



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY

[www.MontgomeryCountyVa.gov](http://www.MontgomeryCountyVa.gov)

June 10, 2014

## **STORMWATER ORDINANCE IS EFFECTIVE JULY 1**

*Montgomery County, Virginia* – The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors adopted a Stormwater Management Ordinance effective July 1 as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The purpose of the ordinance is to protect local streams, creeks and rivers from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater, including protection from land disturbing activities causing degradation of water quality and quantity.

The Ordinance provides the framework for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Virginia Stormwater Management Act. Under the new Ordinance, any land activities that potentially change the land's runoff characteristics, including clearing, grading or excavation, will require a stormwater management permit.

Certain activities are exempt from having to obtain a stormwater management permit, including clearing of lands specifically for agricultural purposes and the management, tilling, planting or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, forest crops, or livestock feed lot operations and land disturbing activities that disturb less than one acre except for activities that are part of a larger common plan of development.

As part of the permit process, an erosion and sediment control plan and a stormwater management plan must be submitted and approved before any land disturbing activities may begin. Ongoing best management practices may be required that include both structural and nonstructural facilities, maintenance and other practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface and ground water.

In order to offset the costs of this mandated program, permit fees ranging from \$209 for a single family home construction to as much as \$9,600 for land clearing activities involving more than 100 acres are required. Annual maintenance fees to ensure best management practices are properly working range from \$50 to \$1400, depending on the size of the disturbance.

The Ordinance imposes penalties for those who willfully or negligently violate any provision of the ordinance up to 12 months in jail and fines ranging from \$2500 up to \$32,000.

For more details on fees, permits and requirements, including a copy of the Ordinance, see [www.montgomerycountyva.gov](http://www.montgomerycountyva.gov) or contact the County stormwater engineer at (540) 382-5750.

