



Commissioner Grady Prestage's
PRECINCT 2 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

January 2018



(Click Video to Watch)



***Fort Bend County
Hosts Open House at
Sienna Annex in***

***Missouri City
Welcomes Tourism as it
Prepares for BHM***

Precinct Two



Officials of Fort Bend County invite you to stop by and see the new Sienna Annex in Precinct Two on **March 9th, 2018** from 1pm - 4pm. The Sienna Annex allows those residents living on the East side of Fort Bend County the convenience of county services a little closer to home.

The Annex is located at 5855 Sienna Springs Way, adjacent to the Sienna Library in Missouri City, and houses satellite offices for County Commissioner Precinct Two, Grady Prestage; Fort Bend County Tax Assessor, Patsy Schultz; and Fort Bend County Clerk, Laura Richards.



Please stop by and visit with elected officials and staff, tour the building and enjoy coffee and cookies.

Texas Awards Millions for Mental Health

As part of the first phase of the state's Mental Health Grant Program for

Celebrations!

Missouri City will mark two community milestones on **Friday, Feb. 9th** and **Saturday, Feb. 10th** with the grand opening of its state-of-the-art Visitors Center and the commemoration of the Fourth Annual Black History Month Celebration of Culture & Music.

The festivities will begin Friday with Missouri City Council and staff showcasing the Visitors Center with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony starting at 5pm. The Visitors Center was funded by \$100,000 in hotel occupancy tax revenue, which also accounts for a Tourism Manager. "My team and I can't wait to show residents and stakeholders all of the fun they can have exploring one of America's BEST places to live, work and play!" said City Manager Anthony J. Snipes.



Following the Visitors Center ceremony, City officials will kick-off the Fourth Annual Black History Month Celebration of Culture & Music with an Artists & Authors Exhibition at 6 p.m. in the Community Center, 1522 Texas Pkwy. On Saturday, Feb. 10th in the same facility, the formal event program will feature an inaugural panel on Education & the Economy with Dr. Madeline Burillo-Hopkins, President of the Missouri City

Justice-Involved Individuals, up to \$12.5 million in grant funds will go to 12 local mental health authorities and one local behavioral health authority. The funds will be used to establish, continue, or expand programs to help people with mental illness receive services and supports needed to address mental health issues outside of the criminal justice system and reduce wait time for people committed to a state hospital.



Sen. Joan Huffman's Senate Bill 292 established the Mental Health Grant Program for Justice-Involved Individuals and provides \$37.5 million in state funds over the 2018-19 biennium to be matched by grantees with local and private funds. An additional round of funding will be announced for fiscal year 2019.

Funding through the grant was awarded through an application process, which required a project proposal. Grant awardees are required to match a portion of the state's grant award to demonstrate their communities' commitment to addressing the mental health needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system and to increasing their access to mental health treatment and services.



Texana Center, of Fort Bend County was amongst the organizations awarded funding under the bill. Chief Executive Officer George Patterson credits Fort

Houston Community College Campus, Dr. Charles Dupre, Fort Bend Independent School District Superintendent, Dr. Robert Bostic, Stafford Municipal School District Superintendent and Dr. Gleniece Robinson, Director of Educational Strategies for the City of Fort Worth.



This year we wanted to seamlessly blend together celebrations of history, local artists, authors, educators, entertainers, business owners and of course our area youth," said Snipes. Missouri City is actively looking for volunteers for this event!

Interested residents may contact Media Relations Specialist III Cory Stottlemyer at cstottlemyer@missouricitytx.gov or at 281-403-8532.

Residents Asked for Input on Local Housing Issues

On Tuesday, Feb. 6th, Missouri City will partner with Harris County and the cities of Galveston and Pasadena to hold a public meeting to solicit increased community participation and involvement in identifying barriers to fair housing choice and priorities for positively promoting fair housing. The meeting will be held in the Old Courtroom Chambers in the City Hall Complex, 1522 Texas Pkwy, from 4pm – 7pm.

Bend County's match contribution as critical to the success of its application. "We look forward to working with the county as we implement this important initiative which has truly been a collaborative effort on the part of Texana Center and Fort Bend County."

FEMA Extends Public Assistance Eligibility to Houses of Worship

Important Update: On January 2nd, 2018, FEMA issued guidance to consider private nonprofit (PNP) Houses of Worship as potential eligible applicants under the Public Assistance Grant program. As it relates to Hurricane Harvey, for Houses of Worship, FEMA is allowing a 30-day application period which began on January 5th, 2018 with applications accepted until ***February 4, 2018 at 11:59 PM CST***. Houses of Worship that would like to apply for Public Assistance must first submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form [HERE](#).

The RPA form can be sent to TDEMrecovery.rpa@dps.texas.gov.

