

Virtual Septic System Maintenance Clinic Set for September 23

Contact: Lisa Prcin, 254-774-6008, lprcin@brc.tamus.edu

Temple — The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership are offering a free virtual clinic on septic system maintenance for homeowners at Noon to 1:30 p.m. on September 23, 2021.

The class will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams. Participants will not need to download any software to join.

“Home septic systems, also known as on-site sewage systems or OSSFs, are used to treat wastewater before it is dispersed on the property and are typically found in rural areas or areas that are not able to be connected to a municipal waste collection system,” said Ryan Gerlich, AgriLife Extension Program Specialist, College Station. “Systems that are not functioning properly can contaminate our waterways with bacteria and other pollutants.”

“This clinic will provide a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities of a septic system and explains how activities within the home impact septic systems,” said Dr. Anish Jantrania, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Associate Professor & Extension Specialist, Temple. “There will be a short presentation over health and safety considerations, how to care for and feed the system, and general maintenance procedures. The remainder of the clinic will offer participants the opportunity to ask questions in an informal and interactive manner.”

“We will also introduce our newest program as part of implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan. We have secured federal grant funds, available to offset the costs of repairing or replacing failing septic systems within the watershed,” noted Lisa Prcin, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Associate, Temple. Prcin said that failing septic systems were identified by the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership as a potential source of bacterial contamination in nearby streams and waterways.

The clinic is offered as a component of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan.

The protection plan was developed and implemented by the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership, a collaborative effort by local stakeholders, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to address water quality concerns within the Lampasas River watershed. The Lampasas River watershed encompasses parts of Mills, Hamilton, Lampasas, Coryell, Burnet, Bell, and Williamson Counties.

To register, please visit www.lampasasriver.org, participants will be sent a link to join after registering. No software download will be necessary. For questions, contact Lisa Prcin,

Lampasas River Watershed Coordinator, 254-774-6008 or lprcin@brc.tamus.edu. For information about septic systems in Texas, please visit <http://ossf.tamu.edu/>.

Funding and support for the Lampasas Watershed Protection Plan is provided through Clean Water Act nonpoint source grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.