

# THE MAIN DRAIN

## Community Outreach Spotlight: Merrifields Garden Club "Don't be a DRAIN on the Environment" Project

During the month of June, the Merrifields Garden Club was hard at work stenciling storm drainage inlets in their neighborhood with a "DUMP NO WASTE - DRAINS TO BAY" logo.

The ladies hope to raise awareness in their community that dumping anything into the storm drainage system is pollution that ends up in our area waterways and is NOT treated before it gets there. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that at least 50% of our nation's water pollution is caused by polluted stormwater!

The City's Stormwater Division supported their efforts and congratulates the Merrifields Garden Club for a job well done! They stenciled 96 storm drains and passed out 650 fliers!

Interested groups that would like to carry on this work in other subdivisions should call the Stormwater Management Division at 393-8691.

### Don't Be a "Drain" on the Environment

*"When it rains, water runs down the street and into the storm drains. It doesn't go to a treatment plant—it drains into creeks that feed the Chesapeake Bay.*

*During the month of June, Merrifields Garden Club will stencil storm drains in our neighborhood as a reminder that pollutants from our homes flow into these drains, into creeks, and then into the Chesapeake Bay. Motor oil, antifreeze, paint, litter, grass clippings and other yard waste poison life in the Bay.*

*Hopefully, this sign on a storm drain near you will remind you not to dump harmful substances into storm drains."*



**The Merrifields Garden Club Distributed a flier with this important message to 650 homes in their neighborhood before stenciling 96 storm drains.**



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*The Main Drain* is a publication that addresses local Stormwater and Erosion and Sediment Control issues concerning Portsmouth residents and employees and is produced by The City of Portsmouth, Department of Public Utilities / Public Works – Division of Stormwater Management.

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