



ONE TO ONE

ISSUE NO. 1 • MARCH 2008 • NORTH

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

In this issue

Note from the
Commissioner

2

Construction
Updates

3

Household
Hazardous Waste

3

Park Updates

4 & 5

Proposed Dog
Parks

4

Kids Fish Fest

5

Shred-It Program

5

Seniors
Happenings

6

Upper Hunting
Bayou

7

Inwood Place
Area

7

Hardy Service Center

11901 West Hardy Street (Key Map 413Q)

New construction of the regional maintenance service center serving the north region of Precinct One is now almost complete. The service center compound sits on six acres adjacent to the Hardy Seniors Center. The construction consisted of a fueling station (1,800 sq. ft.), vehicle maintenance building (5,591 sq. ft.), vehicle and equipment parking (16,800 sq. ft.), administration building (12,550 sq. ft.), greenhouse (1,800 sq. ft.), material bins, and utility upgrades. All the old structures at the service center compound were replaced with the exception of the administration building, which is scheduled to be renovated. The greenhouse is a new addition.

Also, as a part of the newly renovated Hardy Street compound a walking trail will be installed, starting at the greenhouse and running along the perimeter of the dry detention pond.



1 Old Administration Bldg. • 2 New Administration Bldg. • 3 Vehicle Equipment Repair • 4 Vehicle and Equipment Parking • 5 Greenhouse • 6 Hardy Seniors Center • 7 Fueling Station • 8 Dry Detention Pond

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.





Aquatics Center (Key Map 533N)

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

Estimated completion date:
2nd Quarter 2008

Hardy Service Center (Key Map 413Q)

Substantially complete

Administration building and
greenhouse ▶



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.

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

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. 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 and 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.



Lincoln Park Health Fair

February 16, 2008



Shred-It Program

The Sheriff's Office is sponsoring its *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

Seniors Happenings



◀ 'Never too old to learn' and be 'young at heart' was evident when the Line Dancers at Finnigan Park learned to surf with The Street Surfing Guys. This event took place with *Great Day Houston* filming 'live' at Finnigan.

Drama

Precinct One Seniors Drama and Dance Program will perform

'What's Age Got To Do With It,' 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.



Line Dancing & Street Surfing



Quilting

Quilting classes are available at Finnigan, Tom Bass, Hardy, and Lincoln. For information, please call 713.733.3717.



Fish fest

Not only was there good fellowship, great weather, but also plenty of fish and good eating, too. For information, please call 713.733.3717.

NEXT GENERATION DISCOVERING GEE'S BEND QUILTS



Children at Lincoln and Finnigan Park discovered Gee's Bend Quilts as taught by teaching artist, Ann Johnson of Prairie View A& M University. Using felt and fabric swatches they designed the quilt pictured on the right — and now they are featured in *School Arts Magazine*, a national publication, February 2008. The article highlights quilts made by the children as a part of the Gees Bend Quilting project at the two parks.



Quilt from Lincoln Park

Upper Hunting Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Plan

Commissioner El Franco Lee, along with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), hosted a Saturday morning Community Meeting on November 10, 2007, to update residents in the Kashmere, Liberty and Houston Gardens communities on recommended flood control plans for reducing area flooding from Hunting Bayou.

Commissioner Lee told the audience of approximately 325 of his pleasure to welcome the many residents in attendance at the community meeting — it was important that residents stay informed of improvements being made to Hunting Bayou and learn how the project will benefit them. He encouraged everyone to ask questions and remain involved in their community. The meeting provided residents an opportunity to view displays of the many projects' features and visit with HCFCD personnel 'one-on-one'.

The features of the recommended plan includes: 3.2 miles of channel modifications (wider & deeper) from US Highway 59 to Wayside Drive, modification or replacement of 22 bridges and development of more than 100 acres for stormwater detention east of Homestead Road.

The Upper Hunting Bayou Plan, when fully implemented, will be a cooperative effort between the HCFCD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Flood Damage Reduction Project will benefit thousands of residents and businesses by reducing flood levels for the 100-year flood event ranging from 1 to 3 feet. The project will decrease the number of structures in the 100-year floodplain from 6,500 to 1,400.

Work schedule: Expect to see survey crews in the community in March '08 surveying the channel to set the new alignments of Hunting Bayou. The initial phase of construction of the Hunting Bayou stormwater detention basin east of Homestead is also expected to start in June 2008.



▲ Hunting Bayou @ tributary near Hutcheson Park. Near 610 North Loop, east of 59

◀ Egret at Hutcheson Park

Water Quality Issues in Inwood Place Area

Concerned with the health and well being of the citizens in the Inwood Place area due to identified drinking water quality issues, Precinct One has partnered with the East Aldine Management District to secure portable water for the unincorporated area and will continue to do so.

The Precinct has been working with the East Aldine Management District (formerly known as Aldine Improvement District) to identify areas in the District in need of water and sewer facilities. A comprehensive 50-year water and sewer study has been completed; work to provide water and/or sewer service is currently underway in two other District communities: North Houston Heights, and Tasfield in Precinct Two. The collective goal is to provide water and sewer to all within the District.

Homeowners will be given the opportunity to obtain a FREE connection to the new water distribution lines by signing a Temporary Construction Easement which will allow the contractors onto their property to abandon existing water wells and connect homes to the new lines. The anticipated project start date is March 1, 2008 with an anticipated completion date of February 28, 2009.

Harris County is scheduled to contact area residents regarding connecting in the next several months. If there are any questions, the contact person for the Inwood Place Water project is Mellissa Hamous, Ph: 713.316.3537, Email: mhamous@pid.hctx.net

The map of the project can be accessed at :

http://www.eng.hctx.net/permits/pdf/inwood_place_water_distribution_system_phase_one_2008_cdbg.pdf

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
El Franco Lee, Commissioner
1001 Preston Ave., Ste. 950
Houston, TX 77002
www.co.harris.tx.us/comm_lee

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 813

