

2010 SPRING EDITION

# CYPRESS FOREST PUD *News*

PROVIDED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND CUSTOMERS



## **Raveneaux Update...**

At the meeting on April 14, prior to the Board convening in open session to approve the counter offer to the owners of Raveneaux and inform the community of its elements, the 295th District Court of Harris County issued a temporary restraining order against the District and its directors to prevent any amendment to the Raveneaux Agreement that would decrease the amount of land purchased or that would change the land use restrictions in the Agreement.

The District Court has scheduled a hearing on the temporary restraining order; the plaintiff's lawyer requested a one week extension for the TRO hearing and the District court has granted it. The hearing has been rescheduled for Monday May 3 at 11:00 am. The District believes that there is no legal basis for an injunction and expects to prevail.

Please go to our website -- [www.cyforestpud.com](http://www.cyforestpud.com) -- for additional information.

## **CONVERSION TO SURFACE WATER UNDERWAY**

When the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District issued its mandate to reduce reliance on groundwater a decade ago -- to arrest subsidence and give the aquifers a chance to recharge -- the initial conversion to surface water milestone of 2010 seemed an eternity away. After years of planning, the Authority has constructed more than 75 miles of new water line infrastructure and built two new regional pump plants to bring surface water to individual utility districts. This first phase of construction has been accomplished in an environmentally sensitive manner and done on time and under budget.

The good working relationship between CFPUD and the NHCRWA resulted in ongoing coordination of the construction project in our community as it related to completing negotiations with the new owners of Raveneaux for the park purchase effort. We have now crossed the threshold in the required gradual conversion to surface water.

Cypress Forest PUD has also completed all the necessary modifications to our plants and operations to be ready for the conversion. We have notified our residents and customers about the shift to chloramines disinfection and the reason for that method...and we have keep residents up to date about the rising cost of water. In addition, and of critical importance now and into the future, the District has worked with our residents and community organizations to promote the efficient use of our finite water supplies (see page 2).

We now enter the second phase of the mandated reduction in groundwater use when, in 2020, we will be obtaining 70 percent of our demand from surface water. We will continue to keep you up to date on this monumental undertaking.

*The Cypress Forest PUD Board of Directors*



# WHAT'S YOUR WATER "FOOTPRINT"?



If you think of your 'footprint' as how much water you use, are you a tip-toe...or a BIG FOOT? Sounds strange, but water experts have recently begun calculating water usage for individuals, households, communities and even whole countries by considering how much water they directly or indirectly consume in any given time frame. This includes "virtual water\*" -- the amount of water needed to produce everyday things we rely on like food, energy, clothing and shelter.

Start with your morning cup of coffee -- that takes roughly 37 gallons of water to grow, produce, grind, package and ship the beans...and add another few cups to brew it. Here's another dramatic statistic: the water footprint of a pound of plastic is 24 gallons. That means that the average bottled water, juice or soda uses three to five times as much water to create as it contains! Get the picture?

Most folks have no idea how much fresh water they consume in a day. Experts suggest that in addition to what we drink and bathe in, food and energy production account for nearly 90 percent of the world's fresh water consumption. While the geo-political-economic implications of water usage by nations might be daunting, the water footprint concept can remind us where our water comes from and its true value as the critical component in virtually everything in our lives and lifestyle.

We are in the process of converting from the groundwater we have depended upon for the past 30 years to surface water, coming to us from Lake

Houston through an entirely new infrastructure constructed by the North Harris County Regional Water Authority. This shift away from our groundwater dependence is being accomplished in compliance with a mandate of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District with phased reductions over the next 30 years. With the cost of water continuing to increase into the future, putting ourselves on a 'water budget' -- using no more than necessary in our daily lives -- makes a lot of sense.



# SPRING INTO ACTION EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

"Spring Into Action", a family gardening event, was held March 28 at Brill Elementary School. The event was co-sponsored by Champions Forest Garden Club, Cypress Forest PUD, CF Fund/HOA and Women's Club, and the CF Civic Club. The North Harris County Regional Water Authority's Mobile Teaching Labs, the Frontier Ladies, the author of the Dime Novels, the Texas WaterHog and "Mother Nature" made special appearances. An impressive group of gardening and wildlife experts were on hand to answer questions. Thanks to all the families who came out and enjoyed this special event!



\* Introduced in 1993 by Professor John Allen, to measure how water is embedded in the production and trade of food and consumer products.





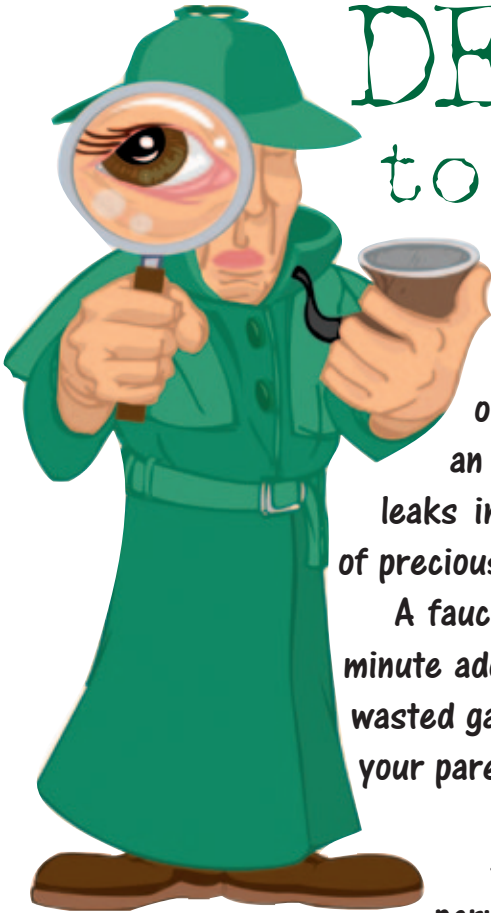




Hey Kids! You don't have to be a

# DETECTIVE

to find waterleaks!



