

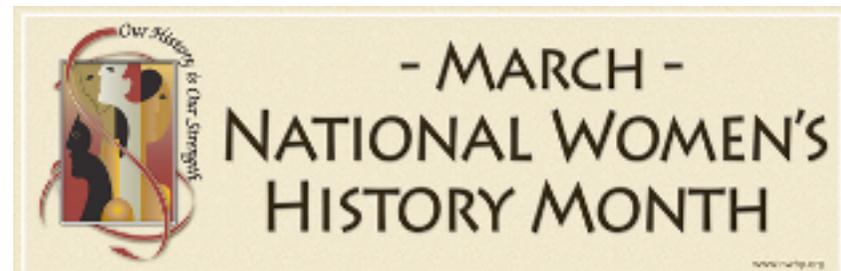


Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2016



**County Commissioners
Meet with Fort Bend
Leadership Forum!**



Women's History Month is a celebration of



Commissioner Prestage along with the County Judge and other Commissioners, met with the 2016 Class of the Fort Bend Leadership Forum to explain their roles in Fort Bend County. The Commissioner was able to provide insight to the class about the growth and development of the county in his 26 years since taking office as well as what he envisions for the future of Fort Bend.

The Fort Bend Leadership Forum, developed by the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce grew out of an increasing need for volunteer leadership in Fort Bend. The Leadership Forum aims to provide creative learning opportunities in an atmosphere that stimulates creative thinking and encourage participants to work together while developing leadership skills that enhances personal and professional values as a community stakeholder.

For more information regarding the program, please contact Matthew Ferraro at 281-491-0277 or matthew@fortbendcc.org.

Commissioner Prestage Addresses Flood Concerns of Mayfield Park!

women's contributions to history, culture and society. Women continue to strengthen the family and enrich our lives in business, government, volunteer activities, religious life, education, health, the military, sports, the arts, and many other areas.

The Women's History Month celebration is part of a larger global project that centers around International Women's Day, on March 8th. A national holiday in some countries, International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1908 in an effort to draw attention to the lack of voting rights and fair labor conditions for women. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

This year's theme, "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government", acknowledges "women who have shaped America's history and its future through their public service and government leadership." This month we'd like to recognize some of the women who've made a difference in and around Fort Bend County.

Arizona Fleming



Arizona Fleming was an African-American seamstress and owner of an undertaking company in Richmond, Texas. Fleming became part of the Civil Rights Movement in



After recent flooding, the Mayfair Park Civic Club and residents reached out to Commissioner Prestage to address concerns with the possibility of future flooding and damages. Commissioner Prestage promptly set up a meeting with the Civic Club to discuss the emergency management process and reassure residents that the county is investigating and moving forward with ideas on ways to mitigate area flooding.

Commissioner Prestage invited Fort Bend County Drainage District Chief Engineer Mark Vogler to outline exactly what may be causing recent flooding. Mr. Vogler provided a detailed look into the development of Mayfair Park and what he thinks will be the best options going forward to lessen water damage or personal loss. Commissioner Prestage stayed on hand after the meeting to answer any follow up questions and reassure residents that Mayfair Park is not forgotten.

Missouri City holds Second Annual 'Superhero Run'

1950 by joining a lawsuit against an all-white political club that prevented black voters from participating in the Democratic Party Primary in Fort Bend County. As a member of the Fort Bend Civic Club, Fleming and other community leaders were able to raise money to pursue the case to the highest court determining that African-Americans in Fort Bend County had the right to vote. In 1994, Arizona Fleming Elementary School was opened in Fort Bend Independent School District in her honor.

Jan Schiff



Jan Schiff spent her adult life working with public schools, most recently working as the Volunteer in Public Schools Coordinator for Fort Bend ISD. It was Jan's and others' vision that resulted in the creation of the Fort Bend Education Foundation in 1993, an independent organization of volunteers working to enhance the quality of public education by providing funding for grants that enrich the classroom experience. She actively pursued improving the education provided in Fort Bend ISD by participating in her children's PTOs throughout their school careers, as VIPS Coordinator, PTO President and Board member. Jan Schiff Elementary in Fort Bend Independent School District was dedicated to her and her life's work in 2008.

Lula Goodman



Missouri City Parks & Recreation is honored to benefit The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center with its second annual 5k, The Superhero Run. The 5k course will begin at Independence Boulevard near Independence Park and continue down to Revolution Way where runners will turn around and finish the race back at Independence Park. The event will include a costume contest making costumes a must for this themed run! Additionally, a post-race party is planned featuring breakfast and plenty of entertainment for the kids!

