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GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Visitors</td>
<td></td>
<td>627,777</td>
<td>Up 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Circulated</td>
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<td>1,166,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Website Hits</td>
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<td>Wi-Fi Users</td>
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<td>Up 112%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Transactions</td>
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<td>170,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-House Use</td>
<td></td>
<td>196,473</td>
<td>Up 50%</td>
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</table>

* Dickinson Public Library and Helen Hall do not track Wi-Fi users and are therefore not included in this statistic.

In 2022, Moore Memorial Public Library began tracking Wi-Fi users, which have been added to this count.
**FY 2022-2023**

**FINANCES**

**GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

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**$99,911**

**Extension Services**

Financing Extension Services allows GCLS to bring library services to the homebound residents of Galveston County. This helps to cover salaries for Extension Services staff, collection materials for homebound, and vehicle costs.

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**$3,151**

**Programming & Staff Development**

As the community grows, library staff grows as well. These funds help to provide training opportunities for all staff of member libraries.

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**$439,735**

**Direct Allocation**

These funds allow for pro-rated allocations to each member library based on Galveston County population served. This helps support libraries in the purchase of collection materials (books, magazines, ebooks, databases), public programming, and countywide resource sharing between member libraries.

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**$49,503**

**Administration**

Costs incurred by Rosenberg Library to serve as the headquarters library for GCLS. Helps to fund a portion of salaries for administrative staff and overhead costs.

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**TOTAL SPENT: $592,300**
Extension Services, based out of Rosenberg Library, serves Galveston County's most vulnerable citizens at opposite ends of the age spectrum, from preschool students to residents at assisted living facilities, and county residents who are no longer able to leave their homes. Books are also delivered to public schools and smaller libraries to help bolster their collections and provide their patrons with a wider selection of materials.

Marilyn Lyons, Extension Services staff clerk, drives more than 5,500 miles per year across the county, including Bolivar Peninsula, to make deliveries. Materials delivered include more than just books; audio books, CDs, large-type materials, and children’s materials are also provided. By providing library service to these populations, we increase citizens’ quality of life, bridging the information gap, and promoting literacy.

For more information about Extension Services, contact Marilyn Lyons at 409.763.8854 Ext. 136.

My name is Rosie Rougely. I would like to say that I really enjoy delivery of books to my door. Marilyn is really nice and keeps me on track with my reading list. I would recommend this program to anyone having difficulty getting to the library or vision impaired to try it. Thanks so much for this service.

Rosie Rougely, Texas City Resident

The Galveston County Commissioners Court makes Extension Services available to Galveston County residents by funding this invaluable program.
The GCLS Advisory Council serves as an advisory board to GCLS and the Rosenberg Library, which by contract with the County serves as the headquarters library for GCLS to “provide library services to citizens in unincorporated areas of the County and those needing special library services.”

The director of each member library appoints a community member from each library service area to serve on the Council.

The Council meets twice a year – in April and October – to provide counsel to the member libraries. In 2022, the Council met on April 12 and October 11 and accomplished the following:

• Reviewed and approved the FY2023 GCLS proposed budget
• Reviewed the GCLS Policies and approved changes reflecting the statewide interlibrary loan courier service and updating language related to the direct allocation to member libraries.

The Advisory Council is scheduled to meet April 11, 2023 at the Rosenberg Library and October 10, 2023, at the Friendswood Public Library.
provides funding for books, online services, audio/visual material, programs and extension services through its continued support of the Galveston County Library System.

