

current events at the Houston Emergency Center

HEC TID BITS

Breast Cancer Awareness

October 2006 was Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Awards Committee sponsored a fund raiser which raised \$752.35. A donation was made to the Susan G. Koemen 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.

Seeking Softball Players

There is an interest to create two softball teams at HEC to allow the teams to play against each other.

It should create for a fun, competitive environment and also allow the chance to know fellow employees who share a similar passion.

If interested, contact Senior Telecommunicator Kris Longoria to get the ball rolling.

Lunch With The Chief

For \$1, you can have a chance to have a personal lunch with Director David Cutler.

Tickets will be available from February 5 - 23 and additional information can be obtained from any Awards Committee Members.



Outstanding Services

The Awards Committee would like to welcome students from the High School of Law Enforcement: Cindy Arzola, Ayala Hiram, Morris Broussard, Nicole Curtis, Nicole Flores, Andrea Gonzales, Jerry Holland, Ricardo Lizalde, Nicolas Mandiola, Isaura Pineda, Jessica Valdez, and Beatrice Vargas.

Andrea Gonzales, an honor roll student who will graduate in 2007 and a National Honors Society member, states "my call handling experience has taught me patience to deal with difficult people. Hopefully, these lessons will allow me to handle different situations that may occur as I pursue my career."

Additionally, Nicole Curtis, another student at the center, remarks "HEC has been very interesting. I've learned work ethics from my co-workers and supervisors and I've also learned what to do or what not to do in cases of various emergencies. I understand this is a rare experience to have and I'm going to do my best to make the most of it."

We would like to recognize the students for a job well done and wishing them the best as they continue their education.

Special Recognition:

9-1-1 PSAP Supervisor Rudy de la Fuente would like to recognize Senior Telecommunicator Colleen Bush for her outstanding work when she handled the call for HPD Officer Rodney Johnson's shooting last September 2006. "Although Officer Johnson did not survive the shooting, Colleen's quick thinking in getting all the necessary information from the reporting citizen enabled responding units to arrive in a timely manner. Additionally, Colleen kept her cool and professional tone while she assisted the citizen," de la Fuente remarked. Keep up the good work!!!

Proud Parent:



Pictured L - R: Jennifer and Jeffrey Sneed

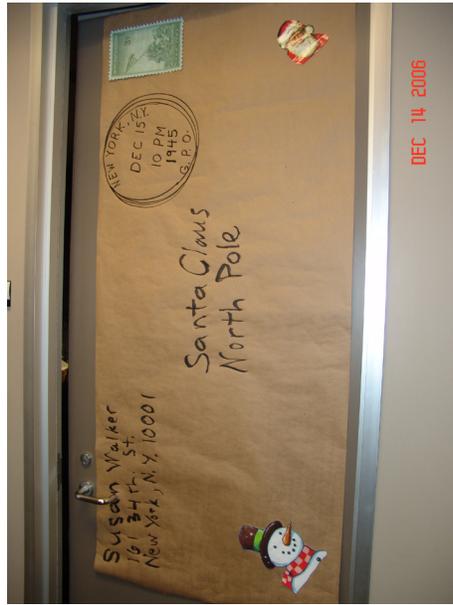
Patricia Sneed, PSAP Supervisor, reports that her son, Jeffrey Sneed, recently graduated from HPD Cadet Class 187 this past November 2006. He was the youngest (age 21) in his class and was a recipient of a driving award. Jeffrey Sneed is now training at HPD Headquarters on day shift.

She also reported that she celebrated her 25th anniversary with the city!

Congratulations on all of your good fortune!



Honorable Mentions



Best Design



D eck the Doors

Who was naughty or nice?

Santa's helpers patrolled the hall ways in search of decorative doors to cherish the soul or leave in spiritual despair.

There were many great efforts to show individual artistic flairs and then there were those who exhibited lackluster sparks that down right just fizzled.

Then a Best Design was chosen as well as Honorable Mentions for those who came close. Of course, we had to mention that we were paying attention to Dishonorable Mentions, too.

