

Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2016



**2nd Annual
Black History Month
Celebration Kick-Off
Ceremony!**

**Commissioner Prestage
Meets with Community
Leaders in Mission Bend**

On February 3rd, Commissioner Grady



The 2nd Annual Black History Month Celebration Kick-Off Ceremony was held Saturday, February 6th on the steps of City Hall. Commissioner Prestage, the Missouri City Black History Month Celebration Committee, Fort Bend ISD and other Elected Officials united for this year's celebration.

The event included performances by Missouri City Middle School Band and the Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance. This year's kick-off event expanded on the success of the 2015 Inaugural Celebration and proudly demonstrated Missouri City's diversity and the contributions African-Americans have and are making toward the betterment of society.



The "Show Me City" is recognized nationwide for its strength, pride and commitment to community. Missouri City is the most diverse City in the region and is located in Fort Bend County, one of the most diverse and fastest growing counties in the nation. It is also home to the landmark Freedom Tree, the region's largest Juneteenth Gala and now, the county's first ever month-long series of events to celebrate Black History Month.

Prestage was invited to meet with The Greater Mission Bend Area Council Directors in the new Community Center at 16003 Bellaire Blvd. Commissioner Prestage was excited to interact with community leaders and residents while answering questions concerning the future of Mission Bend.

Commissioner Prestage discussed a number of topics with the community, including the County's role in notifying the community when projects are being



proposed and how best to go about providing input. Additionally, the Commissioner spoke about the recent and incredible growth of Fort Bend County, and how the county plans on keeping up with utility demands, and community services.



Commissioner Prestage provided updates on Beechnut and Bellaire Road Projects as well as future plans for a new Library and Boys and Girls Club. The Beechnut street project will include completion of the half boulevard, sidewalk connections, and a signal at Clodine Road. The Bellaire Project includes completing the boulevard, sidewalk connections, and new location boulevard and bridges over the existing ditches between Chickory Woods and San Pablo. Both projects are scheduled to be

Fort Bend ISD Celebrates Black History Month!

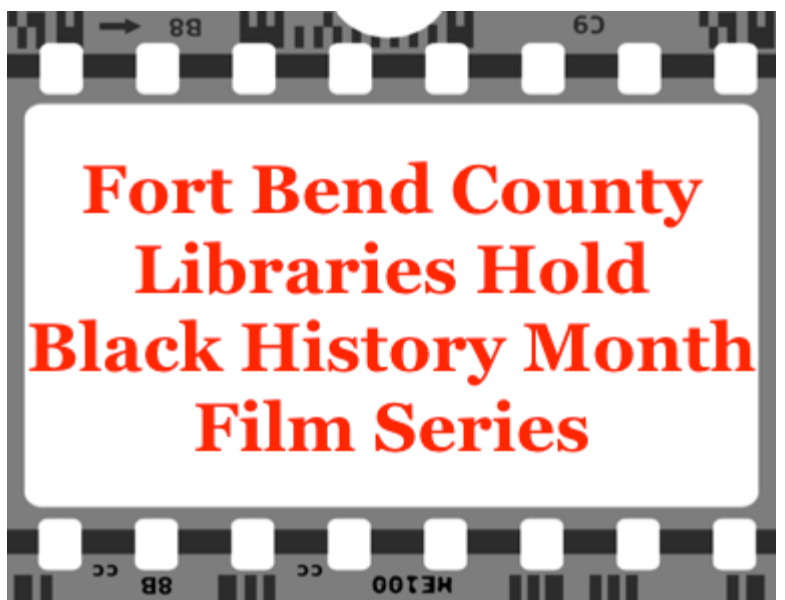


Fort Bend ISD will join the nation in celebrating Black History Month throughout February, recognizing the valuable contributions and accomplishments of African Americans in our society. We are reminded to reflect on the positive change and countless advances that African Americans, both past and present, have made for all people. Fort Bend ISD honors those individuals who have worked to ensure that civil rights and voting rights were met, those who have made medical advancements, individuals who have set world records in music or athletic events, and many others who have made their mark in history.

In remembrance, FBISD is proud to have several schools and facilities named after notable African Americans who have made lasting impressions on countless lives both nationally and locally. Among them are:

Thurgood Marshall High School – Thurgood Marshall was an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, from 1967 to 1991, and was the Court's 96th justice and first African-American justice.

Ferndell Henry Center for Learning – Ferndell Henry was a Fort Bend ISD



In recognition of Black History Month, Fort Bend County Libraries will present a series of films in February portraying the stories of African-Americans who broke racial barriers and made significant contributions toward equal rights. The movies will be shown at George Memorial Library and the University Branch Library.

