



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

**PRECINCT THREE REPORT
MAY 2009**

Park patrons hoping for a first glimpse of Doc – the deer adopted by Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack’s office to replace the beloved Mr. Buck – will have to wait until July to see the new addition to the wildlife sanctuary at Bear Creek Pioneers Park.

Like many animals in the popular habitat area, Doc was evacuated during rains that flooded Bear Creek Pioneers Park and the surrounding area in late April. During that evacuation, Doc’s keepers noticed the three-year-old buck had sustained an injury to one of his legs. The deer was immediately sent back to Seguin veterinarian Dr. Scott Bugai for treatment and recovery.

Bugai, who nursed Doc to health and raised him in captivity after the buck was attacked by scavenger birds when he was a baby, had offered the animal to Precinct Three after Mr. Buck was killed last year. Bugai, for whom the deer is named, recently told Precinct Three officials Doc needs several more weeks of recovery before he is brought back to Harris County.

In the meantime, Bear Creek Pioneers Park is still flooded and closed to the public. The heavy rains in April put more standing water in the park than has been seen there since storms in 1992.

The water is receding but when the park will reopen will depend on how much additional rain the area receives in the few weeks. Crews are working hard on clean-up efforts and the park is expected to be reopened before Doc is brought back from Seguin.

Doc arrived at the Precinct Three sanctuary on April 23 – only a few days before the rains hit – and he was still learning his new surroundings. Park officials are not sure how Doc was injured.

Mr. Buck’s history was much the same as Doc’s. He had sustained an injury as a young deer, was nursed back to health and taken in by the precinct. Mr. Buck spent eight years on display. He was gentle and would often let patrons pet him. He went on to be one of the more popular attractions at Bear Creek Pioneers Park before he was killed in his pen last November.

In other news, the flooding in Bear Creek Pioneers Park has forced Precinct Three to cancel its annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Memorial Wall there. This marks the first time the ceremony has been cancelled in its 24-year history.

The names of Harris County military personnel killed during wartime are etched on the wall. In recent years, because of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, new names have been added regularly during a solemn and patriotic ceremony.

Though the ceremony is being cancelled this year, Precinct Three will still lay a wreath at the wall when the waters recede and the names of those Harris County military men and women who lost their lives fighting for the United States since last Memorial Day will be placed on the wall as soon as possible.

In other news, Harris County will conduct a household hazardous waste collections event from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, May 30 in Precinct Three at Paul D. Rushing Park, 9114 Katy Hockley Road. The event is open to all Harris County residents.

The “HazMobile” – a mobile collection system capable of collecting hazardous household waste from about 125 homes – will be there and waste will be collected on a first-come, first-served basis until the vehicle has reached its capacity.

Containers of waste must be five gallons or smaller. Items accepted will include: pesticides, fertilizers, household cleaners, paint removers, paint-related materials, fuels, antifreeze, pool chemicals, glues, solvents, used oil and filters and batteries and thermometers.

Electronics and tires will not be accepted. Also not accepted will be business, medical or radioactive waste, dioxins, ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, smoke detectors, appliances and household trash.

For more information about the event, call 713-290-3000 or visit www.cleanwaterways.org.

In construction news, the following projects are now complete – four-lane concrete boulevards with new traffic signals in certain locations on Mueschke from U.S. 290 to 0.8 miles north of U.S. 290 and Cypress Rosehill from U.S. 290 to Cypress Needle Drive. A two-lane concrete half-boulevard is now complete on Tuckerton from east of Telge to west of Huffmeister.

On Kingsland Boulevard from east of Katy-Fort Bend to west of State Highway 99, construction of a four-lane boulevard with a new traffic signal at Katy-Fort Bend is complete, with the exception of punch list items.

Ongoing projects include work on Greenhouse from Interstate 10 to Saums and Park Row east and west of Greenhouse, which is 90 percent complete; Mason from Maple Village to Schiel, which is 65 percent complete; Tuckerton from Arched Oak to Huffmeister, which is 60 percent complete; Queenston from Clay to Kieth Harrow, which is 10 percent complete; Skinner from Jarvis to Spring Cypress, which is two percent complete; and Greenhouse from Rebel Yell to Caledonia, which is also two percent complete.

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.