



August 2013



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Commissioner's Corner" (August Edition)



Click the link to watch the August edition of Commissioner's Corner: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YkyO72kMmM>



**Texas Implements Voter ID
Law**

Thousands Attend Back-to-School Health Fair



Now that the Supreme Court has suspended the mechanism that forced certain states to get federal preclearance before it could move forward with any election law changes, the State of Texas has begun implementing its Voter ID Law.

Under this Voter ID Law, photo identification will now be **REQUIRED** when voting in elections in Texas. The Voter ID Law was created in 2011 during the 82nd Texas Legislative Session. Texas lawmakers passed Senate Bill 14 (SB 14) creating a new requirement for voters to show photo identification when voting in person. The measure also makes voter fraud a second-degree felony punishable by as much as twenty years in prison and a possible fine of as much as \$10,000.

Soon after the new Voter ID Law was passed in 2011, the State of Texas was required to receive preclearance by the Justice Department before implementing the law. This requirement of the Justice Department stems from Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which freezes election practices or procedures in states that have a history of voter discrimination.

Those states were then subject to review by the United States Attorney General, or could file suit before the United States District Court. Upon initial review, a federal court blocked the Texas Voter ID Law, saying the law would discriminate against low-income and minority voters. The State of Texas then made an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On June 25, 2013, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 formula (Section 4) that decided which jurisdictions should be subject to preclearance was unconstitutional. Requests by Texas and Mississippi for



Pictured Left to Right: Curtis Taylor Jr; Commissioner Precinct 2 Grady Prestage; Shawnea Taylor

The sight of yellow school buses and sounds of school bells will become prevalent again as Monday, August 26th marked the first day of school this week in Fort Bend County. For many parents, seeing their children with the necessary school supplies and required immunizations is a huge sigh of relief thanks in part to the great partnership that has been formed in the County to ensure students head back to school fully prepared.

Over 1500 parents and children from the community showed up to attend the annual "Community Operation" Back to School Health Fair held on August 3rd, 2013 at the Fort Bend County Missouri City Annex in Precinct 2. The Back-to-School Health Fair addressed the needs of many children and their families by providing free back packs with school supplies, free immunizations, vision, hearing, dental and scoliosis screenings , and free health education.



Many waited in long lines to participate in this year's Health Fair activities.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage, Constable Ruben Davis, City of Missouri City, other elected officials and businesses partnered with AccessHealth to ensure the Third Annual Back To School Health Fair was a success. "The importance of an event like this health fair is to ensure the community is aware of the many services Fort Bend County provides to its residents," says Commissioner Grady Prestage.

preclearance in their Voter ID Laws were pending with the federal government when the high court struck down the constitutionality of the Act's Section 4. This then subsequently nullified Section 5, thereby giving Texas the green light to enforce the new Voter ID Law immediately.

The following documents will be accepted as a form of photo ID in the State of Texas when voting:

- **Texas driver license (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)**
- **Texas ID (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)**
- **U.S. passport book/card (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)**
- **Texas concealed handgun license (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)**
- **U.S. Military ID with photo (unexpired or expired less than 60 days)**
- **U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with photo**

On June 26, 2013, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) began issuing Electronic Identification Certificates (EIC) to individuals who do not already have an acceptable form of photo identification to present when voting. Applications for the EIC will be accepted at DPS Driver License Offices in the State of Texas.

To qualify for an EIC, you must be:

- **A U.S. citizen**
- **A Texas resident**
- **Eligible to vote in Texas (show a valid voter registration card or submit a voter registration application when applying for the EIC)**
- **17 years and 10 months or older.**

For more information, contact the Texas Department of Public Safety at 512.424.2000.

Fair attendees also enjoyed free hot dogs, snow cones, ice cream, face painting, moonwalks, a dunking booth, live music and access to many vendors that provided free health education, fun games for children to play and free giveaways.

Eight hundred backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to children who can start their school year off healthy and with the supplies needed to be successful in class. The success of this year's event is largely attributed to the collaborative efforts of local businesses and elected officials working together to make sure that students in this community have the necessary immunizations, screenings, and school supplies at the start of the school year.

Save The Date

Fifth Street Residents Collaborate with Local Leaders, Business to Create a Vision for the Community

Community Meeting and Design Workshop September 14

A new "Town Center" for Fifth Street? Maybe. It all depends on what residents, business and government leaders envision for this long undeveloped community in east Fort Bend County. They will all gather to determine what the future holds for Fifth Street at a daylong workshop on **Saturday, September 14, from 9am - 5pm at the Fifth Street Community Center, 3110 Fifth Street Stafford, Texas 77477.**

Led by Fort Bend County Commissioner, Grady Prestage, in partnership with the University of Texas' Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), the goal of the Fifth Street Project is to attract development, improve the environment, and build upon the community's unique character and heritage. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds the project.

While the workshop lasts all day, residents and stakeholders are encouraged to stop by and participate as little or as much as they like. For more information about how you can get involved or to reserve your space at the Workshop, email 5thstreetproject@gmail.com or call 281-845-9584.

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