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STATISTICS
GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

673,026
LIBRARY VISITORS
Up 7% from previous year

1,226,419
MATERIALS CIRCULATED
Up 5% from previous year

136,561
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE
Up 32% from previous year

1,459,357
TOTAL WEBSITE HITS
Up 78% from previous year.

119,018
COMPUTER USERS
Up 40% from previous year.

222,050
WI-FI USERS
Up 21% from previous year.*

251,997
REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS
Up 48% from previous year.

196,473
IN-HOUSE USE
Down 15% from previous year.

* Dickinson Public Library and Helen Hall do not track Wi-Fi users and are therefore not included in this statistic.
FY 2023-2024
FINANCES
GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

$115,373.33
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.

$1,600.75
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.

$462,809.74
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.

$51,417.38
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.

TOTAL SPENT: $631,201.20
Extension Services performs an important role in helping Galveston County Library System libraries provide inclusive access to information, promote literacy, and build better connections to our most at-risk and vulnerable patrons. Extension Services accomplishes this by providing books, audiobooks, periodicals, and DVDs through door-to-door delivery and sending books by mail.

These services are provided at no cost to recipients and are paid for by funds provided by the Galveston County Commissioners Court.

Housed at Rosenberg Library, Marilyn Lyons, Extension Services Assistant II, has been involved with this service for more than 25 years. Marilyn not only delivers materials to homebound patrons, but also to a variety of organizations including daycares, preschools, assisted living centers, school libraries, and other libraries within Galveston County. For people that are too far to personally deliver materials to, requests are fulfilled via USPS.

Galveston County residents of all ages who are homebound, have long-term physical and medical disabilities, are visually impaired, or have qualifying doctors’ notes are able to apply. Recipients may receive in-person homebound service or Books-By-Mail depending on their location. Organizations who provide services to the very young or elderly may apply for monthly materials pick-ups and drop-offs. Materials for all patrons and organizations are selected and delivered by Marilyn. Patrons and organizations share their preferences and she selects materials from the circulating collection at Rosenberg Library. Every effort is made to make sure preferences are being met.

Currently, Marilyn serves 31 homebound patrons, 29 institutions (daycares, assisted living, etc.) and three books-by-mail patrons. From January 2023 to January 2024, a little over 10,000 materials were delivered to patrons. This averages out to approximately 833 materials per month! Recipients are always happy to see Marilyn and share their gratefulness through thank you notes and messages. Here is one of them:

“I just want to tell you how much the Delivery Service helps me, as I am sure it does so many in our community! Marilyn is so sweet and she always brings a smile with my books. Thank you for providing this service!”

- Kelly T.

The service provided by the Commissioners Court through GCLS is essential for reaching underserved populations in our Galveston County communities. Many individuals, such as those living in rural areas, low-income communities, or with limited mobility, may face barriers to accessing traditional library services. By bringing library materials directly to these communities, Extension Services help bridge the gap and ensure that everyone has equal access to information and knowledge.

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

The Galveston County Commissioners Court makes Extension Services available to Galveston County residents by funding this invaluable program.
The Galveston County Library System 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, review and recommend an annual budget, and review and recommend policies for GCLS. In 2023, the Council met on April 11 and October 10 and accomplished the following:

- Reviewed and approved the FY2023 GCLS proposed budget;
- Elected Chair and Vice Chair of the Council for the next two years; and
- Reviewed the GCLS Policies and approved changes reflecting that each member library sets its own collection development policy, clarified what constitutes “library materials” in regard to how County funds could be spent, and outlined the disbursement process of county owned materials should a member library end its membership.

The Advisory Council is scheduled to meet April 9, 2024 at the Rosenberg Library and October 8, 2024, at the Dickinson 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
Museum and History Center
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 staff is deeply committed to engaging with the community beyond the walls of the library, recognizing the importance of reaching out to various community centers, schools, and local social services centers to ensure that resources and services are accessible to everyone.

Regular visits to community centers allow staff to connect with residents where they are able to participate in programs that they may have missed. These interactions foster stronger ties with Dickinson and enable the library to better understand their needs and interests.

Additionally, library involvement with the local social services center reinforces commitment to serving all members of the community, including those facing economic or social challenges. Whether it’s providing access to technology, offering job search assistance, or facilitating educational workshops, Dickinson Public Library strives to be a supportive resource for individuals and families in need.
In this vibrant community, Dickinson Public Library has gone above and beyond to expand programming, ensuring there’s something for everyone to enjoy, regardless of age or interest. Whether it’s tantalizing taste buds with adult cooking classes or fostering a love for anime among tweens at our local boba spot, the library has curated a diverse array of activities that cater to the varied passions of residents.

DPL’s commitment to innovation shines through in unique tech classes, where individuals are empowered to explore the endless possibilities of technology. From testing code to online book clubs, the library is equipping community members with skills they need to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

But programming isn’t just about learning—it’s also about fostering connections and building relationships. The library’s adult sewing groups provide a welcoming and creative space for enthusiasts to come together, share tips, and forge lasting friendships over a shared passion for crafting.

And when the holiday season rolls around, DPL pulls out all the stops to bring joy and excitement to the city. Special events like Santa’s visit to the Depot, where families gather to share in the magic of the season, and other festive celebrations help to foster an inclusive and fun community.
Since May 2023, Dickinson Public Library has undergone extensive construction. Throughout this period, staff has remained committed to providing enriching programs for all ages. Despite the challenges, staff created innovative ways to engage library users, from hosting outdoor events to virtual book clubs. This adaptability has turned the construction period into a positive adventure for everyone.