Friendswood Public Library  
416 S. Friendswood Dr.  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
friendswood.lib.tx.us  
281.482.7135

Dickinson Public Library  
4411 Highway 3  
Dickinson, TX 77539  
dickinsonpubliclibrary.org  
281.534.3812

Helen Hall Library  
100 West Walker  
League City, TX 77573  
leaguecitylibrary.org  
281.554.1111

Moore Memorial Library  
1701 9th Ave. N.  
Texas City, TX 77590  
library.texascitytx.gov  
409.643.5970

Genevieve Miller Hitchcock Public Library  
8005 Barry Street  
Hitchcock, TX 77563  
hitchcockpubliclibrary.org  
409.986.7814

La Marque Public Library  
1011 Bayou Road  
La Marque, TX 77568  
lamarquelibrary.org  
409.938.9270

Rosenberg Library  
2310 Sealy Street  
Galveston, TX 77550  
rosenberg-library.org  
409.763.8854

Mae S. Bruce Public Library  
13302 6th Street  
Santa Fe, TX 77510  
ci.santa-fe.tx.us/library  
409.925.5540
Dickinson Public Library has created a stellar lineup of programs for all ages, including teens, tweens, and adults!

Recently, the library introduced an art program where tweens learn about different art styles and then create a piece inspired by what they’ve learned. Afterward, the pieces are displayed in the library for all to see!

Beginner Chess classes, Adult Makers, two book clubs, computer classes and big events like the annual Harry Potter night are just a sampling of the programs that round out the packed calendar.
Ruh-roh Raggy! In October, the library hosted a spooky and exciting escape room with multiple sessions available for kids, teens, and adults. Staff added to the spooky thrills by dressing up as their favorite characters, including the grumpy old farmer! It has been a delight to explore all the different ways to create escape rooms during the past year, and both visitors and staff are loving every minute of it.

In December, Mr. and Mrs. Claus visited to meet Dickinson’s children. The red-suited duo dropped by to read stories, hear some holiday wishes, and hand out books to all who visited.

The library also opened the front doors during the City’s annual Christmas on the Bayou festival and parade to make fun and festive ornaments with the whole family! The library hosted a holiday themed magic show, put on by the always-amazing John O'Bryant, which helped put everyone in a festive spirit.
During the summer, a group of interns came to assist the library. One of them, Miss Rae, was later hired on as a part-time Children’s Assistant to help Children’s Librarian Mrs. Bri with all of the amazing children’s programming! Alongside Mrs. Mari, the department is always bustling with awesome events like story and baby times, crafts, and other fun events. Recently, the library introduced events for homeschooled students on Mondays, including a book club, as well as STEM, art, and cooking classes.
VISITING THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Every Tuesday evening, staff from La Marque Public Library visits the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Texas City to share books, practice reading skills, and do literacy activities with the after-school students.

CRAFTING AT THE LIBRARY

On Wednesday afternoons, the Spin-a-Yarn Knit and Crochet Crafters group meets at the library! Bring your knit, crochet, cross-stitch or other projects and craft with friends. Beginners looking to learn are welcome.
La Marque Public Library hosted their annual Trunk-or-Treat event on October 27, 2022. Children of all ages dressed up in their Halloween best and came for tricks and treats of all kinds. Other La Marque City departments joined in on the fun and decorated trunks from the Library all the way to City Hall.

Women’s History Month Book Display  |  Rodeo Book Display  |  Black History Month Book Display
In partnership with the Galveston County Daily News and the City of Texas City, Moore Memorial Public Library has acquired the microfilm and the rights to digitize the Texas City Sun newspaper. Much thanks goes to Leonard Woolsey, President and Publisher of the Galveston County Daily News, Dedrick Johnson, Mayor of Texas City, and Cheryl Loewen, Director of Moore Memorial Public Library for making this possible.

For more than 70 years, the Texas City Sun had its finger on the historic pulse of Texas City. Once digitized, its stories will be made available online so that the public has easy access. In the coming months, the library will apply for a grant to help fund the digitization of the entire collection. Once that project is complete, the newspaper will be made available online at the Portal to Texas History, hosted by the University of North Texas, at no cost to the public. Historic newspapers are important primary source materials for genealogists, historians, researchers, and community members because they provide a snapshot of historic events, places, and people. Finding your special story or researching your Texas City ancestors will never be easier!