The series began on Monday, February 9th, at George Memorial Library. Library guests were inspired by the true-life story of the legendary 1965-66 Texas Western University Miners basketball team. During a time when racially integrated teams were still a novelty in the South, the Miners went all the way to the NCAA National Championship game against powerhouse Kentucky.

If you missed the first screening, you can join the film series as it continues on February 22nd at George Memorial Library. Showtime will begin at 5:30 in the Meeting Room of the Library. The film to be shown is a sports documentary, providing an intimate look into the life of boxer Mohammed Ali. Complete with commentary by other legends of the boxing community, including Mike Tyson, George Foreman, the filmmakers capture a heartwarming portrayal of the man behind the legend.

The final screening to close out the film series will be held on Saturday February

graduate who later became a teacher for the District, serving at Dulles, Clements and Kempner High Schools. Throughout his teaching career, he positively influenced many students with his caring, honest nature.

Billy Baines Middle School – Billy Baines was named principal of Arcola Elementary School in 1959 after Missouri City School District and Sugar Land School District merged to become Fort Bend Independent School District. Baines became the first African American principal named in the newly formed FBISD and went on to serve in several leadership roles before retiring in 1990.

Lynn Armstrong Elementary School – A dedicated educator in Fort Bend ISD for 22 years, Dr. Lynn Armstrong touched the lives of many students while serving as a teacher, Special Education Department Chair, Assistant Principal, Associate Principal and Principal at FBISD schools.

Walter Moses Burton Elementary School – Walter Moses Burton was elected Fort Bend County Sheriff and Tax Collector in 1869, and in 1874 was elected to the Texas Senate representing the 17th district. He was the only African American in Texas history to serve as senator for four terms.

Arizona Fleming Elementary School – Arizona Fleming was an African American small business owner from Richmond, Texas who became part of the Civil Rights Movement by joining a lawsuit that prevented African American voters from participating in the Democratic Party Primary in Fort Bend County.

Edgar Glover Elementary School – Edgar Glover, Jr. served as principal of Willowridge High School from 1982 until his death in 1993. For a short period in the late 1980's, he also served as acting principal of the neighboring McAuliffe

27th, at 1pm at the University Branch Library. Released in 2004, this biopic portrays the true story of Grammy-Award Winning Musician Ray Charles. Despite humble beginnings in Georgia and losing his eyesight at age seven, Ray Charles rose to meteoric stardom during the 1950s and 1960s, becoming an icon in both the music industry and the Civil Rights era.

The movies are free and open to the public. For more information, call George Memorial Library (281-342-4455), the University Branch Library (281-633-5100), or the library system's Public Information Office (281-633-4734).

Community Spotlight



Mr. Isaiah "Ike" Watkins Jr.



The community spotlight is a platform that Commissioner Prestage has chosen to highlight civic minded community members and community events.

This month we shine the light on Mr. Isaiah "Ike" Watkins Jr.. Mr. Watkins and his wife of 49 years, Mrs. Dorothy L. Watkins moved to Chasewood in 1973. Now retired, Mr. Watkins served as Chief of Staff under Commissioner Grady Prestage for twenty years. While on board with Precinct 2, he stated that he felt his greatest

Middle School, splitting his day between both campuses. His caring nature, devotion to students and staff, and support of parents and the community earned him the respect of all who knew him.

Lula Belle Goodman Elementary School – An educator for 41 years, Lula Belle Goodman touched the lives of children across the district having taught at St. John’s School in Dewalt, the Oak Lane School in Arcola, New Hope School in Stafford, and M.R. Wood Center for Learning and Lakeview Elementary in Sugar Land.

Barbara Jordan Elementary School – Barbara Jordan (1936-1996) was a U.S. Congressional Representative from Texas and the first African American Congresswoman to come from the Deep South and the first woman ever elected to the Texas Senate.

Rosa Parks Elementary School – Civil Rights Activist Rosa Louise McCauley Parks spurred the Montgomery boycott and other national efforts to end segregation of public facilities. She was referred to as “the first lady of civil rights” and “the mother of the freedom movement” by the U.S. Congress.

Ronald McNair Auditorium at Willowridge High School – Dr. Ronald Ervin McNair was a physicist and NASA astronaut selected as one of 35 applicants from a pool of 10,000 for the NASA astronaut program in 1978. He was the second African American to fly in space aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger on mission STS-41-B. He later died during the launch of the Challenger on mission STS-51-L.

