



UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY

FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Submitted by David Renniger

Question: What is the most common pollutant in the urban waterways of Harris County, Texas? (Answer below)

WATERSHEDS AND WATER QUALITY

Water quality describes physical and chemical parameters of surface water that impact both human and ecological health within a given watershed. A watershed is a geographic area where flowing water (and everything we put in it) drains into a larger common body of water. It can be the gutter system around your house that flows to the storm sewer, or an entire river basin that collects runoff from surrounding towns, roadways, and green spaces. Everyone lives in watershed. In Texas alone, there are 23 major river basin watersheds, each ultimately flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Understanding the relationship between water quality and human activity is the cornerstone of my own transformative experience in becoming NatureSmart. You see, I spent the majority of my career liberally applying pesticides and chemical control products to keep my demanding landscape clients happy and their gardens as green and pest-free as possible. Little did I know that most of these chemicals would eventually find their way into watersheds where they negatively affect everything from contact recreation and fishing areas, stream ecology, human health, and the safety of our drinking water.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Water quality is determined by comparing levels of pollutants like sediment, nutrients, bacteria, and man-made chemicals against baseline levels in a watershed. While this monitoring activity is performed by regulatory agencies and trained experts, here are four areas where you can make a significant contribution to improving water quality in your watershed:

1. Landscapes

- Choose sustainable landscape practices

- Minimize exposed soil with vegetative cover
- Plant vegetative barriers to filter runoff and trap sediments
- Mulch lawn clippings
- Stop using pesticides and chemical fertilizers

2. Car Care

- Regularly check for fluid leaks
- Recycle used motor oil
- Wash vehicles at the car wash and not in the driveway

3. Paved Surfaces

- Sweep/blow driveways, sidewalks and roads
- Don't sweep/blow debris into storm drains
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces

4. Home Care

- Never pour anything down storm drains
- Carefully store and dispose of cleaners, chemicals, and oil
- Pick up pet waste
- Pump and inspect septic systems regularly

Unfortunately, most major streams in Harris County, Texas are listed on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's 303(d) list, which identifies impaired waters with higher than acceptable values for pollutants. The good news is that implementing the recommendations in these four areas of focus can make a difference and cost nothing more than a simple change in behavior.

The answer to our question: E.coli bacteria from fecal contamination is the number one cause of impaired waterways in Harris County, Texas. The bacteria is carried by stormwater runoff that flows into our creeks and streams. You can make an immediate impact by cleaning up pet waste and not allowing them to defecate near stormwater drainage areas.

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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015

11:00 am Registration Opens • 1:30 pm Shotgun Start

Cost: \$110 Per Person

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Cypress Lakes Golf Club

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Please Register Online at www.actsofwisdom.com under the "Get Involved" Link on home page by April 24th! To learn more about our mission and ministry visit us at www.actsofwisdom.com.

ACTS of Wisdom grew out of founder Pastor Brad Otto's experiences in Ethiopia and the Book of Acts where an Ethiopian Eunuch asks the Apostle Philip about Jesus. Philip is stunned that he doesn't know, to which the eunuch replies, "No one has ever taught me." Part of the cycle of poverty is not having access to quality education, or having inadequate supplies for education. 145 million children in the world do not have access to education, yet children still dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, and teachers.

At ACTS of Wisdom we believe every child, everywhere, should have access to education and to teachers willing to take time to teach them. Our hope is that through bettering the education opportunities of children, we might be able to help end the cycle of poverty, and begin to have peace in our world.



ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Beacon. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakes of Fairhaven residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Lakes of Fairhaven residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail thebeacon@PEELinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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NEW WEBSITE

Lakes of Fairhaven has a new community website. Please visit it at www.lakesoffairhavenHOA.org and register to get emails on HOA info and upcoming LOF announcements.



Are your weeds blooming?

What is a weed? A weed is any plant or flower in your yard or garden that you didn't intentionally plant. Early spring is the time of year that weeds begin to pop-up in your yard. Here are a few tips to help combat these pesky weeds.

Mowing your yard on a regular schedule will help keep the weeds from growing to a stage that they can germinate. Adjust your lawn mower height to the second highest setting. The taller grass will block sunlight from any seeds the weeds spread.

