



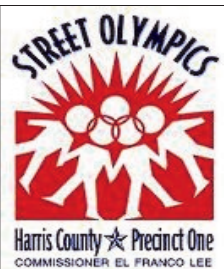
ONE TO ONE

ISSUE NO. 3 • OCTOBER 2013 • NORTH/SOUTH

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

Discovery Camp teaches youth about the environment

Remyah Williams, 9, gently swept a butterfly net through the grass in hopes of catching a live insect. With the help of an adult checking the net, Remyah – showing a little trepidation – noticed she had a small grasshopper.



“This is fun,” she exclaimed just before the insect was set free.

Fun is exactly the point. But education is the main focus of this and the other activities at the Precinct One Discovery Camp, which is part of the Harris County Street Olympics.

Discovery Camp – operated in and around a small cabin tucked away in an isolated, wooded area in Deussen Park – usually is overshadowed by the highly publicized athletic activities surrounding the Street Olympics’ Summer Games and



Ana Aita-Cherry, right, Discovery Camp coordinator, shows Tuffly Community Center youth a lubber. Discovery Camp hosted 507 students this summer during daylong trips to Deussen Park.

Final Event.

However, Discovery Camp, which serviced 507 students this summer, is an equally important part of the Street Olympics’ mission to implement and sustain programs that provide training, support and resources

that lead to healthy and productive lives for Houston-area youth.

Discovery Camp takes a different group of children on a daylong journey to teach them about nature and the environment.

With the theme “Exploring our World,” this year’s Discovery Camp featured a short walk along a wooded trail to show how plants and animals are connected. There also was a game designed to teach biodi-

(Continued on page 7)

Federal court upholds Harris County’s redistricting map

NEW TO PRECINCT ONE

Gene Green Park
Miller Rd. Maintenance
Carpenters Bayou H&B

North Channel Library
Channelview ISD
Galena Park ISD

Precinct One’s boundaries have changed after a federal judge upheld Harris County’s redistricting map approved by Commissioners Court in 2011.

Harris County had been operating under an interim map drawn by U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed by Hispanic

citizens, who had contended Commissioners Court’s map illegally diluted Latinos chances of electing an Hispanic in Precinct Two.

(Continued on page 6)



Precinct One

Commissioner El Franco Lee

Comments on current and future activities

Redistricting map approved

It's time again to welcome newcomers to Precinct One. As many of you may know, a federal judge recently upheld Harris County's redistricting map that was challenged in a lawsuit. Precinct One is pretty much unchanged from the court-ordered interim map that was used in the 2012 elections. However, the precinct did add some voting precincts, including five south of U.S. 90 between John Ralston Road and Sheldon Road. For all constituents old and new, Precinct One is committed to providing excellent services and programs.

Homestead Detention Basin

Construction has started on Phase II excavation of the 75-acre Homestead Detention Ba-

sin near Loop 610 East. The Harris County Flood Control District began excavating an additional 647,000 cubic yards of earth and will install a 72-foot outfall pipe in a 96-foot steel casing under the Union Pacific Railroad. In early August, workers started on Phase I of channel widening from Lockwood to Hoffman in Kashmere Garden. The work will consist of excavating approximately 39,000 cubic yards of earth to widen the channel's south bank up to 200 feet along Minden Street. The District is currently working to complete plans for channel excavation from North George to Dabney Street.

Clear Creek Watershed

The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers has approved a plan that will address flood-risk management improvements in the Clear Creek Watershed. The plan calls for modifications to Clear Creek, Turkey Creek, Mud Gully and Mary's Creek. Clear Creek spans upstream of Fort Bend County, and through Brazoria, Harris and Galveston counties. Improvements call for 20.7 miles of channel conveyance, 485 acre feet of detention storage, rehabilitation or restoration of more than 155 acres of floodplain forest along more than 15 miles of the channel stream bank, and monitoring performance of habitat features for corrective action. The total cost of the project, including the previously constructed Second Outlet Gate and study costs, is approximately \$249

million. Upon approved federal funding, the estimated construction cost to complete the remainder of the project is about \$193 million, which will be shared by the Flood Control District and Galveston County.

Inwood Forest Detention

Commissioners Court has approved Phase I engineering design services for Inwood Forest Detention Basins. The Flood Control District will design and construct a series of stormwater detention ponds at the city-owned Inwood Forest Golf Course east and west of Antoine Drive to reduce flood damages along White Oak Bayou and Vogel Creek. The project is projected to provide approximately 1,300 acre feet of storage.

21 people recognized for completing Citizens Police Academy at EFL

About 21 citizens were recognized in May for completing the Harris County Sheriff's Office 13-week Citizens Police Academy at El Franco Lee Community Center.

