



New storm drain medallions warn of the dangers of dumping

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FOR RELEASE AT WILL

If you've recently noticed a small medallion marker next to a storm drain on a street in your neighborhood, then the markers are doing their jobs already.

These stainless steel markers are meant to alert the public to the dangers of dumping waste down roadside storm drains, and remind them that the water running down those drains empties directly into local waterways.

"The general public tends to believe that the water that runs down the drains on their street goes to a waste treatment plant that cleans it up before sending it on to the rivers, streams and wetland in the area," said Gene Reilly with Almetek Industries, the company that makes the storm drain medallions that are being installed throughout York County. "They need to be notified that everything that runs down those drains goes directly into the local waters, the same waters their kids play in, their pets swim in and their neighbors fish in."

York County's Environmental Programs Manager Anna Drake has spearheaded the drive to install storm drain medallions throughout the county. In addition, she has made the project fun and educational by encouraging Boy and Girl Scout troops to install the medallions as part of their community service requirements.

"We are really excited to have so much interest from Boy and Girl Scout troops," Drake said. "It's a nice project for them, and they seem to really enjoy it."

Drake issues storm drain medallion kits to any volunteer who wants to help out. The kits include instructions, along with essential tools such as calk, gloves, the medallions and traffic safety vests.

"Medallions have already been installed in parts of Coventry, and members of Girl Scout Troop 1236 will start installing them in Patriot Village, York Meadows, The Gables, Hawks Landing and Faison Green this weekend," Drake said. "We've also recently started an Adopt-a-Drain program, kind of like the Adopt-a-Highway program, so we will be looking for volunteers for that."

If you are interested in volunteering with the county's green initiative, or have more questions about the storm drain medallion program, contact Anna Drake at 890-3752.

In the attached picture, Tristan Wind, of Troop 200, installs a storm drain medallion to fulfill his Conservation Project requirement for the Boy Scout Camping Merit Badge.



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