NON-POINT POLLUTION

Everyday, our waterways, ground water and oceans are contaminated as a result of everyday activities. This “non-point” pollution is caused by routine activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking the dog, changing the motor oil in our cars, and littering.

A few simple changes in our day-to-day routine will help keep the environment clean and healthy:

**Litter:** Place all litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles.

**Fertilizers:** Avoid over-using fertilizers on your property, and never fertilize before a heavy rainfall.

**Pesticides:** Many pesticides are toxic to humans, animals, and plants. Always follow the label directions carefully, and try to use alternative products when possible.

**Household Products:** Many household items such as shampoo, cleaning products, cosmetics, etc. contain toxic ingredients. Use natural, less toxic products whenever possible.

**Motor Oil:** All used motor oil should be recycled at a local recycling site as it contains toxic chemicals that is harmful to humans and animals as well.

**Car Washing:** Wash your car at a commercial car wash which recycles the water. Use a non-phosphate detergent when you wash the car at home.

**Pet Waste:** Pet waste contains bacteria and viruses, and should be disposed of in the garbage or toilet.

**Septic Systems:** The septic tank should be inspected annually and pumped out every 3-5 years to avoid contamination of ground water and subsequent public health problems.