Overall, the season was enjoyed with holiday cheer but don't forget that we'll be checking doors again next year!

Dishonorable Mentions





HEC 2nd Annual Christmas Party: Sounds of Christmas past

“The food was delicious!,” “The music selections were really great.,” “WOW, the room is beautiful,” “The center pieces are really beautiful....can I have one?,” “I had just arrived, and then you called my name for a door prize!,” “Where’d you get all of these door prizes? Almost everyone got one!,” “I ate too much dessert!!”

The roars and laughter of watching the Men compete for the Best Dressed Male Contest were high on the Richter scale. The whistles and applause as the women competed for the Best Dressed Female Contest were deafening. The party goers were beautiful in their party wear and danced until their “legs fell off.” Fun was had by all!!!

Hope to see y’all there next year!

Contest Winners

- | | |
|--|---|
| Best Dressed Male – HFD Capt. Raymond Richardson | 1st runner up – HFD Capt. Jarvis Butler |
| Best Dressed Female – Barbara Evans | 1st runner up – Neva Hill |
| Best looking Couple – Zina Clay and Caesar | 1st runner up – Gloria and Donnie Buggs |

Special Recognitions

- Geraldine Taylor – Significant donation of door prizes
- Gwendolyn Miller – Several donations of door prizes



mployee Wellness Advisory Council (EWAC)

“Take it to another Level in 2007”

HEC and ITD have teamed up to support EWAC, a program created to maintain and promote the health of departmental employees throughout the city, to become a healthier, fit work force, and improve morale. Our primary challenges are to have fun and strive to acquire the coveted “Mayor’s Cup 2007.”

The challenge involves all City of Houston employees and elected officials. Our team captain is Council Member M. J. Khan. This is a year long, interdepartmental competition where activities include: bowling, the Biggest Loser (weight) Challenge, basketball, tennis, golf, track, and others. Employees may also participate in or volunteer for the Rodeo Run, Tour de Houston, and Runway Race for Life, Race for the Cure, Heart Association Walk and more. Each team earns points for their participation. The goal is to stay healthy because your health is your most valuable asset.

For additional information, contact Robert Taylor who is a coordinator spearheading all wellness activities.

Go team go!

Karlos Castillo (r) is determined to be the biggest loser

“I personally am going to start a diet/exercise regimen and plan on getting to my goal of 220-lbs. No matter how long it takes. I was once 470-lbs. and I got down to 335-lbs. but due to the stress of my father’s death, last March, my weight went back up to 380-lbs.

I think it would be a good way for me to start the new year and possibly promote health awareness amongst all employees at the Houston Emergency Center. It would also be a good way to challenge and inspire everyone to be a little bit more health conscious. In this health challenge, there are no winners or losers.

Whether you lose weight or not, if everyone were to exercise and try to stay fit, all would be a winner in the challenge.”



Words of wisdom; we’ll be checking in with Karlos to let you know how he is doing. Good luck!

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Top Black History Inventors and Fast Facts

1. Elijah McCoy (1843-1929) invented an oil-dripping cup for trains. Other inventors tried to copy McCoy's oil-dripping cup. But none of the other cups worked as well as his, so customers started asking for the "the real McCoy." That's where the expression comes from.
2. Lewis Latimer (1848-1928) invented an important part of the light bulb – the carbon filament. Latimer worked in the laboratories of both Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.
3. Jan Ernst Matzeliger (1852-1889) invented a shoe making machine that increased shoe making speed by 900%! In 1992, the U.S. made a postage stamp in honor of Matzeliger.
4. Granville T. Woods (1856-1910) invented a train-to-station communication system. Woods left school at age 10 to work and support his family.
5. George Washington Carver (1860-1943) invented peanut butter and 400 plant products! Carver was born a slave. He didn't go to college until he was 30.
6. Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919) invented a hair-growing lotion. Walker grew up poor. But she became the first female African-American millionaire.
7. Garrett Morgan (1877-1963) invented the gas mask. Morgan also invented the traffic signal.
8. Otis Boykin (1920-1982) invented the electronic control devices for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the peacemaker. Boykin invented 28 different electronic devices.
9. Dr. Patricia E. Bath (1949-) invented a method of eye surgery that has helped many blind people to see. Dr. Bath has been nominated to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Anniversaries

