The Board of Trustees for the Lone Star College System has called for a bond referendum on May 10. The vote by trustees was unanimous and they cited the input of local citizens as being influential in the decision.

The $420 million proposal will help build new instructional facilities, help renovate existing facilities, provide upgrades to technology infrastructure, student safety and security measures, and provide for new learning sites—all necessary for the college system to support a rapidly growing enrollment.

College financial advisors have said the system can easily fund the bond proposal with no increase in the tax rate.

Input from residents came to the board in January after a two-month review of enrollment trends and area population increases. In a report to the board, Andy Dill, president of the Community Chamber of Commerce of East Montgomery County, said it was important for trustees to expand or renovate existing facilities and update technology if it is to keep pace with growth and the need for a trained workforce. Residents also said student safety and security issues must be addressed in a bond referendum.

LSCS reported 49,267 students in credit classes last fall, an increase of 24,000 since passage of the system’s last bond measure in 2000. Spring semester enrollment is up 6 percent over the same period a year ago.

If current enrollment trends hold true, the college system will reach 72,000 students in credit classes by 2015.

14 file for LSCS trustees’ election

Fourteen candidates will vie for four positions on the Lone Star College System board of trustees to be decided on May 10.

The filing deadline ended March 10. Stephanie Marquard of Kingwood is the incumbent for Position 3 and will run against Jerry Albrecht and Robert Gandy of Houston, and Fred Blanton of Spring.

John Fox, incumbent for Position 4, is not seeking re-election. Robert J. Adam of Cypress and Terry Morton of Houston will run for the open position. Alan Quintero, incumbent for Position 6 from Cypress, will run against Bob Wolfe of Houston and Jason Roper of Katy.

Priscilla Kelly of Tomball an incumbent in Position 9, will run against Jean Iverson and Diane Porter, both of Spring, and Gail Stanart and Joe Williams, both of Houston.

Early voting for the board will be held from April 28 through May 6. To make voting convenient for residents, early voting will be held at 19 sites and election day voting at 185 sites.

Lone Star College System consists of CyFair, Kingwood, Montgomery,
Lone Star Colleges help fill shortage of emergency medical personnel

By Joyce Boatright

Lone Star College System’s EMTs and paramedics are among the first to arrive at the scene of a serious traffic accident, weather disaster, or industrial accident. Currently LSC-CyFair and LSC-North Harris offer three levels of emergency medical training: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic. National statistics indicate that eight of 10 first responders are trained at community colleges such as Lone Star College.

and paramedics who are among the first on the scene at a serious traffic accident, weather disaster or industrial accident. Currently LSC-CyFair and LSC-North Harris offer three levels of emergency medical training: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic. There is flexibility in the way the EMS programs are offered, so people with different goals and needs can enter and finish in ways that fit their diverse lifestyles. LSC-CyFair offers a one-year academy, while LSC-North Harris offers the two-year traditional program but offers classes both day and night for working students.

While certification or licensure is not automatic, Lone Star College students pass the state and national licensing exams at rates higher than the state average. According to Kim Miller, LSC-CyFair EMS program director, LSC-CyFair graduates had a 96 percent pass rate on their state licensing exams for the EMT-Basic certification.

Drees said, “Ninety-three percent of the LSC-North Harris paramedic graduates last year passed the national paramedic licensing exam, as compared to 64 percent statewide.”

Such high pass rates indicate the superior training men and women are receiving, which means residents in the Lone Star College service area can feel confident that when they call 911, a qualified professional will answer the call.

Currently Lone Star College-CyFair and Lone Star College-North Harris offer three levels of emergency medical training: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic. National statistics indicate that eight of 10 first responders are trained at community colleges such as Lone Star College.
School district’s growth means challenges for LSCS

North Harris and Montgomery counties are growing rapidly, a reality reflected in the enrollment figures of local school districts within the Lone Star College System.

The 11 school districts comprising the Lone Star College System reported a collective student enrollment of 335,164 students in 2006-2007. One year later, that total had risen to 350,907 students, a five-percent increase. Conroe, Klein and Humble school districts have called for bond increase. Conroe, Klein and Humble to 350,907 students, a five-percent collective student enrollment of the Lone Star College System.

The 11 school districts comprising the Lone Star College System. The system adds approximately 5,000 students in credit courses every two years, the equivalent of a medium-sized Texas community college. Since 2000, LSCS has added 24,000 credit students and is on pace to enroll 72,000 students by 2015.

Since 2004, Klein ISD has also added an additional 6,000 students in its district’s enrollment. These enrollment increases within local public school districts signal continued growth for LSCS.

Overall, almost 40 percent of all college-bound high school graduates in the district will attend a Lone Star College the following fall.

LSCS reached a record 49,267 students in credit courses this past fall. The system is adding approximately 5,000 students in credit courses every two years, the equivalent of a medium-sized Texas community college. Since 2000, LSCS has added 24,000 credit students and is on pace to enroll 72,000 students by 2015.

Later in April, listen for radio commercials promoting the Open Doors message. The unique campaign is part of the system’s efforts to help make the public aware of its ongoing educational mission.