The Class No. 35 members, who took three-hour courses once a week, were introduced to the many aspects of law enforcement, including the Texas Penal Code, patrol procedures, gang awareness and terrorism.

"It taught me what police go through at any time," said Eric

Stevens. "And that is very scary what they go through."

Sheriff's Deputy Paul Anthony Brown Sr., the CPA coordinator, said the class is intended to educate citizens about law enforcement.

"We want to give the community more information so they can objectively be good jurors, good grand jurors, witnesses, security coordinators and volunteers," Brown said.



Harris County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy Class No. 35 stands during the National Anthem at its graduation ceremony.

L.E.E. Program gives 70 students on-the-job training

Office Politics 101 isn't offered much – if at all – at many universities. Neither is a first-hand look at how a company operates.

That's exactly what Dan Nguyen, a senior at the University of Texas at Dallas, said he learned while interning at the Harris Health System as part of the Leadership Experience and Employment Program.

For the 21-year-old business administration and biology major, those were invaluable lessons because he never had a job. It also allowed him to decide his career path: supply chain management, which involves streamlining of business' supply-side activities to maximize customer value and to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

"Luckily, I was also able to do very interesting things like warehouse management and inventory accounting using their system to track and label inventory," said Nguyen, who worked as the assistant to the



Dan Nguyen, right, Leadership Experience and Employment Program intern, uses a computer presentation to show the Harris Health System's information technology staff how to exchange cell phones online.

telecommunications coordinator. "I look at bills and extract information and I have special projects on anything they needed me to do."

He was among 70 students who participated in the L.E.E. Program, as it is commonly called. Created by Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee, the program places high school graduates and college students in 10-week internship positions in county departments

and private firms.

"This year, as you prepare for your fall semester, hopefully you obtained some resources to make that semester a little more positive, a little bit stronger financially," Lee told the students at a lunch. "You will make smarter decisions of how you use your money."

Learning how to manage a paycheck indeed was something that Nguyen also learned. At the end of the internship, he presented a report to 10 staff members on how to return damaged cell phones to the supplier for replacements.

In a conference room, he walked the staff through the online procedure on a computer screen.

"It was refreshing to find someone so young with desire and commitment," said Anthony Tuggles, director of information technology-telecommunications. "I am confident that Dan will go on to do great things in his chosen

profession and in his community."

Another intern, Justin Hays, who has participated in the L.E.E. Program for two years, worked in the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department.

"It opened me up to the work force to see how things are run," said Hays, a junior studying mechanical engineering at the University of Arkansas. "I never had a full-time job. It also got me a lot of connections within the county."

Kayla Gunn, an intern who is majoring in family and child development at Texas State University, said Discovery Camp was a great experience because she wants to work with low-income, at-risk children.

"It's really good to go home and really know that you made a kid have a really good day and have so much fun," Gunn said. "It's really awesome."



Kayla Gunn, right, who interned at the Discovery Camp, shows students a bug that was captured in a netting exercise.

Senior Fraud Expo exposes scams targeting elderly citizens

Betty M. Mosley followed her neighbor's recommendation for a repairman to fix her fence. That decision, she said, caused her to lose \$4,000 because the man didn't complete the job. Not exactly a story most would share with the public.

Mosley, nevertheless, spoke publicly about it at the Precinct One Senior Fraud Expo because she didn't want others to fall victim.

"I learned that you don't pay people up front to do work for you," she said after the event. "If they are reputable and in business, then they should be able to do the work and you pay them."

Her remarks came during the questions-and-comments session to panelists at the expo, which was held May 21 at Tom Bass Regional Park III's Community Center.

The speakers were from the Better Business Bureau, Inter-



Betty M. Mosley, standing, shares a story about how she fell victim to a construction scheme at the Senior Fraud Expo.

nal Revenue Service, U.S. Postal Inspector, and Securities and Exchange Commission. They addressed topics on Medicare fraud; identity theft; sweepstakes fraud; scams and fraudulent business practices; and investment scams and fraud.

Candy Twyman, who has been with the BBB for 15 years, said schemers and scam-

mers are equal opportunists. "They don't care how old you are, how young you are, how rich you are, how poor you are, how dumb you are, (or) how smart you are," she said.

"So what are they after?" she asked. The audience answered in unison, "Money!"

Mosley learned the hard way about construction scams.

However, the expo gave her valuable information on how not to fall victim to other rip offs.

Anh Phan said she will now check with the SEC when she and her husband are considering investments.

"I learned so much," Phan said. "It made me aware of things around you, and how they call and trick you to get your information."

