

Glen, Montour install storm drain markers

Special to The Odessa File

SCHUYLER COUNTY, May 20 -- The Public Works Departments in the Villages of Montour Falls and Watkins Glen, along with the Rural Stormwater Coalition of Schuyler, Chemung and Steuben Counties, installed storm drain markers last week to complete a project that was started months earlier in the Village of Odessa.

The Rural Stormwater Coalition is a group coordinated by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).

The circular, steel disc markers are labeled with a jumping fish and have the words "No Dumping Drains to Stream" or "No Dumping Drains to Lake" inscribed on them.



The purpose of the discs is to remind residents that storm drain inlets often connect to natural waterbodies, so the stormwater runoff that enters them needs to be as clean as possible.

“We are glad to participate in this program along with the other villages,” said Mark Specchio, Superintendent of Public Works for Watkins Glen. “All of the street, parking lot and roof runoff in Watkins Glen ultimately enters Seneca Lake and we want to remind folks of this.”

Added Elaine Dalrymple, District Field Manager of the Schuyler County SWCD and a member of the Rural Stormwater Coalition: “Stormwater is water

from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off from rooftops, over paved areas and lawns, picking up debris, chemicals, motor oil and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a lake, stream, river or wetland, potentially contaminating the water we use for swimming and fishing.”

The purpose of the Rural Stormwater Coalition, made up of local agencies and municipalities, is to develop coordinated, educational and implementation projects to reduce stormwater runoff in the three counties.

Photo in text: Village of Watkins Glen Street Department staff installing a storm drain marker by the Harbor Hotel. From left: Don Perry, Street Superintendent; Doug Thompson, Maintenance Mechanic; and Ken Barber, Motor Equipment Operator. *(Photo provided)*