

GMBAC Community News

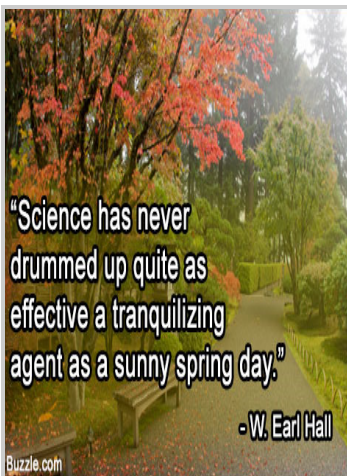
A Voice for the 65,000 Residents of Greater Mission Bend!



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GMBAC Has Partnered With Local Businesses

By Michilla Cade

The Greater Mission Bend Area Council (GMBAC) has partnered with a few key local area businesses to help with improving the commercial landscapes surrounding our neighborhoods. This community-business partnership initiative has been established to collaborate and work together towards opportunities to expand business growth and allow for new economic development in Mission Bend. These well-intentioned and supportive business owners and managers recognize the value of strengthening our

community and the role ty of life in our community. GMBAC has taken on to make that happen.

All partners involved in this initiative recognize the challenges; however, we continue to push forward to make changes and lay out what we want for our community.

We want to improve the quali-

GMBAC

Business Directory

Support the Local Businesses that are partnering with GMBAC.

<http://gmbac.com>

We want safe and more secure environments. We want more proactive law enforcement to help reduce crime activity – vandalism, graffiti, and theft. We want better maintenance, landscaping, and lighting of the commercial properties along our main corridors. We want better shopping options. We want more appealing businesses to entice homeowners to spend their

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Winkleman Truck Stop

By Winetta Billings, M.D.

Since the economic downturn and the demise of the Mission Bend Business District Association, the drivers of 18 wheelers have claimed part of Winkleman as their personal parking space. This has created no end of problems, the main one being that no one could see around them. It has been especially challenging during school zone hours – hundreds of school kids, laughing, cutting up and sometimes running out into the street were at particular risk. We were told of a near miss with a school child on



ity due to a parked 18 wheeler. Skid marks were visible for weeks. People have tried for years to

put an end to this, but without success. The run of the mill offer, and the one that was pitched to me, was for several of the HOA's to petition their residents. This would have meant collecting approximately 3,000 signatures on a petition and if approved, this would only have stopped parking on Winkleman during the overnight hours. This would not, of course, have solved the issue with the school kids. Thank fully we persevered and Mr. Paul Hawkins, P.E., an engineer

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**Join 100's of Your
Near-By Neighbors on
www.Nextdoor.com**

The number of Nextdoor Members is growing daily. Nextdoor.com is making it possible to connect with more nearby neighbors.

Nextdoor is a private social network for the residents of each subdivision with an option to connect with the residents of nearby subdivisions. It's the easiest and fastest way to communicate with neighbors.

By sharing information about crime and other issues that affect our area we can take the steps necessary to make the entire area a better place to live and raise a family.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office as well as the Department of Emergency Management also posts information relating to our area.



If a street light is out in your area just get the number on the pole and contact

Center Point Energy.

[http://
www.centerpointelectric.
com/cehe/support/](http://www.centerpointelectric.com/cehe/support/)

New Signs for Wingate and Forestview

Wingate and Forestview have new signs at our entrances off of Westheimer. The old signs were the original signs from the late '70s and were made of thick cedar wood. After 30 years of service, it was time to replace or repair them. We, the Board of Directors, thought we would be able to sand blast the top layers, resculpt the design, add some paint and put them back up for another 20 to 30 years. That wasn't to be.

Sand blasting is no longer available. It seems environmental regulations have made it obsolete. After months of

searching the we began to look for new signs made out of aluminum and other short lived foam-like products. They were so expensive, and, yet, so 'cheap'. We could not expect many years of service like the cedar signs gave us.

Then, at one of our meetings, someone suggested searching for wood restoration. We had no luck with that idea either, until, by chance, Jodi Rohrer,

our manager, found a company from Austin, Affinity Sign, owned by Ron Spell (512-294-6274). Ron was able to purchase similar wood from Canada, remake our signs, paint them, and install them for half the money of the new more expensive 'cheaper' signs. He even included a box of touch-up paint, so the colors could be matched for future sprucing up of the signs. We are set for another 30 years.



Kevin Fowler "Will Sing For Trash!"

<http://www.dontmesswithtexas.org/about/the-campaign.php>

Why Do People Litter?

The main reason why people usually litter is because they are too lazy to find a trash bin where they can dispose of any litter. Some would assume that if an area is already dirty, there is no reason to bother looking for a bin.

Remind children to remind their friends not to be

"A Litter Bug!"



Clayton Student Wins Calf at Livestock Show!

