



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

December 2018

**"COMMISSIONER'S CORNER"**



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***Precinct 2 Hosts  
Annual Cajun Creole  
Holiday Party***



Every year, the first week of December, Fort Bend County Officials of Precinct 2 host one of the most anticipated events of the year. The Cajun Creole Holiday Party. On **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, Commissioner Grady Prestage, along with Constable Gary Majors & Judge Joel Clouser hosted the annual holiday party, with much help from several departments around the county at Fifth Street Community Center in Stafford, Texas.

The annual event, organized by Commissioner Prestage, is a family-style celebration of the holiday season with

***SPARK Dedicates  
Third Park at  
Briargate Elementary!***



On **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, Commissioner Grady Prestage joined Briargate Elementary to officially open the new SPARK Park to the community following a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. The SPARK Park at Briargate is the third in Fort Bend ISD and is a cooperative venture of Briargate parents, students and the community.

Briargate students joined community members in celebrating the occasion. The Briargate Gems and Gents led the pledge and the school's choir performed two musical selections. Willowridge High

great food, music and holiday cheer. The Holiday Party, which served about 500 guests, wouldn't be possible without the efforts of county volunteers and Precinct 2's talented staff members.



Community residents, stakeholders and Fort Bend employees alike were invited to enjoy the creole favorites of seafood gumbo, etouffee, jambalaya, fried fish, and other delectable southern favorites. The true star of the party however, is always Commissioner Prestage's 50+ lb roasted pig! Commissioner Prestage thanked everyone who played a part in making the event possible and wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

### ***Fort Bend County Annual Christmas Tree Lighting***



The annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Fort Bend County Historic Courthouse took place **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**, immediately following Commissioners Court.

Members of the Lamar Consolidated High School Varsity Choir sang Christmas carols in the rotunda to a group of county employees and attendees of Commissioners Court. Employees participated in an annual holiday design event in which county employees submitted a Funny Christmas Hat design which were on display in the rotunda of the Historic Court House.

### ***Texas GLO Offering Housing Assistance After Hurricane Harvey***

The General Land Office has launched its **Housing Assistance Program** for residents that were affected by Hurricane Harvey



School Marine Corps JROTC cadets presented the colors. Also participating in the ceremony were: FBISD Board President Jason Burdine, SPARK Executive Director Kathleen Ownby, Houston City Council Member (District K) Martha Castex-Tatum Briargate SPARK Park committee members and a host of other business and community leaders.



Principal Deanna Olson thanked the SPARK School Park Program officials and everyone involved in securing the park. "We appreciate all of the planning, funding and hard work that went into creating our park. This is a wonderful addition to our school community that families will enjoy for many years to come."

Each SPARK Park is unique, with designs based on ideas and needs of the school and surrounding community. In addition to playground equipment, the park at Briargate Elementary includes a concrete walking trail, eight new benches, a new entryway and 27 freshly planted trees courtesy of Trees for Houston. The park's design was under the direction of Carmen Posey of Environments and Co, and A-1 Construction Services was the general contractor. Community members will have access to the park after school hours and on the weekends, when school is not in session.

Funding for the \$117,000 SPARK Park at Briargate was possible through various contributors and fundraising efforts. Houston Endowment, Kinder Foundation and The Powell Foundation collectively contributed \$108,000 toward the "park desert" fund to support the project. BGE raised \$5,000 through various fundraisers, including "Pennies for the Park," a school carnival and a "Chili's Give Back Night." FBISD matched BGE's amount of \$5,000 and managed the construction project.

### ***Missouri City Makes History with Newly Elected Mayor***

On **Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**, Missouri City marked a historical transition in leadership as newly elected Mayor Yolanda Ford was administered the oath of office by Presiding Judge Debra Sinclair. Ford is the first female and first African American to serve in the elected position. The new Mayor was elected by with 51.95 percent of the voters citywide in the Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Runoff Election.

and are still in need of home repairs. This Housing Assistance Program is run by the General Land Office and provides the following types of assistance:

- *Repairing and rehabilitating homes*
- *Reconstruction*
- *Improving a damaged home so that it is stronger against natural disasters*
- *Elevating homes above flood level*
- *Temporary relocation assistance*

This program is geared towards low-to-moderate income residents, although everyone is encouraged to apply. The General Land Office will be reviewing all completed applications and will make determinations on a case-by-case basis. The program is first-come, first serve and only available for a main home (primary residence).

Residents can apply online, fill out a paper application and mail it or drop it off at a regional office, or visit a homeowner assistance program regional office for an application and help with the application process. The local housing assistance program regional office is located in Sugar Land at 1 Sugar Creek Center Boulevard, Suite 200, Sugar Land TX 77478. For more information about how to apply for the program or to check the status of an application, [CLICK HERE](#).

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



Submit articles  
to: [commpct2@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:commpct2@fortbendcountytexas.gov)  
Write away!



Council Chambers and City Hall was filled with citizens, stakeholders, family members and supporters who came to witness the ceremony first-hand. Ford is the City's 11th Mayor and succeeds the Honorable Allen Owen, who was also recognized for his 32 years of service, 24 of which were as Mayor. The new Mayor immediately conducted her first official action of the meeting by swearing-in At-Large Position #2 City Councilmember Chris Preston, who was re-elected to his position.

### ***Fort Bend County Breaks Ground on New Medical Examiner Facility***

The State of Texas mandates that counties with a population of 1 million or more must have a Medical Examiner. With a current population of more than 770,000, Fort Bend County is rapidly approaching this requirement. The feasibility study commissioned by Commissioners Court in 2014, proved the cost benefit to bringing the Medical Examiner services to the County now instead of contracting out to the surrounding areas, and promoted the court to begin construction on the facility this month.

On **December 17th, 2018**, Officials broke ground for the facility. Located on Klauke road next to the new Fort Bend Transportation Center, will consist of two buildings totaling 11,880 sf with space to expand as the County population increases. Fort Bend County is currently looking for a Medical Examiner to operate the facility upon its completion in August.

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