::Special Announcements::

accomplishments were developing a myriad of projects. Some of which were establishing the Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club, development of a strategic plan for a burgeoning parks department, promoting the use of annexes (one stop government) throughout Fort Bend County, developing and editing the Precinct 2 Newsletter and creation of a public access television show called, ‘Focus on Fort Bend,’ that would highlight things in and around Fort Bend County.

We salute Mr. Watkins not only for the work he has done for the county , but for what he has done and continues to do in service to his community and for other causes. Currently a member at Westbury United Methodist Church, he worked on the finance committee and is currently Chairman of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Along with being a dedicated member to his church, Mr. Watkins is also a lifetime and active member of several non-profit and civic organizations. He is a Lifetime member of Grambling State University National Alumni Association, where he attended undergraduate school and met the future Mrs. Watkins and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, where he is also a lifetime member. Also, Mr. Watkins received a MBA from Texas Southern University and is a Life Member of the National Alumni Association.

Mr. Watkins is also a member of the Blueridge Lions Club, which is affiliated with Lions Clubs International, the largest service organization in the world. Members of Blueridge are dedicated to seeking and doing things that foster the principles of Lionism, as suggested by the motto of “We Serve.” A past president of the organization, Mr. Watkins was named a Melvin Jones Fellow, the highest award that can be given to a member of the Lions Club and must be recommended by the fellow members. Mr. Watkins continued his tireless leadership serving two terms as president of the Missouri City & Vicinity NAACP where he is also a lifetime

City of Houston SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM
2016 450+ positions available!

The City of Houston Summer Jobs Program offers 16-21 year olds residing within Houston city limits the opportunity to "learn and earn." While gaining exposure to a wide variety of careers, participants will:

- Be on the job from June 13-August 5
- Work 32-40 hours per week
- Earn \$7.25+ per hour

APPLY ONLINE
FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 18
www.houstontx.gov/summerjobs

QUESTIONS?
 Email: SummerJobs@houston.gov
 Call: 713.773.6000 or 877.767.6140

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND INCLUDE:

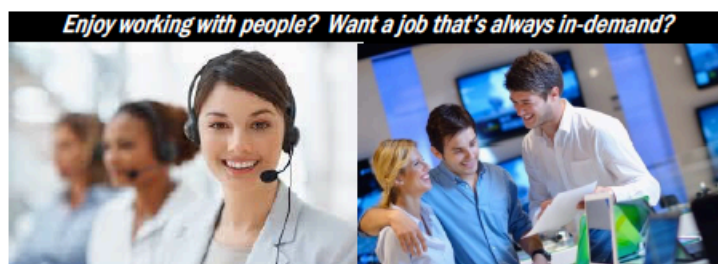
- Houston Health Department
- Houston Police Department
- Library Operations & Support
- Fuel Gate Attendant
- Park Maintenance Aides
- Neighborhood Beautification
- Houston Fire Department
- City Council/Government
- Human Resources
- Municipal Courts Operations
- Construction/Design
- Finance
- Solid Waste Management
- Computers/MS Office Software
- Customer Service
- Office/Clerical
- Parks Community Center
 Recreation Assistant

The 2016 Summer Jobs Program is sponsored by the City of Houston and supported by our partner agencies:



member. Additionally he served one term as President of the Chasewood Civic Club. The civic club serves as the social arm of the community, and Mr. Watkins worked to develop different community and youth programs. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, fishing, casino trips, traveling and reading nonfiction books.

While we would like to thank Mr. Watkins for working with the county to make our community a better place, we would also like to thank him for volunteering his personal time to ensure that he did his part to enrich the life of neighbors, family and friends alike. Lastly we would like to salute Mr. Isaiah Watkins Jr. for his dedication to our Country and thank him for his service as a Vietnam Veteran. We recognize Mr. Watkins is a stalwart of the community and we want you to know that it has not gone unnoticed.



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CLASS STARTS MARCH 21ST

Registration Deadline: March 17th

CAREER READINESS & COMPUTER SKILLS
 (Required for Customer Service Training)
 March 21st - March 28th | 8am-5pm

CUSTOMER SERVICE (CS) TRAINING
 March 29th - April 4th | 8am-5pm

To apply, register, and/or to learn more about SER's occupational training opportunities, attend our **INFORMATION SESSIONS** **Thursdays, 9:30 am** at **United Way Ft. Bend Service Center** 12300 Parc Crest Drive Stafford, TX 77477

Please bring your driver's license or Texas Identification Card and social security card

For more information, contact:
 SER-Jobs for Progress
 281.207.2501
 12300 Parc Crest Drive
 Stafford, TX 77477
www.SERhouston.org
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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@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Write away!

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