

## Teamwork Key to Success for Bristol's APA Program

Protecting future drinking water supplies in Bristol's first Aquifer Protection Area (APA) has been a real team effort for both the city and the businesses affected by the APA program. When the city began implementing the APA program in 2011, it decided to do so using a cooperative and "team-oriented" approach, with the feeling the program would be implemented more easily and would be better received by the business community if the information were presented to them in this manner. When work began on reaching out to potentially affected businesses located in the Aquifer Protection Area, the city partnered with the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce to help carry the message about the importance of the APA program and how it might affect their facility. To do so, the city held public informational meetings during the early stages of the implementation, sent out mailings to affected businesses, and created a website for the local agency. The city's decision to be proactive early in the process proved to be extremely beneficial when it came time to assist the first five facilities with their registration material. Several of the businesses were much more understanding of the reasons they needed to make some operational changes or upgrades in order to comply with the program's BMP's. According to Alan Weiner, Bristol's City Planner, "they were already on board with the program, and facility owners have been very cooperative in making changes."

Jaime Cruz, owner and operator of "Pit Stop Oil Change on Dallas Avenue is a believer in the APA program. When looking for the right the location to open up a small oil change business, his search brought him to Dallas Avenue in Bristol, the site of a vacant oil change facility that had been out of business and sitting empty for six-months. In addition to learning that he had to not only register the facility with the local agency under the APA program, there were also BMP's that had to be implemented to bring the facility into compliance with the APA Regulations. Too tall a task? Not so says Jaime, "the registration process was straight forward and it was easy to translate my business practices to the materials management plan (MMP)".



Jamie Cruz is the owner and operator of Pit Stop Oil Change, a registered regulated facility in the Bristol Aquifer Protection Area

Jaime's business was one of five facilities to register with Bristol Aquifer Protection Agency this past April and be commended for making such an outstanding effort on changes, upgrades, and other improvements that were necessary to bring the facility into compliance with BMP's. The Agency was also impressed with the hard work displayed by several other facilities, demonstrating their commitment to the APA program and concern for the environment.

Just as Jaime Cruz found it easy translating his business practices to the MMP, so did most of the other businesses the city has worked with regarding implementation of the program's BMP's. That's because they're already practicing them in their current operation. And if not, they don't usually have trouble implementing a new technique or changing an operation in such a manner, that it would help protect groundwater from being potentially contaminated. And, in Bristol, protection of groundwater resources is something that is taken very seriously. Just ask Jaime, "water is the most important thing we have, we've got to keep it free of contaminants".

[Link to Bristol Aquifer Protection Agency webpage](#)