



Congressman

Gene Green Reports

29th Congressional District of Texas

Winter 2005

Dear Friend,

This is our second newsletter for this year. This newsletter announces our townhall meetings that begin after the New Years and our twice yearly Paying for College Workshop at Galena Park High School. We have held these workshops at high schools throughout our district. Our newsletters are designed to discuss national issues that are important to our district. We also included a voter registration form for someone in your home who may not be registered to vote.

Page two discusses and provides information on an important issue for our senior citizens, the new Medicare prescription drug plan. If we can provide additional information or assistance please contact one of our district offices. The response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita are also discussed on page two.

There are many issues facing our district, including flood control projects, highway/street construction and high energy prices that may not be in our city or our county wide media. Our newsletter also covers these issues as they relate to our district.

Our townhall meetings and the Paying for College Workshop are held at different locations in our district each time. You and your family are welcome to attend one or all of these events. You do not have to wait for a townhall meeting to contact me. You can call any of our three local district offices or email us and we'll gladly respond.

It is an honor to serve you and I hope you and your family have a joyous, safe and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress



Congressman Gene Green meets with City of Pasadena Mayor Manlove and his wife Gina and Center Director John Sweitzer as they tour the Pasadena Health Center which was awarded the title Federally Qualified Health Clinic

Town Hall Meetings

Tuesday, January 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.
Selena Quintanilla Park, 6402 Market St
in conjunction w/ Denver Harbor Civic Club

Wednesday, January 4th @ 10:00 a.m.
Senior Town Hall Meeting
Baldree/Grayson Center, 13828 Corpus Christi St

Wednesday, January 4th @ 6:30 p.m.
Harris County Education Bldg, 6300 Irvington
Room 100
in conjunction w/ LULAC Council 402

Thursday, January 5th @ 7:00 p.m.
Apostolic Revival Center, 618 Baca
in conjunction w/ Songwood Civic Club

Saturday, January 7th @ 9:00 a.m.
South Houston Community Bldg, 1007 State Street

Saturday, January 7th @ 11:00 a.m.
Baytown City Council Chambers, 2401 Market Street
Baytown

Thursday, January 17th @ 7:00 p.m.
Cesar Chavez H.S., 8501 Howard Dr.
in conjunction w/ Meadowbrook Civic Club,

Saturday, January 21st @ 9:00 a.m.
Aldine Community Storefront, 5202 Aldine Mail Route

Saturday, January 21st @ 11:00 a.m.
North Channel Library, 15741 W allisville Road

Paying For College Workshop

Attention Parents & High School Students

Please join me and a special guest from the Sallie Mae Fund for an information workshop on paying for college. Education is important and we want to make sure you have access to information regarding financial aid and scholarships.

Monday, January 30
Galena Park High School
1000 Keene
Galena Park, TX 77547
7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.

OFFICE ADDRESSES

10 North Gaillard
Baytown, TX 77520
281-420-0502
Fax: 281-420-0585

2335 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-1688
Fax: 202-225-9903

256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy.E
Suite 29
Houston, TX 77060
281-999-5879
Fax: 281-999-5716

11811 I-10 East, Suite 430
Houston, TX, 77029
713-330-0761
Fax: 713-330-0807

www.house.gov/green/



Congressman Gene Green gets his blood pressure checked during the annual Health fair event where he discussed health issues with constituents.

Prescription Drug Benefits

~Enrollment Open Until May 15, 2006

On January 1, 2006, the Medicare prescription drug benefit will go into effect. The open enrollment period for the new Medicare prescription drug benefit began November 15, 2005 and will end May 15, 2006. While enrollment is voluntary, current Medicare beneficiaries should keep in mind that they may be charged higher premiums or a penalty if they enroll after May 15, 2006. Current beneficiaries in the Medicare discount drug card program can use their discount card until May 15, or until they sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan.

Medicare beneficiaries who currently receive their prescription drugs from Medicaid will receive drug coverage from Medicare beginning January 1, 2006. These beneficiaries – known as “dual-eligibles” – can enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan that fully subsidizes prescription drug premiums and deductibles. Beneficiaries interested in determining their eligibility for the low-income subsidy can do so by calling 1-800-MEDICARE or by visiting the following confidential website:

<http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org/tx>

Dual-eligibles may choose a plan. If no plan is selected the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will randomly assign dual-eligibles to a low-cost prescription drug plan and notify them of this plan. However, if another plan is not chosen, the dual eligible individual will be enrolled in the assigned plan effective January 1, 2006. Unlike other Medicare beneficiaries, dual eligibles may change prescription drug plans at any time.

