

Flood Plain Map Appeal / Protests.

Do you believe the information for your property as shown on the preliminary REMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) is incorrect? During a 90-day period which started December 23, 2004 you have the opportunity to file an appeal or a protest. An "appeal" addresses the technical accuracy and requires engineering involvement. A "protest" covers basically everything else. Remember, the flood zone designation on these maps signifies the degree of risk that your property will flood. This in turn is a primary element in the amount of the premium charged for your flood insurance.

Whether you elect to appeal or protest the information, a form is required to be filed with Harris County. These forms and other information are available by using the Harris County Engineering Permit Office web site, www.eng.hctx.net/permits. Click on "Variance Process using Preliminary FIRM / Preliminary Profiles". For more questions call Sandra Kubiak, 713-956-3040 or email skubiak@eng.hctx.net.

Call for Community Volunteers.

Two volunteer projects in the Cypress Creek watershed are in need of community volunteers. Described below, both are quality-of-life environmental improvements destined to make our neighborhoods a better place to live and raise our families.

Wetland Preserve Work Day. During 2 days in the immediate future, a community undertaking will require volunteers to assist in planting trees and removing invasive plant species / debris.

- Place: Little Cypress Creek preserve located at Spring-Cypress and Telge Road.
- Dates: Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12
- Time: TBA

This 56-acre wetlands preserve is included in the Cypress Creek Greenway development plans as a wonderful addition to the community, thanks foremost to the Legacy Land Trust's tremendous efforts over the past 2-3 years to create what many of us view as an "outdoor classroom" for both children and adults. It has suffered unfortunate damage by off-road four wheeler vehicles but has now been fenced to prevent further access and additional damage.

More information is available on our web site. Click on the "Events" section and scroll down to the "Special Events." THIS WILL BE A FUN EVENT FOR YOUNG AND OLD. THE BOARD ENCOURAGES YOUR PARTICIPATION.

No Dumping / Stormwater Quality Marker Program. The Look Upstream issue last month was dedicated to information about our underground storm drainage systems - the damage suffered in the neighborhood environment inhabited by our children - damage done by carelessly dumping everything from grass clippings to used motor oil into these storm sewers which feed into the tributaries and main channels of Cypress Creek. And the \$25,000 per day penalty for such violations!

An excellent public information program has been developed and is now getting off the ground to hopefully make a significant dent in this problem by creating awareness

to everyone walking or traveling the streets through our neighborhoods that such dumping is prohibited. It consists of placing a "No Dumping" marker on each storm drain street inlet and delivering a nicely worded informative "door hanger" at each home advising them of the program. All markers, the adhesive for fastening on the inlet, the door hangers, orange safety gear, etc are provided to the volunteer organizations. The Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition (CCFCC) Board of Directors has met with the county representatives, enthusiastically endorses the program and encourages all subdivisions serviced by our member MUDs and HOA and those who are not members to participate. The all-weather colorful markers can be affixed in about 30 seconds. It is a good project for Scout Troops, Garden Clubs, and Home Owner Association committees. Some MUDs may choose to have their Operator's meter reader do it

Additional information and illustrations are provided on our web site. Click on the "Events" section and scroll down to "Special Events". We also encourage you to telephone Ms. Dimetra Hamilton at Harris County Public Infrastructure for more information, 713-290-3074.

This **Look Upstream** article is one in a monthly series written as a public service for publication in the neighborhood news letters of communities served by the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition's municipal utility districts and home owner associations. For more information, visit their web site, www.ccfcc.org or e-mail at floodalliance@ccfcc.org.