As part of the digitization project with the Portal to Texas History Newspaper Program at the University of North Texas, the Moore Memorial Public Library and the Rosenberg Library teamed up to compile more than 8,000 pages and 1,700 issues of early Texas City newspapers, ranging from 1909 to 1932. These pages capture the essence of a nascent Texas City and will be made available on the Portal to Texas History beginning March 2023.
The Friends of Moore Memorial Public Library hosted its annual meeting for community members in January. The meeting gives the Friends and community members a chance to reflect on the previous year at the library.

Texas City Mayor Dedrick Johnson and Library Director Cheryl Loewen celebrated the library’s achievements during the past year and announced upcoming programs and initiatives for the library and the city, respectively. Bridget Buffa, the president of the Friends, unveiled the new Friends of the Library “gold card” which library users will receive when they commit to a $25 annual membership with the Friends.

The library has become a valuable community resource, connecting library visitors with health services and agencies throughout Galveston County.

During the past year, the library was pleased to partner with the Galveston County Health District in providing access to free monthly health screenings and diabetes education for library visitors. GCHD also held health fairs at the library, giving visitors the opportunity to connect with agencies and groups that provide services to low-income, elderly, or indigent residents.

Another new partnership is with Taking Our Best Shot (TOBS), a student-led initiative from UTMB, which leads community health conversations on a range of topics such as opioid education, naloxone administration, physical fitness, and nutrition. In March 2023, TOBS will visit the library to discuss nutrition in the pediatric population and how it is connected to all aspects of life such as physical health, mental health, emotional health, and school performance. By the end of the presentation, attendees will learn how a well-balanced diet is more than just good food, and how it can correlate to the next generation’s future health and happiness.
FIRST SEMESTER OF US CITIZENSHIP PREP CLASSES COMPLETED

In 2022, the library held its first round of U.S. Citizenship Preparation classes, which concluded in December. The library is proud to offer this program to Permanent Residents interested in pursuing the naturalization process. The library also partnered with Ser y Hacer to provide bilingual instructions in Spanish to interested participants.

Within the library, visitors can find the “Citizenship Corner” which highlights library resources to supplement class instruction. These resources, such as the Citizenship Test Prep Kits, are available to all library card holders.

HOLIDAY FUN

For the holidays, the library gave families the opportunity to capture a moment in time with Family Portrait Day! Sometimes getting everyone together for a photo feels impossible, so Moore Memorial brought in a local photographer to create a special photo studio so families could visit the library and have their portraits captured. All participating families were given a free 8x10 photo as a keepsake.

A new holiday activity in 2022 was Letters to Santa! Elves provided letter templates for children to fill in, but some children crafted their own handwritten letters and even decorated their own envelopes! In total, Santa received 72 letters from children ages 12 and under.
For spring of 2023, Moore Memorial Public Library invited AMOCO Federal Credit Union to connect library users with financial education resources. Financial advisors from AMOCO will present free financial education seminars to educate and enable users to make informed decisions when it comes to personal savings and money matters. The seminar, 8 Steps to Financial Success, will lay the groundwork for future financial planning for attendees.

The library enjoyed outreach along with many other community resources and employment groups at the 4th Annual Galveston Region Employment & Transition Expo in February of 2023. This event was created to help students with special needs connect with services in the community, in hopes of providing the support they need to transition into adulthood. Students 17 - 22 years old from nine school districts attended the event. It was a joy sharing library resources and informing many students about the resources available at libraries across the county.

Youth ages 12 through 18 now have an official schedule of events they can attend at the library! First up is the Anime & Manga Club, hosted on the first Friday of each month. Teens provide suggestions for age-appropriate shows and enjoy authentic Japanese snacks and drinks. So far, teens have enjoyed watching Jujutsu Kaisen, One Punch Man, Kaguya-sama: Love is War, and more. With the library’s premium account of streaming service Crunchyroll, teens can also enjoy the latest shows in either Japanese or English!

