



The Official Newsletter  
of the Lakes of Rosehill  
Homeowners Association

# The Rosehill *Report*

May 2012

Volume 3, Issue 5

## Septic System Operations & Maintenance

All of the homes in the Lakes of Rosehill subdivision have a Clearstream Septic system instead of a common sewer system. Here is septic system information and several maintenance tips to keeping your septic system operating properly.

### SYSTEM DESIGN

Your septic system consists of three tanks buried in your yard. These three tanks are the solids tank, Clearstream treatment tank, and a pump tank. The solids tank is the concrete tank that has two clean out openings on top. The function of the solids tank is to capture and hold solids and sludge. The solid tank is completely covered by dirt and is not visible from the surface. The next tank is the Clearstream Treatment tank designed to break down waste using aerobic (i.e. needs oxygen) bacteria and microorganisms. Oxygen is pumped into the Clearstream Treatment tank via the surface air pump covered by a grey plastic cover at the side of your house near your septic tanks. The Clearstream Treatment tank can be accessed easily for maintenance by unscrewing the round green surface cover. The final tank is a pump tank that collects the treated waste water and pumps this water to your septic sprinkler heads. The pump tank has a black plastic cover that is held in place by four screws.

The system is designed to have your house sewer line enter the solids tank where solids drop out. The solids tank is connected to the Clearstream Treatment plant by an overflow pipe at the top of the tanks. Overflow from the solids tank enters the Clearstream Treatment

tank for aerobic treatment. Overflow from the Clearstream Treatment tank flows into the pump tank. As fluid flows into the pump tank it pours over septic chlorine tablets that are held in a basket. Newer homes have a white plastic pipe with a screw cap designed to drop septic chlorine tabs into the basket. The older systems require removing the black cover from the pump tank to add new chlorine tablets as needed. Our septic systems are designed to treat 500 gallons of waste a day if the waste enters the Septic system at a constant rate (which is not how a normal household uses water).

### COMMON SEPTIC SYSTEM PROBLEMS

*Your septic system is not functioning properly if there is a foul smell around the tanks or when the septic sprinklers spray foul smelling treated water.*

### POTENTIAL PROBLEMS MAY BE

You have overwhelmed your septic system with large quantities of water. This can occur when you do 2-3 loads of laundry or several long showers over a two-hour period of time. Too much liquid entering the Clearstream system quickly cycles water from the solids tank to the pump tank without time for proper treatment. The result will be untreated liquid waste spraying on your yard. Some of you may have observed foul smelling septic spray that was probably the result of a household overwhelming the system.

Problems with the air pump will also result in foul smelling tanks/sprinkler discharge. The pumps installed begin to wear out after 3-5 years reducing the ability of the system to treat waste. Your tanks are filling up and need to be pumped. All three tanks will need a clean out

after 2-3 years of use. Your septic maintenance company should warn you when a clean out is needed. Note that digging is required to access the lid of your solids tank. The sprinkler heads are spraying the street instead of your lawn. This is illegal and should be reported to the homeowner or Harris County Engineering (713-956-3000)

### PROPER SYSTEM USAGE & MAINTENANCE

Do not put harsh chemicals down the drain (harsh chemicals can include discharge from water softeners) since these chemicals can kill the system microorganisms. A maintenance contract with a wastewater operator certified by the State of Texas is required by each homeowner. Your septic system must be inspected quarterly.

Chlorine tablets need to be added about every month. Your maintenance contractor will add chlorine tabs when your system is checked every three months. Homeowners should add chlorine in between regular maintenance visits. Septic chlorine can be purchased at Home Depot. Do not substitute pool chlorine for septic chlorine.

The system maintenance should not be taken lightly. All homeowners have a Harris County septic license and signed an affidavit acknowledging responsibility for the required septic system testing. The fine for not following the rules is \$500/day. Check the papers that you signed at closing for details. Required tests must be submitted by your septic maintenance contractor to the Permit Division of the Harris County Engineering Dept.

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- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence .....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit .....	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Traffic Light Issues .....	713-881-3210

### **SCHOOLS**

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Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation .....	281-897-4380
Cypress Fairbanks Senior High .....	281-897-4600
Cy-Woods High School .....	281-213-1727
Goodson Middle School .....	281-373-2350

### **OTHER NUMBERS**

Animal Control .....	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center .....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department.....	713-439-6260
Post Office Box Assignment – Cypress .....	1-800-275-8777
Street Lights - CenterPoint Energy.....	713-207-2222
- not working (Report Number on Pole)	
Waste Management .....	713-686-6666

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Cypress resident Braeden Kobza placed 1st in the Regional ACSI Math Olympics. This competition was held February 25th in Conroe and included private schools from Houston and the surrounding areas. Students went through several rounds of testing in class, school, and district before being eligible to compete in the Regional meet.. Braden is in 4th Grade at Rosehill Christian School.



