



Steve Radack, Commissioner

Harris County Precinct 3

PRECINCT THREE QUARTERLY REPORT

The new Harris County Precinct Three senior education center will be formally named for the late Thomas A. Glazier – a native Houstonian and food company executive who was a fierce advocate for volunteerism and longtime backer of community youth programs.

Glazier, who died in 2007 after a long battle with cancer, will be honored during a dedication ceremony at the new 14,000 square foot center at 16600 Pine Forest Lane on Tuesday, April 12th at 10 a.m. Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack will speak and Glazier family members, friends and area seniors who benefit from the education programs are expected to attend.

Commissioner Radack named the new center for Glazier because of his contribution to the community through, among many such efforts, a 43-year association with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

In addition to money he donated and raised for youth programs, Glazier put endless hours of sweat equity into his causes. He never backed away from smaller or thankless, low-key volunteer jobs, like making sure the Reliant Stadium complex was clean during the rodeo. He volunteered for other groups, like the Heights Chamber of Commerce, Future Farmers of America and Texas 4-H. He also raised funds for organizations like the Boys and Girls Harbor, the Star of Hope and the Houston Food Bank. In the last few years of his life, Glazier also became a big booster of the Harris County Fair at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club. That organization is housed minutes away from the senior center that will now carry Glazier's name.

Glazier, a St. Thomas High School graduate, was brought up in the family business – Glazier Foods Company. He oversaw its transition from a frozen foods business to a full service whole food distributor. In that capacity, during efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and while undergoing painful cancer treatments, Glazier and his employees loaded company trucks with food and personally transported it to needy families in devastated areas. He vowed to continue driving food to those in need until his truck could no longer pass anyone else on the road.

The new senior education center opened late last year. Classes are already being conducted there. Precinct employees are recruiting and training senior instructors for the facility. The energy efficient "green" building has multiple classrooms, an auditorium and an astronomy and science room. It is also outfitted with "senior friendly" furniture, fixtures and high-tech computer and audio-visual gear.

Seniors who live in Harris County and are 55 and older can take classes at the facility that cover topics like basic computer skills, Internet safety, astronomy, word processing, mental gymnastics, photo editing and emergency preparedness. There will also be money management classes for seniors, a course on activities in Precinct Three and a class on how to use the county's library system. Commissioner Radack is also in the process of expanding the curriculum offered to seniors throughout the precinct.

The center was paid for with a mix of local funds and \$1.9 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was the next step in the

Commissioner's senior program after he constructed and opened the popular Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, 6600 Bissonnet, in 2004.

That 10,000 square foot facility has, in recent years, become the hub of the senior education efforts that Commissioner Radack started in 2000. Scores of seniors have taken classes at the center on Bissonnet and many have gone on to be instructors. The classes have also become so popular that some are now also taught in community centers in Precinct Three.

Anyone wanting more information on the Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, the new Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, senior education classes or what it takes to be an instructor or volunteer can call (713) 981-4703 or (713) 274-3250.

Another Precinct Three event planned for the spring is the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Harris County War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneers Park. The memorial is at 3535 War Memorial Drive. The ceremony will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 30th.

The memorial, which was built more than 26 years ago during the administration of former Precinct Three Commissioner Bob Eckels, carries the names of Harris County residents who paid the ultimate price in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the first war in the Persian Gulf and the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year, Commissioner Radack is adding the names of Merchant Marines killed during World War II to the monument. The names of those who served in the U.S. Coast Guard and died during various wars are also being added.

Commissioner Radack has also ordered that scores of names previously not added to the memorial from World War I and World War II be etched into the monument's granite walls this year.

With the invaluable assistance of local military researcher Lynna Kay Shuffield, who proposed adding Merchant Marines to the memorial, Precinct Three employees discovered that many names of Harris County residents who fell during the first two world wars were not placed on the memorial when it was originally built. Shuffield and Precinct Three employees have been working to remedy that and the accuracy of names from other conflicts is also being checked.

Another factor that will result in the placement of more names on the monument and the expansion of the entire memorial is a simple change in policy. In the past, only the names of war dead killed by direct enemy action were included on the wall. This was a policy started under the previous administration. Now, in keeping with policy at monuments and memorials around the state and nation, anyone from Harris County who died in a war zone during these conflicts, whether by enemy action or mishap, will have their name placed on the wall.

The guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day ceremony will be Lt. Col. David Farr of the Texas Army National Guard. Farr, a graduate of Texas A&M University and the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, is a veteran of deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo, New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and, most recently, Iraq.

Farr is also a state district judge. He presides in the 312th Family District Court in Harris County -- a position he won in the 2010 General Election. Following an appointment by Texas Gov. Rick Perry, he had previously served as the judge in the 312th from November 2007 until December 2008. He is also the former Associate Judge of the 257th Family District Court and was a member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets from 1987 until 1991.

Anyone with questions about the monument or the ceremony can call the Precinct Three Parks Office at (281) 531-1592.

On Saturday, April 16th, Commissioner Radack will also host his annual Precinct Three Easter Egg Extravaganza. It will be in Bear Creek Pioneers Park at Pavilion No. 6 on Bear Creek Drive. Events will start around 10 am. and include a coloring contest, a homemade Easter egg contest and a contest to create the most creative Easter baskets. There will also

be four Easter Egg hunts starting at 11 a.m. for different age groups. For more information, call Dora Cruz at (281) 463-6300.

In other news, updates on Precinct Three road and construction projects previously featured in this report can now be seen on Commissioner Radack's county website at www.pct3.hctx.net. That data will be updated monthly since this report is now generated quarterly.

As always, Precinct Three encourages comments and questions. You can mail them to Commissioner Radack's office at 1001 Preston, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or email us at pct3@hctx.net.