



ONE TO ONE

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A Report to the Residents of Harris County Precinct One ... from Commissioner El Franco Lee

Youth and senior programs are now at Deussen Park

Precinct One officials have expanded senior citizens' programs and youth Traveling Naturalist services to Deussen Park.

The programs will help better serve the northern communities, including the FM 1960 area that was added last year in redistricting.

The seniors' center, which resumed operations in February, will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The activities will include Zumba, yoga, strength and weight training, line dancing and games.

Headquartered at Challenger Seven Memorial Park, the year-round Traveling Naturalist Pro-

gram brings nature to life by giving children hands-on experience with living creatures. The Deussen site will give it a year-round presence in the north.

Senior Naturalist Ana Aita-Cherry and Naturalist Assistant Raven Bell started operations at Deussen on Jan. 7. They will host field trips – which include live animals and natural artifacts – at Deussen and present interpretive programs at nearby schools and community centers.

The presentation will help to reinforce the science and social studies classes for students in Humble, Klein, North Forest, Spring, Aldine, Sheldon and Houston school districts.



Senior Naturalist Ana Aita-Cherry will concentrate her Traveling Naturalist presentations in northern Precinct One.

Seniors Holiday Celebration marks its 20th year with about 3,500 participants



Bird's-eye view: Precinct One senior citizens fill the dance floor that's surrounded by dozens of dining tables at the annual Seniors Holiday Celebration on Nov. 15 at Reliant Center.

About 3,500 Precinct One senior citizens gathered at Reliant Center on Nov. 15 for the 20th Annual Seniors Holiday Celebration – a three-hour event that included fellowship, dancing and a holiday meal.

At times, more than 100 people were line dancing to music played by an energetic disc jockey.

As a special tribute in a display of appreciation for the senior programs provided by Commissioner El Franco Lee, participants from the six Precinct One senior centers did a line dance routine in which they shouted "El Franco." Also, a dozen men who call themselves the Tuskegee Airmen performed a dance to the cheers of the crowd.

Indeed, there was something for everyone.

Haskell Harvey, who said he has attend-

(See *Holiday Celebration* on page 7)



Precinct One

Commissioner El Franco Lee

Comments on current and future activities

Happy New Year

I'd like to personally wish all Precinct One residents a happy new year. The staff and I are starting a new four-year term, and we still intend to provide you quality service for parks, roads, bridges and social-service programs.

Programs at Deussen Park

The Seniors Program and the youth Traveling Naturalist Program, which brings nature to life for grade-school students by giving them hands-on experience with living creatures, are now offering services at Deussen Park. (See story on Page 1.)

Improving roads and bridges

On mobility matters, Precinct One crews will continue

to maintain and build roads and bridges. Also, major projects to ease traffic congestion and thus cut pollution are scheduled to get under way in the coming months.

Texas 288 widening

The State of Texas has scheduled construction for fall 2014 for the Texas 288 widening project, which will provide toll lanes within the freeway's existing right-of-way as well as a Texas Medical Center connector. The 26-mile project, 11 of which are in Precinct One, will run from U.S. 59 to State Highway 99.

Toll road widening

Meanwhile, the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) is continuing work to

widen the Sam Houston Tollway from two to four lanes in each direction between U.S. 59 and Texas 288. Also, plans are being finalized to extend that project farther east from Texas 288 to Interstate 45.

Hardy Toll Road

Phase I of the Hardy Downtown Connector project is under way with the relocation of the Houston Belt & Terminal rail line. After the rail line is relocated in 2014, the HCTRA will begin constructing overpasses at Quitman and Collingsworth, and an underpass at Lorraine Street to eliminate at-grade crossings.

Reduce flooding

The Harris County Flood Control District, in partnership

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is making progress on plans to widen and deepen Hunting Bayou. When completed, the project is expected to reduce flooding for 5,000 homes and businesses in the Kashmere and Liberty Gardens areas.

