



**Steve Radack, Commissioner**

Harris County Precinct 3

**PRECINCT THREE FOURTH QUARTER REPORT  
2011**

Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack has again joined forces with the Harris County Toll Road Authority and the U.S. Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” program to help provide a Christmas for children who might not otherwise find a toy under the tree.

New, unwrapped toys for girls and boys will be collected until Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at several locations throughout Precinct Three and the county. Drop-off locations, hours of operation and contact information for each location are as follows:

**PRECINCT THREE FACILITIES**

**(8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)**

- Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, (713) 541-9951
- Bear Creek Community Center, 3055 Bear Creek Drive, (281) 859-1566
- Harris County Administration Bldg., 1001 Preston, Suite 924, (713) 755-6306
- Hockley Community Center, 28515 Old Washington Road, (936) 931-5029
- Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, 20301 Mueschke Road, Tomball, (281) 357-5324
- Mary Jo Peckham Park, 5597 Gardenia, Katy, (281) 391-4482
- Precinct Three Parks Office, 3535 War Memorial Drive, (281) 531-1592
- Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, (713) 266-8193
- Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, (713) 956-0881
- Westside Service Center 16635 Clay Road, (281) 463-6300

**HARRIS COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARIES**

**(Normal hours of operation)**

- Cy-Fair College, 9191 Barker Cypress at West Road, Cypress, (281) 290-3210
- Katherine Tyra, 16719 Clay Road, (281) 550-0885
- Katy Branch, 5414 Franz Road, Katy, (281) 391-3509
- Maud Smith Marks, 1815 Westgreen, Katy, (281) 492-8592
- Northwest, 11355 Regency Green, Cypress, (281) 890-2665
- Spring Branch, 930 Corbindale, (713) 464-1633
- West University, 6108 Auden, (713) 668-8273

**HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD FACILITIES**

**(7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays)**

- EZ Tag Office, 2707 West Sam Houston Parkway North, (281) 875-3279
- EZ Tag Office, 4012 South Dairy Ashford, (281) 875-3279

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

**(8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)**

- Main Office, 404 Caroline, Fourth Floor, (713) 755-6685

## **Partnership with TxDot and Flood Control saves taxpayers money**

Commissioner Radack is continuing construction on an 867-acre park that will create new recreational opportunities in west Harris County and save taxpayers anywhere from \$14 million to \$16 million as the state expands the Grand Parkway.

The new park, called John Paul's Landing, is located near the intersection of Katy-Hockley Cutoff and Sharp roads. The park will feature a large 400-to 500-acre lake for canoeing and fishing that will also provide stormwater storage. It will also feature walking trails, picnic areas and playgrounds. But park amenities aren't the only benefit taxpayers will see from the project.

Nearby, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is building Segment E of the Grand Parkway project. By working with Commissioner Radack, TxDOT is being allowed to excavate the necessary soil for fill material for the road project from the John Paul's Landing site. That means Precinct Three gets the initial phase of the lake constructed at no cost and that the Harris County Flood Control District gets a sizeable stormwater storage area without spending local tax dollars – a savings of \$10 million to \$12 million.

By allowing TxDOT to excavate roughly two million cubic yards of soil from the John Paul's Landing site, Precinct Three is helping the state agency avoid the costs of purchasing a site for excavation and buying fill material – a savings to the state of roughly \$4 million.

Commissioner Radack has said the partnership is a winner on “three fronts” – residents get a unique recreational facility that enhances the natural beauty of the area, Flood Control gets a sizeable detention facility and the state saves money on an important mobility project.

## **Classes for seniors continue**

With two senior education centers now in operation in Precinct Three, Commissioner Radack is reminding residents that a wide variety of classes are being offered in both locations.

The renowned program for seniors can now be accessed at both the Jim & JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, 6600 Bissonnet, and the Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center, 16600 Pine Forest Lane, which has been open for almost one year.

Classes meant to engage, enliven, educate and entertain seniors are continuously offered at both centers at no charge to Harris County residents 55 and older. In some cases, the classes are taught by Precinct Three staff and, in other cases, Commissioner Radack's office uses a cadre of senior volunteers to step to the head of the classroom. Outside experts in various subjects from both the public and private sector are also recruited to teach the classes at no cost to the taxpayers.

Classes on subjects ranging from computer skills, astronomy, using the Internet safely to the best way to use public library resources, digital photography, photo editing and financial and estate planning classes are offered. Courses on memory enhancement, nutrition, emergency preparedness, avoiding fraud, scams and ID theft, hiring a repairman and living with diabetes are also offered. New classes are often added.

For more information or to give us your ideas on a class you'd like to see, contact the staff at the Fonteno Senior Education Center at (713) 981-4703, or email them at [seniorlearning@hxtc.net](mailto:seniorlearning@hxtc.net). Staff at the Glazier Senior Education Center can be reached at (713) 274-3250 or by email at [glaziersec@hctx.net](mailto:glaziersec@hctx.net).

## **Beverly Kaufman honored**

At the request of Commissioner Radack, Harris County Commissioners Court on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> unanimously approved naming a new dog park in west Harris County for former Harris County Clerk Beverly Kaufman. The longtime official retired from office at the end of 2010 after opting not to seek a fifth term.

Kaufman worked in the office of former Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay in the 1970s. Later, in 1994, she was appointed to fill the unexpired term as county clerk after the death of Molly Pryor, who had been appointed to the post only months before. Pryor was appointed after the death of longtime clerk Anita Rodeheaver.

In addition to traditional duties as the county's guardian of records, the county clerk is also the chief election officer. During her time in office, Kaufman won praise from both political parties for her evenhanded handling of political contests.

After the controversial election recount in Florida in the 2000 presidential election, she guided the county through its conversion from a paper ballot punch-card system to the electronic voting system used today. In 2010, as she was getting ready to run her last election, she also had to guide her office and voters through a catastrophic warehouse fire that destroyed much of the county's voting equipment.

The new facility named for Kaufman is located in Katy at Paul D. Rushing Park, 9114 Katy Hockley Road. It features two separate sections – a 2.5-acre area for dogs 20 pounds and under and a 5.5-acre area for larger dogs. The sections are in two different parts of the park complex. Large dogs are not allowed in the section for smaller canines, but patrons with smaller dogs can take their pets into the big dog section.

Construction on the new dog park – the fourth to be built by Commissioner Radack – began April 26 and was finished this summer. The handicapped-accessible facility features shade canopies, dog cooling stations, benches and drinking fountains. Drought conditions delayed the planting of new trees at the park, but parks crews are currently moving ahead with that project.

The innovative Precinct Three dog parks were among the first built in the nation and have quickly become one of the more popular amenities in Commissioner Radack's inventory of parks and recreational facilities. The other three dog parks are the Millie Bush Dog Park, located in George Bush Park at 16756 Westheimer Parkway; the Danny Jackson Family Dog Park near U.S. 59 at the intersection of Loop 610 and Westpark Drive and the dog park in Congressman Bill Archer Park, 3201 State Highway 6 North.

### **Where to find construction updates and how to reach us**

Updates on Precinct Three road and construction projects previously featured in this report can now be seen on Commissioner Radack's website at [www.pct3.hctx.net](http://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, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or email us at [pct3@hctx.net](mailto:pct3@hctx.net).

Commissioner Radack and his staff wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe and happy holiday season.