

in touch

current events at the Houston Emergency Center

2007 in Review

It seems that 2007 came and went and now we see ourselves in full stride of 2008. With open arms, we welcome the bright prospects the New Year may bring us all but, lest we forget, a quick review of the year's past fun filled events:

HEC 3rd Annual Christmas Party

The annual HEC Christmas elevated its party interaction standard by including a talent laden segment of employees who shared their talents with everyone in the room. Instruments were played, sultry voices filled the air as the crowd was serenaded to an evening's delight. Danicing started early and lasted through the night. Talent thrives beyond the call of our everyday duties.

Christmas Door Decorations

Christmas is a time of year that can bring all sorts of enthusiasm from everyone to show their holiday spirits. This year's door decorations highlighted various influences from all walks of life. We are all fortunate that we are blessed so we can enjoy the fruits of our creativity.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Pumpkins, pumpkins, and pumpkins more...nuff said.

Ahoy there, matey!

Being a pirate for a Halloween dress up isn't so bad unless, of course, you had to drive into work with hundreds of fellow commuters who don't mind given you a stare and an occasional smirk. Thank goodness I didn't get a flat tire...a pirate marooned on the side of the road could have been a bit too ironic.

Bob-B-Que

Long live all "Bobs" who made Labor Day a memorable event...and all the good grub, too!

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.---Asesop



White Christmas



Santa checking for milk and cookies



Holiday entrance



Oh, woes me



Mess hall "Bobs" man their stations



William Gomez and Stephen Bissell



Liz Padilla: Quality dessert team



Joel Casas



Juanesa Epps



Lola Purvis



Angela Williams



(L-R)
Joe Laud
Karlos Castillo



(L-R)
Lupe Torres
David Cutler
Cathy Garcia



(L-R)
Jane Nyambura
Chris Taylor
Michelle Allen



PSAP beauties show off their Halloween garb.



Awards Committee Notifications

Congratulations to Captain Mike Smith and Rosa Murrell, Halloween Baskets, Joe Laud, Pumpkin Craving Contest, and Larnetta Brown, winner of the Thanksgiving Centerpiece Fall Floral Centerpiece Arrangement.

Christmas Gala and HEC Talent:

The Awards Committee Members would like to thank everyone who participated and worked together as a team for supporting the fund raising and raffle events for the Christmas Gala.

We would like to take a moment to recognize and show our appreciation to: Celia Jackson, Grace SanAntonio, Flo Carmouche, Adele Gottlieb, Gwendolyn Miller, Geraldine Taylor, and Pat Brown, for their contributions of crafts, gifts, and donations. Jose Celedon and Bill Waldrop---thanks for taking the photos of a memorable night.

Also a special thanks to all of our talented employees who participated in the HEC talent show.

Boss' Day

Boss' Day came with a surprise for Operations Manager Cheryl Murrell. Ms. Murrell's supervisory team celebrated her leadership by presenting her, a gift certificate (Applebee's) and a box of her favorite candy.

FIRE/EMS Sr. Telecommunicator, Donna Paul treated all of the FIRE/EMS supervisors with gift cards to Jack's for a combo meal. also.

Keep up the good work.

Additional Updates

The Awards Committee would like to recognize Ellie Acura, new Sr. Office Assistant - Police/911 Evening Shift.

Employees of the Quarter

Robert Taylor and Grayson Mason
Alex Delgado and Pam Wafer

Breast Cancer Awareness

October 2007 was Breast Cancer month and the Awards Committee Members sponsored a fund raiser which raised \$644.00. A donation was made to the Susan G. Koeman Foundation on behalf of the Houston Emergency Center.

The Awards Committee would like to thank everyone who participated and worked together as a team for this worthy cause.

The Awards Committee Members would like to give a special thanks to our Chair, Elizabeth Padilla, who started this event 2-ysr also. Keep up the good work.

CMC (Combined Municipal Campaign)

The CMC is an annual drive to raise funds from city employees to be contributed to various charitable organizations of their choice. The Houston Emergency Center's goal for this year is \$10,000 but successfully raised \$20,000. This contribution allowed us to exceed our goal and make a difference in life of someone desperately in need. Great job HEC!

