



ONE TO ONE

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

Final Event closes out Street Olympics summer activities

Eleven-year-old Ally Henson initially started running track in June. But you couldn't tell from her run-away victory in the 100-yard dash at the Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Final Event.

"I competed for the (USA Track & Field) Junior Olympics, but I didn't make it," Ally said as she waited patiently to see if anyone in the other Street Olympics heats would beat her time. "I was close in the 100, 200 and 400 (meters)."

Her Street Olympics victory, she said, has inspired her to continue running. "I hope to make it to the Olympics," said Ally, who participates in the youth program at River Oaks Park.

Perhaps not all the 2,200 Final Event athletes – ages 6 to 15 – who competed Aug. 3rd in Reliant Arena have Olympics aspirations. Street Olympics officials, however, are hopeful that the Final Event and other programs will instill similar positive attitudes in all the children – regardless of whether they finished first, second or third place.

"It's about the 100,000 kids that we have been able to provide training, support and resources that lead to healthy and productive lives for youth of this great county," said Yvette Chargois, the Street Olympics board chairwoman. "They are all winners in our books."

Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee started the non-profit Street Olympics 26 years ago. Today, the Street Olympics offers year-round programs that provide services to more than 10,000 youth and young adults each year.

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Above, Ally Henson, 11, races to victory in the 100-yard dash at the Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Final Event. Below, Salselia Hernandez, 10, competes in the Hula Hoop contest at Reliant Arena. The girls were among 2,200 youth who participated in the annual event that also featured "street games" such as jacks, Frisbee toss, softball throw and kickball.



Citizens should check in advance to see if redistricting affects voting precincts

Important dates

•Early Voting: Oct. 22-Nov. 2

•Election Day: Nov. 6

Redistricting has caused changes to some voting precincts within Harris County.

Therefore, it is extremely important that

voters verify if they have been affected before Election Day.

You can visit the Harris County Tax Office website at hctax.net/

Voter/voter.aspx to determine if you have changed districts for local, state and federal races.

To avoid Election

Election 2012

Your vote counts

Day confusion, please VOTE EARLY between Oct. 22 and Nov. 2.



Precinct One

Commissioner El Franco Lee

Comments on past and future activities

Mental Health court opens

State District Judge Jan Krockner and other officials recently marked the opening of Harris County's felony mental health court.

It is designed to put mentally ill defendants on probation to keep them out of jail. The defendants include people diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and severe depression.

Krockner and mental health officials meet with defendants

who agree to probation. They arrange social services for defendants, who must show they are taking medication. Their probation can be revoked if they break the rules.

The program is funded by county and federal money.

Flood-warning mobile website

The Harris County Flood Control District has launched a mobile website that allows residents to monitor rainfall and bayou/stream levels near their

homes, workplaces and daily commute routes. The website – harriscountyfws.org – is accessible on mobile devices.

The mobile website allows users to search for and view specific address locations on a map, navigate (zoom in/out, pan, etc.) around the map and view current weather information, among other things.

Hospital District's new brand

The Harris County Hospital District has changed its name to

the Harris Health System. Officials say the new name better represents one of the largest integrated health care systems in the region. The system now focuses on primary care, prevention and wellness.

The system has health-care locations that include three hospitals, 16 health centers, 15 homeless shelter clinics, seven school-based clinics, five mobile health units, a dialysis center, a dental center and a specialty ambulatory center.

Health fair teaches students water-safety and wellness tips

For two days, Ginna Lemon and her fellow Hartman Middle School students continuously heard this swimming-safety phrase: "Reach or throw, but don't go."

Although many – if not all – were hearing it for the first time, they left the health fair with a clear understanding.

"To help someone when they are almost about to drown, don't go in the water. Put something out so you can pull them in," then-eighth-grader Ginna said.

Water safety was not the only topic discussed at the health fair, which was sponsored by the nonprofit America's Promise Alliance and Precinct One. Precinct One, other county officials and some vendors talked to the 14,026 Hart-

man students May 1 and 2 about fitness, nutrition and health care.

Also, Harris Health System and Texas Children's Hospital immunized children in the southeast Houston neighborhood.

On one side of the school's gym, the students were seated as John Beaudion Jr., director of the Precinct's Learn-to-Swim Program, discussed water safety. They were given the information just before summer vacation, when students often are around water.