A weed and feed product will help control the weeds and encourage your grass to grow. However, most weed killer products only are effective when the weed is just beginning to grow. The advantage to using these products is to create a healthier lawn that is capable of keeping weeds away. Be sure to follow the directions for application.

One of the best solutions for attacking the weeds is to pull them by hand. Be sure to pull the root of the weed out of the ground. Throw away the weeds in your trash can. Do not use them as compost or allow them to blow-away, doing so will allow any seeds to re-populate your yard or your neighbors!

For landscaping questions, concerns or suggestions, email Landscape.Committee@InsideEagleSprings.com. Our next meeting is April 14th at 7 pm at the Valley Springs Clubhouse.

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The Cypress Symphony

The Cypress Symphony hosts its 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala and Season Announcement Dinner presented by Clearwater Utilities at 5pm on April 26, 2015 at the Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre. The evening will include revealing all major works for the 2015/2016 season with introductions by season conductor Jerry Hou, returning after his enthralling performance in January.

Richard Dowling will perform an exclusive recital for gala attendees that will elegantly (or subtly) match the theme of the evening “Stardust” with an emphasis on evening jazz. A Texas native, Dowling is known best for his recordings of American Music and has won the hearts and recognition of many for his performances, including the Houston Tuesday Musical Club Competition and a sold out debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Dowling was the first soloist to appear with the Cypress Symphony in September 2013 at the inaugural concert.

Founder Caroline Ewan comments that “I am thrilled that the symphony is about to embark on its third season. Our mission to enrich and educate the community has the support it needs to expand not only the size of our orchestra, but also the number of communities that we are reaching. Our third season will be our first entre into these two areas. It is a historic and exciting time at the Cypress Symphony.”

The Cypress Symphony, founded by 26-year-old Caroline Ewan, is receiving great support from the northwest Houston community for its energetic performances. The next concert is May 9th at 7PM at the Centrum under the baton of Bohuslav Rattay, Conductor of the El Paso Symphony. Kathy Winkler, violin professor from Rice University, will perform the wonderful “Lark Ascending” by Vaughan-Williams as well as “Appalachian Spring.”

During the fundraising gala, there will be a silent auction presenting items from some of Houston’s best cultural institutions and local artisans. Ms. Ewan and the administrative team will highlight the current status of the Cypress Symphony and present exciting new developments for the 2015/2016 season.

The gala will be held at Norris Conference Centers at CityCentre at 826 Town & Country Blvd, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024. Tickets for the gala can be purchased online at www.CypressSymphony.org or by calling (832) 766-0529. Individual seats for this exclusive event are \$60 with discounts for table purchases or priority seating. Additional tickets and upcoming concert information can be found online at:

www.CypressSymphony.org

The Cypress Symphony is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization and member of the League of American Orchestras.



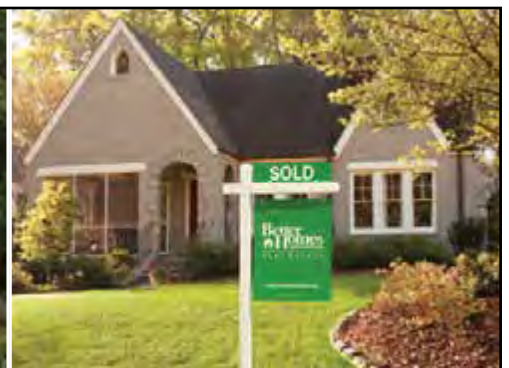
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GUARDHOUSTON TRAINING



Time to get certified! GuardHouston is now hiring for the summer season, and we are starting classes during Spring Break. Through videos, group discussion, and hands-on practice, you'll learn teamwork,

rescue, surveillance skills, First Aid and CPR/AED, and other skills you need to work as a professional lifeguard. Training options feature two core courses—Lifeguarding and Shallow Water Lifeguarding (available in a blended learning format)—plus optional add-on modules, including waterfront skills or waterpark skills modules. Successful completion results in a two-year certification in lifeguarding that includes First Aid and professional-level CPR and AED in one certificate. A digital certificate is available upon successful completion of course. Prerequisites: Must be at least fifteen years old, pass a 300-meter swim (not timed), and retrieve a ten-lb. brick from the ten-foot-deep level of the pool.

The Lifeguarding Review Course is designed to review the lifeguarding skills and core knowledge points required to recertify

in lifeguarding. Prerequisite: Current Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED or Shallow Water Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certificate. Note: If the Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED certificate is expired, participants must take the full Lifeguarding or Shallow Water Lifeguarding course.

