

GUEST COMMENTARY

New NNWMD grant to help redesign area

By **Melanie Fahey**
Community Affairs Director, NNWMD

The fight against blight has been going strong during the last month. Local TV stations have been in our area almost weekly reporting on progress to rid our area of abandoned apartments and condominiums in the Antoine/DeSoto area (*Visit <http://www.northwestdistrict.com/NewsAndEvents/Newsroom.shtml> if you haven't seen these stories!*).

We are grateful to State Representative Sylvester Turner and U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and city officials who have been working to help rid our community of these hazardous buildings.

While we have been focusing on getting rid of these abandoned buildings for years now, what happens when they are actually gone? The District has been working to put together a vision for what our community could become. Almost a year ago now the District submitted one vision of how to improve the area to the Houston-Galveston Area Council for consideration for a Livable Centers Study Grant. This month we received notification that our application was approved and we have been awarded the grant.

The Livable Centers Grant will provide funding to develop design recommendations, infrastructure improvements and

urban design solutions that will provide residents and businesses with more appealing places for people to interact and gather, make walking, bicycling and transit more convenient, preserve the environment and create a unique community that will act as a catalyst for investment and development.

The focus of our Livable Center Study is to explore the creation of a Town Center along the Antoine Corridor from the former Inwood Forest Golf Course to Aron Ledet Park that would attract business into the area as well as increase the area's livability for its residents.

The Livable Centers Study will help to define practical ways to improve the area's accessibility, increase venues for community activities and generally improve the area through projects like the creation of pedestrian and biking thoroughfares, providing bike parking at bus stops, adding beautification elements, revitalizing vacant shopping centers, improving existing parks and adapting the vacant golf course into a park, community center and wellness facility.

To learn more about this project and to keep in touch with its progress, visit the District Web site, www.northwestdistrict.com.

Melanie Fahey serves as the Community Affairs Director for the Near Northwest Management District and can be reached by phone at 713-895-8021 or by e-mail at melfahey@nearnorthwestdistrict.com.

25th Law Enforcement Exposition set Sept. 25

The 25th Annual Law Enforcement Exposition

will be held at Greenspoint Mall, located at 12400 North Freeway, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.

This annual event is hosted by the Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce, in association with the Greenspoint Mall, Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's

Office.

The opening ceremony will be held at noon in the South Court of the mall.

The ceremony will begin with the presentation of the colors by a mixed Honor Guard, Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office with a special Bagpipe performance. The National Anthem also will be performed at

that time.

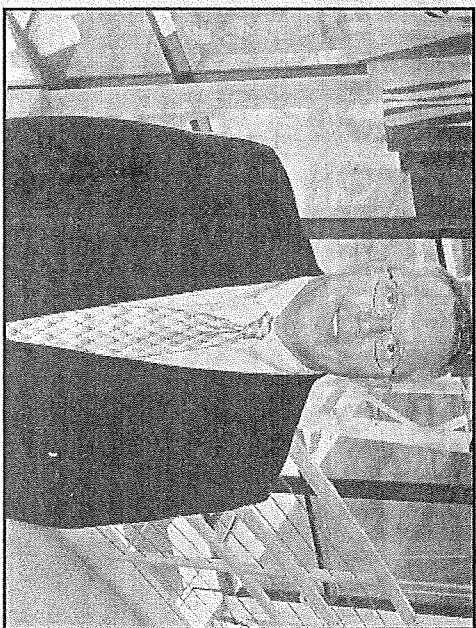
After the colors are presented, there will be Department and Organization introductions then the reading of the county Resolution and the city Proclamation.

There will be more than 50 participants on hand with booths, exhibits and demonstrations. In addition, there will be approximately 30 different law enforcement

organizations providing valuable information on their services and resources.

This event an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to show equipment police personnel use in the line of duty. And the community will be able to obtain helpful resources and approach officers to interact in a safe environment.

The community will obtain crime prevention and personal safety information from a variety of booths set up throughout the mall.



David Smith was recently named the dean of the Career Technology Division for the college. Smith was previously interim dean for the division and has also served as interim dean of the Business, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division.

College names Harris career technology dean

David Smith, who has served Lone Star College-North Harris in various capacities since 2005, was recently named the dean of the Career Technology Division for the college.

Smith was previously interim dean for the division, and has also served as interim dean of the Business, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division.

"For the past five years Dave's talents and leadership abilities have been a great asset for LSC-North Harris," said said Gary Clark, vice president for instruction at LSC-North Harris. "He has spent most of the last year serving as an interim dean for different divisions within the college, so there is no question that he will excel in his new, permanent position."

Smith also served as coordinator of facilities and maintenance for the district for a year.

"Working at LSC-North Harris has been a wonderful experience. It is absolutely the best place I've worked, and I only wish I had discovered it sooner," said Smith.

"I am looking forward to helping continue the college's track record as one of the top community colleges in the state and the country."

In his spare time, Smith enjoys hiking and taking desert photography in the Southwestern United States.

Lone Star College-North Harris is located at 2700 W.W. Thorne Drive. For information, call 281-618-5400 or www.LoneStar.edu/North Harris.

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