He told them that they shouldn't jump in the water to rescue someone in danger, but instead reach for them with a safety device such as a shepherd's hook or throw a floatation device attached to a rope.



John Beaudion Jr., director of Precinct One's Learn-to-Swim Program, discusses water-safety tips at a health fair at Hartman Middle School. The students also got information on nutrition and fitness.

On the other side of the gym, students visited tables set up by health-care agencies.

Ana Maldonado, also an eighth-grader at the time, said she learned that sodas, breakfast pastries and pancakes with

syrup contain too much sugar.

"Those were my favorite foods," she conceded. "I'm thinking of changing that because they have a lot of sugar. And I'm going to make sure my family doesn't eat that a lot."

YET officials teach students chess to enhance life skills

The NFL Youth Education Town (YET) usually is bustling with summertime games – basketball and pool, for example – that at times get a little noisy. But on this August afternoon, there was one room with about 30 children playing in absolute silence.

The game: chess.

The Chess Academy and the nonprofit Perfect Team Play Inc. started teaching the YET children chess this summer to build life skills of attention, time, patience and strategy.

“The cliché is ‘the best minds play chess,’ ” said James Hudson, founder of Perfect Team Play, which is designed to motivate children. “But that doesn’t mean that every mind can’t benefit from the game



Zolton Oliver, 12, left, and Taitlin Butler, 13, concentrate during their chess match at the NFL Youth Education Town at Finnigan Park.

when it applies to life skills.”

He added that chess helps with behavior, and builds self-confidence and self-esteem.

The Boys and Girls Club, which operates the YET at Finnigan Park, hosted the chess

camp from July 31 to Aug. 1. A tournament was held Aug. 2 with the assistance of the Chess Academy, which provided six high school chess players as tournament directors.

Being introduced to chess

was one of the best moves in 13-year-old Zolton Oliver’s life. He started playing the game when his fourth-grade teacher sent him to the library to meet a man who taught him how to play.

“Those four moves (attention, time, patience and strategy) helped me win valedictorian in the fifth grade,” said Zolton, an eighth-grader who won the tournament’s top-player honor.

Dream Thomas, a 7-year-old second-grader, finished first in her age division.

“I learned how the (chess) pieces move and how to protect the pieces,” Dream said. “It’s kind of a cool game. I like chess.”

Challenger Seven park becomes students’ spring, outdoor lab

On a chilly April morning, 124 Houston-area students were introduced to Mother Nature up close and personal at Precinct One’s Earth Day.

The students dipped marine life from the wetlands at Challenger Seven Memorial Park on April 22. They hiked through a short, wooded trail for a brief lesson on plant and animal life. Also, they netted insects in a knee-high patch of tall grass and wildflowers.

Perhaps the most interesting attraction to most was the 4-foot alligator – mouth taped, of course – that was shown by Amos Cooper, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s

alligator program leader.

“It was exciting seeing an alligator,” said Jakyla Cleveland, 10, who participated in the NFL Youth Education Town (YET) program.

Precinct One conducts the Earth Day activities annually in the Clear Lake-area park, which becomes an outdoor lab for nature activities that teach the children how to protect the environment.

The students were from YET, Lincoln Park Community Center, Julia C. Hester House, Garden Villas Elementary and Boys Scouts of America Troop 2322. Seventeen Dobie and Jones high schools’ students –



Amos Cooper, right, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, shows an alligator to Garden Villas students Ricardo Hinojosa, right, Armando Morales and Jonathan Guerrero.

part of the service learning program – helped the younger children.

“I learned that if you pour

grease into a sink, it goes into the waterways,” said Sjade Hollis, 11, a Garden Villas student.

Health fair and other activities keep Precinct One seniors physically fit

Pat Johnson – one of 350 people who attended Precinct One senior citizens' health fair – knows from experience several examples of why it's important to stay active.

"It definitely helps with our mobility, our blood pressure and our mental state – and just our overall spirit," said Johnson, who participates in exercise programs at the Finnigan Park Community Center.

Those are just a few reasons why Precinct One's Seniors Program offers an assortment of exercises – yoga, weight training and line dancing, just to name a few – at six senior centers.