If you were paid ten cents for every kind word you ever spoke, and had to pay out five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington



History in our Mist

Rodney West is the first African American, Deputy Chief in the Houston Fire Department since 1938.

He replaced Deputy Chief David Sharp, who retired in February, 2007.

He is in charge of the OEC (Office of Emergency Communications) located at the Houston Emergency Center.

[more >](#)

9-1-1 Senior Telecommunicator, Sanjuanita (Rosie) Nanes, reports that her daughter, Isabel Nanes was invited to become a member of the People Student Ambassador delegation from the west Houston area traveling to Italy and Greece. She had the opportunity to join 5th and 6th grade students from her area on this fascinating educational journey.



Isabel Nanes

Isabel experienced 20 days of rewarding activities and met people from Italy and Greece. Her local delegation will represent the United States overseas, experience new cultures, and making lifelong friends. She will advance as a young leader through special access and focused excursions and will gain: confidence and leadership, culture understanding, world awareness and friendships and memories.



Chuck Norris and Will Jennings

On Thursday, December 6, 2007, Will Jennings, son of Robert and Tamara Jennings, received his 1st Gold Kick Start Karate Belt. The ceremony was held at Delmar Stadium located at 2020 Mangum, H.I.S.D. Sports Arena.

Will is a 6th grader and attends Burbank Middle School. This was the 15 annual Kick Start anniversary. The starting schools that began this program 15 years ago are Central Middle with Galveston I.S.D. and Burbank, Hogg and Hamilton Middle Schools with Houston I.S.D.

These 4 schools were present and at least 600 Kick Start students

were promoted to a higher Belt Rank.

The presentation of the Belts was handed out by Mr. Chuck Norris, founder of the Kick Start Program.

The above picture is of Mr. Chuck Norris and Will Jennings with his Gold Belt

Congratulations Will.

Word Search Puzzle

Created by RNanes and CEthridge

P H T U O S T N I R P S O S O E
 G L E A P S T B J G N U U A U U
 A M P O E K T E E R T S G C O T
 C B O W T N E I T A P Z S N E Y
 R L L Y C N E G R E M E N S A H
 E R I F G C O T C A R E T W G H
 C F C R E K A T L L A C T S Y G
 S R E H C T A P S I D L R C A P
 H F I R E M A N E U E A S T W E
 S I B C R R E L I B O M T I E Y
 G C G H K X T E L E P H O N E N
 L A S H T E C N A L U B M A R E
 A E Q E W R T V I C T I M A F Z
 O A L X D A O R E C I V R E S Y
 E I Z S E N Y N S J E O C T S O
 H S I O T W E C S A S K A S S M

Find the following hidden words:

Sam Houston, Nextel, service road, freeway, suspect, police, victim, loops, fire, ambulance, tmobile, call taker, hang up, cricket, emergency, beltway, highway, patient, telephone, dispatcher, street, rescue, sprint, west, east, fireman, north, south

Lynne Horn, PSAP Supervisor, wanted to express her pride regarding her daughter, Alissa Garcia.



Alissa Garcia

Alissa is an art teacher at Rick Schneider Middle School and in

2006 she participated in a charity event benefiting the Center for Hearing and Speech.

She was told that the picture (chalk drawing) she created would be on the cover of the brochure announcing the event for 2007.

An e-mail soon arrived, advising Alissa that there was also going to be two billboards announcing the event and her chalk drawing would be featured on the billboards. Congratulations to job well done!

more >

Jeline Mason 8/2
Rosemary Dotson 8/2
Shacaydra Francois 8/5
Arnette Tennessee 8/5
Jennifer Johnson 8/8
Matthew Hyde 8/14
Hermalynda Booker 8/20
Ylonda Washington 8/21
Shephonia Eckford 8/22
Sharon Tucker 8/25
Larnetta Brown 8/26
Larry Gay 8/26
Elizabeth Padilla 8/27
Richard Delgado 8/27
Clyde Mahavier 8/28
Freddie Lakey 8/29
Tamara Thorn-Jennings 8/30
Terry Pierrot 8/31
Maria Ruyvakaba 8/31