Another program is the new and improved Board Game & JackBox Game session, held every second Friday! Alongside new tabletop games (Cards Against Humanity: Family-Friendly Edition, Forbidden Island, Epic Spell Wars, etc.), the library added a Steam account for the JackBox gaming pack! Teens can enjoy digital games with specialized art centered on trivia, drawing, writing and hidden identities—all by using their personal smart devices! No smart device? No problem! The library offers extra tablets for newcomers. So far, digital games like Quiplash and Tee K.O. have been massive hits.

Lastly is the new Dungeons & Dragons Club. Newcomers and experts alike have created their characters to play out a series of interrelated quest lines, and now, it’s up to the dice to decide their fate! Thanks to D&D creators Wizards of the Coast LLC, the department has all the necessary components for play due to free, high-quality kits the company provided. Now, players and the Dungeon Master can decide whether to use the “Theatre of the Mind” to imagine events, or use the physical tokens, art, maps, props, and clings for more immersion. For better organization, Moore Memorial’s Young Adult Librarian—the Dungeon Master—will schedule all fourth Fridays to host sessions so participants won’t miss out on the fun. Overall, the Teen Department at Moore Memorial Public Library is busy with many fun events, and they’re excited for new visitors to stop by and try out programs.
Mae S. Bruce Public Library had a great year! From October through December, the library served an average of 1,438 visitors, saving library users an average of $16,011 dollars by using the materials in the library. Library volunteers also generously donated approximately 59 hours of volunteer time each month.

Library staff organized adult programming with the Galveston County Health District along with Medicare Seminars so the Santa Fe community would be informed about health care topics. Attendance to these programs and others totaled 1,007.

In 2023, Library Director Becky McClain represented Mae S. Bruce and other small libraries at the Texas Municipal League and presented Amplified City Services with other large city library directors who are part of the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. Mae S. Bruce Library is so grateful to staff, the Library Advisory Board, Friends of the Library, and the community for making the library a fun place to be!

The Mae S. Bruce Library is so happy that Read to Rover is back! The Faithful Friends therapy dog group visited the library with five teams of dogs who loved listening to kids in the Homeschool Hangout group read to them. Each child chose both a book and a dog to cuddle with while improving their reading skills. Studies have shown that reading to dogs is a wonderful way to improve reading confidence and provides the opportunity to read aloud without judgment or correction. This popular program will continue once a month and hopefully into the summer.
Families enjoyed many exciting activities through Story Hour and the Homeschool Hangout group. This included a visit from Wild Things Zoofari in September, a special field trip to the Santa Fe Fire Department in October, and a visit from Police Chief Mr. Walter Braum and Captain Shores in November.

In 2023, the Golden Girls Storytellers visited the Homeschool Hangout to celebrate Black History Month. The women, ranging from 65 to 80 years old, shared stories about their families, life during segregation, after integration, and the challenges of everyday life. Mae S. Bruce is so grateful for their visit and how welcoming the children and women were with each other.

For teens, the library continues to host a popular Journal Club, where 15 - 20 teenagers learn about journaling, expressing themselves, and developing friendships. The library also hosted it’s third year of Pokémon Saturday, a big hit with both tweens and teens. It is great to see the enthusiasm for the cards, movies, books, and game!

Another special activity is Mayor Pittman’s Chess Club, which has been quite a success. Three of his players won trophies in tournaments around the state, including Jacob, who recently won second place at the Hyde Elementary Liptrap Chess Tournament.
Helen Hall Library took the library’s mission out of the stacks and into League City parks! On Saturday, October 1, library staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Library members took over six City parks with storytimes, crafts, card sign-ups, and book giveaways. As part of the library’s continued outreach efforts, the Park Take Over event reached 223 residents in their neighborhoods.
The Volunteer Services program of Helen Hall Library currently facilitates more than 90 active students with representatives from 17 schools and multiple communities, including League City, Friendswood, Dickinson, Houston, Texas City, Kemah, and Galveston.