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston is one of the world's most respected centers focused on cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. It was named the nation's No. 1 hospital for cancer care in U.S. News & World Report's 2015 rankings. Since 1944, more than 1 million patients have sought MD Anderson's expertise. The institution pioneered a multidisciplinary approach to research-driven care. MD Anderson invests more than \$500 million a year in research.

City Accepting CDBG Post-Secondary Educational & Vocational Scholarship Applications

The City of Missouri City is now accepting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Post-Secondary Educational &



Lula Belle Goodman was born and raised in Fort Bend County. After graduating from Prairie View A&M College, she received several offers to teach. She chose to return home, and to share with the children of her community her love of learning. She taught students in Fort Bend for 41 years, touching the lives of children across our district.

Through three generations, Lula Belle Goodman taught the children of our community with her caring spirit, loving heart, and inspiring example. During her career she taught at St. John's School in Dewalt, the Oak Lane School in Arcola, New Hope School in Stafford, M.R. Wood in Sugar Land, and Lakeview Elementary in Sugar Land. In 2000, Fort Bend Independent School District dedicated Lula Belle Goodman Elementary in her honor.

Rita Drabek

Vocational Scholarship Applications.
Applications are due by 5 p.m. on
Monday, April 18, 2016.

The CDBG funds are granted through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist low and moderate-income individuals by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunity.

Scholarships are provided as a reimbursement for qualified expenses to current Missouri City residents who are classified as low, to moderate-income and are enrolled in community college, university or vocational programs. This program is for 2016 high school graduates entering post-secondary institutions and full-time undergraduate enrollees in post-secondary institutions.

The CDBG Scholarship application is available at, www.MissouriCityTX.Gov or in-person at Missouri City's Inspections & Permits Department, 1522 Texas Pkwy. For additional information, please contact Grants Coordinator LaToya Ricketts, latoya.ricketts@missouricitytx.gov, or call 281.403.8628.

Fort Bend Libraries Prepare to Celebrate 'National Library Week'

In recognition of National Library Week, April 10-16, Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) joins communities around the country in celebrating the dynamic changes that are happening in today's libraries. This year's theme, "Libraries Transform," captures the evolving role of libraries as well as the difference that libraries are making in the lives of the people they serve.



After teaching for 16 years, Rita was one of three female assistant principals named in 1973. In the fall of 1974, she was named Principal of Meadows Elementary. She was the first female principal in Fort Bend ISD, and she was an advocate for individualized instruction, team teaching, and technology in the classroom. In 1992, Rita was elected to the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees, where she served three terms. Her stability and her commitment to education and educators helped to guide the district through a period of rapid growth and change. Throughout her roles as a Teacher, Principal, Curriculum Director, and Board member, Rita Drabek has maintained her commitment to quality education for all children in our community. As a role model and mentor, her influence will be felt for years to come.

Community Spotlight



Dr. Mary desVignes-Kendrick



In the 68 years since the Fort Bend County Library system was founded, libraries have become more than just books, card catalogs, and a quiet place of study. Today's Libraries embrace technology and online access to digital media such as ebooks, music and streamed movies, while maintaining their connection to the traditional library experience.

In 2015, library patrons checked out more than 3.3-million physical books, DVDs and CDs, while others adopted the newer digital format, downloading more than 111,000 audiobooks and e-books from the libraries' online offerings. The Libraries' new digital collection of streamed movies/TV episodes and downloadable music also took off, with more than 8,000 selections checked out in the initial year.

The online homework-help service continues to be well used by students of all ages. In 2015, there were more than 114,000 sessions in which students accessed this online resource's real-time live tutoring, skill-building activities, writing lab, or test center.



Libraries have transformed from sedate institutions into creative and engaging



There are few individuals who are both highly accomplished and compassionate as Dr. Mary desVignes-Kendrick. Dr. desVignes-Kendrick currently serves as Director of Health and Human Services and Health Authority for Fort Bend County, which was named one of the fastest growing counties in the United States.

Her commitment to public health is evidenced by her long-standing work in academia, including her positions as a Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Texas A&M Health Science Center, and Professor of Management, Policy, and Community Health and Deputy Director at UT Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness in Houston Texas. Prior to her work in education, she also served as Director and Health Authority for the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, a position she held for 12 years under three Houston mayors.

