

Making a Difference... One Storm Drain at a Time

News. Turn on the television. Browse the Internet. Pick up a newspaper. At times it seems we're barraged with negative reports, hopeless statistics and bleak forecasts on senseless crimes, the state of our economy, and the abilities of our next generation. But we know better, don't we? We see our fellow neighbors fighting to support their families. We witness the American spirit rising above the reported numbers, inventing new ways to thrive...and with high hopes, we push our way through the tough times to prove, once again, we are survivors and we will not only succeed, we will prosper.

We also see something else. We see our children. Understandably, we worry about how the actions of today will affect their world tomorrow, and we wonder if they are properly prepared, intellectually and emotionally, to handle what may come their way. If we

listen only to the negative reports on the state of our youth, we may feel as our parents did when we defended Elvis for shaking his hips, or spouted off the message of freedom at Woodstock, touted the benefits of Space Invaders and the new age of the computer, or unsuccessfully explained why we found Spiccoli from Fast Times so hilarious. They may not have always agreed with our choices, and surely they worried, but deep down they believed in us. Just as we believe in our own children. The truth is, we have just as much reason to believe in the next generation as we did in the many generations that came before. Talk to any proud parent or grandparent, any dedicated teacher, coach, youth leader, music director or countless others engaged with our tots, teenagers and young adults. They do see challenges, of course, but they also see bright minds, talent, inventive ideas and a limitless passion to succeed.

Pecan Grove, like many other communities, has a plethora of amazing young folks to boast about. Pecan Grove MUD, in particular, would like to highlight the efforts of one very special young man who took on an important project very close to our hearts.



Ryan Hadfield, Eagle Scout

joint effort between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and local water providers - helps to educate the public on the dangers of polluting our waterways and implements programs to curb the effects.

Ryan Hadfield (an Eagle Scout with local troop 1656) recently hit the streets of Pecan Grove with 30 other scouts and adults to educate residents on storm sewer pollution. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Ryan worked with the volunteers to place round placards at each sewer drain asking residents to refrain from disposing of lawn clippings and refuse in our water drainage system.

"We are trying to bring an awareness to local residents of the impact these drainage systems have not only on helping with flooding issues, but also with the environmental impact it has on our local waterways and ecosystems, such as the Brazos River," said Hadfield. "I know that it seems much easier to just blow your grass clip-



Scouts and Parents. It Takes Teamwork!

As stated in the Project Updates section of this newsletter (p. 6), Pecan Grove MUD continues to implement the necessary and beneficial Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). The required plan - a

pings into the drainage opening and that your small amount won't hurt, but it all adds up and congests our system. When the next hard rain comes along, it makes it very difficult for the drains to clear our streets, which results in flooding."

In addition to flooding issues, Ryan has also learned that pollutants can have dire effects down the line.

"Many times chemicals are disposed of in our systems, which make their way to our river and its tributaries, and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico," Hadfield explained. "This creates a biohazard for our fish and wildlife."

The "NO DUMPING" inlet markers adhered to the storm drains are one part of the public education and public involvement requirements outlined by the TCEQ in their five-year plan with Pecan Grove MUD. Ryan chose this as his Eagle Scout Project because he is committed to keeping our land and waterways safe and believes in the environmental and conservation objectives of the project.

As part of this important effort, Ryan worked with volunteers to place approximately 350 placards from Plantation Road through the north side of Pecan Grove. The process included cleaning the cement with wire brushes where placards were to be placed, gluing heavy-duty adhesive onto the back of each placard, and adhering each above the drains where it could be seen by residents. Each scout earned approximately four hours of service time toward rank advancement and merit badges.

"I'd like to thank Mr. Andy Phelps - who works with Pecan Grove MUD operator, EDP - for helping me to initiate this project and providing many of the supplies needed for its completion," said Hadfield. "I'd also like to thank all of the scouts, scout leaders and adults who helped out, Randall's for providing snacks, drinks, an ice carrier and the tote bags for carrying work supplies, Ace Hardware for providing work gloves, Dominos Pizza and Subway for their contributions toward lunch, and the many friends and family for monetary donations that helped so much with this project."

Ryan, who started out as a Tiger Cub Scout with Pack 1880 in Richmond in 1999 and joined Scout Troop 1656 in Richmond in 2003, is a senior at William B. Travis High School and will graduate with the class of 2010. We wish him the best of luck during his final year in high school and in the surely exciting and prosperous years to come.

Special thanks as well to all the scouts and adults who assisted in this special project. We hope to see them continue to be responsible and active stewards of this earth today and beyond. Scouts: Kamron Conover, Kyle Conover,



A Cleaning Team in Action

Bradley Cox, Clayton Coyle, Logan Danna, Jonathon Evans, Alan Garcia, William Garnes III, Robert Garza, Taran Garza, Richard Gonzales, Robert Gonzales, Brendan Hadfield, Brett Hadfield, Russell Harrison, Talon Hill, Zachery Lawrence, Andrew Mueller, Parker Peterson, Andrew Walquist and Reid Williams. Adults: Mary and Floyd Coyle, Susan Harrison, Tom Cox, Roland Garza, Renee Gonzales, Troy Lawrence, Mark Walquist and Ryan's parents, Phil and Kim Hadfield.

As residents of Pecan Grove, we are especially proud of all the great things our youth are doing to make a difference. If you have a story that you would like us to share with our neighbors, please give us a call at 281-238-5000 or write us via our website at www.pecangrovemud.com.



A Well-Deserved Meal for the Volunteers