



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2017



(Click Video to Watch)



***State Senator Debuts
Fort Bend District
Office in Missouri City***

***Texas Ends the
Straight-Ticket Ballet***



On Saturday, June 26th, Commissioner Grady Prestage helped welcome State Sen. Borris Miles(D) to Fort Bend County. Sen. Miles, who represents portions of Harris and Fort Bend counties, held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for his new Fort Bend District office in Missouri City located at 2440 Texas Parkway.



The grand opening event was an opportunity to give residents a chance to connect with the Senator, meet his staff and learn about the district office's resources for the community. Additional elected local officials that were on hand to welcome the senator included State Rep. Ron Reynolds (D-Missouri City), Fort Bend ISD Trustee Grayle James, Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 2 Gary Majors, Missouri City Mayor Allen Owen as well as several Missouri City council members. The Stafford High cheer team and DJ Big Ra provided entertainment.

After sailing through the House and winning easy approval in the Senate, [House Bill 25](#) was signed into law June 1st by Gov. Greg Abbott. The bill, will eliminate the straight-ticket voting option starting in 2020. Straight-ticket voting, allows voters to check one box to cast a ballot for every candidate from a single political party. While not available in most states, it accounted for nearly 64 percent of total votes cast in Texas' 10 largest counties in the 2016 general election.



In Texas and other states, down-ballot candidates rely heavily on coordinated campaigns to push people to the polls. Voters are urged to punch the straight-ticket to get the party's entire slate elected. Since ballots are so long, the choice is appealing for voters who trust their party and don't want to spend a lot of time in the voting booth.

Supporters of the bill felt the practice was controversial because down-ballot candidates could lose elections based solely on party affiliation and removing the option will force voters to make more informed decisions in individual elections. Opponents felt the legislation disenfranchises minorities, the elderly and those who need assistance to vote, such as deaf and blind people. Last year in Michigan, a federal judge [blocked a similar law](#) from going into effect.

Generally, there have been fewer Republican straight-ticket votes and more Democratic straight-ticket ballots in Texas' largest 10 counties over the past four presidential elections. In Harris

Splash Pads Cooling Off Fort Bend County

With the Houston heat now making an appearance, Fort Bend County Parks & Recreation Department would like to invite the community to come out and keep cool at one of four new Splash Pads across the County. The splash pads can be found at:

- [Kitty Hollow Park](#),
- [Mustang Community Center](#),
- [Mission West Park](#)
- [Four Corners Community Center](#).

For directions and additional amenities for each park, please click on the park of your choice!

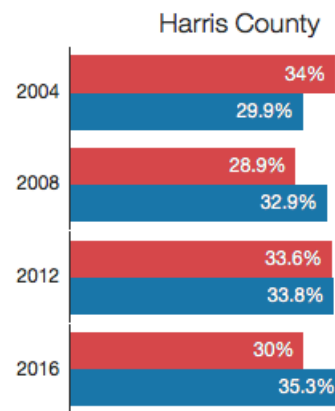
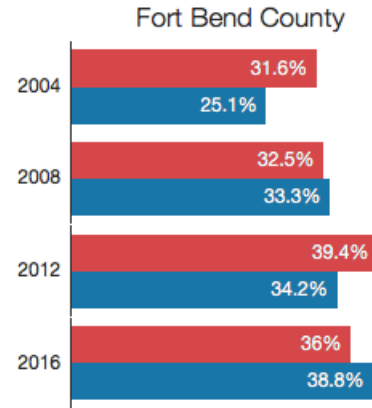


The Fort Bend County Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for development and maintenance of 5 active parks, 3 leased parks and 4 community centers. The County Parks Department aims to provide a quality park system for the residents of Fort Bend County and provide appropriate recreation programs and activities for youth, adults, and senior citizens in accordance with the adopted master plan and needs assessment.

For More Information on County Parks & Community Centers please visit FortBendCountyTx.gov.

Missouri City Branch

County, Democrats saw straight-ticket voting increase from 29.9% to 35.3%, while Republicans saw a decrease from 34% to 30%. In Fort Bend County, while Republicans would also see an increase in straight-ticket voting from 31.6% to 36%, Democrats saw an even greater increase growing from 25.1% to 38.8%.



While there will still be coordinated campaigns, down-ballot candidates will now have to work harder to attract the casual voters. Some feel the larger impact of repealing straight-ticket voting will be the loss of convenience, as some voters are likely to get frustrated and leave the ballots incomplete.

MCJCF Community Service Awards Gala honors Fort Bend Students and Administrators

For its 15th anniversary, the Missouri City Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (MCJCF) hosted events highlighting art, culture, education, and community

Library to Close for Renovations

Fort Bend County Libraries' **Missouri City Branch Library**, located at 1530 Texas Parkway, will close for renovations beginning **Monday, July 31st**. The library will remain closed for approximately 10 to 12 months. During the period that the library is closed for renovations, books and other items that have been checked out from the Missouri City Branch Library may be returned to any of the nine branch libraries in the Fort Bend County library system. Anyone needing meeting space is encouraged to reserve a room at one of Fort Bend County Libraries' other branches in the area.



The pick-up location for items that have been requested and placed on hold for pick-up at the Missouri City Branch Library will default to the Sienna Branch Library during the renovation period, unless the library patron chooses a different pick-up location. The **Sienna Branch Library** is located at 8411 Sienna Springs Blvd in Missouri City.

The last day to check out Nooks or LaunchPads from the Missouri City Branch Library is **Saturday, July 15th**. The eReaders checked out from the Missouri City Branch Library cannot be returned to any other library, and must be

partnerships.



