

LOOK UPSTREAM

OCTOBER 2003

What are your views on where our focus and resources in Harris County should be concentrated **if we are to achieve and maintain prosperity in the years ahead?** Long neglected quality of life issues are critical determinates of a community's success according to Stephen L. Klineberg, Professor of Sociology, Rice University.

A local survey by Richard Murray, Professor of Political Science at the University of Houston was conducted this spring in conjunction with a gathering of 900 area residents who spent almost a full day discussing 30 different goals for the future of the Houston area. **An 89 percent majority called on the Mayor and City Council of Houston "to initiate a process to develop a coordinated plan for the city's future".** When asked to rate 12 aspects of life in the Houston area, the respondents gave their lowest ratings to:

- air quality (87% = fair or poor)
- drainage or flood control (83% = negative ratings)
- mobility or ability to get around the city (22% = negative)

More than 62 percent of the voters surveyed said they were greatly concerned that "there is not enough vision or planning dealing with local problems".

(Source: Environmental Exchange, July 2003, a newsletter published by the Citizens' Environmental Council).

The Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition (CCFCC) is a grass roots, proactive alliance of neighborhood community organizations formed 4 years ago. Their goal is to provide stewardship and promote community participation throughout the Cypress Creek Watershed in guiding our Harris County officials in local flood protection and environmental/ preservation planning geared to safety and preservation of our forests. The 9-member Board of Directors and 5 standing committees are your neighbors who meet monthly in the evening on the 3rd Wednesday to create vision and initiate planning for the Cypress

Creek watershed residents. Research projects underway and/or in the planning stage include:

- Computer modeling to determine where flood waters will spread and how deep beyond the flood hazard areas you will see on the new FEMA - HCFCF flood insurance rate maps
- Combining construction of federal highway expansion and regional flood basin protection in the upper watershed area
- Review of the soon-to-be-amendments to the HCFCF design criteria manual
- Analysis of financial budgeting and capital improvement planning (CIP) funding by Harris County for Cypress Creek Watershed flood protection construction.

Look Upstream articles are provided to your neighborhood newsletter editor by CCFCC as a public service. Questions will be welcomed at all times.

E-mail: floodalliance@ccfcc.org
Tel. 281-469-5161