Sims Bayou improvements

Also moving along smoothly is the Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project, which involves widening and modifying 19.3 miles of channel, replacing or extending about 20 roadway bridges at channel crossing, and creating three stormwater detention basins that will create 700 acres of green space. Stay tuned for more updates later in the year.

Sheriff's Office to hold 13-week citizens academy at EFL Park

Harris County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy

What: 13-week Harris County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy

Where: El Franco Lee Community Center, 9500 Hall Road, Houston

When: 7-10 p.m. each Thursday starting Feb. 21

Contacts: Sheriff's Office Community Services Division, 713-759-9454; EFL Community Center, 281-464-9708

The Harris County Sheriff's Office will conduct a free, 13-week Citizens Police Academy starting Feb. 21 at El Franco Lee (EFL) Community Center to give residents knowledge of the agency, including police procedures and protocol.

The once-a-week sessions, which end May 23, will teach participants the many aspects of law enforcement such as the Texas Penal Code, patrol procedures, gang awareness, terrorism and other topics. Residents will gain a better understanding of how police services are conducted, and see how and why



deputies make some of their decisions related to their duties.

Graduates will play a vital role in their community by improving communication between citizens and law enforcement, and by providing local input and support throughout the county.

The classes are scheduled from 7-10 p.m. each Thursday at the EFL Community Center, 9500 Hall Road in Houston.

Seating is limited, so please reserve your space.

Applicants must be at least 21 years old and reside in Harris County. A thorough background check will be conducted on each applicant.

Applications, which are available at the Community Center, can be given to Precinct One staff at the center. You can also submit an online application at www.hcso.hctx.net.

For more information, please call the Sheriff's Office Community Services Division at 713-759-9454.

Texans bring early Christmas cheers to NFL YET children

Ten-year-old Andrew Ramirez's beaming smile was a sure indication that he was happy to receive a bicycle for an early Christmas present on Dec. 18.

The bike, however, was only half of his joy. Andrew also was thrilled about who presented him the gift at the NFL Youth Education Town (YET) at Finnigan Park.

"I was so excited that I got a new bike," he said. "It feels right that I got this new bike from a Texans player. I can't say another word."

That Houston Texans player is safety Danieal Manning, who played Santa with the assistance of four Texans cheerleaders.

At the event sponsored by the Houston Texans, Manning passed out gifts to about 115 children at the YET Center.



Andrew Ramirez, 10, is all smiles after receiving a bike and helmet from Houston Texans safety Danieal Manning.

Andrew was among the nine lucky children who received bikes. The other children were given gift-wrapped toys.

Jetco Delivery, a Texans corporate sponsors that works with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston, purchased the wrapped gifts and its employ-

ees delivered them to the YET.

The children earlier were served a holiday meal. With the help of Manning and the cheerleaders, the children made Christmas ornaments and decorated cookies. Some even took photos while sitting on the knee of Texans mascot Toro, who

wore his Santa outfit.

When asked to participate in the program, Manning said that his response was: "Sure! Anything I can do to give back to the kids and (to) get me active in the community."

Dorian Lindsey, 12, who received a remote-controlled car, was glad he got the opportunity to meet members of the Texans organization.

"I like seeing the players and cheerleaders," Dorian said. "And I'm thankful that they gave me this (gift)."

The YET, constructed with a \$1 million donation from the National Football League, is sponsored by Precinct One and the NFL Charities, and operated by the Boys & Girls Club. It provides educational and recreational activities year-round for youth ages 7 through 17.

Fish Fest gives children a chance to practice angling skills

For Memorial High School junior Sarah Riggs and McReynolds Middle School student Shiakar Brantley, Fall Kids Fish Fest was more than just an October fishing trip at Challenger Seven Memorial Park.

Of course, Sarah – along with other high school students from Memorial, Jones and Dobie – fulfilled her duties of helping to assist the 239 younger children while they fished for about four hours.

