



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

"Commissioner's Corner" (June Edition)



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**New Expanded Bus Routes for Fort Bend Residents**

**LEVEE SYSTEMS IN FORT BEND  
COUNTY SUCCESSFULLY PROTECT  
COMMUNITIES**



Fort Bend County Officials gathered June 26th to celebrate the addition of a new bus service to the Fort Bend County Transportation program servicing the Richmond and Rosenberg area. City officials from both Rosenberg and Richmond, Houston Galveston Area Council and The George Foundation were also in attendance. The new bus service is a result of collaborative efforts and financial support from Fort Bend County, City of Richmond, City of Rosenberg and The George Foundation.

County Judge Bob Hebert said, "Citizens in Richmond and Rosenberg will have more accessibility with the addition of this route, and the ability to get to necessary appointments. The bus is ADA accessible and will be convenient for all."

The Fort Bend County Point Deviation bus service will provide weekday service along the major thoroughfares in Richmond – Rosenberg area, with designated stops to municipal offices, shopping, medical and community service locations. The bus can deviate up to ¾ mile from the routes to pick up or drop off riders who have made reservations. Fares for the service are \$1.00 per person, with one free transfer per fare. Transfer tickets are available from the route driver to transfer to another Richmond-Rosenberg route and are good for a one-time transfer on the day of issue.

The Transportation Director, Paulette Shelton comments "This project is the result of a holistic approach initiated by economic development and social needs within the cities of Richmond and Rosenberg, supported by priorities previously identified by our philanthropic partner, The George Foundation and carried out via the County's efforts to provide the funding subsidies needed for implementation. We are honored once again to have the opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of our community partnerships."

Three convenient and affordable routes are part of this service. The BLUE route starts at Catholic Charities and travels through Richmond's business center, with stops that include the Richmond City Hall, Access Health, Fort Bend County Justice Center, Walmart and Target. The GREEN connector route travels between the two cities along HWY 90 with Catholic Charities, Fiesta and the Rosenberg Post Office as transfer stops. The green routes also includes stops at Oak Bend Medical Center and North Rosenberg Neighborhood Resource Office. The PURPLE route travels through Rosenberg with stops at Fiesta, Rosenberg Post Office, Rosenberg City Hall, Fairgrounds Park and Ride and the Bud O'Shieles Community Center.

"This is very exciting for Citizens of Richmond and Rosenberg. I hope they will use the bus system and enjoy it!" Commissioner Morrison comments about the new service. The Richmond – Rosenberg Point Deviation service begins July 1, 2015.

Heavy rains and a swollen river left their mark on many Fort Bend County residents during May and June. Some residents saw flooding of this magnitude for the first time in their lives, others were reminded of the Brazos River floods of 1994 over 20 years ago. The Brazos River crested just four inches short of that historic flood, but its impact remained significant throughout the county. Over forty roads were closed, some of them highways, others completely cutting off neighborhoods and communities when they became impassable.



Memorial Park



Camp Sienna

"Fort Bend County is triple the population it was in 1994," states county Judge Robert Hebert, "we are fortunate most of the development since then happened in master planned communities behind levees which are well-managed and maintained." In the last several years the Office of Emergency Management has been working collaboratively with the county's 20 Levee Improvement Districts to establish a network of strong Emergency Action Plans for the levees that protect much of the county. There are over 99 miles of levees in Fort Bend County, and not one experiences significant problems during the recent flooding, keeping an estimated \$16 billion in property safe.

The Levee Improvement Districts (LIDs), and their operating companies, are progressive emergency planning organizations that have been working

Route maps and schedules are available on the transit departments website at [www.FBCTransit.org](http://www.FBCTransit.org). or contact office at 281-633-7433.

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## FORT BEND COUNTY INITIATES CREATION OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE



Fort Bend County applied for and received a grant from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission for expansion of the successful Mental Health Public Defender. The grant, in the amount of \$756,911.00 for the first fiscal year, will fund 80% of the start-up costs and build out for a full Fort Bend County Public Defender program.

The new Public Defender program will include a Chief Public Defender, four (4) Assistant Public Defenders, two (2) Investigators, one (1) Administrative Coordinator, and one (1) Office Assistant. The new Assistant Public Defenders, two felony and two misdemeanor attorneys, will take on up to 10% of indigent cases. The Investigators will also be available to other court appointed attorneys to use so that every indigent case is investigated properly. Finally, Roderick "Rocky" B. Glass, the current Director of the Mental Health Public Defender, will use his experience in starting that successful program as Chief Public Defender, overseeing the expansion of the Mental Health Public Defender to the full Fort Bend County Public Defender program.

The Fort Bend County Public Defender will offer Fort Bend County the best of both a Public Defender Office and a court appointed attorney system to represent indigent defendants. The Fort Bend County Public Defender will raise the bar for representing those who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

The program is due to begin October 1, 2015. It is anticipated that it will begin to take the first case by February 2016.

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### SAVE THE DATE:

**THURSDAY JULY 9th @ 8:00 am.  
RIBBON CUTTING THOMAS TAYLOR PKWY.  
(LEXINGTON BLVD. EXTENSION)**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 8th 9am-NOON  
BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR  
FORT BEND COUNTY MISSOURI CITY ANNEX 307 TEXAS PARKWAY**

with the Office of Emergency Management closely for several years to ensure the levees function as intended in exactly this type of event. Levee Improvement Districts are responsible for maintaining the levees in Fort Bend County. The Office of Emergency Management works closely with each LID in preparedness activities year-round, and to train for events like we experienced in May and June.

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## CELEBRATING SUCCESS Fort Bend County's Community Paramedic DSRIP Program

The Houston Chronicle recently highlighted the successes of Fort Bend County's Community Paramedic Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. The Community Paramedic Team provides care coordination and in-home care to patients who frequently use EMS and emergency care services for primary care and the treatment of chronic diseases. The [article](#) describes how the DSRIP project "is designed to address the underlying causes of why some people frequently call 911 and to help those individuals develop a stable treatment routine to keep them out of emergency rooms." The new program has improved residents' lives and is reducing the public financial burden of 911 responses. In DY4, Fort Bend aims to provide these services to three new clients per week. Congratulations to Fort Bend County on their excellent work! The full Houston Chronicle article can be found [here](#).



Pictured (from left to right): Tama Blair, MS, Lic-P, CHW and Elizabeth DeLeon, NRP, CHW Not Pictured: Mary Fuglaar, RN,LP,CHW

For more information about local DSRIP Programs visit:

[www.fortbendcountytexas.gov](http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov)  
Health & Human Services

1115 Waiver

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](mailto:commpct2@co.fort-bend.tx.us)