

Cinco Ranch Branch Library announces children's programs

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Fort Bend County Libraries' Cinco Ranch Branch Library, 2620 Commercial Center Boulevard in Katy, will present a variety of free children's programs – Family Story Time, Pajama Night Story Time, After-School Breaks, and others – throughout the month of September.

During Family Story Time and Pajama Night Story Time, families with children of all ages will enjoy stories, songs, and action rhymes. Craft packets will be given out at the end of each program, so that children may take them home to enjoy.

Family Story Time takes place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning at 10:15 and 11:30 am, in the Meeting Room. Families with children of all ages will enjoy stories, songs, and action rhymes. The

schedule of Family Story Time activities is as follows:

- September 13 and 14 – Space
- September 20 and 21 – Five Senses
- September 27 and 28 – Dance Party

Pajama Night Story Time – an evening alternative for families unable to attend during the day – will take place on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. The program date is September 19, and the theme will be "Five Senses."

Family Fun Night will take place on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (September 11 and 25), from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, in the Meeting Room. Families with children of all ages are invited to an evening of games, building challenges, and more.

In addition to the family activities for all

ages, the Cinco Ranch Branch Library also offers age-specific programs, with activities specially designed for different ages and stages of development.

- Mother Goose Time -- for pre-walking infants from age 1 month to 12 months – takes place on Tuesdays, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. This activity provides caregiver/infant multisensory circle-time activities -- including simple sign language, folksongs and lullabies, and finger plays -- that are especially designed to stimulate babies' social, emotional, and physical development through rhythm and music. Attendance is limited and registration for this event is required.

- "After-School Break: Fossils" will take place on Wednesday, September 20, from 4:30 to 5:00 pm, in Meeting Room 2. This activity is for students in grades 1 through

5. Students will learn about ancient life and fossils. Discover what makes a fossil, how fossilization happens, and dig up some fossils.

- Creative Connections – activities for school-aged children in grades 4 through 8 – will take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The schedule of activities is as follows:

- September 7 – Typing Class. This class will take place in the Computer Lab and registration is required.
- September 21 – STEM Challenge.

These programs are free and open to the public. For more information, or to register for the Typing Class, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us).

Medical Assistant program appeals to Katy second-career college students

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

HOUSTON — Isaias Fajardo of Katy, a former business manager for his father's headstone business, decided to seek a new profession six months ago. He sought a stable profession that would benefit himself as well as his family members.

"People in my family look to me to be a provider and a helper. Their dependence on me is what motivated me, and it pushes me to keep going," Fajardo said.

For Fajardo, working as a medical assistant will give him an edge in the job market and prepare him for a nursing career.

"As someone who has no medical experience, I'm taking stepping stones into the medical profession," Fajardo said. "I'd like to start off as a medical assistant and then enter a bridge program to become a registered nurse."

He will graduate from HCC Coleman College in May 2024.

Shams Zerín of Katy received a scholarship from Amazon, where she works as an associate and learning ambassador in Inventory Control & Quality Assurance. She chose to invest the funds on a healthcare career and is now a new Medical Assistant student at HCC Coleman College.

"The Medical Assistant program is cost-effective and appeals to individuals who want to enter the healthcare field quickly," Zerín said. "The work-life balance is also more manageable compared to other healthcare roles that may require longer shifts or irregular hours."

Zerín intends to continue her education and earn a bachelor's and master's degree in a related health occupation. In the future,



PHOTO COURTESY OF HCC

Medical assistant programs at HCC offer career change options for adult students.

she intends to introduce a "one dollar medi service."

"My dream is to put together a team that can provide basic healthcare and first aid in communities," Zerín said. "This timely support can help prevent sudden death and severe illness to people who cannot afford the rising cost of medical care."

"Healthcare careers, particularly those that involve direct patient care, are always in high demand, especially here in the Texas Medical Center," said Cynthia Lundgren, Medical Assistant program director at HCC Coleman College. "Most people can complete the Medical Assistant program in a year and start working right away. It's a good path into the healthcare field."

To learn more about the HCC Medical Assistant program at the Alief Hayes, Missouri City or Coleman campus, visit hccs.edu/Medical-Assistant. To learn more about the full-time and part-time program options, email cynthia.lundgren@hccs.edu.

Teens earn volunteer-service hours at libraries' YA advisory councils

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Teens can earn volunteer-service hours by participating in Fort Bend County Libraries' Young Adult Advisory Councils, where they can express ideas, help organize upcoming activities, and suggest new programs and books that would be of interest to teens at the library.

The September schedule of Young Adult Advisory Council meetings is as follows:

- Cinco Ranch Branch Library – Wednesday, September 20, 4:00-5:00 pm, Conference Room.

In addition to the Young Adult Advisory Council meetings, Fort Bend County Libraries will offer the following programs for the teen community:

- YA Harry Potter Interactive Movie Night – Wednesday, September 27, 5:00-7:00 pm, Mission Bend Branch Library (8421 Addicks Clodine Road).

Celebrate the start of a new school year at Hogwarts! Teens are invited to wear their house colors while immersing

themselves in the world of Harry Potter, with goodies, props, and a trivia challenge during a brief intermission of the movie. The featured film, which is rated PG, is based on the first book in the popular series by J.K. Rowling. Registration required.

Fort Bend County Libraries offers programs specifically designed for high school-aged teens entering grades 9 through 12. The programs provide fun and challenging opportunities for these young adults, who are also encouraged to become active participants in designing and orchestrating new activities for teens in the library system.

The activities are free and open to the public. Some of the activities require registration. To register online at the library's website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on "Classes & Events," select the library, and find the program on the date indicated. For more information, call the Cinco Ranch Branch Library (281-395-1311), the Mission Bend Branch Library (832-471-5900), or FBCL's Communications Office (281-633-4734).

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 57 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at the office of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, STE 2600, Houston TX 77027. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	Bill Lyle, Randy Rodriguez, Gina Babineaux, Steve McConnell
AGAINST the proposal:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	Chris Tolle

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.82000 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.76800 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.05200 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.34%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$423,931.00	\$470,196.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$423,931.00	\$470,196.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,476.23	\$3,611.11
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$134.87 3.88%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter – approval rate.

The voter approval tax rate is \$ 0.77391 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

HEART OF KATY Market

KATY-HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 16TH 10:00AM-5:00PM
SEPTEMBER 17TH 12:00PM-5:00PM

FREE ADMISSION

Over 100 vendors with clothing, food, arts, crafts, treats, and MORE
Have lunch with us to support KBBC!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VENDOR?
PLEASE EMAIL HEARTOFKATYCRAFTSHOW@GMAIL.COM

WILLKOMMEN Y'ALL

OKTOBERFEST KTX 2023

SEPTEMBER 30

TYPHOON TEXAS WATERPARK (5PM - 10PM)

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

- ▶ VIP PLATZ TICKETS
- ▶ BIER & FOOD
- ▶ CONTESTS/ENTERTAINMENT

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
WWW.KTXOKTOBERFEST.COM/TICKETS