



April 2014



*Commissioner Grady Prestage's*  
**PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

**"Commissioner's Corner" (April Edition)**



Click the link to watch the April edition of Commissioner's Corner:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG-UEAsuMz4>

## **New HCC Workforce Certification Buildings for Missouri City and Stafford**



Rendering: Front entrance of HCC's Missouri City Workforce building.

### ***Press Release from HCC's Department of Public Relations:***

Recent demographic reports confirm that workforce certification is the future of Houston employment as its population continues to diversify. Houston Community College Southwest is answering that need with more skills training by finalizing plans for new campus buildings dedicated solely to workforce certification programs.

Groundbreaking will begin in October, 2014, with new workforce structures at HCC Southwest's West Loop and Missouri City campuses. Those will be followed by projects at its Stafford campus and a new campus and building in Brays Oaks, located in Southwest Houston.

Southwest College's allocation from the 2012 bond election will be used to

## **Fort Bend County Moves Towards Cleaner Energy**



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April each year, millions of people around the world celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is the day designated for fostering appreciation of the earth's environment and awareness of the issues that threaten it. At present, Earth Day is observed in 175 countries, and coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network.

Fort Bend County realizes the importance of having energy sufficient and environmentally sustainable facilities and practices. The Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program awarded the county with a \$2,807,600 grant. With these funds, the

enhance existing workforce programs. In addition, new programs will include more technology, health care and manufacturing programs, as well as a proposed partnership with Veteran's Affairs. "For the first time, HCC Southwest will have dedicated facilities for workforce training," says HCC Southwest President Dr. Fena Garza. "We want to tailor our programs and keep Houstonians working in high-skilled, high-growth job markets."

Plans are also under way for the construction of the Missouri City Center for Entrepreneurship, Technology and Health (CETH). With a budget of \$21.5 million, the 60,000 square-foot building will house economic development, small business management, accounting and technology programs. CETH will also provide a Healthcare Career Academy consisting of dedicated classrooms for nursing, medical assisting, respiratory therapy, retail pharmacy, health information technology and mental health programs. The programs will be offered in a partnership with HCC's Coleman College in the Texas Medical Center.

Early plans for the Stafford Workforce Building, which will receive \$27 million of the allocation, propose a 108,000-square-foot structure housing manufacturing, drafting and fabrication, IT, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), welding, pipe-fitting, plumbing and electrical programs. Other programs are also being considered.

"These high-wage, high-demand programs meet the business and industry

county utilized the grant for special projects that consisted of:

- **Solar Powered Energy Transfer for County Building (Precinct 1):** The installation of 430 solar panels reduced the energy operating cost of this county-owned facility. The solar collectors will provide 30 years of dependable service. The project is expected to produce an annual energy savings of \$14, 198.31.
- **County Facilities Energy Efficiency Audits:** Audits were completed to determine 1.) Basic construction history of county buildings, 2.) Electrical and natural-gas utility bill analysis, 3.) Suggestions for Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) and 4.) Fine tuning of the recommended ECMs indicating energy savings dollars.
- **County Facilities Energy Efficiency Retrofit:** The replacement of lighting fixtures and outdated and/or inefficient mechanical equipment. Retrofitting strategies included the replacement of tar and gravel roof systems which increases the heat loads on the buildings heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems with two "cool roof" systems.
- **Solar Power Hot Water Retrofit County Jail:** The system consist of 300, 40 sq. ft. solar collectors and 5200 gallons solar hot water storage. The collectors are

needs of the community,” says Executive Dean of Instruction and Student Services Betty Fortune, who will oversee academic and workforce instruction in the new buildings. “These new buildings will also address the needs of those who wish to enhance or update their skills.”

### **\*Save the Dates**

#### **HCC Meet and Greet**

Wednesday, May 7th, 6-7:30pm

HCC Southwest Missouri City Campus

Join representatives from HCC as they discuss the upcoming Center for Entrepreneurship and Health Studies (CETH).

#### **Texas Veterans Benefits' Fair**

Saturday, May 17, 2014 Fort Bend County  
10am - 1pm

Missouri City Annex 307 Texas Parkway  
(Upstairs Conference Room 204)  
Missouri City, Texas 77489

Come join Fort Bend County Veterans Services for this event. This is an opportunity to get information on benefits and services you are entitled to such as: VA Health Care, VA Loan Guaranty, Education under the Hazelwood Act and Service Connected and Non-Service Connected Disability Benefits.

designed to provide 30 years of dependable service and will save the county eight million dollars over the thirty years of the system's lifespan.

- **Solar Powered Security Lighting County Parks/Facilities:** The County installed and retrofitted twenty eight lights with energy efficient solar panels and battery backup. Using solar panels will save energy and the cost for laying electrical lines and increase the safety of citizens in wooded park areas.
- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program for PINNACLE Senior Center:** The PINNACLE Senior Center is the county's first commissioned and LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environment Design) certified facility. The PINNACLE Senior Center delivers increased energy efficiency, reduced energy consumption, reduced energy costs, and improved indoor air quality.

For more information, contact Brenda Patton at 281.403.8001

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