



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2017



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***Commissioner Prestage
Joins MCTX Townhall!***

***Fort Bend County
& AccessHealth set to
host Community Operation***



Last month, Commissioner Grady Prestage joined Missouri City's City Manager Anthony Snipes, Council member Jerry Wyatt and additional elected officials as they hosted a Citywide Town Hall (#MCTXTownHall) at City Hall in Missouri City. Commissioner Prestage updated attendees on the Missouri City Library renovation and what they should expect going forward. Other topics addressed in the Town Hall included this year's budget and the new Houston Community College District campus.



Commissioner Prestage came back to City Hall the following week and joined Missouri City for the inaugural Youth Town Hall. Attendees weighed in on social media, the City's Comprehensive Plan and proposed projects being planned for the City Hall complex, including an amphitheater, Veterans' Memorial, skate park, water feature and more!

Commissioner Prestage Joins City of Meadows Place for Annual 4th of July Parade!

Back-to-School Health Fairs!

The first two Saturdays in August AccessHealth will continue to host their **FREE** annual **Community Operation: Back-to-School Health Fairs** in partnership with Fort Bend County, the City of Missouri City and Houston Federal Credit Union.



Every year community partners and volunteers join forces to assist parents with the medical and financial demands of preparing their children to return to school. The **Community Operation Health Fairs** offer immunizations, dental screenings, vision screenings, speech-language screenings, backpacks and school supplies, haircuts and a limited number of sports physicals, which provide children the opportunity to participate in athletic activities.

The **Community Operation Health Fairs** will be held at 400 Austin Street, Richmond, Texas on **August 5th, 2017**, and at 307 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, Texas on **August 12th, 2017**. **Parents will need to bring their children's immunization records.**

Both fairs are scheduled to begin at 9:00am until **NOON**. The health fairs are **FREE** and open to the public and will offer over 20 information booths as well as snacks and children's activities. Backpacks will be provided **ONLY** to

Commissioner Grady Prestage joined the Honorable Charles Jessup along with additional Elected Officials and their families for The City of Meadows Place annual 4th of July Parade. The Parade began in front of City Hall in the east parking lot of Sugar Grover Church of Christ and traveled down around to McGrath Park.



The City of Meadows Place also honored its active military citizens and also awarded prizes to the 'Best Decorated' homes along the Parade route. At the conclusion of the Parade, families and an ever-increasing number of elected officials and dignitaries enjoyed hot dogs, snow cones and splash pad fun and listened to the sounds of a brass & a patriotic band. The Parks & Recreation Department presented awards for the Best Youth, Spirit & Commercial parade floats.



Location Change for Missouri City Middle School Gymnasium

children present the day of the fair. Last year, more than 1,500 individuals received assistance through the *Community Operation Health Fairs*. AccessHealth and partners hope to exceed that number this year.



Families attending the Richmond fair on **August 5th** are invited to visit the Zombie Emergency Preparedness Open House at the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Families will receive emergency preparedness materials, door prizes and an opportunity to learn how the OEM works to make the County a safer place.

Additional *Community Operation* sponsors include the City of Richmond, CenterPoint Energy, Methodist Sugar Land Hospital, Community Health Choice, Frost Bank and MD Anderson Cancer Center. Organizations donating goods or services include St. John's United Methodist Church, Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 2, Reliant Energy, Southern Ice Cream and Fort Bend Lions Club.



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AccessHealth provides integrated health care services without regard to income or circumstance to improve the quality of life in Fort Bend County. AccessHealth is a United Way agency, and the main Center in Richmond is recognized as a Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. For more about the *Community Operation Health Fairs* or available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sharonda DeBose at sdebose@myaccesshealth.org or 281-

Renovation Project Drop-Offs!

Earlier this year Commissioner Grady Prestage called on the community to help with the Missouri City Middle School Gymnasium Renovation Project by submitting old yearbooks, pictures or memorabilia to help create a decorative theme for the renovated building and small museum inside.



