



March 2013



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**County Officials Hosts Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
Ceremony for Kitty Hollow Bark Park**



Pictured Left to Right: Betty with dog Patches, Aaron Rodriguez, Fort Bend Animal Services; Susan Fox; Commissionier Precinct 4 James Patterson, Dr. Mary Desvignes-Kendrick, Fort Bend County Health and Human Services Director; Commissioner Precinct 2 Grady Prestage; Commissioner Precinct 3 Andy Meyers; Eric with dogs Po, Suki and Jasper.

Fort Bend County Officials and residents gathered on Saturday, March 23, 2013, to

celebrate the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Kitty Hollow Bark Park. The Kitty Hollow Bark Park is located inside of Kitty Hollow Park (across from Sienna Plantation), located at 9555 Highway 6, Missouri City, Texas 77459.

Commissioner Grady Prestage presided over the event ceremonies, and was joined by Commissioners Court officials James Patterson (Precinct 4), and Andy Meyers (Precinct 3), Parks Director, Mike Davis, and Mary DeVignes Kendrick, Director of Health and Human Services. This facility is Fort Bend County's first off-leash Park built exclusively for dogs. The Park is designed to accommodate both large and small breed dogs with identical fenced in areas that include: swimming ponds, dog wash, shaded areas, lots of open space for pets to run, and a walking trail for their owners to enjoy.

This project was completed in phases over a three year period as part of the Park Expansion Capital Improvement Project. "I am glad the County had the foresight to create a Dog Park for families in Fort Bend County. This Dog Park is a welcomed addition to our growing Park system", says Commissioner Prestage.

Fort Bend County residents are encouraged to bring their four-legged family members out to enjoy the Bark Park, and other additions to the park.

For more information about the Dog Park and other Park amenities, contact Fort Bend County Parks Department at [281-835-9419](tel:281-835-9419)

NACo Presents: "Why Counties Matter?" In Washington D.C.

The National Association of Counties [NACo] held their 2013 Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. March 2-6th around the central theme: "Why Counties Matter?" More than 1300 county officials were present to speak with federal lawmakers and policy makers on the importance of county government. NACo and its members also used social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to spread their county message and communicate their



Fort Bend CORPS

Improving the quality of life one home at a time is the mission of the Fort Bend Community Revitalization Projects (Fort Bend CORPS). This non-profit organization was formed by corporate and community leaders to encourage public, private and civic sector involvement in addressing the critical need of under-served neighborhoods in Fort Bend County.

Since 1999, Fort Bend CORPS has been assisting residents throughout the county through their community revitalization efforts and housing rehabilitation programs. To date this is the only non-

individual activities through-out the five-day conference.

NACo is the only national organization representing the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs. NACo's Executive Committee is comprised of four officers elected by the membership and a regional representative from each of the four regions (West, Central, South, and Northeast) in the country.

Throughout the week, NACo leadership met with key congressional and executive officials such as, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and U.S. Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack to explain the "Why Counties Matter" message and how county government can work collaboratively with the federal government in making sure the interest of the American people are addressed.



Other educational topics that were addressed during the conference included: Counties in the Global Economy-Increasing Exports from your Community, Disaster Recovery, Health Reform, Telecommunications & Technology, and Transportation.

"Counties matter because our services touch the lives of virtually every American," said NACo President Chris Rodgers. "If you drive to work, take the bus, get a flu shot, go to the library, go to the hospital, eat at a restaurant, get a marriage license, buy a house, play in the park, recycle, or call

profit agency in the county that addresses minor home repairs for the elderly, disabled and low income individuals.

The Fort Bend CORPS services focus on five core program areas:

- Roof Repairs
- Interior Repairs
- Exterior Repairs
- Neighborhood Clean-Up
- Energy Efficiency Program

With a current operating budget of over \$2 million, the Fort Bend CORPS with the support of many dedicated volunteers each month work on home repair projects throughout Fort Bend County. Repair projects that are usually done by the CORPS consist of: *roof replacements, kitchen & bathroom repairs, plumbing repairs, foundation repairs, and handicap accessories in bathroom.*

The revitalization projects this organization provides represent a new beginning for many Fort Bend residents who otherwise would not have the means to accomplish the repairs on their own. Fort Bend CORPS is a vital program in this county whose efforts provide energy efficient, safe homes that residents can be proud of.

For more information on the CORPS, contact [\(281\) 313.2677](tel:2813132677) or visit their website: fbcoprs.org

911-chances are that you are interacting with your county government.”

Roger believes that counties are a critical partner with the federal and state governments to lead the country toward economic growth and opportunity.

Follow the link provided to see the video NACo created explaining the importance of county government:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NACoVideo>

Fort Bend County Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage
303 Texas Parkway, Suite 213
Missouri City, TX 77489 / Phone: (281) 403-8000
Email: commpct2@co.fort-bend.tx.us

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Commissioner Grady Prestage
303 Texas Parkway
Suite 213
Missouri City, Texas 77489
US

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