

LOOK UPSTREAM

MARCH 2008

A Crystal Ball event for folks in the Cypress Creek area.

Does US 290 highway traffic congestion frustrate you? Is it “small potatoes” in comparison to how this stretched-to-capacity highway will affect our family lives in the future?

Will you have had a voice in decisions which will focus on commuter rail, neighborhood flooding, massive tree losses, parks/trails, and various environmental issues over the next 10 years as the US 290-Hempstead Road project evolves from engineering design boards to massive earth and concrete work?? Are you up-to-date on what must be done to slow the sinking of your home – a victim of on-going land subsidence? Will land developers team up with us to preserve native forested floodplains? – floodplains beginning in Waller County which are essential to safe conveyance of out-of-bank floodwaters through neighborhoods (rather than into our homes)!

If you live in Northwest Harris County's Cypress Creek area between Spring and Highway 6 you have a vested interest in knowing the answers and risks. This is where the size and depth of storm water flooding can worsen if adequate mitigation is not forthcoming to service exploding upstream urban growth.

By using today's technology to look in this upstream direction, a team has begun to “crystal ball” our future. New home construction numbering in the tens of thousands will feed this vital transportation system which straddles a massive 10-mile wide environmental impacted area stretch-

ing northwest from Loop 610 through what is aptly called a *Frontier* area and named the **Upper Cypress Creek watershed**; the term *Upper* signifying it is higher ground from which water runs downhill into and through our ever-expanding broad chain of subdivision communities. Here is where the US 290 - Hempstead Corridor, the Grand Parkway and the notoriously controversial Trans-Texas Corridor (proposed) will converge leaving behind the protective rice fields and Katy Prairie grasses overlaid with miles of concrete storm water runways.

This \$4 Billion dollar project – larger than the fabled Katy Freeway expansion – will headline a special, 1-time presentation on April 16 (Wednesday) evening. Information and exhibits will also be available on what must be done to correct under-calculated floodplains in FEMA's recently published flood maps – calculations which left uncorrected may threaten family safety and home property values in the largest of all Harris County watersheds. Share visions about how both the Upper Cypress Creek watershed and the downstream areas of the watershed can be harnessed to create award winning nature preserves and parks intercon-

necting neighborhoods by chains of wooded pedestrian and bike trails.

Ask about significant decisions needed from our county and state representatives and why your subdivision's participation with a voice and place at the table is important in determining our future.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, US anthropologist (1901 - 1978).

This “Crystal Ball” event will be on **April 16 (Wednesday) at the Raveneaux County Club, 9415 Cypresswood Drive. Exhibits can be viewed beginning at 7:00 p.m.** followed by the presentation by TxDOT and the Harris County Flood Control District at 7:30 p.m. It will be hosted by local municipal utility districts, home owner associations and supporting members comprising the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition. The public is invited. There is no charge.

Look Upstream articles are provided by the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition non-profit, community grass-roots organization as a public service. Visit their website www.ccfcc.org for more information on needed flood protection, environmental preservation, flood insurance and membership or e-mail to floodalliance@ccfcc.org.

