



Steve Radack, Commissioner
Harris County Precinct 3

PRECINCT THREE SECOND QUARTER REPORT 2012

Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack is finalizing plans to develop a new dog park within a new multi-purpose recreational facility at the intersection of Barker Cypress and West Road. This will be the fifth dog park Commissioner Radack has built in his precinct.

The dog park will be on Harris County Flood Control District land being turned over to the precinct later this summer. Development of the site, tentatively named Horsepen Creek Park, is expected to be complete by spring or early summer of next year.

The park will feature a large lake and a long hike-and-bike trail. There are two peninsulas jutting into the sizeable water feature. Traditional recreational amenities – shade canopies, picnic tables and playground equipment – will be placed on one. The other peninsula will be home to the yet-to-be-named dog park.

Commissioner Radack was the first local elected official in the region and one of the first in the nation to develop dog parks. The innovative program has been immensely popular with canine-loving park patrons. Other officials in various local jurisdictions have followed Commissioner Radack's lead and built their own dog parks.

Last year, Commissioner Radack opened the Beverly Kaufman Dog Park in deep west Harris County. It's named for the former longtime Harris County Clerk who retired from office at the end of 2010 after opting not to seek a fifth term. That facility 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. The handicapped-accessible facility features shade canopies, dog cooling stations, benches, and drinking fountains.

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.

Little birds. Big event.

Preparations are underway for Commissioner Radack's annual Kleb Woods Hummingbird Festival at the Kleb Woods Nature Center, 20303 Draper Road at Mueschke Road in Tomball. The popular event will be Saturday, Sept. 15th this year from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

This year's event will feature hummingbird expert Sumita Prasad, who will be capturing and banding the small birds and giving patrons a chance to closely examine the unique creatures. Kleb Woods Nature Center naturalist Kendra Kocab will present a program on how to identify hummingbirds and how to document sightings. Gary Clark, a professor at Lone Star College-North Harris and the author of a weekly newspaper column on nature, will also be there to discuss local hummingbirds. His talk will be illustrated by his wife – professional photographer Kathy Adams Clark.

There will also be a program called *Silent Hunters* – a presentation by Houston Audubon Society Education Director Mary Ann Weber. She will be displaying live owls throughout the day and give patrons a chance to observe an Eastern Screech Owl, a Barred Owl, and a Great Horned Owl. Kleb Woods Nature Center volunteer blacksmiths will also be demonstrating their skills on site and tours of the facility will be going on at the same time.

Admission to the family-friendly event is free. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own drinks and snacks. None will be sold at the event. For more information, call (281) 357-5324.

Annual Memorial Day event a success

More than 300 people attended Commissioner Radack's annual Precinct Three Memorial Day Ceremony at the Harris County War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneers Park. The event was conducted at the memorial located at 3535 War Memorial Drive near the park entrance off Eldridge.

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, the war in Iraq, and the ongoing 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. Last year, Commissioner Radack also ordered scores of names previously not added to the memorial from World War I and World War II etched into the monument's granite walls.

Those names were left off when the monument was originally built – a problem discovered and quickly remedied by Precinct Three staff and local historian and military researcher Lynna Kay Shuffield.

The guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day ceremony was Maj. Joseph Robert Ellis (USMC, Retired). Ellis spent 20 years in the military and specialized in law enforcement, security and force protection. He also worked in the private sector, including a stint with security contractor Blackwater USA. At the request of Commissioner Radack, Harris County Commissioners Court recently appointed Ellis to the Harris County Housing Authority board.

Anyone with questions about the monument 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.

Construction reports and staying informed

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. 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.