State has put forth State regulations on stormwater runoff for municipalities to try to keep our streams and creeks clear of harmful debris and other contaminates. Help us by keeping dirt piles and green waste piles that may have lawn and brush treatments' sprayed with lawn chemicals out of the streets. Please refrain from dumping paints, gas, and detergents in or around floor drains or stormwater basins. The Whitesboro Highway Dept. thanks everyone for your cooperation in keeping our Village clean.

SUMMER/FALL 2004: Did you ever wonder what happens to the water from a rainstorm? The water, called stormwater, has a few possible destinations. It can soak into the soil and replenish the water table, it can evaporate into the atmosphere and replenish the clouds, or it can flow over the land's surface in the form of runoff, winding its way to the nearest stream or lake.

Stormwater runoff doesn't care where it flows. It travels, sometimes with great velocity, over fields, across parking lots, down streets and through construction sites. Along the way, stormwater takes on "passengers" like sediment (soil), trash, motor oil, and manure. Stormwater volumes increase as we remove vegetation and create more paved surfaces.

In urban settings, the stormwater must be conveyed by a system of ditches and underground pipes. Usually, stormwater runoff is untreated when it enters a stream like the Oriskany or the Sauquoit Creeks or one of their tributaries. So, how do we keep polluted runoff from entering our favorite streams?

One way is to try to prevent pollution of stormwater. Construction sites can stabilize disturbed areas by seeding and mulching. Farms can manage the nutrients applied to their fields. Town and Villages with stormwater systems can make sure that their systems are well maintained. This can include catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, and road ditch seeding.

Another major pollution prevention technique is to prevent illicit hookups to the stormwater system. Illicit hookups, specifically septic systems, can significantly add to the pollution load carried by stormwater. You can help keep stormwater clean by maintaining your septic system, fertilizing your lawn at recommended rates, keeping your streets free of litter, and repairing your vehicle. That's right...if you repair leaks from your vehicle, you'll be protecting our water resources.

If you'd like to know more about stormwater pollution prevention techniques, please feel free to contact the Soil and Water Conservation District at (315) 736-3334.

SPRING 2005: Excerpt: ***As part of our Phase II Water Management, the Whitesboro High School Club is on board to work with the Village on public outreach and the importance of clean water in our streams, rivers, and lakes. Please welcome them aboard.***

MAY 2007: LET'S DO OUR PART - Whitesboro has two separate sewer systems. One is for stormwater and snow melt runoff. The other is for sanitary waste and the two shall not mix. The sanitary waste, after flowing through the drain pipe in the house or business building; passes through a lateral pipe leading to the Village owned and maintained sanitary sewer main. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the lateral to the point it connects to the main.

The Village mains connect to an interceptor pipe of far greater diameter in a number of locations. The waste water flows by gravity to a pump station on the eastern bank of the Sauquoit Creek next to the CSX Railroad main lines.

The purpose of the pump station is to force the waste to a sanitary sewage treatment plant just east of Utica. The pump station, the interceptor pipes and the treatment plant are operated by Oneida County Water Pollution Control (WPC). The WPC operates under a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permit issued by the NYSDEC. Due to infiltration of stormwater into the sanitary pipes, the DEC permit allows, at the pump station, the volume exceeding the pumps capacity to be discharged into the Sauquoit Creek and thus into the Mohawk River. This occurs during heavy rains and/or snow melt.

This discharge of untreated waste into the Mohawk River must be eliminated through a plan acceptable to the DEC as part of the Clean Waters Act.

We must do our part as users of the sanitary waste system by eliminating stormwater entering the sanitary lateral. Three remedies are achievable. (1.) Direct the eave trough down spouts away from the building onto the lawn or down the driveway; (2.) Place the discharge hose from the sump pump out of the cellar and away from the building; also (3.) and most important, the lateral condition must be determined. This could be a great contributor of stormwater entering the sanitary sewer. Failure at the connections, especially the aged two foot clay pipes, not only allows roots to enter, but stormwater also.

The municipalities within this sewer district will be doing their part. Whitesboro will do their part.

NEWS: Stormwater: Better Site Design Practices - May 25, 2007

Better Site Design describes a series of innovative stormwater management practices. Many of these practices focus on the basic principles of stormwater management: reduction of impervious surfaces and protection of vegetation. Impervious surfaces include roads, driveways, rooftops, and parking lots. The more impervious surfaces we create, the more stormwater we have to deal with. Better Site Designs calls for redesign of roads and cul-de-sacs and incorporation of porous pavement in parking lots. Another basic tenet of stormwater management and Better Site Design is protection of vegetation. When vegetation is removed from a site, stormwater runoff tends to increase. Vegetation helps to collect and treat stormwater to prevent flooding and pollution. Construction phasing can go a long way toward reducing stormwater runoff by simply protecting existing vegetation or by seeding areas that are temporarily idle. For more information about Better Site Design practices, please visit http://www.stormwater.net/.

Take Care of Those Catch Basins! - May 25, 2007

Here's a question...when you pick up the debris from your lawn, where do you put it? Do you put it at the curb waiting for the local public works department to pick it up? Before you do, you may want to see if and when that pick up will happen. That's because if your leaves/sand/lawn debris

are piled on top of a catch basin, flooding could result. Catch basins are the drain for storm sewer systems. If the drain is clogged, it won't work properly. That means that stormwater from a heavy rainfall might not be able to find its way into a drain and could cause flooding. So, if you keep those catch basins clear of debris, you may reduce flooding in your neighborhood. If you're going to put your lawn debris next to the curb, call the DPW first to find out about pick up options.