



ONE TO ONE

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

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EFL Community Center



The community center at El Franco Lee Park, 9400 Hall Road (Key Map 575Z) is nearing completion. With most of the exterior work done – the exterior paving is complete and the exterior glass installation ongoing – the focus is continuing with the interiors. The kitchen area has been roughed-in with the delivery of the kitchen equipment on its way.

The approximately 10,705 GSF building will consist of a large multi-purpose room, kitchen, arts & crafts room, exercise room, staff offices and restrooms. Estimated completion date: 2nd Quarter 2008.

New Hike and Bike Trail

Precinct One has entered into an interlocal agreement with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) regarding HCFCD Unit D518-02-00 (Key Map 530W) in the vicinity of Westbrae near South Gessner. The Precinct will construct a 6-foot wide public hike and bike trail with related appurtenances along each side of the Unit. – the Unit consists of six detention ponds. Also, a trail will be constructed around the perimeters of each of the ponds in phases over a period of one year, beginning in April 2008. The new trail of six sections will total approximately 1.30 miles in length, and will be maintained by the Precinct.

With the addition of the new trail, the total miles of existing trails under the maintenance of Precinct One is approximately 29.15 miles.

Note from the Commissioner



Again the end of the year concluded on a high note with the Precinct's highly successful Seniors Holiday Celebration at Reliant Center – with over 2,800 senior revelers. The energy from the various activities makes one forget that the revelers are senior citizens. In addition to enjoying the fellowship – food and music, the revelers did not forget others that were not as fortunate by bringing canned goods for the Houston Food Bank. Special thanks to Commissioners Sylvia Garcia, Steve Radack, Jerry Eversole and their employees for assisting in providing transportation to and from the event.

Several major events will take place during the first two quarters of the new year. Within the first half of 2008, the Precinct will have at least three major new structure openings – the Community Center at El Franco Lee Park, the Aquatics Center on El Camino, and the new Hardy Service Center. All of the facilities are being greeted with great anticipation.

Historically, the month of February is recognized as *Black History Month*, wherein millions of Americans pause and reflect on the many and varied contributions Black Americans have made to this Country, and to the World, but exchanges need to continue throughout the year and among all ethnic and cultural groups. An appreciation of diversity enables all of us to work together for a stronger and better America.

The March primary elections revealed Texans' pivotal role in the election process. The primaries were conducted by the political party county chairs and administered by the county clerk. A reminder that the primary runoff election date is April 8, 2008, with early voting beginning March 31 and ending April 4, 2008. Even if you did not vote in the March primary, if you are registered by March 10, 2008, you can still vote in the primary runoff election and on into the General Election in November.

Remember to **VOTE!** Your vote can make a difference.



Challenger Seven (Key Map 658E)

Excavation for construction of the Challenger Seven Nature Center began in February 2008; estimated completion date: end of the 3rd Quarter 2008 ▶

The new addition to the Learning Center will measure 41'x 27' and will consist of 1100 sq. ft. The dedicated edifice will house an animal lab as well as bird cages for non-releasable birds, and turtle pens to house program animals.



Aquatics Center (Key Map 533N)

◀ Construction of an indoor 22,000 sq. ft. pool facility with appurtenances

Estimated completion date:
2nd Quarter 2008

El Franco Lee Parkway & Parking Lots (Phase 7) (Key Map 575Z)

To provide roadway and parking lot through the Park – construction activities in progress

Estimated completion date:
3rd Quarter 2008



Road & Bridge



Precinct One crews replacing washed-out 54" storm drain. After replacing the storm sewer, the sink hole was back-filled with dirt. The repairs were located on HCFCD ditch unit #A-120 – Beamer Road @ Sagegreen (Key Map 616C)

Park Updates — South Region

Challenger Seven

Construction of the new Restroom/Pavilion/BBQ building is substantially completed and is scheduled to be released for public use in April 2008. The total number of open-air pavilions at the park – three ►

Excavation for the construction of the Nature Center, an addition to the Learning Center camp, began in February 2008; estimated completion date: end of 3rd Quarter 2008

El Franco Lee Park

Phase Six “A” Junior/Senior Division lighted baseball field is under construction; estimated completion date: May 2008 ►

EFL Community Center/Park Office Building estimated completion date: 2nd Quarter 2008

Phase Seven Park Roadways & Parking Lots are under construction along the north side of the park; estimated completion date: 3rd Quarter 2008



Kids Fish Fest

is a part of the programs and activities of the Environmental Learning Center @ Challenger Seven Memorial Park. For information, please telephone 281.332.5157.

Shred-It Program

The Sheriff's Office is sponsoring it's Shred-It Program throughout various parking lots of Harris County. The Program allows the residents in the community to bring their personal documents and shred them for FREE. Two trucks will be stationed in the parking lot for immediate destruction of all documents. Two of the locations and dates are as follows:

March 29, 2008: Harris County District 2 Substation • 7900 Will Clayton Parkway • Humble, TX 77338

May 17, 2008: Harris County Annex • 10851 Scarsdale • Houston, TX 77089

Time: 9:00am — 12 Noon.

Park Updates — North Region



Crowley Park

Two new playground structures were recently installed at Crowley — both structures are currently undergoing shade canopy installations ◀

Deussen Park

Three new restrooms are now complete ▶

Construction of three new open air pavilions has begun with the demolition of the old shelters; estimated completion date: 3rd Quarter 2008 ▶

Canopies on five pieces of playground equipment were recently installed ◀



Eisenhower Park

Forestry is continuing to clear nature trails. Not all sections are yet complete with some trails still needing clearing of trees, others needing stump grinding and leveling following tree removals

Lincoln Park

◀ All wooden picnic tables have been replaced with concrete slabs and tables

Sheldon Park

Relighting of two existing baseball fields has a start date of July 2008



Proposed Dog Parks in Design Phase

The creation of a dog park in Precinct One is moving closer to being a reality. The Precinct will develop two dog parks — one at Tom Bass Park in the southern region of the Precinct and the other at Alexander Deussen Park in the northern region — both proposed parks are presently in the design phase.