And quite often, officials bring all the seniors together from each center for special programs, like the health fair that Johnson attended at Tom



Senior citizens workout during a mass exercise session at Tom Bass Park. The six Precinct One senior centers emphasize physical fitness.

Bass Park Community Center before the holiday for line dancing, fishing and a barbeque lunch.

A few weeks later, the seniors played softball at Tom

Bass Park on Emancipation Day, June 19.

To commemorate Independence Day, they gathered at Alexander Deussen Park two days

Franco Lee Community Center. "I think it's very important to keep seniors active," she said.

Valdo Martinez and his wife, Angie, are active at the Hardy Seniors Center. "This is a great way to get people back together and learn what's going on in this community," Valdo Martinez said.

At the softball game, the seniors divided into two teams for some friendly competition. Mildred Whitfield, who played first base on the winning team, has seen results from her exercise time at Tom Bass Community Center.

"I lost 34 pounds working out here – and counting," she said. "I was 226 (pounds) when I started. I'm 192. So I have about 30 more pounds to lose, then I'll be ready."

170 seniors showcase colorful hats and outfits at Spring Tea

Often times, proximity has its privileges. Just ask Eliza Jean Odom, who lives in the Kashmere Gardens community near the Precinct One annex on Cavalcade.

For three years in a row, she has been the first person to RSVP for the annual April in Paris Spring Tea held at Mickey Leland Memorial Park, which is next to the Cavalcade office.

"Oh yeah," Odom said after receiving a gift for being the first to

RSVP for the April 25 event held for Precinct One senior citizens, "I live right in the neighborhood. I'm here for all the events."

Several of the other approximately 170 people – many bused in from the Precinct's six senior centers – who attended the annual event also rush to be the first to RSVP. However, most simply wanted a seat at the tables – each elegantly decorated in a Paris theme – for tea,

lunch, conversation and entertainment provided by the Precinct One Senior Citizens' Dance and Drama Program.

And they came dressed for the occasion – colorful spring outfits topped with beautiful hats that remind you of Easter Sunday.



Colorful hats and dresses were the attire for the April in Paris Spring Tea held at Mickey Leland Memorial Park. The seniors enjoyed lunch and entertainment.

There also were contests for the best hat and tea cups.

In the tea cup contest, Deborah Russell won first place; Jessie Brooks placed second and Lillie

Jean White took third. Winners in the hat contest were Johnnie

Brayboy, first place; Debra Brook, second; and Julia Amos, third.

Grandparents expo provides elderly caregivers with useful information

For the past year, Rocklyn Cooks-Parker and her sister, Alicia Henderson, have been looking for health-care assistance and legal information to help them care for their niece and nephew.

In their search for information, the sisters – each of whom have one of the children in their homes – have hit brick walls. That was until they attended the 4th annual Grandparent Caregiver Service Expo at Finnigan Park in Precinct One.

“Despite all the challenges that the situation itself poses, this informational session has proven to give you hope and encouragement,” said Cooks-Parker, a retired nurse who is caring for her 8-year-old niece under the state’s Department of Family and Protective Services’ Kinship Care.

About 119 grandparents and caregivers attended the service expo on Sept. 7 to gather information from workshop sessions that covered topics on health coverage and benefits; legal issues and caregiving families;



Eva Williams, right, gives health coverage advice to Rocklyn Cooks-Parker, center, and her sister, Alicia Henderson, at a workshop.



Susanne Garza, right, with the City of Houston’s Dental Department, explains services to Catholic Sister Pat Aseltine.

changes in the school systems; mental health and juvenile justice; and managing chronic diseases in children and adults.

Also, 42 vendors manned booths where public and private agencies provided participants with information on so-

cial services, physical and mental health, child welfare, adult protection, library services, anti-gang programs, school districts and other topics.

Dr. Clemelia Richardson, administration manager for the City of Houston’s Department of Health and Human Services, said her agency started seeing a large number of different caregivers other than the biological parents, including grandparents, aunt, uncles and cousins.

“So when we started seeing those different combinations,” she explained, “we thought it was a good idea to pull together those resources to honor them.”

Cooks-Parker and Henderson thought that was a great idea. Cooks-Parker said the kinship program only provides limited services.

Henderson said she gets no assistance from the state because her 12-year-old nephew has never been in Child Protective Services’ custody.