LONE STAR COLLEGE OPENS DOORS IN UNUSUAL PLACES

Stopped at the mall lately, caught a movie at the local cinema, attended a concert at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Woodlands Pavilion and noticed large red doors in unexpected places?

Lone Star College System kicked off its Open Doors campaign in March with billboards, newspaper and online advertising. In addition, local residents may have also noticed full-sized red doors scattered throughout the area with messages such as “Community colleges such as Lone Star College open doors for 8 out of 10 first responders,” or “Lone Star College opens doors for nearly 50,000 students.”

Register now for summer camps

By Emily deMilliano

Spring is in the air, but for working families, thoughts are not revolving around swimming pools and long summer days. Many Houstonians are making arrangements for childcare over the summer.

Luckily for parents and children, Lone Star College System offers a variety of summer activities, camps, and classes for school-aged children at an affordable cost. LSCS provides programs that are fun and educational, giving children a chance to develop their skills and learn new ones in a safe, creative environment.

LSC-CyFair and LSC-Kingwood offer Discovery College, a comprehensive summer program with activities that range from lacrosse to cooking with kids, from hocus pocus magic to “math can be a blast!” and more.

“Learning has never been so much fun,” said Terri Hill, LSC-CyFair continuing education (CE) program coordinator.

LSC-Tomball offers Kids on Campus and Teen Zone. Morning and afternoon classes are available from June through August.

“Classes range from the traditional to the uncommon,” said Ann Vanderweed, LSC-Tomball CE program manager.

“New classes will feature gardening, young leaders, snack and go, flash cartoon animation, sign language, digital photography and more,” Vanderweed said.

LSC-Montgomery hosts Center for

Executive Director of Marketing Services Emily deMilliano Communications Manager Johann Kohl Public Affairs Manager Joyce Boatright Special Assignments Writer Contact us at 832.813.6677 lonestar.edu

Lone Star College System Board of Trustees: David Holsey, D.D.S., Chris Daniel, Stephanie Maynard, John Fox, David Vogt, Alan Quintero, Richard Campbell, Ph. D. Randy Bates, J.D., Piscilla Kelly

Since 1998, Lone Star College-University Center has helped make 52,413 dreams come true,” said Penny Westerfeld, LSC-University Center associate vice chancellor.

“Most of our students are working full-time, raising a family, trying to make a better life, Westerfeld said. “By providing convenient access to university degrees, we are creating a simpler, quicker path to achieving their educational goals and realizing their dreams.”

LSC-University Center partners include Prairie View A&M, Sam Houston State, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern, University of Houston and UH Downtown.

“Because I work full time, it has been extremely convenient for me to be able to take night classes at Lone Star College-University Center,” said student Ashley McDonough.

“I have been able to continue to work during the day and complete my master’s degree at the same time,” she said.

“The facility at LSC-University Center is very well kept and has all of the most modern equipment, which makes the entire educational experience very enjoyable,” said McDonough.

“Within our 65 different degree programs, students can discover their passion, which will open doors to the rest of their life,” said Westerfeld.

“A decade of success at LSC-University Center has empowered 52,413 achievers.”

For more information about LSC-University Center, call 281.618.7140 or 936.273.7510, or visit www.LoneStar.edu.

Lone Star College System helps promote its openness to new students with an “Open Doors” campaign. Doors like this one at The Woodlands Mall are located throughout the community.
LSCS trustees call for May 10 referendum

Continued from page 1

Already LSCS is the third largest community college in Texas and the largest institution of higher education in the greater Houston area.

“The committee was very straightforward in its assessment,” said LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter. “We learned this community clearly understands the mission of a comprehensive community college. “Leaders realize that the pace of population growth in our region will continue at a rapid rate for the foreseeable future, and that Lone Star College System must provide additional facilities if it is to continue meeting the need of residents and the business community,” Dr. Carpenter said.

Listed below is a summary by college of the projects that this $420 million bond referendum entails.

LSC-CyFair: $95.5 million
Projects for LSC-CyFair will include:
• Classroom Buildings
• New Satellite Campus
• New Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• Student Services Addition
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Science Lab Renovations.
• Purchase Option: Fairbanks Center

LSC-Montgomery: $78.3 million
Projects for LSC-Montgomery will include:
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Science and Health Building
• Building B Science Labs Renovation
• Classroom Instructional Center
• North Side Satellite Campus
• Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• Arts Instructional Building
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

LSC-North Harris: $61.8 million
Projects for LSC-North Harris include:
• New Health Professions Building
• Student Services Building
• Purchase Site for Aldine Satellite Campus
• Academic Building Renovation
• Winship Building Renovation
• Applied Technical Building Addition
• Arts Instructional Building Addition
• Campus Safety Lights
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Greenspoint Center Traffic Infrastructure
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

LSC-Tomball: $44.6 million
Projects for LSC-Tomball include:
• Health Science Building
(at Tomball Regional Medical Center)
• Med Center Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• Arts Instructional Building
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Addon to Willow Chase Satellite
• Willow Chase Traffic Infrastructure
• Vet Tech Building Expansion
• Existing Buildings Renovation
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

