

SWIM Program Makes a HUGE Splash in Kingwood!

All the students and teachers of Kingwood Ninth Grade (KH-9) Campus went out to mark the storm drains of Kingwood warning residents not to put grass clippings, chemicals and other trash down the storm drains.

The Storm Water Management Joint Task Force (JTF) joined forces with KH-9 on Friday, May 5, 2006 at Kingwood Ninth Grade Campus located at 4015 Woodland Hills Drive to help push the Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) Program to new depths. Eleven hundred students, teachers, faculty and volunteers took part in this environmental effort to help keep our waterways clean.

The SWIM Program is an environmental public education program aimed at raising awareness of the storm water quality issues in Harris County and City of Houston communities,

connecting residents to their neighborhood storm drains and local waterways, while encouraging them to protect their water resources.



Storm drain markers bearing the JTF CleanWaterClearChoice logo and a message stating "No Dumping, Flows to Galveston Bay" were placed on storm water inlets in as many residential locations as possible. The message on the markers will remind citizens not to dump pollutants into storm sewers or contribute more pollutants to ordinary storm water runoff by littering, overfertilizing or sweeping yard debris into the street.

Citizens play an extremely important role in preventing pollutants to our local waterways. Programs like SWIM work well because they get government, volunteer groups and businesses working together to solve a common problem.

For more information, contact Herman Sanders, Harris County Public Education Coordinator, at (713) 290-3000 or hsanders@swq.hctx.net or visit www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org.

Much of the pollutants in area creeks and bayous come from common, everyday materials, like household chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, gasoline, used motor oil, antifreeze and litter. These substances run off into storm drain inlets by rainwater from our streets, yards, driveways and parking lots.



"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty."
- John Ruskin, (1819-1900)

Adopt A County Mile Program

Participation in Harris County Precinct's 1, 2 & 4 Adopt A County Mile Program does more than improve the aesthetics of area roadways. It also improves the cleanliness of area creeks, bayous, rivers, lakes, bays and eventually, the Gulf of Mexico. Uncollected litter along roadways flows into area storm sewer systems and is eventually discharged into these receiving waters.

Harris County has developed and implemented a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program which capitalizes on Precinct's 1, 2 & 4 Adopt A County Mile Program. This program offers a cost-effective means of educating and involving the public in enhancing water quality, while also allowing public roadways to be operated in a manner that reduces pollutants in area waterways.

An interested group or organization must qualify and contract with Harris County for one-year increments to clean a designated stretch of roadway. The location is based on a site determined by the group or organization and a targeted area by the area Precinct. Areas are usually one mile long, but exceptions are made for larger groups.

The participating group or organization is asked to clean their designated

roadway at least once every three months. The Precinct Community Liaison coordinates clean up times and provides the necessary equipment including safety vests and trash bags.

Signs denoting the participating group or organization name are placed at both ends of the adopted roadway. The signs acknowledge the group's or organization's participation in the program and their involvement in the community.



To Adopt A County Mile please contact a Precinct Liaison in your area:

Precinct 1 - ACM Liaison
Deotis Gay at (713) 991-6881

Precinct 2 - Operations Director
Gail Miller at (713) 453-0563

Precinct 4 - Community Assistance Dept.
Stella Currington at (281) 353-8424



NEWS SPLASH!

New and Improved Paint Disposal Guide Available!
The new edition of the Paint Disposal Guide is available upon request. If you need to know how and where to dispose of any sort of paint, the Paint Disposal Guide is what you want! Call us to request yours today! 713-290-3000.

Call for Volunteers!
Would you like to work with us at our community events? We are always looking for passionate volunteers who are interested in helping us further our cause. Opportunities are available year-round. We'll provide you with all the tools you'll need to be a successful volunteer. Great for high school and college students who need volunteer hours, but all ages welcome! Join us! To add your name to our volunteer roster, please contact Herman Sanders at 713-290-3000 or hsanders@swq.hctx.net or sign-up online by going to www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org/community/.



Just for Floats!

Did you know that no piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times?

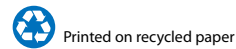
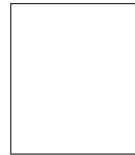
Did you know that plastic lawn flamingos outnumber real flamingos in the U.S.A?

Did you know that Pinocchio was made of pine?

Did you know that if you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom?



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CURRENTS

www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org

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Coming Soon: The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Mobile Collection Unit

Many household products become hazardous to our health and the environment when they are absorbed into the ground or enter our water supply. These items need to be disposed of in a safe manner. Many of these items can actually be recycled into reusable products. Harris County Storm Water Quality Section (HCSWQS) is doing its part to make household hazardous waste recycling and disposal easier for residents by acquiring a HHW Mobile Collection Unit. This will allow an additional ten to twelve HHW collections per year and bring the service to areas of the county that it has not been able to serve in the past due to site restrictions.

HHW Manager Gail Moncla explains how residents can request the mobile collection truck: "Home Owners Associations, Civic Clubs, churches, apartment complexes and other community groups must submit a request to our office and provide a community/neighborhood liaison for the proposed event."

Moncla went on to explain the planned availability of the Mobile Unit. "Most mobile collection unit events will be scheduled on Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 PM and will accept HHW from residents on a first come first serve basis until the mobile unit reaches capacity." Moncla pointed out that there are certain items that will not be accepted. "Unacceptable items include business waste, medical waste, ammunition or explosives, compressed gas cylinders, used electronics, tires, refrigerators, freezers or other large appliances."

HHW Assistant Manager Cheryl Burton-Fentress commented, "The truck and trailer are on order and the equipment needed to run the collection units are coming in at a steady pace."

HCSWQS anticipates having a fully functional mobile unit for use by late fall. Expect an update on the HHW Mobile Collection Unit in the December edition of Currents. ♦

Coming Events

Friday, August 18th-Sunday August 20th

Catch us at the Houston Home Show! The Houston Home Show will be held at the George R Brown Convention Center located at 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, TX 77010. For ticket information, log on to www.texashomeandgarden.com

Saturday, October 21st

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the Barbara Bush Library located at 6817 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379. 8 AM to 2 PM only

Saturday, October 7th

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the City of Baytown located at 1200 Lee Drive (Corner of Lee Drive & Riggs Street.) 8 AM to 2 PM only.

Friday, October 27th-Sunday, October 29th

Catch us at the Houston Home Show! The Houston Home Show will be held at Reliant Center located at 8400 Kirby Dr Houston, TX 77054. For ticket information, log on to www.texashomeandgarden.com



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