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Letters to the Editor

Be proactive when streets aren't swept by reporting lapse

In addition to citizen letters and the work done by our representatives regarding unswept streets last year, Anchorage Waterways Council also launched a massive campaign to forward citizen complaints and our reports and photos to the EPA in Seattle last summer, because they were in charge of the permits over the Municipality and the state department of transportation regarding environmental issues. Besides the obvious safety concerns, the sand, gravel, and chemicals left on the streets go down the storm drains and into our creeks, which greatly impacts our waterways, fish, and wildlife.

This year the Municipality and state DOT have jointly announced that they would have the entire city swept by June 1, and they will continue sweeping afterward. If you find that an area has not been swept by that date, it should be reported to the Municipality, state DOT, your representatives, DEC (who are now overseeing the permit), and even Anchorage Waterways Council. With all of us taking a proactive role in watching over the health of our environment, we can make things better.

-- *Cherie Northon*