Brenda A. Jones, a resident of Clayton subdivision, a junior at Hastings High School and Secretary of the Alief FFA, had an excellent showing this month at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. On Thursday, March 6, she participated in the Calf Scramble. Although she didn't catch a calf, she was awarded the Hard Luck Scholarship. The Hard Luck Award goes to a student who shows grit, determination and, most importantly, never gives up. The student receives a



certificate in the amount of \$1,500 to be used for the purchase of a registered breeding beef heifer, dairy heifer or market steer. Once she brings the animal home, she is responsible for its grooming, feeding and care for one year. Brenda will return to the HLS&R in 2015 to show her calf and collect a \$250 cash award.

In addition to participating in the calf scramble, Brenda also

showed her registered Longhorn heifer, Phantom of the Opera. Phantom took 5th place in the Open Show and 2nd place in the Youth Show. And the entire Alief FFA team was awarded 2nd place in the Herdsman competition which focuses on keeping a neat and orderly stall in the barn. Finally, on Thursday, March 13, Brenda and two other Alief students showed their broiler chickens in the HLS&R Poultry Show. She made it through the sift and first callback before being cut. Her parents are extremely proud of all her hard work.



Hibiscus

**Third Annual
GMBAC Plant Swap**

**A Plant Swap
sponsored by
the Greater Mission Bend
Area Council**

will be held on

May 17th, 2014

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

at

George Bush Park

**16756 Westheimer Park-
way Pavilion #3**

Barter Don't Buy!

**No Money Changes
Hands just plants and
plant related items.**

For Details Visit

[http://
plantswap.gmbac.com/](http://plantswap.gmbac.com/)

*For the 3rd year in a row
Alief Kerr High School
National Honor Society
student volunteers will
be earning community
service hours helping to
care plants to and from
cars.*

GMBAC Partnered With Local Businesses (Continued from pg. 1)

dollars in Mission Bend as opposed to Sugar Land or Katy. We want more community involvement.

Local business owners of Which Wich Superior Sandwiches, Domino's Pizza, Walgreens, Christian Brothers Automotive, Old Hickory Inn Barbecue, and Whataburger have all agreed to band together to help rebuild our commercial areas. West Oaks Mall's General Manager has also expressed an interest in our efforts.

Future plans are to work towards community events such as community health fairs, back to school drives, neighborhood beautification efforts, and more ... We are exploring the possibility of establishing a Mission Bend Chamber of Commerce or a type of Business Association that will set and enforce standards that

will promote and protect the commercial interests in our community.

As a community we need your commitment to support these local area businesses, as they have taken time from their busy schedules to invest in our community. If you know a Mission Bend business that would be interested in helping to improve our local economy, encourage them to contact GMBAC.

A vibrant, robust commercial area brings forth a healthy economy, which contributes to healthy home values.

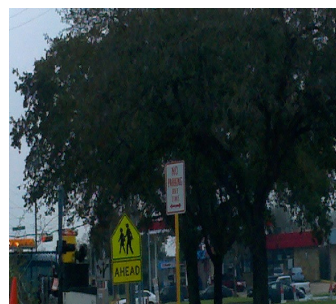
Winkleman Truck Stop (Continued from Pg. 1)

with Commissioner Radack's office, agreed to do an engineering survey to determine if we really had an issue. Quite honestly, he always sounded pessimistic to me. But, much to my surprise, six months later, the survey was done and the results were in our favor. The

no parking signs were put up March 5, 2014 and they restrict parking around the clock.

So, if you ever see 18 wheelers parked on Winkleman, you can call the Harris County Sheriff Office non-emergency number, 713-221-6000 and ask for an officer's help to enforce the no parking restrictions.

The homes on Winkleman between Bellaire and Winkleman are in the Mission Bend Civic Association HOA and they restrict the parking of 18 wheelers through their deed restrictions; the rest of the route is now restricted by Harris County.



Newsletter Committee

Would you like to be a member of the GMBAC Newsletter Committee?

We could use your help!

Information@gmbac.com

Local Housing Market

Visit HAR (The Houston Association of Realtors) Website for information about home sales in your subdivision as well as other subdivision Information.

<http://www.har.com/neighborhoods/showSearchResults?zip=77083>

Primary Election**County & State****Runoff Election**

Early Voting

May 19 thru 23, 2014

Primary Run-Off Election

May 27, 2014

<http://sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2014dates.shtml>

Local Municipal Utility District (MUD) Board Election Information**MUD #120**

Miller Intermediate School

15025 Westpark, Houston, TX 77082

(West Park & Green Crest)

Early Voting

April 28 thru May 6th, 2014

Election Day is Saturday, May 10, 2014

9:00 AM – 5:00 P.M.

MUD 147

16103 Glen Mar Drive, Houston, 77082

Early Voting

April 28 - May 2 & May 5 and 6 - 9:00-5:00

Election Day is Saturday, May 10, 2014

9:00 AM – 5:00 P.M.

