

January 2015



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"Commissioner's Corner" (January Edition)



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Wiping Out Illiteracy in Fort Bend County

Literacy Council
of Fort Bend County



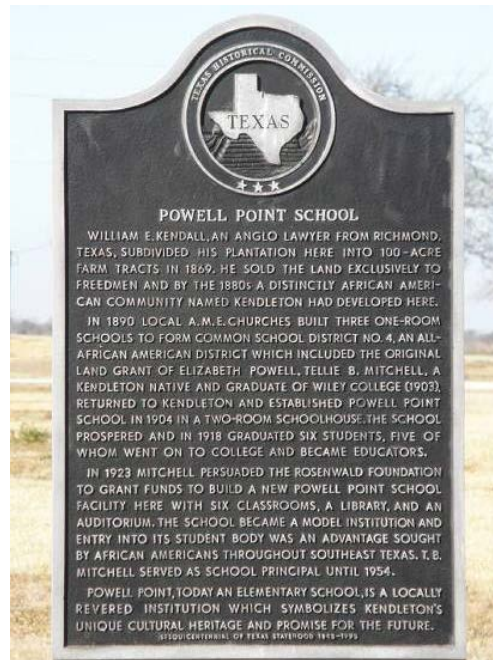
In the U.S. today, there are 36 million adults who can't read better than the average 3rd grader. Unfortunately, without basic reading, writing, math, and computer skills, these Americans are struggling to find jobs, stay healthy, and support their families.

Americans who need basic literacy instruction also need financial literacy skills. They struggle with everyday budgeting and more complicated tasks like comprehending mortgage documents, which means they're often the victims of predatory lenders and financial scams.

Low literate individuals are also twice as likely to be out of work, contributing to the high rate of unemployment in the U.S. Although many are eager to compete in the 21st century job market, they simply lack the skills and training to do so.

Recognizing the need to improve family,

The City of Kendleton's Rich Culture



Historical Marker in Kendleton, Texas that is placed at the former site of Powell Point Elementary.

As we approach Black History Month, we wanted to cast a light on some of the importance of African American contributions to Fort Bend County. One such area of focus with rich history is Kendleton, Texas. In 1869 William E. Kendall, an Anglo lawyer from Richmond, Texas subdivided his plantation into 100-acre farm tracts. He sold the land exclusively to Freedmen and by the 1880's; a distinctly African American community named Kendleton had developed here in the post reconstruction era.

In 1890, local African Methodist Episcopal churches built three one-room schools to form Common School District No. 4, an all-African American district which included the original land grant of Elizabeth Powell. Tellie B. Mitchell, a Kendleton native and a 1903 graduate of Wiley College returned to Kendleton and established Powell Point School in 1904 in a two-room schoolhouse.

community and professional lives through adult literacy education, the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County continues to make a great impact. Founded in 1987, Literacy Council of Fort Bend County (LCFBC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating illiteracy in Fort Bend County.

For 26 years, LCFBC has strived to fill gaps in literacy services for people who are in need, have the capabilities to learn, and the desire to move forward in life.

LCFBC serves adults who have made the commitment to help themselves by changing their lives through the literacy program. The organization's goal is to aid families crippled by the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy, poverty, and social disadvantage by providing a strong, educational foundation through one-on-one basic literacy tutoring.

LCFBC also offers small group instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL), classroom instruction in GED preparation, Job Readiness workshop series and Badges and Books, a cooperation with area police departments to get books into the hands of children who have few books of their own.

LCFBC serves those at the lowest levels of literacy, focusing on an ethnically diverse population made up primarily of low to very low-income clientele.

Since the inception of the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County in 1987, 2,927 volunteers have donated 542,157 hours of their personal time to tutor more than 25,000 adult learners. For more information on the LCFBC, you can contact them at [281.240.8181](tel:281.240.8181).

The school prospered and in 1918 graduated six students, five of whom went on to college and became educators. In 1923 Mitchell persuaded the Rosenwald Foundation to grant funds to build a new Powell Point facility here with six classrooms, a library, and an auditorium.

The school became a model institution and entry into its student body was an advantage sought by African Americans throughout southeast Texas. Tellie B. Mitchell served as school principal until 1954.

Powell Point elementary school was a locally revered institution which symbolized Kendleton's unique cultural heritage. Today, students who were originally a part of Kendleton ISD are now a part of Lamar Consolidated ISD.

For more information about Powell Point and Kendleton's rich history, we encourage county residents to visit the Fort Bend County Heritage Unlimited Museum located at 630 Charlie Roberts Lane, Kendleton, TX 77451.



Fort Bend County Heritage Unlimited Museum

The museum focuses on the lives of African Americans in the surrounding area and consist of permanent exhibits depicting the lifestyles of African American settlers and residents from 1865-1965. The museum is free of charge.

Do You Have A Story? We'd Like to Hear from You!



This is your space! We want to hear from you, so send us your news. We may

even publish your article in a future newsletter (although we reserve the right to edit for length and content). Try to keep your submissions to 150-200 words. Submit articles to:

commpct2@fortbendcountytx.gov

Write away!

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