Dr. desVignes-Kendrick's distinguished career began after completing her undergraduate degree at New York University, earning a medical degree from Meharry Medical College, and receiving a Master of Public Health degree from the UT School of Public Health in Houston, Texas. She is also board certified in pediatrics and is a Fellow of the American Academy of

community centers where diverse groups of people come together to share ideas, collaborate using new technologies, or to gain information from classes.

By keeping abreast of the needs and interests of the diverse population in Fort Bend County, FBCL strives to provide books, resources, services and programs that are reflective of the unique and varied communities in the area. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website, www.fortbend.lib.tx.us, or call or visit the library branch nearest you.

Learn Photoshop & Video Marketing at Mamie George Branch Library in Stafford!

Fort Bend County Libraries' Mamie George Branch Library in Stafford will present three classes in April on how to use the Adobe PhotoShop Elements computer-software program and how to harness the power of video marketing and create a useful promotional tool for a business.

"Adobe PhotoShop Elements for Beginners" will take place on **Thursday, April 14th** from 10:00 to 11:30 am. This class presents a basic introduction to using this powerful photo-editing program to crop, edit, and retouch digital images.

"Advanced Adobe PhotoShop Elements" will take place on **Thursday, April 28th** from 10:00 to 11:30 am. This class is for individuals who are already familiar with PhotoShop, but would like to explore more advanced functions. Learn how to enhance digital photographs by using layers, cloning, and content-aware fill. The classes are recommended for

Pediatrics.

Since she has been in her current position, Dr. desVignes-Kendrick has spearheaded many efforts for overall improvement, including the initiation of eight Medicaid Waiver Transformation projects in Fort Bend County. These eight projects are supported through Fort Bend County funding with reimbursement and incentives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. desVignes-Kendrick's devotion to public health concerns is unmatched, and the compassion with which she serves is admirable. Her peers often, and deservedly, laud her for her efforts and many accomplishments.

In her leisure time, she enjoys travel with family and friends, taking at least one major trip per year with her siblings. She added that she and family "do lots of dinners out and try all different types of food." When she is not spending copious time with her granddaughter, whom she adores, she is enjoying sports. "I am very interested in local college sports and enjoy going to games, especially the University of Houston football and basketball games" she stated.

Dr. Mary desVignes-Kendrick continues to be a shining example of public service and excellence. We are privileged to benefit from her wisdom and leadership.

Free Workshop to Provide Job-Search Survival Tips!

Fort Bend County Libraries' Missouri City Branch Library will present a free, two-part workshop on **"Job-Search Survival Tips,"** beginning on **Monday, April 4th**, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, in the Conference Room of the library, located at 1530 Texas Parkway. Part 2 of the workshop will take place

experienced computer users.

“The Ins & Out-Takes of Video Marketing” will take place on **Monday, April 4th**, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Presented by Yusef Muhammad and Sherry Zarske, the workshop will cover the video-production process, including self-production options and editing software. Get tips on best practices to incorporate to promote a business with video and YouTube advertising.

Yusef Muhammad is CEO of Frequency Communications, which operates American Business TV. A mentor with SCORE-Houston for more than 10 years, Muhammad was recognized in 2012 with the SBA Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award. Sherry Zarske is COO of Marketing Depot, an internet agency for website development, search-engine optimization, and online marketing.

All classes are free and open to the public and will take place in the Makerspace area of the library located at 320 Dulles Avenue in Stafford. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online at the library’s website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Calendar,” select “Mamie George Branch Library,” and find the program.

Participants may also register by calling the Library at 281-238-2880, or by visiting the Library.

on **Tuesday, April 5th**, at the same place and time.

The workshop is designed to help job-hunters learn tips on writing a better résumé, researching prospective employers, interviewing and non-verbal skills, making a great first impression, networking, and much more. The tips that are presented can help any applicant plan a more efficient job hunt and make a more favorable impression.

A team of 10 professionals, includes business owners, financial and mortgage advisors, computer consultants, sales and marketing professionals, and advertising and communications executives, will share their insight and the experiences they’ve had in the business world – from the perspective of the employer doing the hiring as well as the employee looking for a job.

The workshop is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Missouri City Branch Library at 281-238-2100 or the Library system’s Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.

***Do You Have A Story?
We'd Like to Hear from
You!***



This is your space! We want to hear from you, so send us your news. We may even publish your article in a future newsletter (although we reserve the right to edit for length and content). Try to keep your submissions to 150-200 words.

Submit articles to:
commpct2@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Write away!

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