



Steve Radack, Commissioner

Harris County Precinct 3

**PRECINCT THREE REPORT
FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2010**

The Harris County Precinct Three Soap Box Derby Track in Hockley – one of the few of its kind in the nation – will officially open March 27. That’s when Commissioner Steve Radack will play host to the first official rally there.

Dozens of young racers are expected to participate in the Greater Houston Soap Box event. Competitors will be jockeying for enough points to qualify for a trip to the national competition in Akron, Ohio. The event will also feature “super kid” races for handicapped and special needs competitors.

An open house was held at the facility in February but the March 27 rally will mark the first event there and the first time the Greater Houston Soap Box Derby group will compete at the facility. In the past, the group has conducted events on the Westpark Tollway.

The Precinct Three track, adjacent to the Hockley Community Center at 28515 Old Washington Road in Hockley, has been in planning and construction stages for more than a decade. Commissioner Radack expects the facility to be a big draw to west Harris County and is currently working to sell naming rights to the facility. More than a dozen events are already scheduled there.

The track is probably the closest replica in the nation to the well-known soap box derby facility in Akron. The Precinct Three track is 1,261 feet long – 985 feet of which is dedicated to racing – and it is 46.5 feet high.

Before it was paved over, the hill was fashioned with dirt excavated from Commissioner Radack’s nearby “Chain of Lakes” project. The facility includes concession stands, restrooms, a soap box derby barn for repair and storage of soap box derby cars and a parking lot with 226 standard parking spaces and 14 handicapped spots. A large playground on the site is almost complete and there are additional plans for walking trails and an amphitheater.

In addition to sanctioned races by soap box derby aficionados, Commissioner Radack will allow the track to be used by local charities to raise money through “challenge” races for adults and children. Special cars are also being constructed for seniors to use the track. There are also plans to sell sponsorships for cars that adults and children will be able to use at the track.

The unique project has received nationwide media attention. Precinct Three staffers have also received calls from constituents of all ages interested in the project. In addition, the U.S. Olympic Luge Team has contacted Precinct Three about the possibility of using the facility for practice runs and training.

In other news, the Houston Grand Opera will conduct an “Opera To Go” event at the Bear Creek Community Center, 3055 Bear Creek Drive on Friday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m. The 45-minute show is free to the public and will feature selections from *Cinderella in Spain*. The show is geared for children in elementary and middle school. For more information, call 281-859-1566.

Constituents are also being asked for continued input on Commissioner Radack's recently revamped website. The redesign marks the first step in a massive redesign of the precinct's Internet gateway to county services and amenities. The redesigned site can be viewed at www.pct3.hctx.net.

The new site is only the first step in a total redesign process and new pages are being added daily. In the coming months, Commissioner Radack's office will be working closely with the county's technology experts to fashion an even more modern, accessible and user-friendly site with more features and a completely updated feel.

As the process of improving the precinct's Internet tools continues, Commissioner Radack would like constituents to visit the site. This will be a process involving many steps and input and ideas are needed. Thousands of web-surfers visit the site each month for information on the precinct and the programs offered through Commissioner Radack's office. Just click on "Contact Us" in the upper right side of the home page and send your feedback.

In construction news, base repair and overlay of several roads in Bear Creek Pioneers Park is about 90 percent complete. Resurfacing of the jogging trails in the area of War Memorial Drive, also in Bear Creek Pioneers Park, is complete.

Work has also begun on a trail and small parking lot in a new pocket park in the Wirt Road area. The project is essentially complete, with the exception of the installation of a sprinkler system and some additional landscaping.

Road projects on Queenston Boulevard, from West Road to Houston National Boulevard, and on Cypress Rose Hill, from Cypress Mill Park to Manor Bend, are complete.

Projects still under construction include:

- Westside Senior Education Center – 85 percent complete. Construction of a new single story building, approximately 15,000 gross square feet, with concrete parking lot and access drive.
- Mueschke Road, from approximately one mile north of US 290 to Sandy Hill Circle – 65 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- Katy-Fort Bend County Road, from North of Franz to North of Morton Ranch Road – 45 percent complete. Construction of a four-lane concrete boulevard with new traffic signal at Katy-Fort Bend County Road and Morton Ranch Road.
- Tuckerton Road from Oak Trace Island to Queenston – five percent complete. Construction of a two-lane concrete roadway to complete a four-lane concrete boulevard.
- North Eldridge from north of Cypress North Houston to north of Cypress Creek – 5 percent complete. Construction of the future southbound lanes to complete a four-lane concrete boulevard. Project has been awarded to Lone Star Road Construction, Ltd.

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.