Willowridge Students Return Home

Following the costly \$12 million mold remediation and renovation project, students finally returned to Willowridge High School. During renovations as part of a school bond program, a failure in the air conditioning system created increased humidity, allowing mold to grow. District officials have compared the degree of the mold removal process to preparing a newly-constructed campus.



Missouri City, Harris County and the cities of Galveston and Pasadena receive block grants for community development and housing activities from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a condition of receiving these funds, the County and cities must certify that they will "Affirmatively Further Fair Housing" choice—or AFFH.

The AFFH requirement originates from the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which requires that HUD administer programs and activities related to housing and urban development in a manner that affirmatively furthers the policies of the Act. In order to meet HUD's compliance, the City is required to conduct an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, or AI.

Fort Bend ISD plans to Launch Community Education Program

Fort Bend ISD's Extended Learning Department is planning to grow its programs to offer enriched learning opportunities for all ages in 2018. Community Education courses will be offered at FBISD campuses across the community, and to determine what courses will be offered, the Extended Learning Department is reaching out to potential teachers and students.



Crews have installed a new heating and cooling system, replaced floors, furniture, and repainted. Every ceiling tile was replaced in the building, carpets were replaced and each teacher had to re-supply their classroom. One of the most eye-catching changes of the building is the giant mural of an eagle's head, the school's mascot, that emerges through the gym wall.

During the renovations, students spent the first semester of classes at nearby Marshall High School. Second year principal Thomas Graham thanked the faculty and staff of Marshall High for hosting the Willowridge students but said it was gratifying to be back in the building. "It was really good to have the kids come back after that holiday and after being away from the campus so long," he said.

***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



Members of the community are invited to participate by visiting the [Community Education webpage](#) on the FBISD website and complete a brief [survey](#) to share the kind of courses they're interested in attending, and what they would like to see in a Community Education program. The website also includes a link where community members can submit course proposals, indicating what kind of courses they would be interested in teaching.

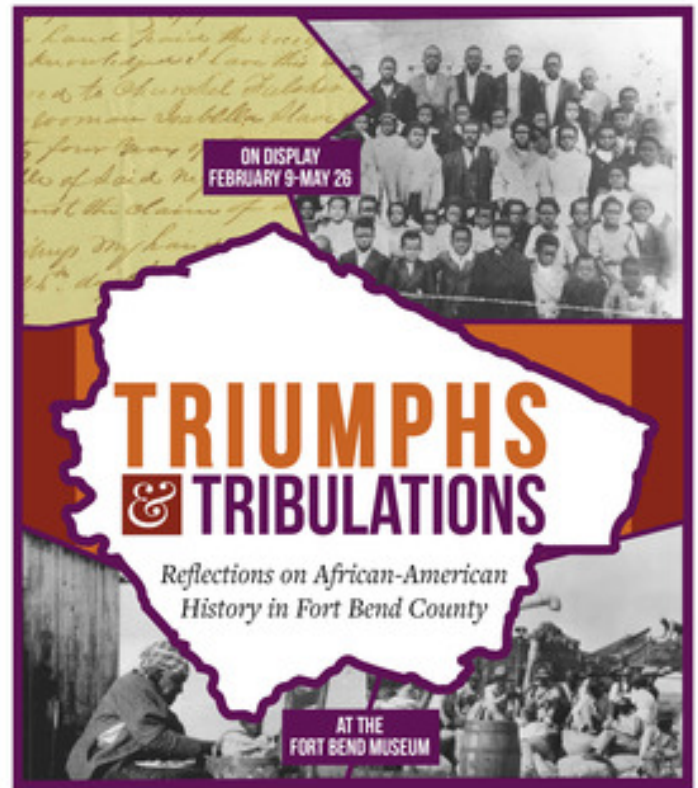
"Community Education gives all of our community members an opportunity to become lifelong learners, which is an important attribute in the District's Profile of a Graduate, and give our District the ability to engage and partner with our community in a new way." said Lori Montelongo, FBISD Assistant Director of Extended Learning. "We want the courses to be affordable so that they are mutually beneficial for the community members and District as a whole."

Montelongo says the goal is to offer courses that appeal to different age groups and cover a variety of topics: enrichment, recreation, self-improvement and academic prep. Following the community survey and the submission of course proposals, Extended Learning plans to launch the first courses in the fall of 2018.

SAVE THE DATE:

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
MUSEUM**
500 Houston Street | Richmond, TX 77469
fortbendmuseum.org | 281.342.1256

EXHIBIT OPENING: FEBRUARY 9, 6-8 P.M.

The first in a series of new exhibits at the Fort Bend Museum, "Triumphs and Tribulations" gives an overview of African-American history in Fort Bend County, spotlighting citizens who helped shape its path for the future.

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