But Sarah said she gave Shiakar and the other girls es-

sential tips on being successful – getting good grades, staying in school and going to college. "While we were fishing," Sarah said, "we just talked. I felt like I gave her some good advice."

Shiakar said she enjoyed her time with Sarah. "We talked about fishing and life," she said.

Precinct One's Fish Fest, co-sponsored by America's Promise Alliance, is designed to give young children an opportunity to fish at the park's lake, which was stocked a few days earlier with catfish and bass.



Memorial High School junior Sarah Riggs, left, and McReynolds Middle School student Shiakar Brantley get a little squeamish while watching the fish-cleaning process at the Fall Kids Fish Fest. Many of the 239 young children had never been fishing.

Fall Festival offers a little tricks and some treats for seniors



Seniors at the annual Fall Festival enjoy a game of musical chairs at the Hardy Seniors Center. The winners were given cakes.

Alicia Castro's Halloween robe. She wore an animal-costume at the seniors' pattern dress, necklace and Fall Festival was a throwback bracelets made with bones. She to Wilma Flintstone's ward- adorned her hair with a bone

barrette.

Unlike Wilma, she had on shoes with bones in the design. And her big hit was a caveman club.

"My husband has the other one (caveman outfit)," Castro said, explaining the origin of her costume. "He had to work. In fact, this is his (club)."

Her outfit was enough to win her one of the awards for the best costume.

The annual Fall Festival, held Oct. 31 at Hardy Seniors Center, brought together about 220 people from Precinct One's six senior centers. Since it was Halloween, many dressed in costumes.

Along with Castro, the other costume winners were Rose Hebbler (Elvira), Pat Johnson

(Go Vote) and Sandra Jones (Tyler Perry's "Madea" character).

"Well, I always loved to watch the Tyler Perry movies," Jones said of what inspired her costume. "He always inspired people to be more than they can be. And every movie he makes has a message to it."

Inside the center, the seniors played table games, line danced and enjoyed musical chairs.

Outside, they played darts, shot free throws, participated in a Hula Hoop contest, tossed rings over soda bottles and dipped for apples.

"I think all these seniors enjoyed it today," said Tyrone Harland. "Although we all didn't win anything, we still enjoyed it."

Fishing contest lures seniors to Challenger Seven lake

Robert Jones had his mind set on winning one of the prizes at the Seniors' Fishing Contest held in October at Challenger Seven Memorial Park.



Robert Jones hold his prize-winning small fish.

biggest.

So, using two fingers, he held up his potential prize catch – a small catfish that in most fishing tales would grow by each

story the angler tells. Not so for Jones.

"I got beat out with the most and biggest," he said. "So I'll go for the smallest."

Despite saying he threw back one even smaller before he knew there was a prize for the smallest, Jones did win a rod and reel for catching his tiny fish.

For the biggest fish, Ollie Ross took that prize. And the most went to Willie Birdsong, who ended the afternoon with 17 fish. Betty White won the contest for the second largest while Gail Randall was second in the most-fish category.

Precinct One holds the Seniors' Fishing Contest each year. It gives people from Precinct One's six senior centers an opportunity to spend a few hours on the lake that was stocked with catfish and bass a few days earlier. In addition to fishing, the seniors were served a fried fish dinner.



Willie Birdsong shows his 17 fish that won him a prize in the Seniors' Fishing Contest.

Precinct One website has interactive trail maps to help locate amenities

Precinct One has introduced an innovative online presentation of its hike and bike trails, including a feature that allows users to track their locations with GPS-enabled cell phones.

The hike and bike trail web pages, which went live in January, offer icons on each map that show amenities along the trails, including fitness courts, water fountains, benches, parking areas and more.

To plan an exercise adventure
Visit www.hcp1.net and click on "trails" to locate amenities.

In addition, trail segment lengths are listed to help plan short and long treks. A satellite view provides detailed looks of surrounding landmarks such as roads, parks, lakes and buildings.

Also, trail web pages and maps have been designed for viewing on mobile devices.