County libraries in Missouri City and Richmond were to be the designated drop-off points for any items lent to the effort, but with the coming closing and renovation of the Missouri City Branch Library, the new location for drop offs will be moved to the **Sienna Branch Library**, located at **8411 Sienna Springs Dr, Missouri City, TX**. Closing **July 31st**, the **Missouri City Branch Library** will remain closed for approximately 10 to 12 months.

Copies of submitted items will be kept at the George Memorial Library's Genealogy and Local History Department for researchers to use far into the future. Those willing to share images and/or information will contribute greatly to future generations; it is vital to the success of saving the history of this building and this community, which belongs to you. Commissioner Prestage would like to thank you in advance for joining us in this preservation project.

For more information or questions, please call Brenda Patton or Maurice Lewis at **281-403-8000**.

633-3144.

George Foundation Awards Texana \$1 Million Grant

Texana Center's Forward Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign was given a significant boost from The George Foundation with a grant award of \$1 million.



Two years ago, Texana Center purchased a 14.5-acre tract of land located in northwest Fort Bend County on FM 359 and Wallis Street in Fulshear following a long and unsuccessful search for an appropriate building to operate an additional campus. The need for services was great, so a decision was made to purchase land for an additional campus. The planned campus will be developed in three phases with the layout taking advantage of the existing oak trees to provide shade and peaceful settings for the programs.

Phase I - Décor & More: A retail training center with coffee shop that will serve as an incubator to provide training and intern positions for teens and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism and will cost \$1.5 million to build. The building will have two classrooms to get an early start on programming; one classroom will house Texana's already established applied behavior analysis autism program and the other will be used for classes for adults with intellectual disabilities and/or autism where new programs will be piloted for the Center for Learning (Phase III).

Fort Bend County Animal Services Increases Capabilities!

Fort Bend County Animal Services (FBCAS) began their in-house spay and neuter program last month, ushering in a new era for the county's open admission shelter

and the homeless pets it serves. FBCAS has worked diligently to turn this dream into a reality. The first step towards this reality came when FBCAS hired the first staff veterinarian and veterinarian technician that the program has ever had.

In an average year, approximately 4,000 dogs and cats come through FBCAS' doors and need loving and happy homes. As the number of dogs and cats increase at the shelter, the need for a home or rescue grows every day. It is hoped that this in-house spay and neutering program will increase adoptions to forever homes. FBCAS' goal is to become an adoption destination for families seeking healthy pets. FBCAS will continue to utilize and develop strategies to achieve that goal.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Barbara Vass at barbara.vass@fortbendcountytexas.gov or call 281-238-2277.



Opportunity Fair for Women Enhancing Healthcare, Career & Civic engagement

On **Saturday, August 12th, 2017**, Women's Voice for Better America will host its **nd**

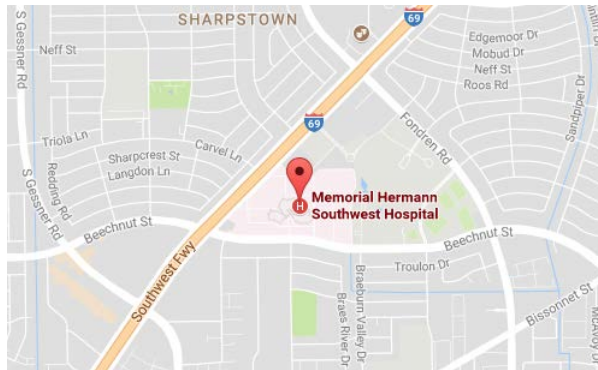
Phase II - The Children's Center for Autism: A \$5.5 million building, which has been purposefully designed to best meet the needs of that population. The 24,566-square-foot building will have 12 large treatment rooms, two therapeutic integrated preschool rooms, two dining areas, an educational kitchen, an indoor play/physical education area, two group therapy rooms, nine small treatment rooms, 11 therapist and administration offices, and space for a large outdoor therapeutic recreation/playground.