Topics for both classes include:

- Patron surveillance
- Victim assessment
- Care for head, neck, and spinal injuries
- Rescue skills
- CPR/AED

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KIWANIS CLUB OF CY-FAIR HOUSTON

YOU Are cordially invited to attend an introductory meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Cy-Fair Houston at the Hearthstone Country Club.

APRIL DATES: We will meet on April 7, 14, 21 at 12 pm. Join us for lunch, followed by a short, informative program. We welcome your visit and invite you to consider membership in this service oriented organization.

Why join Kiwanis? Kiwanis is an international service organization focused on changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club of Houston seeks to serve this community through sponsoring Key Clubs for high school students, Builders Clubs for middle school students, and Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. Also, we sponsor Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. We provide support to various other organizations in the community that serve children and families. Enjoy the pleasure of being a part of this service.

What is Kiwanis? Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located. Members stage nearly 150,000 service projects and raise nearly US\$100 million every year for communities, families and projects. In addition,

Kiwanis members actively participate in many service projects in their home communities.

Kiwanis members don't just serve—they have fun. Members make new friends by being part of a club where they attend meetings and participate in social events. Kiwanis clubs also provide excellent networking opportunities for professionals. Members meet new people from all over their region and the world through service projects, fundraising and attendance at district and international conventions.

For more information, call John Carroll (Copperfield and Hearthstone areas) at 281-463-0373; George Crowl (Jersey Village area) at 832-467-1998; or Peggy Presnell (Fairfield and CyRanch) at 281-304-7127.

Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club website at www.KIWANISHOUSTONCYFAIR.COM. Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club website at:

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Houston Family Arts Center Asks Audiences, 'What's Wrong With This Picture?' In 2015-2016

HFAC ANNOUNCES 10TH SEASON

"What's wrong with this picture?" is the playful theme and question attached to each show in Houston Family Arts Center's (HFAC) 2015-2016 season. Entering its 10th mainstage season, HFAC orchestrated a line-up of all-encompassing shows that highlight the theatre's award-winning musical expertise, all while enveloping theatre experiences full of odd, zany, mystical and dramatic turmoil audiences love.

The HFAC 2015-2016 season opens in hysterical chaos with Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me a Tenor* followed by Stephen Sondheim's musical mixture of fairy tale treasures in *Into the Woods*. HFAC brings the classics to the holiday season with *It's a Wonderful Life*, then starts the new year in the 1950s with *Forever Plaid*. Soon after, and just in time for spring, a six-foot-tall invisible rabbit named Harvey will have audiences hopping, while the comedy *Damn Yankees* will bring out the inner baseball fan in us all. An incredible story of tragedy, deceit and the life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart starts the summer season with Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*. An audience favorite, *Footloose*, then closes the season with a classic tale of rock 'n' roll and teenage rebellion.

"Theatre teaches us a lot about human motivation," said Lisa Garza, Artistic Director for Houston Family Arts Center. "This season, we want to look at how one responds to unusual situations. Do you panic? Initiate evasive action? Or dig down deep and find the part of yourself that is willing to overcome obstacles at any cost?"

HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER'S 2015-2016 MAINSTAGE SEASON

Lend Me a Tenor, Sept. 4 - 27

Set in the 1930s, hysterical chaos on a truly operatic level ensues when a world-famous tenor presumably goes missing on the biggest night in the Cleveland Grand Opera's history. What follows is a series of slapstick fun sure to leave any audience teary-eyed with laughter. HFAC's rendition of Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me a Tenor* runs Sept. 4 - Sept. 27.

Into the Woods, Oct. 16 - Nov. 8

The fairy tale classics of Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel and Little Red Riding Hood are weaved into an original, charming, musical tale of a couple's journey to break a wicked witch's curse. Will the baker and his wife be able to break the witch's spell? Bring the entire family and find out during the enchanted tale of *Into the Woods*, Oct. 16 - Nov. 8.

It's a Wonderful Life, Nov. 27 - Dec. 20

George Bailey spends his life giving up big dreams on behalf of his community. Overwhelmed by family obligations, George uncovers an opportunity to save his town but a mistake finds himself in a disparaging situation. Through his family and

community's prayers, George's guardian angel, Clarence, who hasn't earned his wings, takes George on a journey to discover his "wonderful life." Discover if Clarence earns his wings when this treasured, heart-warming holiday classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is brought to life on HFAC's Garza Mainstage from Nov. 27 - Dec. 20.