There's something sneaky going on at your house...and it is wasting valuable water...and money. Do you know what it is? LEAKS... tiny drips of water from faucets in the kitchen or in the bathrooms...or from shower heads...or maybe from an outdoor faucet. There are also leaks that you can't see...silent leaks in toilets... that are robbing your home of hundreds of gallons of precious water. That's just like flushing water down the drain!

A faucet drip or invisible toilet leak that totals only two tablespoons a minute adds up to 15 gallons a day. That's 105 gallons a week and 5,460 wasted gallons of water a year! If you see a leaking faucet or shower, tell your parents so it can be fixed immediately!

Here's a detective project you can do with your parent's permission to find out if the toilets in your home have silent leaks...

1. Remove the tank lid (don't worry about this water...it is clean until it enters the bowl).
2. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet (available for just this testing purpose) to the tank to turn it a different color. Put the tank lid back on.
3. Wait about 30 minutes or so and look in the bowl. If the water has colored, there's a leak. If the water is clear, the water is not leaking from the tank to the bowl.

If you do discover a leak, there are a number of possible causes; often the culprit is a rubber flapper or a failing filling mechanism that needs replacing.

In many cases, the cost to complete the repair will be under \$10 -- certainly much cheaper in the long run than paying for all that wasted water!

Remember, slow drips of water can add up pretty quickly. A toilet that keeps "running" after you flush it or a sink that drips after it is turned off can waste thousands of gallons a water a year. If the drip is hot water, you are wasting energy, too! Find household leaks and fix them immediately. Be good water "stewards"...use this precious natural resource wisely.



**The water we conserve today can serve us tomorrow!**



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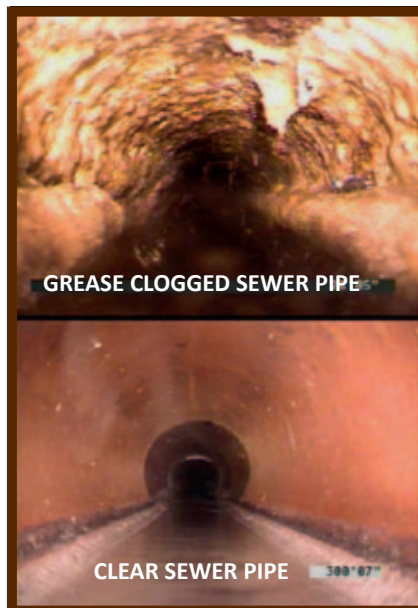
**FOG**...an acronym for **F**ats, **O**ils and **G**rease...is messing up our sewers -- as residents on Taidswood recently discovered. FOG includes animal fats, vegetable fats, and oils used to cook and prepare foods. Grease is a cooking byproduct, and comes from meat, fats, lard, oil, shortening (butter, margarine), food scraps, and gravies and sauces. When washed down the drain, FOG sticks to the insides of sewer pipes and, over time, builds up enough to block entire pipes.

A wastewater sewer system works something like the circulatory system in the human body; the wastewater flows through pipes, is pumped at pump stations, and is cleaned at the wastewater plant. Like clots in veins and arteries, greasy blockages in sewer lines can pose serious problems...leading to system failure. Just as with cardiac disease, a FOG blockage is better prevented than treated.

There's a misconception that garbage disposals keep grease out of the plumbing...but not so. And many detergents claim to dissolve grease, but they simply pass it into the sewer line causing problems down the way.

It is critical to dispose of FOG properly:

- Never pour FOG into sinks or toilets...ever. No exceptions.
- Pour FOG into a can, add until the can is full; put a lid on it
- Dispose of the full can in the trash
- Keep a strainer in the kitchen sink to trap food scraps and other solids.



## Don't Use Toilets As Trash Cans

OK, so "potty" talk is not considered polite conversation. But there are some things that just need to be said. Even though some products are labeled as disposable, only toilet paper is truly **flushable...** not diapers, not kitty litter, not cigarette butts, not facial tissue.

Our sewer systems are not designed to accommodate anything other than human waste. When inappropriate items are flushed down the toilet, they clog sewer pipes and create backups that cost time and money to clear.

Repair and cleanup can also be pricey for homeowners. Calling a plumber to clear a backup can cost \$200 or more. Clogged pipes can happen anywhere in the system -- from your property to your neighbors' to the system's sewer mains.

In some cases, depending on where the clog is located, the resident or property owner may be responsible for the cost of cleaning or repairing the line, as well as the cost of any damages caused by a backup into a home or building.