Averaging more than 550 volunteer hours a month in the current fiscal year, Helen Hall Volunteers have served the library through tasks such as cleaning, shelving, craft and program preparation, hosting and assisting with library programs, working inventory, participating in community outreach, and so much more. Many high school volunteers remarkably started serving the library by joining the Friends of Helen Hall organization and becoming regular volunteers in the Library Bookstore.

In October, the library honored volunteers by hosting the first annual volunteer celebration banquet, The Vollies. Around 100 people attended the Red-Carpet themed event. Awards were given out to honor service excellence and time volunteered, in addition to a special award recognizing the Teen and Adult Volunteer of the Year.
In September, the children’s section celebrated the grand opening of the Helen Hall Family Place Library. Families have a dedicated area to play, draw, and read together. Since the grand opening, four end cap manipulatives have been added to the picture book area. As a part of the Family Place Library, Helen Hall hosted parent/child workshops. In mid-October, the first workshop series began in partnership with CCISD, The Galveston County Food Bank, and UTMB. Families attended five sessions of the Little Explorers workshop series which included topics like literacy, music & movement, speech, early childhood development, and nutrition.

October was a busy month. Families listened to volunteers from the League City Fire Department teach fire safety tips and how to create a family plan at the second annual Fire Safety program. Families created rangoli (chalk art) on the driveway and Diwali-themed crafts to celebrate Diwali. Families also had fun at the Monster Mayhem program and searched the children's department in an I-Spy passive program. The month wrapped up with a 2nd Annual Día de los Muertos program where families designed their own paper sugar skulls.

With the new year, Helen Hall introduced a new program; Fun, Fit, Family. This early childhood program offers families the opportunity to have fun working on motor skills, as well as tips on how to practice at home. The second Little Explorers workshop series began in January and ended in February. This series hosted a different set of families that committed to the five sessions. The library partnered with the Galveston County Food Bank again, and Texas Children's Hospital sent experts from their upWORDS program.
Teen Advisory Board members volunteered to host the Library’s annual Holiday Open House activities again! The library hosted its second annual Yule Ball in December, and Teen Advisory Board members volunteered to host the refreshments booth: Honeydukes, inspired by a Harry Potter candy shop.

The Teen Librarian mentored two teens who were a part of Clear Horizons Early College High School Independent Study Mentorship program. Each mentee develops a final product with a real-world purpose by the end of their mentorship. One teen created Blood, Bones & Balloons, a special event for teens to learn about the different aspects of forensics and how experts solve crimes through hands-on activities. Another teen created a Teen Support Circle, a recurring meeting for teens to have a non-judgmental space where they can share their feelings and get support from their peers.

Teen Crochet Club, developed and led by a Teen Advisory Board member, started in January. GameShowdown, also developed and led by another Teen Advisory Board member, started at the same time. This exciting activity is based on different classic game shows and provides teens the chance to play as contestants.
ADULT PROGRAMMING

Cultural enrichment remains a goal at Helen Hall Library. October was Family History Month, so a special “Family History Day” was held in honor of the recently deceased and very noted Galveston County historian Alecya Gallaway. The event was organized in collaboration with some of her fellow historians and The Bay Area Genealogical Society. October also included a spooky adventure at The History Club. A guide from Historic Galveston Ghost Tours took everyone on an informative virtual tour of Galveston locations. The year closed on a high note with a classical music concert by The Axiom Quartet, which was arranged in conjunction with Chamber Music Houston.

The new year began with a continued focus on public health by installing a blood pressure machine generously provided by UTMB. This wonderful tool enables everyone to check up on their health. Black History Month included a “Thursday Talk” dedicated to Bessie Coleman. A volunteer from the Lonestar Flight Museum related wonderful stories about the first African American woman to hold a pilot’s license.

