



July 2014



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

"Commissioner's Corner" (July Edition)



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## **“Community Operation” 2014 Back to School Health Fair**



Front: (Left - Right): Blanca Cervantes of Community Health Choice; Assistant City Attorney Trisha Dang. Back (Left - Right): Missouri City Recreation Superintendent Shane Miz; Missouri City Fire Fighter Russell Munoz; Development Services Director Gary Smith; Chief Rodney Pentecost (Precinct 2); Interim Police Chief Mike Berezin; AccessHealth CEO Carol Edwards; Commissioner Grady Prestage; Fire and Rescue Services Chief Russell Sander; Missouri City Fire Fighter Adam Gomez

Every year, many children start school a week or two late because they don't have proper immunizations, physical examinations or lack school supplies or clothing. The goal of the Back to School Health Fair is to provide area children with an equal opportunity to begin the school year, ready to learn and grow so that they may have a healthy school start.

## **Legislative Update on the MAP 21 ACT and Highway Trust Fund**



Fort Bend County currently participates in the U.S. Surface Transportation Program (STP), which is a program funded in part by the Highway Trust Fund, which collects revenues from the federal motor fuels tax. Funds from the STP are distributed to state and local governments by Congress for public transportation purposes. Under the current Surface Transportation Program, each urbanized area is allocated funds using a formula based upon bus revenue miles, bus passenger miles, fixed guide way revenue miles, fixed guide way route miles, population and population density.

In 2012, Congress included vehicle revenue hours (Hours when the bus is in active service to

Commissioner Prestage and other elected officials are teaming with AccessHealth to host the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Operation Back to School Health Fair on August 9, 2014 from 9 am until Noon, at the Fort Bend County Missouri City Annex located at 307 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, TX 77489.**

We invite you to come out and meet your neighbors, enjoy great music, fun activities, and delicious food as we commune in the name of health!

In addition to the annual health fair serving its purpose of providing free care to residents, it also showcases the many different services, programs, and departments the County has in place to serve its residents. "The Community Operation Back to School Health Fair increases health awareness by providing health screenings, activities, materials, demonstrations and information that motivates participants to make positive healthy choices," says County Commissioner Grady Prestage. During the 2013 Back to School Health Fair, over 125 volunteers, staff, and elected officials served and were able to issue over 1300 backpacks, provided over 160 immunizations, and conducted over 180 dental screenings.

Once again this year, there will be free:

- Immunizations
- Dental Screenings
- Vision Screenings
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Backpacks & School Supplies
- Food & Activities

pick up and drop off passengers) to the expense formula in addition to the aforementioned parameters. With the inclusion of the language added by Congress, the Transportation Department was experiencing a major reduction in its allocation. Currently, MAP-21 is set to expire on September 30, 2014. In addition, the Highway Trust Fund is expected to hit a major fiscal cliff in the next year. Although the Fort Bend County Transportation Department continues to operate, the impact of the lack of funding will erode the current programs & services provided that many Fort Bend County residents use on a daily basis.

Earlier this month, the House passed a short-term bill to fix the Highway Transportation Fund, which helps pay for federal highway and transit programs. With the House version of the bill, it keeps the fund from depleting in the coming weeks but leaves open the door of finding a long-term fix next year. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed their version of the bill that would allow for a temporary fix to the Highway Trust Fund. However, with the Senate's version, their goal is to come up with a long-term fix during Congress' lame-duck session. So we'll have to wait and see how all of this will play out in the next few months.

Fort Bend County officials are continually urging Congress to fix the Highway Trust Fund and pass a long-term multi-year surface transportation bill that provides sufficient funding to meet the country's infrastructure needs as well as revising the language of the bill that is adversely affecting transit operations. "Congress is currently trying to find an adequate resolution to the MAP-21 Act and the Highway Trust Fund and it is my sincere hope they are able to make the necessary changes before its set to expire later this year," says Paulette Shelton, Fort Bend County Transportation Director.

For more information on the Community Operation Back to School Health Fair, contact Brenda Patton at [281.403.8001](tel:281.403.8001).

For more information on what you can do to help or to schedule a bus service, contact the Fort Bend County Transportation Department at [281.633.7433](tel:281.633.7433).

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