Tips to avoid fraud

- Don't give your Social Security number and identification without checking out the person who is requesting the information
- Hang up on phone calls from people seeking personal information
- Do research on financial investments
- Don't deposit counterfeit checks and money orders that come in the mail
- Check credit report every year
- File your income tax immediately

Seniors get a workout at Precinct One's Health and Fitness Day

On a pleasant May morning, the parking lot near the walking trail at Tom Bass Regional Park III was filled with vintage red. Not cars, but Precinct One senior citizens wearing red T-shirts with "Live Better Feel Better" inscribed on the front.

It was that time for the seniors' annual Health and Fitness Day.

Mary Jones, who participates in the Seniors Program at Tom Bass, said she works out four days a week. "I feel real good about it," she said at the

event. "It's exciting. It's important to exercise."

Each year, all the centers come together for the fitness day, which includes a walk around the lake, Zumba and weight training. The T-shirts, which have the respective senior centers' names on the back, are normally worn during the weight-training classes.

"I work out every day," said Danya Doan, who attends the El Franco Lee Community Center. "That's good for seniors."



Leroy Mobley conducts weight training at the Health and Fitness Day.

Said Zoila Mata: "It's great to stay physically fit. You don't know what you've lost until

you come to El Franco Lee (Community) Center. Then you realize what you've lost."

ETC.

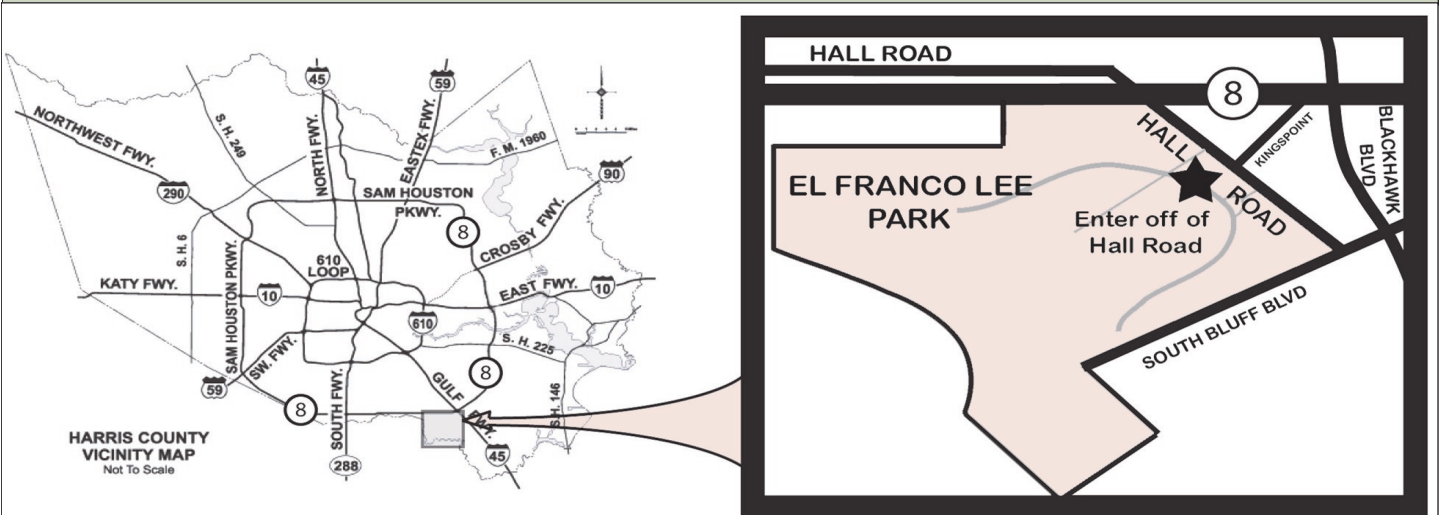


Some seniors dance while others look on at the Independence Day Celebration that included a barbeque lunch at Deussen Park on July 2.

Deussen Park Senior Community Center adds line dancing to activities

Line dancing has been added to the Deussen Park Senior Community Center activities. The classes will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays. Also, at 9 a.m. each Monday there is a gentle yoga class. weight training is offered at 10:30 a.m. On Wednesdays, Zumba is 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 281-454-4108.