Amy Eldridge 9/1
Tyrona Mitchell 9/3
Ashley Neal 9/3
Helen Woods 9/3
Pat Debose 9/5
Patricia Johnson 9/8
Fred Cagle 9/11
Gregory Myer 9/13
Juanesa Epps 9/14
Hilda Yarn 9/15
Seuwana Allen 9/16
Phyllis Maxwell 9/19
Jennifer Strickland 9/20
Robert Taylor 9/22
Jessica Valdez 9/23
Isaura Pineda 9/26
Trina Debose 9/26
Gemar Burnom 9/29

Thelma Yancy 10/2
Jose Cordova 10/3
Jane Nyambura 10/3
Leonel Avila 10/4
Vanessa Staggers 10/5
Thelma Flake 10/6
Tonyel Tibbs 10/6
Shantrielle Scott 10/8
Darlene Dawson 10/9
Erica Avie 10/10
Shirley Yanez 10/11
Blanca Medina 10/14

Laurie Wanza 10/19
Vanessa Moore 10/22
Sheila Bell 10/23
Ruth Jackson 10/25
Marcell Stewart 10/27

Kemmie Estes 11/1
Donna Paul 11/1
Giselle Vaughn 11/3
Shequania Thompson 11/5
Nelda Adams 11/7
Kathy Armstrong 11/7
Dexter Brooks 11/7
Corey Booker 11/8
Steven Theis 11/10
My Trang 11/10
Pamela Wafer 11/11
Yolanda Mingo 11/12
Kimberly Vega 11/13
Edward Kolczynski 11/15
Jose Celedon 11/16
Adele Gottlieb 11/19
Gilbert Keery 11/20
Donald McMillin II 11/20
Irma Munoz 11/25
Kenneth Robinson 11/26

Verna Bolden 12/1
Colleen Bush 12/3
Celia Jackson 12/3
Deanna Tennyson 12/4
Steven Mirada 12/11
Grace Udofia 12/12
Euradell Butler 12/13
LaToya Davis 12/13
Lynne Horn 12/14
Laura Trevino 12/14
Alfredo Aguirre 12/15
Christopher Taylor 12/16
Blanca Thomas 12/16
Brenda Grundy 12/19
Ruben Loreto 12/19
Carol Conyers 12/20
Teresa Holmes 12/22
Gwendolyn Miller 12/22
Cheryl Murrell 12/22
Roldolfo Delafuente 12/27
Felicia Buckner 12/31

As a reminder

Postings for the safety fairs along with a sign up sheet will be available in the 2nd floor break room. Contact Pat Curtis for more details.



Anniversaries

8-yrs of anniversary for Liz and Freddie Padilla 7/1
19-yrs of anniversary for Robert and Tamara Thorn-Jennings 9/17

New Births

Alessandra Krystal Cinco-Reyes, daughter of Amanda Cinco, 9/1
Jakolbie Michael Neal, grandson of Darlene Dawson, 10/10
Tytianna Alexious Holman, granddaughter of Kemmie Estes, 10/5
Jakob Mitchell, son of Trina Debose 12/4

Condolences

Patricia Rosignon's mother recently passed away.

Let's continue to keep her and their family in our prayers.

Farewells

Michelle Beaux, HPD Senior Dispatcher



Happy Valentine's Day!!!



Bill White, Mayor
David Cutler, HEC Director
Barbara Evans, 9-1-1 HEC Asst. Dir.
Matt Hyde, IT HEC Asst. Dir.
Joe Laud, PIO / Editor
Connie Ethridge, Sr. 9-1-1 TC / Asst. Editor

Employee Awards Committee/
Editorial Board:
Felicia Buckner, 9-1-1 TC
Amanda Cinco, Police TC
Lee Mays, IT
Ronda McAfee, HPD Dispatcher
Elizabeth Padilla, PSAP Supv.
Donna Paul, Fire/EMS TC
Grace Santantonio, Police TC
Robert L. Taylor, Employee Relations Mgr.
Tonyel Tibbs, 9-1-1 TC
Cynthia Wall, Administrative Coordinator
Kathleen Yzaguirre, HPD Dispatcher