What is a Municipal Utility District or MUD?

Municipal utility districts, or "MUDs," are created to bring public water, sewer, drainage and other basic services to residents who are not served by a city. To accomplish the purposes for which they are created, MUDs are authorized by law to purchase, construct, own, operate, and maintain all facilities necessary to supply water to, to collect and treat waste water from, and to collect, store, and drain storm water from the land within their boundaries. In addition to providing water, sewer, and drainage services, MUDs may provide trash collection, fire service and supplemental security patrol services, and may generally enhance communities by building parks and recreational facilities. In connection with providing services, a MUD adopts rules and charges for the services it provides, enters into contracts for goods and services, incurs debt, and levies taxes.

MUDs are authorized by Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution and by Chapters 49 and 54 of the Texas Water Code. MUDs, (also called "Districts"), are political subdivisions of the State of Texas. They can perhaps best be described as the most fundamental form of local government because they provide municipal level services, have elected officials, and are authorized to assess and collect taxes and sell bonds in order to pay off the debt incurred in providing their services. Because it is a political subdivision, the District's meetings and files, including the meeting minutes, are open to the public. Unless it is financially dormant or otherwise exempt, each District also has an annual standardized independent audit. The audit results are filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") and are open to the public.

West Oaks Mall

“Making a Mark” on April 17, an exhibition of art by children with cancer and blood disorders at Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers; “Don’t Eat the Bluebonnets” on April 21 and May 12, a musical performance for families; and “Spring Art Gallery” – an exhibition of KVPAC’s talented students.

West Oaks Mall supports local community organizations and in 2013 leased 7,000 square feet to *Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center* (KVPAC) as part of *We Open Art Houses*, an arts initiative that makes retail space available to local arts organizations at little or no cost. KVPAC offers theater, visual arts and music programs to children, teens and adults at their West Oaks location.

To learn more about KVPAC at West Oaks Mall, or to view the calendar of events, please visit www.westoaksarthouse.org.



FREE and EASY computer and T.V. recycling.

www.TexasRecyclesTVs.org.



Harris-Fort Bend ESD 100 Election

Early Voting

April 28 thru May 6th, 2014

10:00 AM - 6:00 P.M.

(Sat. May 3rd, hrs. will be 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.)

Election Day is Saturday, May 10, 2014

7:00 AM – 7:00 P.M.

Station #1 16003 Bellaire

(Just west of Addicks Clodine)

<http://www.hfbesd100.com/index.html>

What is an Emergency Services District (ESD)?

An Emergency Services District (ESD) is a small government board charged with delivering fire and emergency services to a specific area. The ESD in our area is called Harris-Fort Bend ESD 100 and it has five elected commissioners that oversee its operation.

ESD 100 was created in 1998 by voters in the coverage area. It immediately contracted for service with Community Fire Department to provide 24 hour per day emergency response out of three fire stations.

The closest station to our area is Station #1 16003 Bellaire. Our local fire station has state of the art equipment and is well staffed by paid fire fighters during the day and is supplemented at night by professional volunteers. Countless lives and property have been **saved** through **their heroic and speedy responses**. <http://www.communityvfd.com/>

Station #1 is currently under going renovation. The renovation will include increasing the size of the training center and adding more equipment.

The Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating for our local Fire Department, EMS District #100, was changed to a 2 by the Texas Department of Insurance. The change is due to recent improvements made by our Community Volunteer Fire Department.

This new rating could mean a savings on insurance rates for property owners.

There is no law that requires an insurance carrier to factor in the PPC Rating when determining a rate for a property owner. A call to your current insurance carrier before making the decision to renew your current policy is recommended.

Operation Clean Sweep



Thank you to all the participants in the **Mission Bend Bayou Clean Sweep** that was held on Saturday, March 22. There were 20 volunteers plus a gentleman that brought waters and soda as a donation.

A very special thank you to Clair Burgess (Scout Troop 620) who brought the grabbers and the gloves, the team captains, Harris County Flood Control District, Dr. Billings and Michilla Cade.

Mark your calendars for October for the next **Mission Bend Bayou Clean Sweep**.

Any comments and/or suggestions can be sent to cleansweep2014@sbcglobal.net.





Alief FFA Spirit Night

When: Thursday, April 17 • 5 – 7 PM

Where: Chick-fil-A at Hwy. 6 and Bellaire

Show your spirit and get some delicious food at Chick-fil-A at Hwy. 6 and Bellaire! Just submit your meal receipt in the Spirit Night Receipt Box to support Alief FFA.



Chick-fil-A at Hwy. 6 and Bellaire

6895 Hwy. 6 S., Houston, TX 77083 • (281) 568-0702

www.chick-fil-a.com/hwysixandbellaire

www.facebook.com/CFAHwy6Bellaire