HazMobile to pick up household waste at EFL Park on October 26

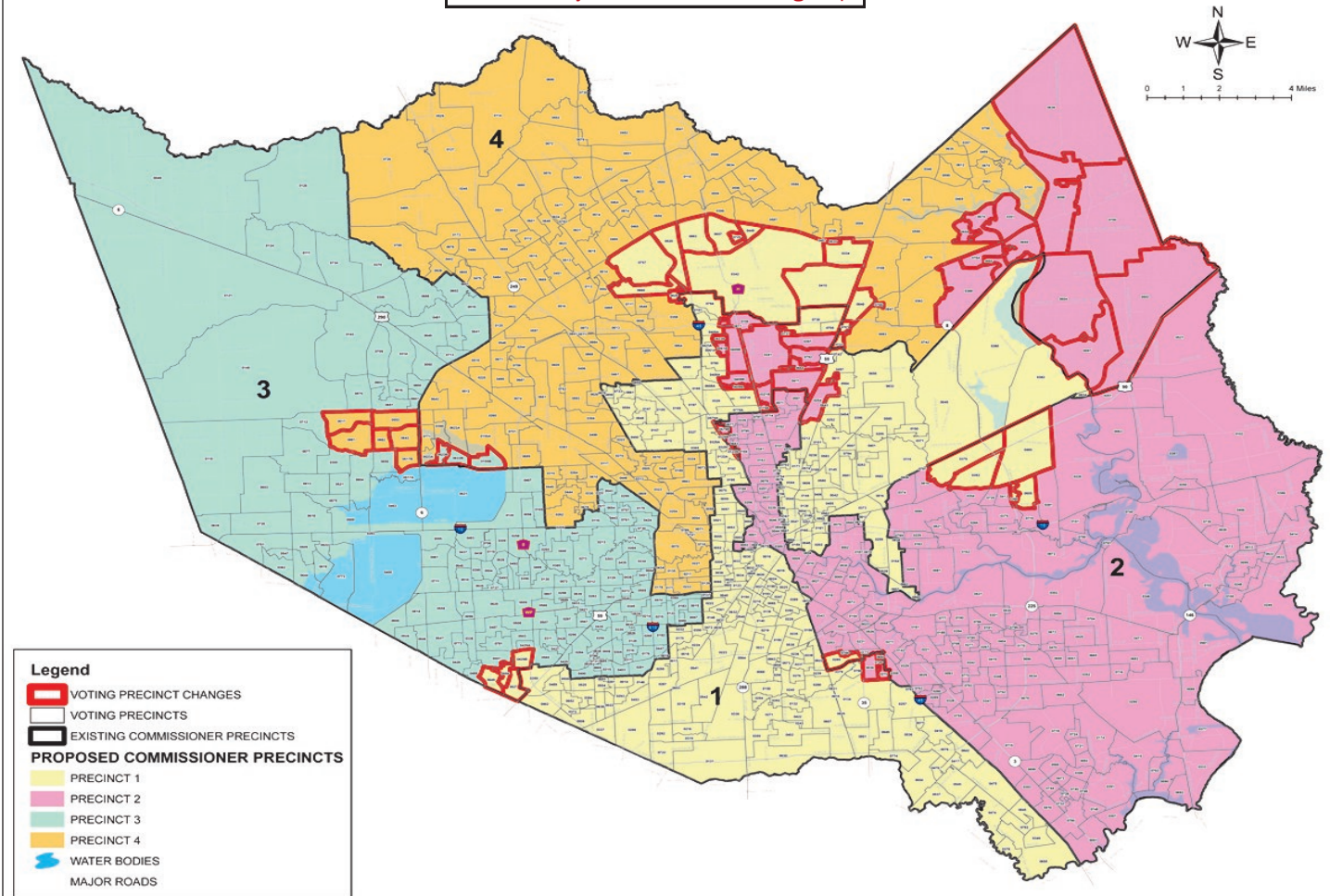


<p>The Harris County HazMobile, a mobile collection event that can accommodate household hazardous waste from approximately 100 homes, will be at the Precinct One El Franco Lee Park from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct.</p>	<p>26. The service center is at 9400 Hall Road in Houston.</p> <p>Acceptable items</p> <p>The waste will be collected on a first-come, first-served basis until the HazMobile is full. Residents must have</p>	<p>the waste in original containers that do not exceed 5 gallons.</p> <p>Items that will be accepted are fertilizers, pesticides, paint-related materials, household cleaners, fuels, anti-freeze, pool chemicals, glues and solvents, used</p>	<p>motor oil and filters, batteries and thermometers.</p> <p>Unacceptable waste</p> <p>Things that will not be accepted are tires, electronics, business waste, medical waste, radioactive waste, PCBs</p>	<p>or dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.</p> <p>For more information, call 281-560-6200 or visit www.CleanWaterways.org.</p>
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PARK AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