- 2-yrs for Frank and Latonia Moutra, 1/8
- 23-yrs for Randy and Corina Love, 1/13
- 33-yrs for Mel and Adele Gottlieb, 1/25
- 10-yrs for Joe and My-Linh Laud, 1/25
- 11-yrs for Kemmie and Clarence Estes, 1/28
- 12-yrs for Felix and Linda Terrell, 2/25
- 7-yrs for Ruby and John Hayes, 2/27

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kemmie Estes 11/1 | Donna Paul 11/1 |
| Gisele Vaughn 11/3 | S. Thompson 11/5 |
| Nelda Adams 11/7 | Dexter Brooks 11/7 |
| Kathy Armstrong 11/7 | Richard Butler 11/9 |
| Jonathan Kobe 11/11 | Pamela Wafer 11/11 |
| Yolanda Mingo 11/12 | Kimberly Vega 11/13 |
| Adele Gottlieb 11/19 | Don McMillin 11/20 |
| Charita Rosignon 11/21 | Gil Keery 11/22 |
| Verna Bolden 12/1 | Celia Jackson 12/3 |
| Steve Miranda 12/11 | Euradell Butler 12/13 |
| LaToya Davis 12/13 | Christopher Taylor 12/16 |
| Brenda Grundy 12/19 | Carol Conyers 12/20 |
| Teresa Holmes 12/22 | Gwendolyn Miller 12/22 |
| Rudy de la Fuente 12/27 | Felicia Buckner 12/31 |
| Ruby Hayes 1/1 | Annette Petty 1/6 |
| Angela Campbell 1/10 | Estela Rostro 1/15 |
| Jason Shepherd 1/16 | Fernanya Winston 1/18 |
| Monica Lenzy 1/23 | Robert Molina 1/26 |
| Barbara Evans 1/25 | Jean Silvas 1/28 |
| Oscar Calderon 1/29 | Delores Marin 1/30 |
| Lola Purvis 1/30 | Donna Wells 1/30 |
| Dave Cutler 1/31 | Daniel Blake Sr. 2/2 |
| Jonathan Titus 2/10 | Clarence Prevost Jr. 2/10 |
| LaTonia Moutra 2/11 | Cynthia Wall 2/12 |
| Linda Giles-Terrell 2/18 | Christopher Boone 2/19 |
| Lupe Torres 2/20 | Cathy Garcia 2/27 |

10. Lonnie G. Johnson (1949-) invented the world-famous water gun, the Super soaker. Johnson's company just came out with a new Nerf ball toy gun.



Welcome Aboard

Cynthia Wall, new Awards Committee Member, has been appointed as Secretary.

Congratulations!

Good bye HPD...welcome to HEC!

Sam Piccolo with guests to celebrate his retirement from HPD but he didn't retire too long as he now works for HEC.

(L-R) HPD Capt. Dewayne Ready, Sam Piccolo, Thelma Neal



Retirees

HFD is honoring 40-yrs of service for Deputy Chief David Sharp. For more information, contact Chief Danny Moore at 713-884-4235.

HPD Officer Sam Piccolo has retired after 39 1/2-yrs with the force.

Marilyn Butler-Crews, November 1, 2006



Demetrias Y. Flint, October 27, 2006

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
Elizabeth Padilla, PSAP Supv.
Patricia Rosignon, Sr. 9-1-1 TC
Grace Santantonio, Police TC
Robert L. Taylor, Employee Relations Mgr.
Tonyel Tibbs, 9-1-1 TC
Lupe Torres, 9-1-1 TC
Cynthia Wall, Administrative Coordinator