Medicare beneficiaries in Texas have more than 45 stand-alone prescription drug plans from which to choose. And, two Medicare Advantage plans offer coverage to all Texas Medicare beneficiaries. Monthly premiums charged by these plans range from \$14 to \$68, and each plan differs with regard to co-payments, deductibles and coverage of certain prescription drugs. When choosing a plan that best suits their needs, seniors should take all of these factors into consideration and take their time in making a decision, as beneficiaries can only change plans during the annual open enrollment periods.

To compare prescription drug plans available in our area, Medicare beneficiaries or family members can call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit <http://www.medicare.gov>. Our office is also available to answer any questions about Medicare prescription drug plans.

Hurricane Response:

~Congressman Green Plays Integral Role in Health Care Response to Katrina and Rita

The devastation left by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has made a profound impact on the Houston area. All segments of our community came together to provide hospitality and much-needed security and comfort to evacuees from both hurricanes. The health care response was tremendous, with hospitals and medical professionals tending to the health needs of the evacuee population.

This generosity has been coupled with a tremendous financial burden that should fall on the shoulders of the federal government, which is ultimately responsible for coordinating disaster assistance. Our office has worked to ensure that area health care providers receive the federal support they need to continue assisting hurricane survivors while also remaining accessible for long-time residents of our area.

We worked to bring expedited federal funding to Federally-Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) in the states primarily affected by the hurricanes. FQHCs provide primary and preventive health care to the uninsured and under-insured in our community. This mission has led FQHCs to be natural partners in the health care response to the hurricanes; however, the surge of uninsured patients entering our FQHCs threatened the financial existence of area FQHCs. With expedited federal funding, these important clinics will be able to remain open and continue to play a critical role in ensuring the health of the many uninsured hurricane survivors.

We also worked to ensure full federal funding for out-of-state hurricane evacuees who enroll in the Texas Medicaid program. Currently, the State of Texas must pay 39 cents for every dollar of care provided under the Medicaid program. The influx of Medicaid beneficiaries from other states presented an enormous financial challenge for the state, as it anticipated a spike in Medicaid enrollment. While many details of the federal Medicaid reimbursement must still be worked out, full federal funding will ensure that Texans are not penalized for their generosity and that both evacuees and Texans have access to care under the state's Medicaid program.



Congressman Gene Green, accompanied by his wife Helen Green and County Judge Robert Eckels gave First Lady Laura Bush a tour of the Hurricane Katrina shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center and discussed health care legislation.

Transportation Project Updates

~Central St. Bridge, US90, Clinton Dr.,
Freight Rail and Light Rail

In 1998, Congress approved full funding for the construction of the Central Street Bridge over the Union Pacific railroad tracks in the Manchester area. State and local studies and right of way acquisition have delayed the project, but City of Houston Mayor Bill White has promised to expedite the project so that construction can begin. Groundbreaking for the Manchester project will begin in February of 2006.

The House passed the final version of a federal transportation bill, and the President signed it into law. The bill (H.R. 3) includes two projects to benefit the 29th District: 1) \$11.2 million for the reconstruction of Clinton Dr. from Federal Rd. to W ayside Dr. and 2) \$5.2 million for the construction of 6 main lanes and feeder lanes for US 90 from Beltway 8 (Wallisville) to I-10 (at Hunting Bayou).

The Clinton Dr. reconstruction project will repair the damage done by heavy truck traffic, reduce bottlenecks, and increase safety with the addition of left turn lanes. The US 90 project will complete a major east-west project for East Harris County that has been planned for many years and support residential and commercial development along the entire project corridor. The US90 project will begin in Spring 2006 and the Clinton Dr. project is in the engineering phase.

Port Security Update

After Congressman Green brought the Department of Homeland Security to the Port of Houston for a Port Security Grant Workshop in January 2005, the Houston area in September received \$35.3 million to improve security of the Houston Ship Channel to protect our communities and the critical industrial infrastructure.

Prior to this round of funding, the Port of Houston had received \$16 million for port security from the Department of Homeland Security in the years since September 11, 2001, and private sector facilities along the Houston Ship Channel had received lesser amounts to protect refineries and chemical plants.

