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Commissioner Leads Efforts For Fifth Street Neighborhood Planning & Marketing Study

Over the last decade, Fort Bend County has invested in infrastructure and community resources to improve Fifth Street resident's quality of life. However, a more cohesive strategy is required to attract private investment.



improve access to affordable housing, preserve the community's unique character and heritage, and revive a once sustainable community.

Commissioner Grady Prestage of Precinct 2, on behalf of Fort Bend County has partnered with The University of Texas, through its Center for Sustainable Development, to form a grassroots planning committee to develop a Fifth Street Neighborhood Planning and Marketing Study. "Positive change doesn't just happen. We want to develop a redevelopment plan to specifically assist residents in prioritizing needs and advocating for strategic improvements for the Fifth Street community," says Commissioner Prestage.

"This market study and all the support and training we provide to local residents will enable the community to position itself to attract private investment and access resources to address its challenges. Through this, we want to make sure that residents of the Fifth Street community are involved in every step of the project," says Andrea Roberts, Project Manager for the Neighborhood Planning and Marketing Study. For more information about this project email Andrea at <u>aroberts318@netzero.net</u>.

Fort Bend County Forms Partnership with China

In November of this past year, County Judge Robert Hebert accompanied by a delegation including the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, the Frienship Committee, Local School District Administration and business owners; traveled to the People's

Republic of China for the purpose of signing a Friendship City Relationship Agreement



between Fort Bend County and the Chancheng District, Foshan. Foshan is a city in central Guangdong province located in southern China with a population of 3.6 million.

The Agreement, signed by the District Mayor of the Chancheng District, Foshan, Mr.Liu Donghao and Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert, is a commitment between the two sides to work together to promote exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, sports, environmental protection, science, technology, education, medical research and culture: to

New Senior Community Center Construction Update

Construction of the new Senior Community Center, a joint project between Fort Bend County



and the City of Houston is underway. The site of the Senior Community Center is located at 5525 Hobby Road, behind the Boys and Girls Club. It is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2013. The center will include amenities such as

an: auditorium, fitness center, Internet Wi-

Fi Cafe, and mini-library. If you are in the area, please



feel free to drive by and take a look at the progress being made. For more information on services and activities at the Senior Community Center, contact Sonya Santee at (281) 403.8098 or (832) 816.9540 or email her at Sonya.Santee@co.fort-bend.tx.us

Fort Bend County Subregional Plan Initiative

This initiative is a collaborative regional

promote mutual prosperity and development.



"This agreement has been a two year process and I am extremely appreciative of the Chinese Friendship Committee for making this a reality. While the county will move ahead on cultural and education initiatives, now is the time for our community to engage our friends overseas to identify and pursue business, education and cultural exchange opportunities," said County Judge Robert Hebert. planning effort to promote the long term success of the region. It focuses on regionally significant opportunities in transportation, economic development, quality of life and land use strategies.

Seven Fort Bend County cities are included in the plan: Sugar Land, Richmond, Rosenberg, Arcola, Stafford, Meadows Place, and Missouri City. A local Stakeholder Advisory Committee which consist of elected officials, private sector stakeholders, and local jurisdictions and agencies will lead the effort.

Six "Key Drivers of Success" have been outlined by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee which includes:

1. Strong mobility and access to major job centers.

2. High quality residential housing options.

3. Focus on economic development and growth.

4. Enhancement of quality of life and amenities.

5. Excellent school district reputations.

6. Increasing diversity.

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