In concept, a dog park is a fenced in area where dogs are allowed to run off leash under the supervision of their owners. Separate areas are provided for dogs under 20 pounds and another area for larger dogs. Both areas will be equipped with water fountains and some doggy-type play structures such as ramps and tunnels; there will be trails, benches and shade structures (if needed) for their owners.

A wash down station outside the main gate will be provided to hose down muddy paws.



Freckles sitting on one of the typical play structures

Seniors Happenings



Fish Fest



Not only was there good fellowship, exercise (including line dancing), great weather, but also plenty of fish and good eating, too. For information, please call 713.733.3717.

Drama

Precinct One Seniors Drama and Dance Program, under the directorship of Thomas Melancon, performed 'What's Age Got to Do with It' on October 20, 2007 in a packed auditorium and in front of an appreciative audience at Jack Yates High School. The drama and dance program is based at Tom Bass, but seniors throughout the precinct participate.

Next performance: Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 2:00 PM, Phillis Wheatley High School, 4900 Market Street (Key Map 494E). This production is FREE to the public. For information, please call 713.733.3717.



Crafty Seniors' Service Project

Seniors helping seniors. That is what the *Crafty Ladies Plus* do. For the past five years the *Crafty Ladies Plus* have had a service project — making various items for residents of Lakewood Sr. Living of Herman Park located at 5600 Chenevert (Key Map 533A). This past holiday season the group made and donated 126 adult bibs to the nursing home. *Crafty Ladies Plus* not only made the bibs, but also donated the materials as well.

Crafty Ladies Plus is based at Tom Bass Park and is not limited to one gender — the *Plus* includes two gentlemen. The group varies in size depending on the project and meets on Wednesdays. For further information, please call 713.733.3717.

Pictured at right are some members of the group. ►



Standing: Ziauddin "Z" Yusuf, Bette Lett, Mary Case, Janice Sexton, Gwen Smith, Murl Reed, Hazel Eli
Seated: Bobby Wolford, Clara Hardy, Audrey Lee

Household Hazardous Waste

ONE-DAY COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Hardy Service Center • 11801 West Hardy (Key Map 413Q) • Houston, TX 77076 • 8 AM to 2 PM only

Precinct One will host a one-day drop-off event for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) on Saturday, April 26th at the new Hardy Service Center. Each year the county holds approximately ten (10) such one-day collection events throughout the county. The events are typically held during the spring and fall season, and are free to all residents of Harris County.

Residents may bring household quantities of paint products, pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil, gasoline, pool chemicals, household cleaners, aerosols, batteries and five automotive tires, per household.

Used electronics such as televisions, computers, word processors, printers, scanners, fax machines, cellular phones, VCRs, stereos and other small personal electronics are also accepted. Residents may bring up to five (5) of each of these items.

A mercury thermometer exchange will be held in conjunction with each of the events. Residents may bring a mercury fever thermometer for proper disposal and receive a FREE, non-toxic replacement.

In addition to the collections, participants will receive information on less toxic alternatives to common hazardous household products and can also shop for FREE items at the reusable products booth located near the exit of the drop-off site.

Products such as business waste, medical waste, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, photocopy machines, microwaves, or smoke detectors are NOT accepted at these events. Businesses may call the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Small Business and Local Government Assistance Hotline (800.447.2827) for information on proper disposal methods for hazardous waste. The hotline offers free, confidential technical assistance.

If you are not a Harris County resident, log on to <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/hhw/ContactsHHW.html> to find your local HHW contact information and <http://www.earth911.org/master.asp> for drop-off locations.

Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project

The Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project (Project Brays) is under way. Project Brays, a cooperative effort between the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is designed to benefit thousands of residents and businesses by reducing the risk of flooding along the entire channel from Hwy 6 to the mouth of the ship channel. HCFCD utilizes a combination of several tools to address the flooding risk along Brays Bayou, including channel and bridge modifications, and storm detention basins.

Commissioner Lee states area residents will soon benefit from two miles of channel modifications underway by the HCFCD in the Third Ward Community from Ardmore to Calhoun.

This phase of the project, a 330 calendar day contract commenced in June 2007 and is expected to be completed in May 2008. The project cost is \$5.9m and includes the following: excavation of approximately 328,400 cubic yards of material with off-site disposal, construction of maintenance access ramps and trails, and replacement of two miles of Hike & Bike trails. Other improvements will include a new backslope drainage system, swales, interceptor structures, pipe and headwall outfall protection, retaining walls, and replacing displaced storm sewers to enhance drainage in the area.

Future project work within Precinct One on the Brays Bayou Watershed will include additional channel and bridge modifications from Old Spanish Trail to Stella Link.

Remember to Vote
April 8, 2008
Primary Runoff Election

The authority conducting primary runoff elections are Political Party County Chairs. Please check your ballot for a complete listing of the candidates in the Primary Runoff Election

March 10, 2008
Last Day to Register to Vote

March 31, 2008
First Day of Early Voting

April 1, 2008
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail
(must be received, not merely post marked)

April 4, 2008
Last Day of Early Voting

April 8, 2008
Primary Runoff Election Day

PRECINCT ONE SITES and PHONE NUMBERS

REGIONAL OFFICES

Central Service Center Office	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
North Service Center Office	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
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
"Pep Mueller" Community Center	281.591.6951

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

Harris County Precinct One
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