People who use this Brays Bayou Hike and Bike Trail as well as others in Precinct One will be able to go online to find amenities along the trails such as fitness courts, water fountains and benches.

The trails maintained by Precinct One are a part of Commissioner El Franco Lee's commitment to health and wellness. Lee's longtime goal is to promote recreation along green space set aside for flood-control measures.

The trails include:

- 17.9-mile (5.3 miles maintained by Precinct Three) Brays Bayou Hike and Bike Trail
- 0.6-mile Ella Hike and Bike Trail (West Gulf Bank to Barns-

ley Lane)

- 1.1-mile Heritage Park Hike and Bike Trail (Constitution Lane to Blue Mesa Ridge)
- 0.7-mile Hunting Bayou Hike and Bike Trail (Cavalcade to North George Street)
- 1.2-mile Hutcheson Park Hike and Bike Trail
- 0.8-mile Sims Bayou Hike and Bike Trail Section I (Croquet to South Post Oak Road)
- 0.5-mile Sims Bayou Hike and Bike Trail Section II (White Heather to Buffalo Speedway)
- 2-mile Sims Bayou Hike and Bike Trail Section III (Scott to M.L. King)
- 3.75-mile South Belt Hike and Bike Trail (Hall Road to Dixie Farm Road Park)
- 0.25-mile Westbrae Parkway Hike and Bike Trail A (Westbrae Parkway at Vickijohn Dr.)
- 0.25-mile Westbrae Parkway Hike and Bike Trail B (Westbrae Parkway at Rainier Dr.)
- 2.2-mile White Oak Bayou Hike and Bike Trail (Maintained by the City of Houston)

Precinct One performing arts



Christmas Caroling: An impromptu choir sings "Silent Night" at the annual Wassail Tea held Dec. 13 at the Precinct One Kashmere Annex. Each year, senior citizens from the Precinct's six community centers gather to drink wassail tea with their lunch and to reflect on holiday memories.



Drama production: Members of the Precinct One Dance and Drama Program dance and sing at a performance Oct. 17 at the Tom Bass Regional Park pavilion. The senior citizens perform plays year-round to address issues that affect the elderly, including the economy, active lifestyles and respect for elders.

Harris Health System opens its first outpatient specialty facility

The Harris Health System has opened the Smith Clinic, the system's first outpatient specialty facility that provides a variety of medical services from allergy to cancer treatment.

The facility, which started full operations on Oct. 1, enhances and expands specialty care for patients formerly seen at a clinic at Ben Taub Hospital.

73,500 annual patient visits

The five-story, nearly 168,000-square-foot clinic has more than 100 exam rooms and is expected to provide care for more than 73,500 annual patient visits. It is staffed by faculty physicians and residents from Baylor College of Medicine.

The clinic, at 2525-A Holly Hall St. in Houston, is named in recognition of Lester and Sue Smith, who donated \$15 million through The Lester and

Sue Smith Foundation to the Harris County Hospital District Foundation and Harris Health System.

Cancer treatment

Also named in honor of the Smiths are patient care sites that will be housed in the clinic: The Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center, Smith Infusion Therapy Clinic, Smith Diagnostic Imaging Department and Smith Oncology Clinic.

The clinic also will have the latest cancer diagnostic and treatment in the J. Evans and Mary P. Attwell Radiation Therapy Center. The center celebrates the generosity of the Attwell family and honors Mr. Attwell, who served as a member of the Harris County Hospital District Board of Managers, the governing body for Harris Health System. He served on the board for two different periods from 1992-2007.



The Smith Clinic at 2525-A Holly Hall St. provides cancer treatment.

Specialty services offered at Smith Clinic

*Allergy
Breast Pathology
Breast Oncology
Dermatology
Endocrinology
Genetics
Gynecology
Hematology
Infectious Disease*

*Infusion Therapy
Nephrology
Neurology
Oncology
PICC Line Clinic
Pulmonary
Rheumatology
Tropical Medicine
Urology Oncology*

Precinct One Construction Projects



This community center and other facilities at Adair Park will benefit from the 12,000-foot line that will bring water into the park.