System Office Projects: $9.2 million
Projects for LSCS include:
• Expansion of Academic Support Facility
• Building 3 Renovation
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

Multi-College Projects: $53.2 million
Multi-college projects include:
• Additional University Center
• Safety/Security/Business Continuity
• System Technology Infrastructure

Multi-College Projects: $53.2 million
Projects for LSCS include:
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Existing Facilities Renovation
• Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• North Side Satellite Campus
• Classroom Instructional Center
• Building B Science Labs Renovation
• Existing Buildings Renovation
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

14 file for LSCS trustees’ election

Continued from page 1

North Harris, and Tomball, six centers and Lone Star College-University Center. It is the largest institute of higher education in the Houston area, and third largest community college district in Texas. To learn more, visit LoneStar.edu.

College projects continued:

LSC-Tomball

Projects for LSC-Tomball include:
• Health Science Building
(at Tomball Regional Medical Center)
• Med Center Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• Arts Instructional Building
• Campus Traffic Infrastructure
• Addon to Willow Chase Satellite
• Willow Chase Traffic Infrastructure
• Vet Tech Building Expansion
• Existing Buildings Renovation
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

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• Satellite Traffic Infrastructure
• North Side Satellite Campus
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• Building B Science Labs Renovation
• Existing Buildings Renovation
• Long-term Maintenance, Replacements

More college projects, Top of page 7

Register now for summer camps

Continued from page 4

Creative Discovery Summer Programs throughout the summer months. Classes include school of rock, robocamp, Broadway connection, and more.

LSC-North Harris will offer a number of athletic camps during the summer for students.

Now is the time to enroll young students in any LSCS summer programs. Enrollment is on a first-come basis. Learn more at LoneStar.edu.

Quick Facts about the Bond Election

• Who can vote in this election? Any registered voter living within the Lone Star College System. LSCS includes these school districts: Aldine, Conroe, Cy-Fair, Humble, Klein, Magnolia, New Caney, Spring, Splendora, Tomball, Willis

• How do I request a ballot by mail? Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you: will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting; are sick or disabled; are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or are confined in jail.

To request a ballot be sent to you: In Harris County, call Marilyn Fisher at LSCS at 832-813-6728. In Humble ISD, call Peggy Young at 281-641-8001. In Montgomery County, call Carol Gaultney at 936-539-7843. In San Jacinto County, call Karyn Day at 936-653-5804.

• When do I vote? Vote early in person: April 28-May 6. Vote from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

• Where do I vote? For a complete list of voting sites, see LoneStar.edu/bond2008.

• Will this bond request increase the tax rate? According to the college’s financial advisors, LSCS can accommodate this bond request with no increase in the tax rate.

• I am over 65. Are my taxes frozen? Yes! In September 2006, the Lone Star College trustees voted to freeze taxes for seniors over 65 or disabled. The tax freeze means homeowners age 65 years or older will never pay more taxes than they paid in 2006, as long as they own their existing home. The notable exception is a home that is renovated or substantially expanded and, therefore, reappraised at a higher value.
Lone Star College System has trimmed administrative costs by half a percentage point during the past year according to Cindy Gilliam, LSCS vice chancellor for business and finance. Further, the system has cut the overall tax rate six times since 1997, saving local taxpayers valuable resources while continuing to rapidly grow in enrollment.

LSCS has one of the lowest percentages of total expenditures for administration of all community colleges in Texas.

“Our administrative costs this time last year were 13.6 percent of total costs,” said Gilliam.

“This year, they are down to 12.9 percent. In addition, not only did we cut costs as a percentage of all costs, but we cut actual dollars,” said Gilliam. “Even though we have added 2,500 students since last year, we have spent $82,000 less in administrative costs.”

LSCS has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2004, 2005 and 2006 for comprehensive financial reporting, the highest award given for financial reporting excellence.

In 2006, the LSCS board of trustees was able to offer another tax savings to homeowners 65 and older or disabled by freezing the tax rate.

“The board and the chancellor take their fiscal responsibility seriously,” said Randy Bates, chair of the LSCS board of trustees.

“In fact, our upcoming bond election was called with the understanding that we would not raise the tax rate,” said Bates.

How much do you know about LSCS?

Lone Star College
- Is the primary provider of nurses and healthcare workers in our area. (2 out of 3 are prepared at community colleges.)
- Is the leading provider of fire fighters and EMTs in the area. (8 out of 10 are trained at community colleges.)
- Prepares thousands of new teachers for public schools through Teacher Certification programs at five colleges.
- Provides opportunities for bachelor’s and advanced degrees through the University Center.
- Is the third largest provider of computer training in the Houston area.
- Enrolled nearly 50,000 students in credit courses last fall, making it the third largest community college district in Texas.
- Enrolled another 13,400 students in Continuing Education classes.
- Helped 5,000 high school juniors and seniors last fall and spring semesters earn college credit before graduation as Dual Credit students.
- Has cut its overall tax rate six times since 1997.
- Has a tax rate lower today than it was 10 years ago.