Each year, MCJCF likes to recognize those who stand out within the community and exemplify conviction, purpose and enthusiasm. This year at the Community Service Awards Gala, two outstanding Fort Bend Independent School District educators and administrators were recipients of MCJCF awards. Honoree Dr. Marla McNeal-Sheppard, a FBISD Assistant Superintendent, and Honoree Jerrie Kammerman, Principal at Missouri City Middle School, were introduced by FBISD Superintendent Dr. Charles Dupre, who talked about how they both are great assets to the district and that he is saddened to lose both—one to relocation and the other retirement—but he wished them well.

The Keynote Speaker for the evening was Texas Southern University President Dr. Austin Lane. Dr. Lane's slogan for the evening was "education is the freedom to emancipation."

Before the evening ended, the Foundation awarded scholarships to six Fort Bend County students: Alex Merchant, Heather Bennett, Jenai Johnson, Alexis LeBlanc, Alaina Bryant and Moriah Richard. This year the Foundation awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to the new students and two \$2,000 scholarships to two returning MCJCF scholarship recipients.

For more info and updates from the 15th Annual Missouri City Juneteenth

returned by **Saturday, July 22nd**. Children and adults who are participating in the Summer Reading Club may pick up their rewards at any of the other library branches. The last day to pick up Summer Reading Club rewards is **August 31st**.

Other libraries nearby include the **Mamie George Branch Library** (320 Dulles Ave in Stafford), the **First Colony Branch Library** (2121 Austin Parkway in Sugar Land), and the **Sugar Land Branch Library** (550 Eldridge).

Renovation and expansion of the Missouri City Branch Library is the first phase of a \$19.8-million bond referendum approved by voters in November 2015, which included \$6.4 million for the Missouri City Branch Library project and \$13.4 million for a new library to be built on the north side of the county. Built in 1992, the Missouri City Branch Library was the fourth library built in the library system. The 18,462-square-foot library was the first of four new branches built with funds voted for in the 1989 bond election.



The current renovation and expansion project will include a 9,600-square-foot, 3-story addition to the existing library. The additional space will be used for a computer lab, study rooms, and meeting spaces. The library's technology system will be upgraded to allow RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) capability, which will speed up the check-out/check-in of library materials. New RFID self-check stations will be installed in the adult and youth areas. The renovation will also

Celebration click [HERE](#).

MCTX ready for 4th of July Celebration!



On **Tuesday, July 4th** from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., residents are invited to enjoy free family-friendly activities at the City's annual Independence Day Celebration at Buffalo Run Park, 1122 Buffalo Run Blvd.

The evening will conclude with the annual Fireworks Show beginning at 9:15 p.m. with stadium seating available at Thurgood Marshall High School. Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the evening from food trucks and restaurant partners.

Event parking in and around Thurgood Marshall High School will be limited; residents are encouraged to take advantage of the METRO shuttles that will be running throughout the evening from the Park & Ride at 13859 Fondren Rd. METRO buses will run from 5:45 p.m. until the conclusion of the event. These shuttles are free and will drop off attendees near one of the event's entrances.

Road Closure Schedule



Beginning at 3 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 4th**, event parking traffic will only be allowed

include an expansion of the library's Meeting Room space, which is used for library programs and community gatherings.

"The area served by the Missouri City Branch Library has grown and changed considerably since the library was originally built," says Clara Russell, County Librarian. "When the library was first built, it was designed to meet the needs of the community at that time. No one could have imagined how much the digital age would change all of our lives. Use of electronic resources – such as computers, the Internet, WiFi, and circulation of digital ebooks and audiobooks – have all shown increases at the Missouri City Branch Library, so the addition of a Computer Lab will definitely help us meet those needs of our library patrons."



"We want to remind everyone that they still have access to many library resources online 24/7," said Clara Russell, Library Director. "The library's resources that can be accessed through our website – such as the databases, Homework Help, Ask-a-Librarian chat, Cloud Library and OverDrive eBooks, Hoopla movies and music, and other online services – will still be available from any computer outside the library that has an Internet connection."

You can also check out this month's edition of Commissioner Grady Prestage's Commissioners Corner (above)

to enter Buffalo Run Boulevard via Texas Parkway. After the partial closure, Lakeview Business Park employees and delivery trucks will need to enter the property through the Fondren Road and Willow Oak Drive entrance.

All trucks and business park employees coming to Texas Parkway after 3 p.m. will be rerouted to Independence Boulevard to access the Fondren Road entrance. Event signage and City police officers will be posted at the Texas Parkway and Buffalo Run Boulevard intersection.

Hurricane Season is Here!

June was the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season and the Fort Bend County



Office of Emergency Management (FBCOEM) wants to make sure you're prepared! As we enter the 2017 hurricane season, it is critical that everyone in our area becomes more knowledgeable about hurricanes and hurricane preparedness.

FBCOEM provides several ways for you to stay informed and alert! [FBC Alerts](#), will allow you to receive alerts of many threats directly from their office or you can follow them on Social Media at [@fbcoem](#) on Twitter or at the [Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management](#) page on Facebook. Fort Bend County also has digital signage on State Highway 6 in Arcola to communicate threats to folks passing-through Fort Bend County while evacuating.

Additional Tips and Resources include:

to hear more about the renovations and call the library system's Public Information Office at [281-633-4734](tel:281-633-4734) for more information.



Find Out if You're at Risk - *Contact FBC Engineering to inquire if you live in a floodplain.*

- Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit
- Become Familiar with Evacuation Routes. Although a call to evacuate is rare for Fort Bend County, Sugar land could be a major evacuation route for nearby cities.
- Visit Enable Fort Bend (www.enablefortbend.com): This County agency assists individuals with special needs during an emergency or natural disaster. Staff may be reached at [281-238-3514](tel:281-238-3514).

***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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