- A project to run a waterline from Tom Bass Regional Park I to **Adair Park** should start this summer. The work calls for 12,000 feet of 8-inch lines that will provide better water service for Adair Park, which now gets its water from wells.
- Plans are under way to install a diesel generator for the Community Center at **Tom Bass Regional Park III**.

HEAVY TRASH PICKUP

PICK UP	RAIN-OUT	COMMUNITY
March 9	March 16	Bellmar Civic Club
April 13	April 20	Northline Terrace
April 27	May 4	Heather Glen
May 11	May 18	Colonial Hills

How to schedule trash service

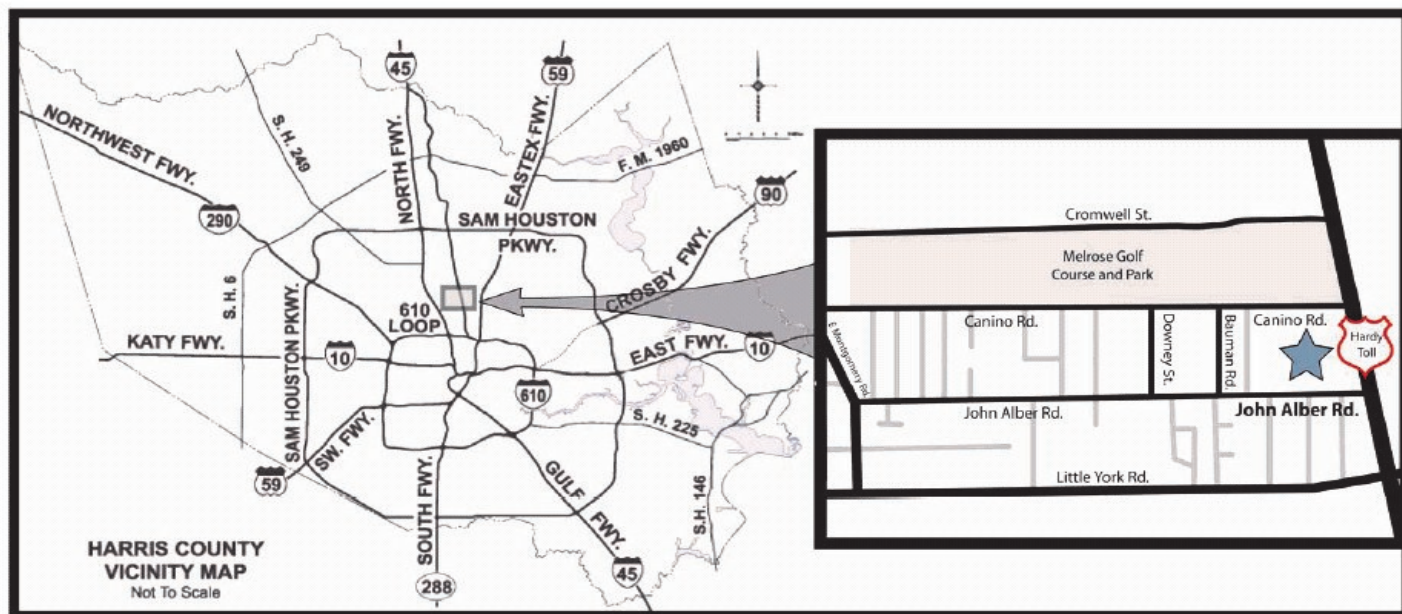
Precinct One provides one heavy trash pickup a year for subdivision in unincorporated Harris County. The collections must be at the request of your homeowner's association or civic club.

After receiving a request, Precinct One assigns two dates – one for the actual pickup and another for a back-up in case of rain.