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# LAKEs OF ROSEHILL

## The Rotary Club of Cypress-Fairbanks Hosts Mothers' Day Brisket Sale to Benefit Cypress Assistance Ministries New Mothers' Fund

The Rotary Club of Cypress-Fairbanks is hosting a Mothers' Day Brisket Sale on Saturday, May 12, 2012 to benefit Cypress Assistance Ministries' New Mothers' Fund. For a \$50.00 donation, participants will receive a fully cooked brisket (approximately 7 lbs) prepared, seasoned, and smoked by the cooks at Carl's Bar-B-Que, including a pint of their delicious barbecue sauce.

Cypress Assistance Ministries' New Mothers' Fund is designated to provide special needs funding to help new mothers with basic needs including pre-natal vitamins, layette supplies, cribs and mattresses, over-the-counter infant medicine, infant car seats and critical medical assistance.

"We are proud to partner with Carl's Bar-B-Que to support such a worthy community initiative" said Rotary Project Director, Ray Young. "The community can order briskets for themselves or designate a local charitable organization such as Boys & Girls Country, Cypress Assistance Ministries, or the Northwest Houston Salvation Army as a recipient."

Briskets must be pre-ordered by Monday, May 7th and may be picked up at Carl's Bar-B-Que from 10:00 am until noon on Saturday, May 12th. For those unable to pick their brisket up at that time, arrangements can be made to pick up at a more convenient time. Order forms are available by contacting Ray Young at dry@waterengineers.com or 713-582-7564.

### ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS

Chartered in 1970, the Rotary Club of Cypress-Fairbanks consists of business leaders and professionals active in community and international service. Over more than 40 years, the club has raised over \$600,000 to support local and international organizations. Meetings are held every Monday at noon at Carl's Barbeque on Highway 290 and Telge Road, in Northwest Houston. For more information about the Rotary Club of Cypress-Fairbanks and its programs, call 281-955-5400



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# LAKES OF ROSEHILL

## Lakes of Rosehill Fire Ant Treatment Week

We are asking all homeowners in the Lakes of Rosehill Development to participate in a Community-Wide Fire Ant treatment program. Studies show that a community wide treatment program can significantly reduce imported fire ants & ant-related problems. All Homeowners must participate for this program to work. Homeowners also need to treat their yards outside of their fences along the street.

### *The treatment is a two-step process* **STEP ONE: BAITS**

Needed Products – AMDRO FIRE ANT BAIT – One Pound per Lot (Cost about \$10.00 at Home Depot or Lowe's. Other products exist but it must be a Fire Ant BAIT.

Fire ant baits consist of pesticides on processed corn grits coated with soybean oil. They contain extremely low amounts of

toxins. Worker ants take the bait back to the colony, where it is shared with the queen, which then either dies or becomes infertile. Baits are slow-acting and require weeks to months to achieve 80% to 90% control. We will apply the bait once in the spring (first week in April) and once in the fall (first week in October).

### *For best results...*

- Apply when the ground and grass are dry and no rain is expected for the next 24 to 48 hours. Use fresh bait – open the container and spread it that day over your entire front and rear yard. Apply in late afternoon or in the evening.

Another recent Fire Ant treatment on the market is Over N'Out. This is not a bait but a chemical yard treatment that cost under \$20/Bag.

### **STEP TWO: INDIVIDUAL MOUND TREATMENTS**

Needed product – Spectracide Fire Ant Killer - Mound and Broadcast Granules (10 Pound bag costs approx. \$10.00 at Home Depot or Lowe's. Other products exist but the product must state Mound Treatment.

Cover the existing mounds and an area about one foot around the mound with the Fire Ant Mound Granules. Then you must lightly sprinkle one gallon of water on the area. Pouring the Fire Ant Granules on the mound will not work without water.

***\*Remember that if you do not participate – the ants will only have one safe haven in our development – your yard!***

<http://fireant.tamu.edu/antfacts/index.html>

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# LAKEs OF ROSEHILL

## Cy Fair Republican Women May Meeting

*Submitted by Stephanie Peters*



Senator Dan Patrick has been called to Austin on our meeting day. Senator Glenn Hegar will be speaking. Please see new notice below

The Cy-Fair Republican Women's monthly meeting will be held at 10:30am on Tuesday, May 8 at Carraba's Italian Grill in Copperfield. This month's presentation will feature Senator Glenn Hegar of Texas Senate District 18. His presentation will include information on current issues that affect the Houston and Cy-Fair areas. May is also our annual membership drive month! Dues are pro-rated for the year and are less than \$20!

Please join us for an informative meeting! You can join us for lunch for \$15, or just come and listen, have coffee or tea for \$3. Visit the Cy-Fair Republican Women's website at [www.cfrw.net](http://www.cfrw.net) to RSVP and reserve your seat

today. The Cy-Fair Republican Women meet every second Tuesday of the month at Carraba's Copperfield. Social begins at 10:30am, speaker and meeting begin at 11:00am. For more information and to RSVP to meetings, visit our website at [www.cfrw.net](http://www.cfrw.net)

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