Phase III - The Center for Learning: a new concept which will be housed in a 22,195-square foot facility with an estimated individual cost of \$5 million. The Center will have a "learning atmosphere" similar to a community college or vocational school with 10 classrooms, computer room, workshop with shipping and receiving area, adult day program area, storage areas, offices, small educational kitchen, and a large commons area.



"The George Foundation is highly respected in the field of philanthropy and by awarding such a significant grant, they have demonstrated their belief in our mission. This funding will enable us to increase our service capacity for our proven applied behavior analysis program for children with autism," CEO George Patterson said. Patterson believes the Award will create leverage in securing additional funds to help complete the first phase of the campus development.

2 Annual Opportunity Fair for Women from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Memorial-Herman Southwest, located at 7600 Beechnut St, Houston, TX 77074 has graciously offered to host the fair for free.



The 2nd annual Opportunity Fair for Women is designed to increase women's access to quality healthcare, job search skills, small business start-up, financial planning, retirement planning and civic engagement. It will be a free admission event with free sessions and a variety of resourceful information. The event will have free parking, raffles and refreshments.

Women's Voice for Better America is committed to empowering women, thereby strengthening families and transforming communities. Many informational booths will offer resources for women to seek a better quality of life with confidence, knowledge and a network for professional and personal growth.

MD Anderson will offer several sessions that highlight cancer prevention and remedies as well as "Too Cool to Smoke" shows for youth. Sessions offered by Memorial-Herman Southwest will provide information about women's access to healthcare. *Ibn Sina Community Medical Center* will offer on-site medical check-up for women and screening for skin cancer.

Workforce Solutions will offer workshops on job applications, resume writing, cover letters, interview techniques and making network connections. *SCORE Houston* will provide information and consultation for

Texana Center plans to break ground when the final \$500,000 has been raised for Phase I. If you are interested in learning more about the capital campaign or donate please contact:

tracey.shaw@texanacenter.com or call 281-239-1311.

House Bill 133 Looks to Raise Texas Minimum Wage to \$15/HR!

The call for the special session of the Texas Legislature did not contain a single pro-economic or pro-jobs item. Without action, many believe Texas will continue to fall behind in wage growth, economic stability and unemployment. With that, this month Rep. Ron Reynolds (D) filed HB 133 to raise the minimum wage in Texas to \$15.00 an hour.



Rep. Reynolds, who represents Texas House District 27, which encompasses communities of Fort Bend County believes that raising the minimum wage in Texas to \$15.00 an hour is a critical step in creating an economy that works for everyone, not just a wealthy few. "We need to close the economic gap here in Texas, working work-full time and trying to support a family on less than \$15,000 a year is impossible", stated Reynolds.

Raising the minimum wage in Texas will increase earnings for thousands of workers, and support the local economies where they live, work and spend their earnings. In addition, businesses small and large, will recognize that raising the

women seeking help to start up small businesses and *WOODFOREST National Bank* will provide sessions on financial literacy. The event will also include sessions on financial planning, investments, credit score, refinancing, real estate and mortgage presented by licensed professionals.

To ensure women's progress in civic duties and rights to vote, *The League of Women Voters* will conduct voter registration and provide valuable information to help women participate in the electoral process. In addition, information about pathways to citizenship will be provided as part of the civic engagement.

Women's Voice for Better America, a network of diverse women, is thrilled to open the doors of opportunities for women to become self-sufficient and empowered. To join the network or



sponsor the 2nd Annual Opportunity Fair for Women, please contact Neeta Sane at **832-279-8601** or Pam Gaskin at **832-594-7627**.

For more information about this initiative please visit: www.NeetaSane.com/OpportunityFair.

minimum wage will boost morale and increase productivity. Higher wages also sharply reduce employee turnover which can reduce employment and training costs. The typical minimum wage worker is not a high school student earning weekend pocket money. Additionally, 89 percent of those who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are age 20 or older, and 56 percent are women.

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@fortbendcountytexas.gov
Write away!

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