

LOOK UPSTREAM

JANUARY 2005

Streets in our subdivisions are designed to act as paths for storm water to reach storm sewers and then to take the water away from our area. When residents throw grass clippings, leaves, and other trash into the storm sewer this clogs up the underground pipe and the result is - you guessed it - flooding in the neighborhood. Please do not do this.

Many of us do not realize the underground storm sewer lines from our streets feed into Cypress Creek, either directly into the main stream or into tributaries and drainage ditches which channel into Cypress Creek. They do not flow into our local community waste treatment plants. Dumping used motor oil, soapy water, yard trash, mud, and other waste into the sewer catch basins heavily pollutes the stream water thereby killing the fish and wildlife dependent on unpolluted water for their life. In the unincorporated areas - including the Cypress Creek watershed, this is a violation of the Texas Solid Waste Disposal

Act. It is also a violation of the Texas Clean Water Act; both providing for up to \$25,000 per day penalty. Do not allow it to happen in your neighborhood.

The Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition of municipal utility districts, home owner associations and community business firms strongly recommend that every resident have flood insurance. Although many of our homes have never flooded, the possibility always exists - and does occur on a regular basis every year. Flooding does not happen only because water has risen over the stream banks. It occurs for many reasons - clogged storm sewers, the sudden storm events with heavy rainfall we sometimes see which exceed the capacity of the storm sewer to carry it off immediately, and continued new development upstream. Flood insurance is inexpensive for the protection it provides. And remember that in

the Harris County area more homes flood in areas located outside the 100-year flood plain than homes located within the floodplain.

It is recommended you check out the web site sponsored by the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition. It has a lot of good information plus links to other sites on matters related to flooding and what is being worked on to prevent water from getting into our homes. It is also being expanded to provide information on plans for trails, parks and other greenbelt preservation development in the Cypress Creek watershed.

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.