A chance discussion with a city employee who is a fan of board games kickstarted a new “Board Game Afternoon,” where, several times a month, adults can relax, chat, and play. Finally, the library offers an “Adult Anime Club” where those over eighteen can enjoy watching anime shows for a mature audience complete with discussion and snacks.

FINE FREE PROMOTIONAL SERIES

To promote the library’s overdue fine-free policy, a planned social media series sought to explain the policy change in ways resonant with community members. Each post started with the message “Your Library is Fine Free...” and ended with a different, user-focused reason for the change:

• ...because we’ve all had a rainy day.
• ...because we’ve all been stuck in traffic.
• ...because we’ve all found a book under the couch.
• ...because your library knows you’re good for it.

Since the policy change in May 2022, the rates of overdue materials have remained consistent with rates prior to the change.

Helen Hall Library also began adding new and non-traditional materials to its collections, including video games, tabletop games, coloring books, and puzzles. The community response has been positive, and staff looks forward to adding more to the growing library of “things”!
HITCHCOCK LIBRARY'S TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Hitchcock Public Library held its annual Trunk-or-Treat in October with a few new twists. Several amazing volunteers helped bring the vision to life. The library hosted games in the park, craft tables, trunk-or-treating, cookie decorating, and a "Monster Mash" around the library. It was great fun for all ages! There was a spectacular turn out with more than 100 trunk-or-treaters!

NEW PROGRAMS

In addition to weekly storytimes, visitors now can participate in S.T.E.A.M. Day and Teen Day. At S.T.E.A.M. Day, young visitors are challenged to try out activities in science and math. At Teen Day, teens are invited to hang out at the library and try out a new activity. Some examples are Library Scavenger Hunts, origami bookmarks, Board Game Day and more! These programs have been a great addition to the library! Check out more events on the library's website or facebook page!
Each week the library hosts a Story Time for ages 1 - 5. Children sing, dance, learn rhymes, do sign language, crafts and experiments, and of course, read amazing books! Join everyone on Thursdays at 10:30 AM.

In addition to Story Time, visitors get to participate in monthly crafts. In November, participants created Oreo Turkey Treats for Thanksgiving, and more recently made DIY glitter slime, always a crowd favorite!
1 | POETRY AT THE LIBRARY

Friendswood Public Library offers many programs for poets throughout the year. Visit during the first Saturday of each month at 11 AM for a poetry reading hosted by Friendswood Poets. The program kicks off with a featured reader, followed by an open mic where poets have an opportunity to share one or two poems with the group.

Every September, the library holds its Annual Ekphrastic Poetry Festival. Children can also try out their poetry at the Fun With Poetry program for ages 6 - 11. Children learn basic concepts of poetry writing and have the opportunity to write and share a poem at the conclusion of the program.

2 | FRIENDSWOOD ACOUSTIC PICKERS MEETUP

Bring your acoustic guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, or other acoustic string instrument to the Friendswood Acoustic Pickers meetup! Make new friends and hang out with other musicians in your community.
Zaki Con, a convention designed and put on by the Library's Teen Advisory Group, returned and hosted 20+ artists and vendors in the Artist Alley. Nearly 1,000 people attended over three days in January. Visitors browsed art, took part in a Mario Kart tournament, watched Studio Ghibli movies, joined a K-pop meet up, made crafts, and competed in a cosplay contest.

**FAMILY YOGA STORYTIME**

Visit the library Thursdays at 10:10 AM for Family Yoga Storytime! This storytime is perfect for kids who want to move and includes stories, songs, and stretches that the whole family can take part in! Designed for ages six and younger, but everyone is welcome.
The Rosenberg Library continued a successful launch of Isle Connect, the library’s new initiative to help bridge the digital divide. Funded by the Federal Emergency Connectivity Fund, Rosenberg Library was able to purchase 1,500 Chromebooks and 1,500 Wi-Fi hotspots, each set up with up to one year’s worth of T-Mobile internet service. To date, Rosenberg Library has held seven distribution events and given away approximately 800 pairs of devices. Recipients have expressed immense gratitude about the services.

