

# Storm Water Inlet Marking Program

Harris County and the City of Houston are taking positive steps to keep our waterways healthy and clean with the Clean Water Act and community education, such as the Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) Program.

Make Your Mark and Volunteer for SWIM. The SWIM Program is an environmental public education program sponsored by Harris County and the City of Houston. The program's goal is to raise awareness of storm water locations and issues, and encourage residents to protect water resources. Potentially every storm water drain in Harris County will be marked to deter residents from dumping trash and chemicals into the waterways. The program is open to any individual, group or community that would like to help mark the storm drains and

sewer openings. To help, obtain information and order SWIM program kits, visit [www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org](http://www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org) or call 713-290-3000.

Congratulations to the following Scouts for earning their Eagle Scout through the SWIM Program.

Jonathon Ifft  
Bernie Kent  
John Trevino

Through the SWIM Program, Scouts can meet all the requirements for their project including leadership and teamwork. We work with the Scout each step of the way to ensure success.



Jonathon Ifft of BSA Troop 839 Flaming Arrow District leads his Eagle Scout project.



Bernie Kent of BSA Troop 1324, Klein, Texas hard at work.



John Trevino and team of BSA Troop 1659 feast after hours of SWIMing.



"I want to make it clear, if there is ever a conflict between environmental quality and economic growth, I will go for beauty, clean air, water, and landscape."  
- Jimmy Carter

# Get to know our new Storm Water Quality Staff Members

## Alisa Max



What is your new job title?  
**Program Manager**

What can the public learn from you about Storm Water Quality?  
**I come to Harris County's Storm Water Quality Section with 14 years of civil engineering and public communications experience: 8 years in the private sector and 6 years at the Harris County Flood Control District. I hope to be able to use my expertise to improve our waterways so they become greater amenities for all of us.**

Tell us an Interesting personal fact about yourself.  
**I come from a long line of water-related civil engineers from around the world. My grandfather was a civil engineer in Cuba and my uncle was the Chief Harbor Engineer in Hong Kong (retired). As you continue back further into my family history, you will find several harbor engineers in Belfast.**

## Russ Poppe



What is your new job title?  
**Project Manager**

What can the public learn from you about Storm Water Quality?  
**Be mindful of what you wash into the street - it drains to our baysou.**

Tell us an Interesting personal fact about yourself.  
**While I was gigging with a jazz band comprised of mostly NASA employees out of Clear Lake, one of our trumpet players was selected and participated as an astronaut aboard a shuttle that orbited the earth.**

# NEWS SPLASH!



## New Look, Same Cause!

In the next month, the Harris County Storm Water Section will be unveiling the new Clean Water Clear Choice website. We promise an interactive, user-friendly site that will give you all the information you need at-a-click. Check us out at [www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org](http://www.cleanwaterclearchoice.org)

## New and Improved Recycle Guide Available!

The new edition of the Recycle Guide is available for request. If you need to know how and where to dispose of ANYTHING, the Recycle 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 Dimetra Hamilton at 713-290-3074 or [dhamilton@swq.hctx.net](mailto:dhamilton@swq.hctx.net).



## Just for Floats!



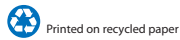
Harris County  
Storm Water Quality Section  
9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 305  
(713) 290-3000



Did you know that the world's record for continuous pogo stick jumping is 41 hours?

Did you know that in 1933, Mickey Mouse, an animated cartoon character, received 800,000 fan letters?

Did you know that the first product to have a barcode was Wrigley's gum?



## Coming Events

### Friday, October 14th-Sunday October 16th

Catch us at the Texas Home and Garden Show! The Texas Home and Garden Show will be held at Reliant Park located at One Reliant Park, Houston, TX 77054 For ticket information, log on to [www.texashomeandgarden.com](http://www.texashomeandgarden.com)

### Saturday, October 29th

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the University of Houston-Clear Lake located at 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058.

### Saturday, November 5th

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event will be held at the Sam Houston Race Park located at 7575 North Sam Houston Parkway West, Houston, TX 77064.



# CURRENTS

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

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## DO YOU LIVE IN A DUMPING ZONE?



Ever see someone pour motor oil into a storm sewer? Use the nearest storm drain to dispose of grass clippings with the leaf blower? Did you ever wonder where it all ends up? Galveston Bay. Substances that make their way into the storm drain system flow directly into our bayous and ultimately into Galveston

Bay. If storm water is contaminated by pollutants, then that's how it stays. *Storm water receives no treatment.*

times, citizens are often able to observe problems that City and County staff can miss during inspections.

Please contact us if you observe or detect:

- Suspicious dumping of liquids, grass clippings, leaves, or any other item
- A strong odor coming from the storm drain
- Dead or stressed fish or animals
- Leaky septic systems
- Sedimentation from construction sites
- Overflowing manhole
- Dumping of animal wastes

Illicit discharges are releases of pollutants or wastes to the storm drain system. These include the dumping of motor vehicle fluids, sewage, household hazardous wastes, grass clippings, leaves, and animal wastes. Levels of contamination from these illicit discharges have been shown to be high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Be prepared to give the following information:

- Location of complaint
- Source of pollution, if known
- Responsible party, if known
- Any other relevant information

*You may remain anonymous if you desire*

Citizen reporting can be a highly effective tool for finding illicit discharges. Because illicit discharges occur at unpredictable

For City of Houston residents call 311 and Harris County residents should call 713-920-2831.

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