Forever Plaid, Jan. 29 - Feb. 21

On their way to see the Beatles' American debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, a quartet of high school friends' musical dreams begin and quickly end after a car crash involving a busload of Catholic schoolgirls. HFAC audiences will watch in musical amusement, Jan. 29 - Feb. 21, when "The Plaids" return from the afterlife for one final concert in *Forever Plaid*.

Harvey, March 11 - April 3

What do you get when you mix a polite and friendly man with a strange, six-foot-tall, invisible rabbit named Harvey? A sister who wants to commit her brother, but gets committed herself, and a town comically turned upside down on the search for a mild-mannered hero and his invisible friend. Harvey hops onto HFAC's Garza Mainstage just in time to celebrate Easter, March 11 - April 3.

Damn Yankees, April 22 - May 15

Aging baseball fan Joe Boyd makes a deal with the devil and gets transformed into a handsome, star baseball player who helps his favorite team, the Washington Senators, beat the Yankees in the World Series. Along his journey to make his beloved Senators world champions, Joe must resist all temptations, including the beautiful Lola. Will Lola get, what Lola wants? Will the Senators win the pennant? *Damn Yankees* "swings" onto HFAC's Garza Mainstage April 22 - May 15.

Amadeus, June 3 - June 26

Envy, scandal, comedy and murder are all intertwined in composer Antonio Salieri's quest to meet and ultimately destroy the brilliantly talented Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. During a chance encounter, Salieri discovers Mozart's personality doesn't match the extraordinary grace of his compositions. Upset that God gifted an ill-behaved man with such talent, Salieri makes it his mission to befriend and masquerade as Mozart's ally, all while attempting to destroy Mozart's reputation through a variety of sinister acts. HFAC's rendition of the Tony award-winning *Amadeus* runs June 30 - June 26 on HFAC's Garza Mainstage.

Footloose, July 15 - Aug. 7

The rebellious nature of a big-city teenager in competition with a Midwestern town minister wreaks havoc on a quiet southern town that abhors rock music and dancing. When the Chicago-born teen calls for a rock 'n' roll prom and the cultural

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

revitalization of a repressed town, a fast-paced musical drama ensues. With the famous, memorable songs "Footloose" and "Let's Hear it for the Boy," Footloose dances into our hearts July 15 - Aug. 7.

ABOUT HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER

Houston Family Arts Center (HFAC), founded in 2005, is a not-for-profit performing arts and educational organization, with a passion for entertaining, enlightening and engaging audiences in Texas. Recent winner in seven categories for the Broadway World Houston Awards, HFAC has also been named Houston's "Best Gem of a Theater" by the Houston Press and "Best Arts and Entertainment" by the "Best of the Northwest" Readers' Choice awards. HFAC is a proud winner of the prestigious national American Association of Community Theatre Twink Lynch Organizational Award. HFAC produces a broad mix of classics, comedies, dramas, musicals and new works. Through its award-winning Actors Academy, HFAC offers acting, singing and dance classes, and performance opportunities for all ages. To purchase tickets, sign up for auditions or classes, or for more information, please visit www.houstonfac.com or call HFAC at 281-587-6100.



Cypress-Tomball Democrats April Meeting

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the meeting and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. The meetings are open to all, and always feature great fellowship and informative guest speakers. For more information, visit the website at www.cytomdems.com; contact Glenn Etienne at cytomdems@yahoo.com; or "Like" the club on Facebook.

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If you cut them correctly they will grow again. Start at one end of your garden and cut plants about an inch from the ground. The plant could grow back 3-4 times in a season.

Flat gardening was popular years ago, but now raised beds are much better. They prevent weeds from taking over, let water drain more efficiently and plants thrive in aerated soil.

A very common error in gardening is over watering and drowning plants. If it rains at least one inch per week, you can probably skip heavy watering. Purchase a rain gauge (under \$10) at garden stores to keep track of how much or how little water your plant is getting and add or subtract from there.