“I have to get legal service to see what can be done,” Henderson said. “Or do I have to dial 211 (Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s help line) and tell them to come pick him up? I thought we were trying to prevent that.”

Her concerns were addressed at the expo.

The expo was presented by Harris County Precinct One Commissioner El Franco Lee, the City of Houston, Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension, Harris County Area Agency on Aging, Care Connection Aging and Disability Resource Center, and Prairie View A&M University’s Cooperative Extension Program.

Health officials warn citizens to protect themselves from WNV

Faced with the worst cause encephalitis and to West Nile Virus (WNV) inform them of measures outbreak in Texas history, health officials are to reduce exposure.

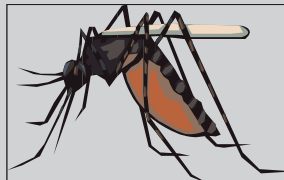
During outdoor activities, residents should use insect repellent containing active ingredients

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services has launched a IR3535.

“Fight the Bite!” campaign to warn people of the disease that can

DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or

Also, they should wear long-sleeved clothing and long pants when



outdoors at dawn and dusk, which are peak mosquito biting times. In addition, remove or empty containers that can hold water such as flowerpots, buckets, tires, toys and plastic

swimming pools.

Most people bitten by infected mosquitoes do not develop any symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they usually appear five to 15 days after the bite.

The mild symptoms are low-grade fever, headache and occasional

ally swollen lymph glands.

More severe signs and symptoms can include: high fever, stiff neck, muscle weakness, disorientation, brain inflammation (encephalitis), coma and rarely death. For more information, visit hcphe.org/wnvResponse.htm.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Precinct One workers Ernie Tarver, foreground, and Kelvin Demerson start work on two soccer fields at El Franco Lee Park.



John Mouton, left, his grandson Jesse and his wife, Jacqueline, take a morning walk on the newly overlaid trail at Lincoln Park.



The new maintenance building at El Franco Lee Park has been completed. It replaces the maintenance building that abuts the Community Center. The older building will be used for community center operations.



Edith Gantt, director of The Café at Finnigan Park, prepares food in the recently expanded kitchen in the park's Community Center.



Walkers use the recently completed 8-by-130-foot pedestrian bridge that spans a drainage ditch in the Dixie Farm Road Park.

Hundreds of children compete in Street Olympics Summer Games

(Continued from page 1)

“We connected with some precision to help young people who have now become senior staff members, lawyers, doctors, ministers and politicians,” Lee said of former participants who now are adults.

The Final Event, which includes the Bright Futures Fair, wrapped up the Street Olympics 2012 Summer Games programs that also included the 3-on-3 Basketball; the Learn-to-

Swim program that culminated with the Splashdown swimming contest; and the Discovery Camp at Deussen Park, where children receive a one-day lesson on nature and the environment.

The Summer Games involve hundreds of children competing in the preliminary levels at 40 youth agencies in traditional “street games” such as jacks, hopscotch, jump rope, foot races and kickball. The winners in each age category qualify to

compete in the Final Event, where medals are awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners.

The Final Event also featured the Bright Futures Fair, where private businesses, non-profit organizations and government agencies set up booths to offer the children information on health, safety and education in a fun setting.

If the children weren’t in the Bright Futures Fair, they were elsewhere in Reliant Arena

competing in their events.

Saselia Hernandez, 10, who attends the Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA, was trying to pick up a token while on her knees in the Hula Hoop contest. She stood up a couple of times to increase the Hula Hoop speed and tried again to pick it up, only to have the Hula Hoop fall to the floor.

With a big smile, she said later: “I feel pumped up and excited. I like the Street Olympics.”

Street Olympics Summer Games photos



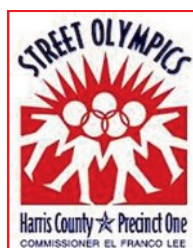
Derek Ketchum shoots a layup in the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.



Swimmers compete in Splashdown.



Jazmin McNaulty, left, Meashell Crosby, and Thomas Rector carry the Street Olympics torch.



Students are all smiles as they tour the Bright Futures Fair at the Final Event in Reliant Arena.



Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club students imitate how animals use their senses to cross the road to avoid danger. It was one activity at the daylong Discovery Camp at Duessen Park.

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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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