

## Just for Floats!

Did you know that Cranberry Jell-O is the only kind that contains real fruit?

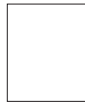
Did you know that Maine is the toothpick capital of the world?

Did you know that the green stuff on the occasional freak potato chip is chlorophyll?

Did you know that ten tons of space dust falls on the Earth every day?



Harris County  
Watershed Protection Group  
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(713) 290-3000



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## Coming Events

### Saturday, March 31st

HazMobile - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at Jed's Ace Home Center located at 5415 Aldine Mail Route, Houston, TX 77039  
9 AM to Noon only.

### Saturday, April 14th

One Day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the Sam Houston Race Park located at 7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway (enter via Fallbrook) Houston, TX 77064  
8 AM to 2 PM only

### Saturday, April 21st

One Day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the Galena Park ISD parking lot located at 14705 Woodforest Blvd., Houston, TX 77015  
9 AM to 3 PM only

### Saturday, April 28th

One Day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at Harris County Annex 13 & Sport Complex located at 17423 Katy Freeway, (enter via Barker-Clodine) Houston, TX 77094  
8 AM to 2 PM only



## STORM WATER QUALITY

Harris County Watershed Protection Group

# CURRENTS

[www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org)

Volume 9, March 2007

## INTRODUCING HARRIS COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION GROUP

The Harris County Storm Water Quality Section is now the Watershed Protection Group (WPG)! We have a broader focused vision aimed at helping Harris County residents continue to protect their local watersheds from pollutants.

### New Program Goals

- To have cleaner waterways resulting in an improved quality of life for our community.
- To improve water quality and facilitate compliance with federal and state water quality permits through programs that work, with appropriate regard for community values and the environment.

The WPG is under the leadership of Group Manager Alisa Max, P.E., and our Assistant Group Manager LaWanda P. Howse. Ms. Howse is also the Program Manager of Communications and Public Awareness.

The Harris County WPG consists of a well-rounded group of committed professionals working together to make sure our communities' water quality are cared for properly.

### Program Initiatives

The Development Review & Inspection Program issues storm water quality permits to builders and contractors specializing in new construction and redevelopment in Harris County

while working to ensure that Best Management Practices and legal guidelines are followed to protect and maintain clean waterways.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program is working to reduce a multitude of pollutants from entering our landfills, and subsequently, our groundwater, by scheduling HHW One Day Collections, utilizing the new HazMobile, promoting and encouraging recycling, and educating children and adults about the consequences of our actions.

The Permit Administration & Research Program provides cutting edge research to better understand pollutants in our waterways, their sources, and the habitats in which they thrive.

The Communications and Public Awareness Program creates powerful messaging bringing awareness to the public about our direct connection to the storm drain system and how the impact of our daily actions effect this system and ultimately the health of our waterways. These messages are delivered through presentations, TV commercials, newspaper inserts, billboards, and an informative website.

For additional information please contact us at 713-290-3000 or visit our website at [www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org).

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# Household Hazardous Waste Program Recycles Tons of Materials in 2006

Harris County's 2006 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events resulted in tons of HHW being saved from entering our local landfills.

Paints, stains and varnishes, cleaners, polishes, automotive products, pesticides and fertilizers classifies as HHW. Even certain electronics such as televisions and computer monitors contain hazardous components. Items that have the words "warning", "danger", "toxic", "corrosive", "irritant", "flammable" or "caution" on their labels are considered HHW. These items become HHW when they are no longer usable or no longer wanted.

The average American household generates 15 pounds of HHW annually. Our homes contain an average of three to eight gallons of hazardous materials in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and workshops.

For more information on how you can help relieve the environmental impact of HHW on our waterways and landfills, log on to [www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2006 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION EVENTS

Saturday, April 8, 2006  
Harris County Annex 13 & Sport Complex

1,090 participants recycled:  
875 gallons of used oil  
110 gallons of antifreeze  
228 auto batteries  
32,142 pounds of electronics  
246 tires  
56,072 pounds of paint  
29,092 pounds of other hazardous wastes

Saturday, April 29, 2006  
Humble Civic Center  
747 participants recycled:  
500 gallons of used oil  
80 gallons of antifreeze  
370 auto batteries  
21,594 pounds of electronics  
398 tires  
42,908 pounds of paint

31,699 pounds of other hazardous wastes

Saturday, October 7, 2006  
Harris County Annex 13 & Sport Complex

651 participants recycled:  
941 gallons of used oil  
140 gallons of antifreeze  
280 auto batteries  
16,415 pounds of electronics  
593 tires  
31,054 pounds of paint  
18,170 pounds of other hazardous wastes

Saturday, October 21, 2006  
Humble Civic Center  
1,835 participants recycled:  
850 gallons of used oil  
275 gallons of antifreeze  
300 auto batteries  
55,408 pounds of electronics  
434 tires  
103,765 pounds of paint  
52,187 pounds of other hazardous wastes

Total Number of Participants:  
4,323  
Total Amount Collected:  
Over 301 Tons! ♠

# The HazMobile HAS Arrived!



This is no ordinary vehicle! The HazMobile is going to be one of the most unique vehicles on the road! It is a specially designed 36' gooseneck trailer that has been transformed into a lean-mean-transporting-machine that will haul household hazardous waste items such as lawn and garden chemicals, paint products, household chemicals, and automotive fluids to a HHW facility for proper disposal.

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 Watershed Protection Group is doing its part to make household hazardous waste recycling and disposal easier for residents by offering onsite neighborhood collection services with the HazMobile.

Are you ready for the HazMobile to visit your community? Harris County Homeowner's Associations, civic clubs, churches, apartment complexes and community groups may reserve the HazMobile for these small scale collection events.

For more information on reservations, contact Gail Moncla, HHW Program Manager, at (713) 290-3000 or [gmoncla@swq.hctx.net](mailto:gmoncla@swq.hctx.net).

Stay tuned....The HazMobile may be coming to a neighborhood near you! Visit our website at [www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org) for more information on HHW and HazMobile event locations.

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 31, 2007  
Jeds Ace Home Center  
5415 Aldine Mail Route  
Houston, TX 77039  
9 AM to 12 PM only

Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Jacinto City Fire Department  
1126 Mercury Drive  
Jacinto City, TX 77029  
9 AM to 12 PM only ♠



# NEWS SPLASH!



## 2007 River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash

Volunteer groups and corporate sponsors are needed to make this a meaningful event. The Trash Bash will provide gloves, trash bags, water bottles, shuttle service, restrooms, trash hauling, public service certificates, entertainment and educational programs. Experienced paddlers are welcome to bring canoes and kayaks.

Each spring, sponsors and volunteers of all ages unite to clean and preserve the watersheds flowing into Galveston Bay. Last year, 4417 volunteers picked-up 55 tons of trash and 788 tires! Volunteers come from schools, Scouts, industry, local and county governments, church groups and interested citizens. There will be at least 14 sites in the Houston-Galveston area in addition to the Terry Hershey Park project.

Trash Bash has received many local, state and national awards including the Governor's Texas Environmental Excellence Award! Additional awards include many Keep America Beautiful Awards; Clean Houston and the Mayor of Houston's Proud Partners Awards; a Keep Texas Beautiful Award for Civic Leadership; and an EPA Gulf Guardian Award. Please visit [www.trashbash.org](http://www.trashbash.org) for the complete list of Trash Bash sites.



"The Truly Healthy environment is not merely safe but stimulating."

- William H. Stewart, Environmental Science and Technology, February 1968