Many library visitors across Galveston County do not have devices of their own, are working with broken or outdated equipment, or do not have Internet service in their home. By having a Chromebook, recipients have been able to experience a new level of independence, finishing their degrees, applying for jobs, and enjoying similar benefits those more fortunate experience everyday. The accompanying Wi-Fi hotspot further allows recipients to work wherever they need to, providing reliable Internet service for the home as well as on the go. Rosenberg Library is pleased to have the opportunity to make a physical difference in the lives of those who trust in Rosenberg Library’s services every single day.
LIBRARY ACQUIRES MARY MOODY NORTHERN ENDOWMENT ARCHIVES

The Rosenberg Library’s Galveston & Texas History Center has acquired more than 200 years’ worth of Moody family archives from the Mary Moody Northen Endowment. The enormous collection, around 850 boxes of material spanning from 1743 to 1991, will be preserved, digitized and catalogued for future generations.

Mary Moody Northen was the eldest child of Libbie and W. L. Moody, Jr. Following her father’s death in 1954, she became the chair of the Moody Foundation and head of more than 50 family businesses. Her endowment restored and operates Moody Mansion as a house museum in Galveston as well as the Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke, Virginia. The endowment is also well known for making charitable gifts, especially to the Galveston community.

The archives house a variety of items including hundreds of photographs of Moody family members and Galveston scenes, personal correspondence such as letters between W. L. Moody, Jr. and his wife Libbie Shearn Moody and Colonel William Moody’s diaries during the Civil War. The papers include maps and architectural drawings, as well as documents related to slavery in Virginia. Business documentation from the past two centuries make up a large part of the collection. As the Rosenberg Library processes the collection, parts of it will be made available for the public to view by appointment at the Galveston & Texas History Center, and the digitized versions will become available over time at www.galvestonhistorycenter.org.

TAX AIDE AT ROSENBERG LIBRARY

The local AARP returned to the Rosenberg Library this year to offer free tax aide to anyone who needs it from the beginning of February through the end of the Tax Season. Visitors were eager for the program and asked for it as early as December. As of March 2, approximately 491 people received help with their taxes, and the number continues to climb.
The Children’s department was bustling with activity in 2022. In October, children and families visited the Library for a Harry Potter Night of Wizardry, which included pumpkin carving, live music, and activities all around the library. In December, the popular Breakfast with Santa returned, and many children had the opportunity to take photos with the jolly man himself.

In February, 10 lucky children got to ride the library’s Mardi Gras float in the Children Firefighters parade. The float won best decorated and best costumes for it’s Pirate/ Jean Laffite theme!

In addition to Baby Talk, Storytime and drop in activities throughout the year, visitors can now listen to children’s stories in both English and Spanish on Saturdays throughout each month with new librarian Luly Minton.

Galveston schools have begun touring the library again, giving students the opportunity to learn about the library. Many students also visit for the Story Fairs, which are special storytime events the Children’s Department offers to schools that engage children with interactive stories, songs and movement.
After the introduction of Teen After Hours programs in the summer, teens have continued to show interest! Since then, Rosenberg Library has offered multiple programs including a winter snowball fight, complete with cardboard forts.

For adults, programming continues strong with monthly crafting meetups, book clubs, computer classes and more. In 2022, Adult Services introduced a new virtual author talk series. Now, visitors can hear from bestselling authors across the nation on any digital device, all for free! Speakers have included Bonnie Garmus (Lessons in Chemistry), Chef Jernard A. Wells (Southern Inspired), Grace M. Cho (Tastes Like War) and more. Now visitors have regular programming available both inside and outside the library.