- Workers have completed construction on a .34-mile section of **Imperial Valley Dr.** between Remington Heights Drive and Airtex Drive. The work included a four-lane, concrete, divided road with traffic signals.
- Road work on **Scott Street** between Beltway 8 and Alameda Genoa has been completed. The 1.2-mile section was improved from a two-lane, asphalt street to a four-lane, divided, concrete roadway.
- A modular restroom for men and women is expected to be installed at **Dixie Farm Road Park** later this year. The project also calls for a water-line, a lift station, a sanitary sewer line and electrical work.
- At **El Franco Lee Park**, construction should start next spring on a restroom and concession building near the football and soccer fields.
- Improvements to a 3.1-mile section of **East Mount Houston** between Beltway 8 and Mesa Road are expected to start late October. The work includes a four-lane concrete roadway with bike paths.

Harris County's Revised Redistricting Map



Precinct One adds new territory in revised redistricting map

(Continued from page 1)

Gilmore in August ruled the plaintiffs didn't prove the county adopted the plan to discriminate against Latinos nor did they prove that race was a

predominant factor in the plan's design. The ruling allows the county to use the map initially approved by Commissioners Court and cleared by the U.S. Justice Department.

Harris County had a 20 percent population increase to 4 million, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. That required each precinct to have about 1 million people.

Precinct One lost some vot-

ing precincts and gained others, mostly in the northern portion. Also, some county facilities – such as parks, libraries and maintenance buildings – were shifted from one precinct to another.

Summer Games provides youth educational and athletic activities

(Continued from page 1)

versity and to illustrate things that animals need to survive: water, food and habitat.

Also, there was a game to show how animals adapt to where they live. Inside the cabin, the children worked on crafts to learn about the food chain and how animals depend on each other for survival.

The Tuffly Community Center students also saw live animals in a hands-on illustration of what they had learned.

The camp is operated by staff coordinator Ana Aita-Cherry and naturalist Raven Bell, who were assisted this summer by eight interns.

Keaundre Scott, 11, said it was a fun and easy way to learn about things such as the food chain.

"It's good because I saw how nature works," Keaundre said. "I learned how the animals grow."

Other Summer Games activities included 3-on-3 Basketball, Learn-to-Swim sessions, and the Final Event and Bright Futures Fair.

On July 18 and 19 at Fonde Recreation Center, about 284 boys and girls – ages 7 to 17 – on 71 teams competed in the 3-on-3 Basketball Championship Tournament. The teams invited to the event were among the best that initially competed at their respective participating-youth agencies to earn bids to the tournament.

"I had fun," said Teraneisha



Jessica Hernandez, foreground, and Emely Garcia, both 13, await the start of their backstroke race at the July 26 Splashdown.

Washington of Clinton Park Community Center. "I didn't even know I was playing."

During the 2012-13 Learn-to-Swim season, about 1,240 youth ages 6 to 18 took classes to learn how to swim or to further develop their swim strokes at seven pools under the direction of the Harris County Aquatics Program.



Teraneisha Washington, left, of Clinton Park Community Center competes in the 3-on-3 Basketball Championship.



Christin Lemond, 11, left, of SHAPE Community Center touches a snake held by Margaret Teatsworth at the Bright Futures Fair.

About 251 qualified for Splashdown, a friendly swim meet that was held July 26 at the Harris County Aquatics Center.

"I love it," Kiera Prusmack, 15, said about swimming. "I love competing against other people."

The Aug. 2 Final Event – the Summer Games' grand finale – was attended by 2,500 youth ages 6 to 15 who competed for medals in traditional street games that include foot races, jacks, hop scotch, softball throw, kickball, football-pass accuracy, Hula Hoop medley and basketball-related events. They were the best of about 3,500 youth who competed for 10 weeks at youth organizations to qualify for the finals.

"I've been here (Final Event) at least three times," said Jakala Cleveland, 11, of the NFL Youth Education Town at Finnigan Park. "The more I come here, the more I realize it's not really about winning or losing. It's about fellowship and having fun."

The Final Event featured the Bright Futures Fair, where about 85 vendors provided giveaways, education, entertainment and games. It also included a Discovery Camp tour, where students got a chance to touch live animals, including a hognose snake.

"I like snakes 78 percent of the time," Christin Lemond, 11, of SHAPE Community said of his Discovery Camp experience.

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 2014 reservations:

Reservations for the months:	Reservations will be accepted on or after:
Jan. 2014 – March 2014	8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11, 2013
April 2014 – June 2014	8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13, 2014
July 2014 – Sept. 2014	8 a.m. Monday, March 10, 2014
Oct. 2014 – Dec. 2014	8 a.m. Monday, May 12, 2014

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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