A confirmation letter will be sent to the requesting party. It is the responsibility of the homeowners associations or the civic clubs to notify the residents before the service date.

To schedule a pickup, call 713-991-6881. These services are only for areas that are not in an incorporated city.

HazMobile coming to Precinct site to collect household hazardous waste



The Harris County HazMobile, a mobile collection system that can accommodate household hazardous waste from approximately 100 homes, will be at the Precinct One North Service Center from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27.

The service center is at 11901 W. Hardy Road in Houston.

Please enter via John Alber Road.

The waste will be collected on a first-come, first-served basis until the HazMobile is full. Residents must have the waste in original containers that do not exceed 5 gallons.

Items that will be accepted

include tires, fertilizers, pesticides, paint-related materials, household cleaners, fuels, anti-freeze, pool chemicals, glues and solvents, used motor oil and filters, batteries and thermometers.

Things that will not be accepted are electronics, business waste, medical waste, radioactive

waste, PCBs or dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.

For more information, call 281-560-6200 or visit www.CleanWaterways.org.

Holiday Celebration: Senior citizens' donated food helps feed poor and homeless people

(Continued from page 1)

ed the celebration for "quite a few years," said he postponed an out-of-town trip so he wouldn't miss the event.

"I enjoy it," Harvey said. "You see people you haven't seen in a while. The food is always good."

Mary Thi Van and her friend Muoi Huynh said they enjoyed the dancing.

Virginia Joy said her favorite part of the event is meeting people. "I'm the kind of person who always likes to do for others," she said.

ers," she said.

Joy was not alone in her benevolence. Most of the seniors brought nonperishable food, which was later given to The Beacon – a nonprofit organization that provides social and health services to poor and homeless men, women and children.

The Holiday Celebration started in 1992 with about 200 seniors who gathered at Tom Bass Regional Park Community Center. It has grown over the years to 3,500 people.



Mike Puccio, The Beacon's director of operations, observes the food Precinct One workers delivered to the nonprofit organization that feeds poor and homeless men, women and children.

Harris County Precinct One
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Precinct One Parks' Reservations

All reservations are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please read the park rules and regulations for reserving pavilions and community buildings prior to making reservations. This information can be found on our website at hcp1.net/ParkReservations.

Refer to the following schedule when making 2013 reservations:

Reservations for the months:	Reservations will be accepted on or after:
Jan. 2013 – March 2013	Monday, Nov. 12, 2012
April 2013 – June 2013	Monday, Jan. 14, 2013
July 2013 – Sept. 2013	Monday, March 11, 2013
Oct. 2013 – Dec. 2013	Monday, May 13, 2013

For southside reservations, call **713-440-1587**. To reserve Deussen Park and Jordan Community Center, call **281-591-6951**.

PRECINCT ONE SITES and PHONE NUMBERS

REGIONAL OFFICES

El Rio Service Center	713.991.6881
Downtown Office	713.755.6111
El Camino Office Annex	713.741.1096
Kashmere Office "Annex 36"	713.675.0004
Leland Office "Annex 31"	713.697.1104
Neartown Office "Annex 1"	713.755.9300
Hardy Service Center	281.820.5151

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Christia Adair Community Center	713.991.6881
Tom Bass Community Center	713-733.3717
Challenger Seven Learning Center	281.332.5157
Deussen Seniors Center	281.454.4108
EFL Community Center	281.464.9708
Finnigan Community Center	713.678.7385
Hardy Seniors Center	281.260.6772
Barbara Jordan Community Center	281.591.6951
Kashmere Office "Annex 36"	713-675.0004
Lincoln Park Community Center	281.445.1617
YET Center @ Finnigan Park	713.676.0519

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Aquatics Program	713.748.7333
Discovery Camp Program	281.332.5157
Northeast Adolescent Program	713.673.1655
Seniors Program	713-733.3717
Street Olympics Summer Games	713.741.0851


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- Online reservation system for park facilities
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- Translation button provides more than 50 language options
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