

Blackstone River Coalition, Inc.

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Press Release For immediate release

Local Automotive Shop Puts the Environment First

The Blackstone River Coalition (BRC) recently recognized J. White's Automotive Center, located at 162 Milford Street in Upton, for the staffs' commitment to "make every effort they can to be an enviro shop" and to be "In Business for the Blackstone."

Owner Jeff White's goal is to "change how things are done in the automotive maintenance and repair industry." To accomplish this, he is putting systems in place that will help minimize the new business's impact on the environment, such as contracting with a service that will reclaim used oil filters, collecting recyclable corrugated cardboard in a separate dumpster, and participating in the *In Business for the Blackstone* program.

BRC's *In Business for the Blackstone* educates small and mid-size companies in the watershed on the detriments of contaminants in stormwater runoff and encourages the adoption of easy-to-implement good housekeeping practices that can prevent pollutants from being collected in rain or snowmelt that runs across paved surfaces and into catch basins that discharge into the nearest waterway. Stormwater is the number one unaddressed source of water pollution in the state's rivers, streams, and lakes.

As a result of their participation in the program, White has incorporated parking lot and storm drain maintenance processes that will keep the area clean, decrease the risk of automotive liquids mixing with stormwater and avoid the risk of flooding on the site. The staff also ensures that the dumpster lids remain closed to ensure that trash does not fly out and that stormwater can not mix with the contents and leach out toxic "dumpster juice."

White explains that he and his family enjoy the natural resources that the Blackstone Valley area offers and he wants to make every effort that he can to ensure that his business protects them. "By incorporating these extra measures in the business we can give back some of what we use." White also hopes that his commitment influences his staff's work ethics and that they become more responsible professionals.

The *In Business for the Blackstone* program provides outreach materials, technical assistance, and public recognition to those interested in being better stewards to help make the Blackstone River "Clean by 2015." For more information, contact Dona Neely donaneely@zaptheblackstone.org.



Owner Jeff White stands in front of the door to J. White's Automotive Center in Upton, which now displays the *In Business for the Blackstone* logo as a result of his work to incorporate stormwater management practices and other environmental measures on the site.