



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

PRECINCT THREE FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2014

Commissioner's annual Memorial Day event scheduled

Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack's annual Memorial Day salute to those who paid the ultimate price defending the United States during wartime will be May 26th at the Harris County War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneers Park.

The event will begin at 2 p.m. It is open to veterans, their families, relatives of the fallen and the public. The memorial is at 3535 War Memorial Drive and is near the park entrance off Eldridge Parkway.

The solemn ceremony will include presentation and posting of colors, the singing of *The National Anthem* and *America the Beautiful* by Madalyn Hernandez, opening and closing prayers from Pastor Jonathan Semro of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Copperfield, a wreath ceremony, a 21-gun salute from the Houston Police Department Honor Guard and exhibition drills from the Langham Creek High School Air Force Junior ROTC.

Precinct Three Parks Superintendent Steve Dorman will act as master of ceremonies. This year's guest speaker will be Col. Richard P. Pannell, district engineer and commanding officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District.

Prior to assuming command of the Galveston District in 2013, Pannell served as Corps engineer in Fort Hood. Originally from Athens, Ga., he graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he received his commission in the USACE in 1989.

Pannell's service highlights include postings in Germany, New York, Missouri and Fort Bragg, N.C. He also served as senior engineer observer/controller at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany in 2005 and 2006 and was an instructor and assistant professor in the Geography and Environmental Engineering Department at West Point from 1999 until 2002. Pannell's overseas service includes combat tours in the Middle East for operations Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Pannell earned a Master of Science in Water Resources Management from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master of Science in Geography at the same university. He also has a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His military education also consists of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Sapper Tab and Ranger Tab.

The Harris County War Memorial was built more than 28 years ago during the administration of former Precinct Three Commissioner Bob Eckels. It 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, the war in Iraq and the conflict in Afghanistan. In 2011, Commissioner Radack added 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 were also added.

Anyone with questions about the monument or the ceremony can call the Precinct Three Parks Office at (281) 531-1592. Patrons can also visit the Precinct Three website at www.pct3.hctx.net to look up names listed on the Harris County War Memorial.

Precinct Three Arbor Day planting a success

Commissioner Radack's annual Arbor Day tree planting on Jan. 25th involved more than 26 Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, their relatives and friends. They planted more than 210 trees along Westheimer Parkway near Millie Bush Dog Park.

The event involved the planting of roughly 150 one-gallon sized trees and about 60 five-gallon trees. The location near the dog park, where they were planted, is within the confines of the expansive and popular George Bush Park, 16756 Westheimer Parkway.

Free English classes being offered at Sosa Community Center

Free English classes are being offered at Commissioner Radack's Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road. For more information on how to register for the classes and when they meet, please call (713) 956-0881.

Community garden class for seniors featured on PBS Newshour Weekend

An innovative community garden project at the Thomas A. Glazier Senior Education Center aimed at teaching seniors more about organic foods and healthy living was recently featured on *PBS Newshour Weekend* broadcast on Houston PBS.

The project, started by Commissioner Radack in October, has become popular with seniors. The PBS story can be viewed by going to the Precinct Three homepage at www.pct3.hctx.net and clicking on the prompt in the homepage marquee.

The community garden project was designed for seniors by Precinct Three crews who built it behind the senior education center at 16600 Pine Forest in the Texas 6 and Clay Road area. Some of the specially-constructed gardens beds are raised and others are vertical. That allows seniors to more easily reach them from sitting and standing positions and make the beds easier to tend. The garden was also fashioned in a way as to leave plenty of room for walkways and wheelchairs.

Seniors who sign up for the program take responsibility for the care of the garden and rotate crops to match the different growing seasons throughout the year. In October, for example, they planted organic kale, lettuce, beets, carrots, radish, Swiss chard, spinach, Brussels sprouts and green beans.

Seniors participating have learned raised gardening beds are easier to maintain and that they increase soil temperature and drainage. That means the growing season for a particular crop can be extended. The seniors will have also learned what it's like to grow vegetables in a natural and organic fashion. That means no chemicals or manmade pesticides are used. Those participating harvest the crops on harvest days so they can take home some of the vegetables they tended in the garden.

Participation in each growing season's class is limited, but scores of seniors are already working in the garden. The program complements the long list of popular classes

already offered at the Glazier Senior Education Center that focus on healthy cooking, nutrition, diet and staying fit.

For more information on the community gardening program and other classes and senior educational opportunities, call the staff at the Glazier Senior Education Center at (713) 274-3250.

Commissioner Radack's annual Easter Egg Extravaganza scheduled

Commissioner Radack's annual Easter Egg Extravaganza will be Saturday, April 12th at Bear Creek Pioneers Park on Bear Creek Drive at Pavilion No. 6 starting at 10 a.m.

There will be a coloring contest from 10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Judging will start at 10:30 a.m. That's when the judging will also start for the Homemade Easter Egg Contest, which also starts at 10 a.m. All materials are supplied for the coloring contest. Participants in the egg content need to bring their own hard-boiled eggs.

At 10:40 a.m., judging will begin on the Easter basket decorating contest and, starting at 11 a.m., there will be four separate Easter egg hunts for children under two-years-old, those from ages three to five, ages six to seven and ages eight to nine.

For more information, call (281) 463-6300.

Where to find construction updates and how to reach us

Updates on Precinct Three road and construction projects can be seen on Commissioner Radack's website at www.pct3.hctx.net. That data is updated monthly since this report is 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.