The Port of Houston Authority received about \$15 million for projects to upgrade its security with cameras, gates, lights, and security stations. Harris County will receive about \$17 million for security boats, radars, cameras, underwater sonar, a bomb disruption robot and radiation detectors.

Most of the new equipment for Harris County will be installed on the waterfront and outer perimeters of industries along the Ship Channel, and industry will help pay for operations and maintenance.

Energy Prices/Congressional Response

~Energy Bill, Possible Refinery Bill,
Hurricane & Gasoline Prices

All Americans have been hit hard by the fast rising energy prices, most immediately for gasoline, but also for natural gas which causes higher electricity bills and higher manufacturing costs. The House passed the final version of a comprehensive energy bill that the President signed into law. The bill included important provisions to increase the production of oil, natural gas, renewable energy, and new energy technologies through a variety of tax incentives, research programs, and regulatory changes.

Unfortunately, most of the high price of gasoline is due to the price of oil, which is a global price. Congress should consider future legislation to safely and responsibly produce more oil and natural gas onshore and offshore of the United States, where much of our reserves have been put off limits. High gasoline prices are hurting family budgets and high natural gas prices are putting petrochemical manufacturing jobs in the 29th District at risk to overseas competition.

Flood Control & Port Project Updates

~Greens, Hunting, Halls Bayous
and Port of Houston

The House and Senate have completed the Energy and Water Appropriations Act (H.R. 2419). Our area has three important projects in the bill: the Houston Ship Channel deepening and widening project (\$26 million and \$11 million for Operation and Maintenance), the Hunting Bayou federal flood control project (\$375,000) and the Greens Bayou federal flood control project (\$75,000).

After eight years of work, the new 45-foot ship channel and barge lanes were officially completed in August, allowing for greater economic productivity at the Port of Houston. Environmental restoration work will continue in future years. If the \$450,000 in funding is secured in the final House-Senate bill, construction for both Hunting and Greens Bayous can begin in 2006.



Congressman Gene Green speaks during the Port of Houston ribbon cutting for the deepening and widening of the Port.

Register to Vote

If you are eligible to vote and would like to register please complete the following application:

Qualifications:

- * You must register to vote in the county in which you reside
- * You must be a citizen of the United States
- * You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you must be 18 years of age by election day.
- * You must not be finally convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or you must have received a pardon.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name (if any)	Former Name
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Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number, City, State, and ZIP. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box or Rural Rt.)

Mailing Address: Address, City, State and ZIP: If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.

Date of Birth: month, day, year	Gender (Optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. I affirm that I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • am a resident of this county; • have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and • have not been declared mentally incompetent by final judgment of a court of law.
TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No. <small>(Issued by the Department of Public Safety)</small> If none, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you do not have a social security, driver's license, or personal identification number		_____ Date
Telephone Number, Include Area Code <small>(Optional)</small>		
City and County of Former Residence In Texas		
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">X</div> _____ Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.		

Official Business

Si le gustaría recibir una copia de este noticiero en español, hágame el favor de escribirme a 256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E, Ste. 29, Houston, TX 77060. Si es más fácil, también puede llamar a nuestra oficina para recibir el noticiero al 281-999-5879.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Telecommunications Update~ Digital Television Transition

The House Energy and Commerce Committee has approved legislation to require television stations to switch from analog to digital broadcasts. This means analog televisions will not be able to receive free over-the-air programming after December 31, 2008, unless they are equipped with an additional analog-to-digital converter box. Under the legislation, cable and satellite companies will be required to transmit analog programming until 2014, so analog televisions should still work for cable and satellite programming until 2014. Converter boxes will be required for free-over-the-air broadcasting.

As this legislation moves forwards, Congress should not penalize consumers who have purchased an analog television set. The airwaves are public property and the analog televisions are still being sold in stores, and many consumers are unaware of the likely analog-to-digital transition which will reduce the usefulness of analog televisions or impose additional costs.



Congressman Gene Green discussed health care for our injured soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center during a Congressional visit.

For Assistance Call
Office of the Secretary of State
Toll Free:
*Si necesita asistencia
llame gratis al:*
Cần giúp đỡ xin gọi văn phòng
Secretary of State số:
1-800-252-VOTE (8683)
www.sos.state.tx.us



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