



A NEWSLETTER FOR TOWNE LAKE RESIDENTS

APRIL 2015

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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.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Constable	281-376-3472
Sheriff - Non-emergency	713-221-6000
- Burglary & Theft	713-967-5770
- Auto Theft	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-222-1221
Traffic Light Issues	713-881-3210

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation	281-897-4380
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Smith Junior High School.....	281-213-1010
Cy-Ranch High School	281-373-2300

UTILITIES

CenterPoint Energy.....	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-2222
Water - Severn Trent.....	281-646-2383
Waste Management - Trash	713-686-6666

OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department	713-439-6260
Post Office.....	281-859-9021
Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
North Cypress Medical Center.....	832-912-3500

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Please support the advertisers that make the *Tribune* possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 1-888-687-6444 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

ARTICLE INFO

The *Tribune* is mailed monthly to all Towne Lake residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for consideration please email it to townelake@peelinc.com. The deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

Albion Hurricanes FC Soccer Evaluations & Tryouts

Albion Hurricanes FC (AHFC), established in 1989, is leading the way in South Texas youth soccer by inspiring and developing young men and women through world class coaching and innovative techniques, as well as instilling the proper framework, self-esteem, confidence and sportsmanship within our athletes.

Players will be evaluated to determine their technical and tactical abilities by the highly-qualified staff at AHFC. AHFC is proud to offer you various locations in the greater Houston area. Please visit www.albionhurricanes.org for specific times and dates and to pre-register for our Evaluations & Tryouts.

AHFC office: 713-939-7473

Website: www.albionhurricanes.org

Questions? Boys: Mark Rufo at mrufu@albionhurricanes.org
or call 979-453-1933

Girls: Danny Hill at dhill@albionhurricanes.org
or call 713-818-7529



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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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ACTS of Wisdom

Join Us for a day of FUN, FOOD, and GOLF benefiting ACTS of Wisdom, a faith-based, non-profit organization that seeks to provide quality education to children in rural Africa. A drawing for prizes will be held, as well as a silent auction, and raffle for a hand made Ethiopian piece of artwork!!

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015

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

Cost: \$110 Per Person

(If you do not have a foursome, we will pair you with others)

Includes: Dinner, Green Fees, Cart, and Range Balls

Mulligans: \$5 each or 10 for \$40 (10 max per team)

Raffle Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Hole Sponsorships: Gold \$100, Platinum \$300

Cypress Lakes Golf Club

18700 Cypresswood Drive

Cypress, TX 77429

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.



GET MORE FROM YOUR GARDEN

Raspberries require little care to grow, but can cost a lot at the store. You can even freeze them.

Mixed salad greens, like baby lettuce and arugula are tough and quick growing, even after cutting.

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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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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17808 Lakecrest View Drive in Cypress
Call 832 653-4260 or email us at HelloTowneLake@Avanti-sl.com to RSVP or come visit - Space is limited
Refreshments will be served



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Cypress Texas Tea Party

The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:

Saturday, March 21, 2015

- Dr. Kyle Scott, Lone Star College Trustee

Saturday, April 11, 2015

- Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller

- Dwayne Bohac, Texas Representative, District 138

Saturday, May 2, 2015

- Donna Bahorich, State Board of Education, District 6

The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday

Noon until 2:00 PM at:

Spring Creek BBQ

25831 Northwest Freeway

Cypress, Texas 77429

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY>

A schedule of our meetings and confirmed speakers can be found at our website, www.cypresstexasteaparty.org



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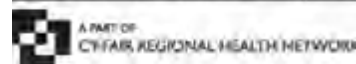
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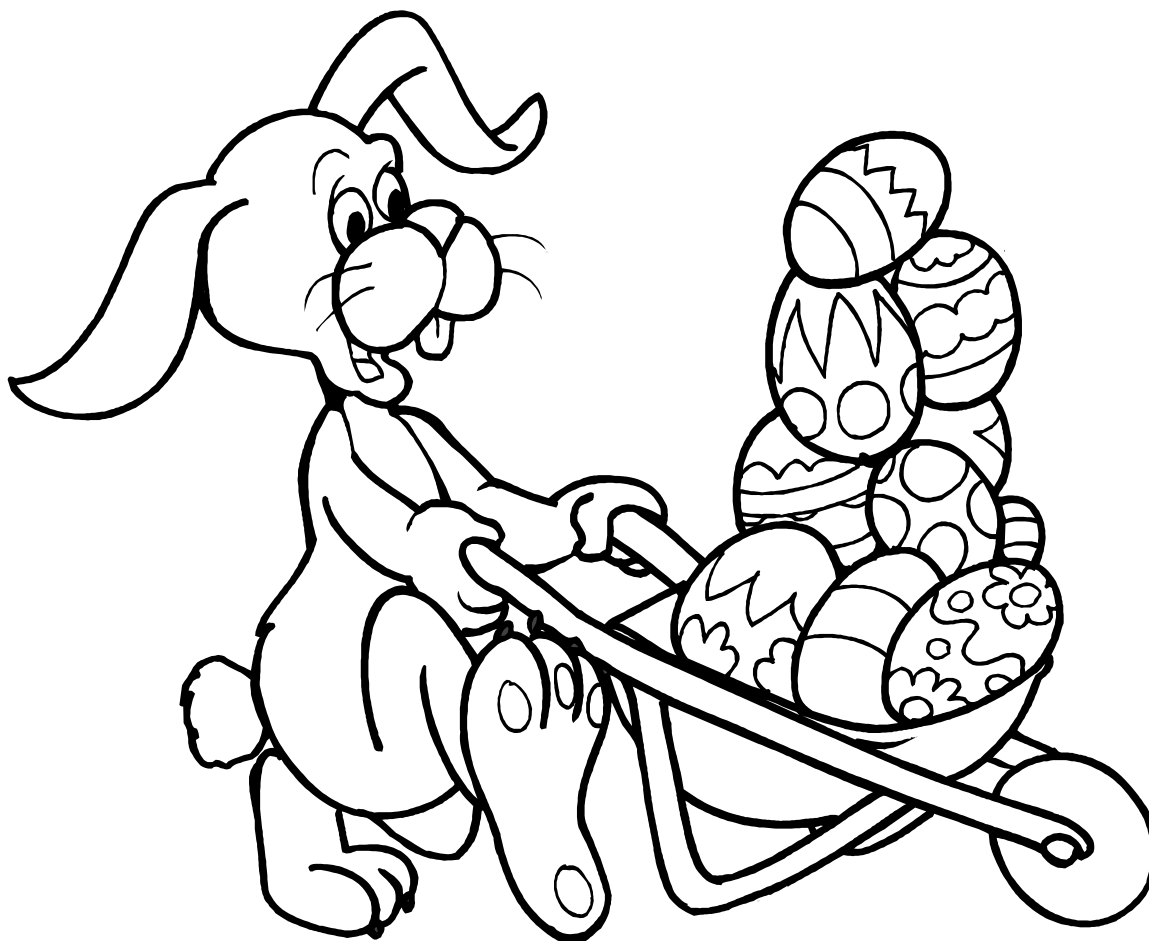
We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - [Facebook.com/PeelInc](https://www.facebook.com/PeelInc).

DUE: April 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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Age: _____



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