



Storm drain emblems give reminder to keep inlets clean, protect the IRL lagoon

Soon storm drain inlets throughout Melbourne and other parts of the county will be outfitted with colorful emblems. The snook pictured on these round urethane markers is not just for decoration. The message on the blue and yellow markers, which says, "Flows to Lagoon. Keep Curbs Clean," is a serious and important one.

During a storm, it is not just rain water that is carried into the storm drains and then into the Indian River Lagoon. The water picks up everything along the way. This includes grass clippings, yard waste, discarded trash, oils and other toxic materials on the road.

"The majority of Brevard County's storm drains flow into the lagoon," says Marguerita Engel, intergovernmental coordinator with the St. Johns River Water Management District. "A great number of people don't think about where the stormwater goes. These markers may prompt them to consider how their actions directly affect the lagoon."

Melbourne is joining 15 cities, Brevard County and the water management district's Indian River Lagoon program in this effort to heighten public awareness about the effects of stormwater pollution on the 156-mile-long waterway.



In Melbourne alone, there are 1,100 storm drain inlets. The City contributed \$1,100 to purchase 1,500 of the markers. All together, the 15 cities and Brevard County contributed about \$14,000 for the program with the Indian River Lagoon license plate program providing a matching grant.

In late June, the City will begin installing the markers. The work will initially be handled by the City's summer intern, Mike Short, who attends Virginia Polytechnic University and is pursuing an engineering degree. Applying the markers will be done in conjunction with a project he will be doing during his eight weeks with the City this summer using the geographic information system (GIS) to inventory all the storm drains in the City.

City's water quality report coming soon

In late June or early July, Melbourne water customers will be receiving our annual report detailing the quality of water provided to you. The report covers the year 2000 testing period and explains the City's water in relation to state and federal standards. The report also contains information about the sources of Melbourne's water, how it is treated, and ongoing and future water treatment plant improvement and expansion projects.

The report is being mailed to all water utility accounts. If you do not receive a copy of the report, please call 674-5761 and we will

mail one to you. Once available, you can also pick up a copy at the Utility Billing counter at Melbourne City Hall, located at 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, or view the report online at www.melbourneflorida.org.

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 For more information, please contact the Environmental Community Outreach Manager by phone at (321) 674-5761, by e-mail at jwilster@melbourneflorida.org, or visit our web site at www.melbourneflorida.org/watercon



Sewer pipes need fat-free diets

Most of us know that consuming too many fats and grease can lead to clogged arteries. It's not just arteries that can suffer damage, though. Your pipes can also suffer the consequences of fats and grease from cooking when they are poured down sink drains.

Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products



Grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes, both on your property and in the streets. Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. The results are often expensive plumbing repair bills and sewer overflows and

backups that can damage your home's interior and threaten the environment.

You can prevent these problems by following a few simple guidelines for disposing of grease:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Speak with neighbors and friends about how to keep grease out of sewers.
- Remember, home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Products, such as detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.

Please conserve water. In Melbourne, lawn irrigation is only allowed from 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. whether the source is City-supplied water or water from a private well.

Storm readiness: remove yard waste

As we move toward the most active time of the hurricane season, the Solid Waste/Recycling Department is encouraging residents to prepare now in the event a storm approaches.



This is a good time to remove dead limbs and branches, and trim back trees and brush that could damage structures. In addition, you should remove trash and debris that could be caught by high winds and inflict injury and damage or could clog drainage systems and cause flooding.

This is also a good time to check for and remove any unused hazardous waste items that could be spilled as a result of a storm. The Sarno Landfill accepts household hazardous waste at no charge, every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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