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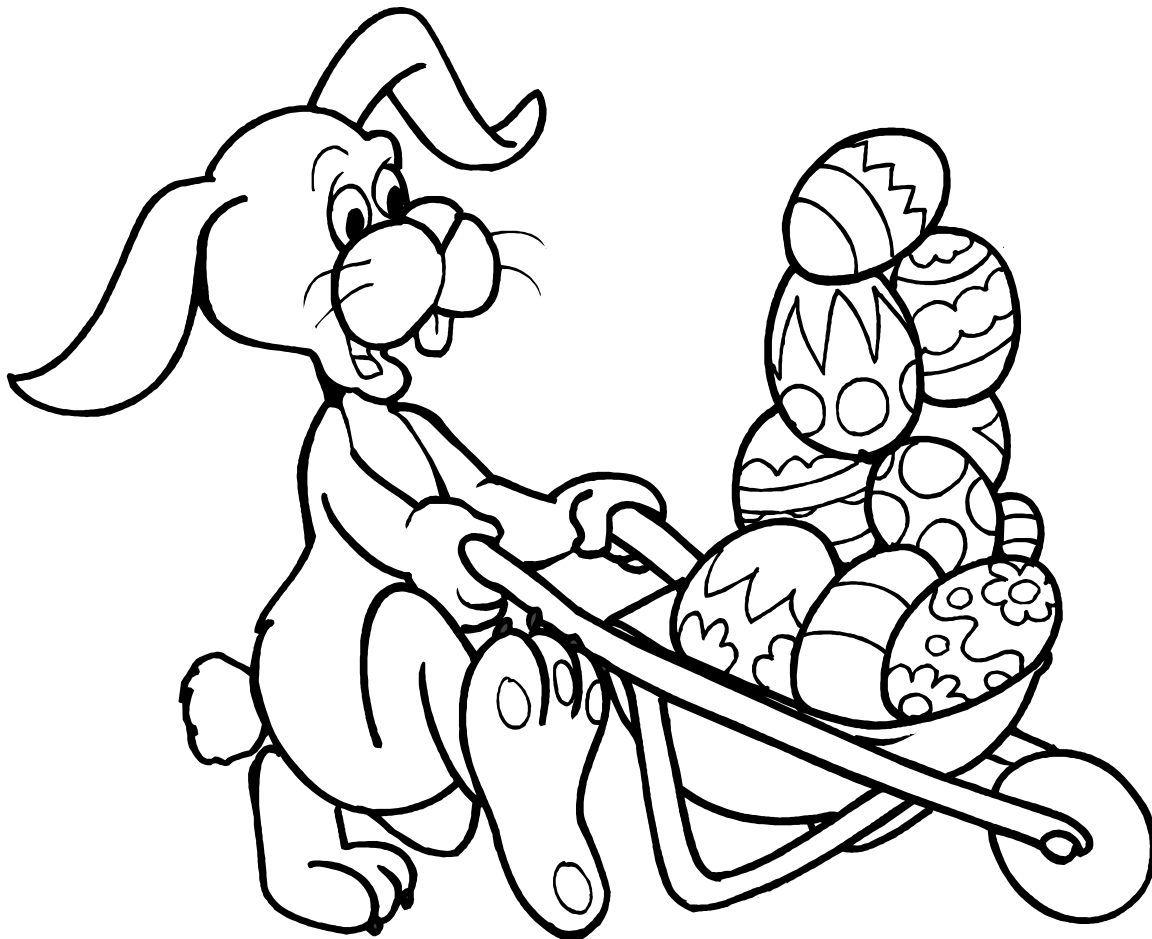
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Lakes of Fairhaven Year-to-Date Sales Report

	May '14	Jun '14	Jul '14	Aug '14	Sep '14	Oct '14	Nov '14	Dec '14	Jan '15	Feb '15
\$500,000 and above	2	5	3	5	1	3	1	2	—	2
\$451,000--\$499,999	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—	0
\$351,000--\$450,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	0
\$276,000--\$350,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
\$231,000--\$275,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
\$201,000--\$230,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
\$200,999 and below	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
Total	2	5	3	6	1	3	2	2	—	2
Highest \$/sq ft	\$122.09	\$140.55	\$138.24	\$135.48	\$131.16	\$134.23	\$151.43	\$131.93	—	\$140.92

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Call Mike for a Confidential Interview with RE/MAX Preferred Homes.**

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*“Celebrating 22 years of
selling homes in Cypress”*