The construction process has also brought staff closer together. Collaborating to navigate the logistical hurdles and maintain the quality of services has fostered a strong sense of camaraderie. Staff have shared ideas, problem-solved together, and celebrated successes, emerging from this experience as a more unified team.

In November 2023, Dickinson Public Library was honored to receive the esteemed TSLAC Texas Workforce Commission Conference Scholarship, a recognition of dedication to enhancing the services the library offers and better serving the needs of patrons. The Texas Workforce Commission’s mission of fostering economic prosperity resonates deeply with the library’s own commitment to empowering individuals and communities through access to valuable resources and opportunities for growth.

This scholarship opportunity provided staff with the chance to participate in insightful classes and workshops aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills in serving the public effectively. By attending these sessions, staff gained valuable insights into emerging trends, best practices, and innovative strategies for supporting workforce development initiatives.

One particularly impactful aspect of the conference was the opportunity to explore how advancements in technology, including AI, can be leveraged to improve efficiency and enhance services. By embracing these new insights and tools, the library is poised to further elevate the level of service provided to patrons and play a more proactive role in promoting economic prosperity and growth. The knowledge and experiences gained through this scholarship will undoubtedly empower DPL to continue making a meaningful impact in the lives of the public.
Dickinson Public Library has experienced many positive transitions. The addition of a dedicated teen room and a brand new computer lab reflects the library's commitment to providing specialized spaces tailored to the diverse needs of users.

Moreover, the installation of brand new shelves and furniture has not only enhanced the functionality of the library but has also contributed to a refreshed aesthetic that is both inviting and modern.

In preparation for the library’s grand reopening, staff has been hard at work genrefying the collection and adding stickers to facilitate easier navigation for library users. This process involves organizing books by genre or category and adding visually appealing stickers to signify each genre, making it simpler for visitors to find their preferred reads.

The grand reopening promises to be a celebration of not only the physical transformation of the library, but also of DPL’s continued commitment to serving and enriching the lives of patrons.
La Marque Library was one of 84 public libraries in Texas selected for the Library Excellence Award through the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. Libraries receiving the award provide services to underserved populations, display effective marketing techniques, support literacy for all ages, collaborate with community partners, and offer a variety of cultural and educational programs for the community.

The City of La Marque recently hired Sarah Tamayo to be the new Youth Program Coordinator. Sarah will be instrumental in community outreach and engagement efforts as our program offerings evolve and expand.

In her short time here, Sarah has re-established a connection with some of the area schools and through her efforts, attendance at library events has increased. When she’s not at the library, Sarah enjoys reading Young Adult and Science Fiction, walking her two fur babies, collecting Pokemon cards, and playing basketball.
La Marque Library hosted its annual community Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 26. Over the last few years, this event has grown in popularity with this year’s program being the largest attendance to date! There were decorated trunks from the Library to City Hall, to Hayley Elementary, which hosts their Trunk or Treat the same night.

In January, the library held a Winter Wonderland Party: this winter themed party was complete with games, crafts, snacks, and a photo booth.

The library added a special program to weekly events: a new Pokemon Club for 10-14-year-olds.

La Marque Library is a recipient of a SHAPR training grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association. SHAPR stands for Supporting Healthy Aging Through Parks and Recreation. This grant will allow staff to facilitate programs that encourage physical activity with older adults. Programming is set to commence in March.
La Marque Library was thrilled to partner with the La Marque Parks Board, Hayley Elementary, and local artists on sensory sidewalks and the Art in the Park project. Hopefully, the addition of the art will encourage more visitors both to Walter Feigel Park and to La Marque Public Library. Local artists did a great job of recreating cover art from children’s literature classics. The titles were selected based on popular titles for children that have stood the test of time. Being in a park setting, the art celebrates the joy of literature while encouraging physical activity and outdoor engagement.

Library staff hopes that people who come to see and experience the art in the park will have a fun and enriching experience that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

La Marque Library staff celebrated Kindness Week by partnering with 2nd graders at Hayley Elementary to paint rocks for the kindness garden at Walter Feigel Park. Pictured are La Marque Library Assistant, Princess Baldwin, Youth Program Coordinator, Sarah Tamayo, and Parks Board Vice Chair, Tonia Griffin.
Moore Memorial Public Library enjoyed visiting the community to talk about county library resources and programs. The library visited K.E. Little Elementary in Dickinson for their open house, and College of the Mainland’s Fiesta Comunidad which was an event packed with a fantastic lineup of activities dedicated to honoring and embracing the vibrant cultures, traditions, and contributions of the Hispanic community. The library also participated in Touch-a-Truck with some pumpkin decorating and the Texas City Halloween Festival, which was a fun time! Disney Villains for the library’s Trunk-or-Treat made for great photo ops.

Staff also had a presence at the 5th annual Galveston Region Employment and Transition Expo. This event hosts students from Clear Creek, Dickinson, Friendswood, Galveston, Hitchcock, La Marque, Texas City, Pearland, Santa Fe, and Alvin who gather together to get information about county resources and employment/training opportunities for graduating students with disabilities.

Upcoming outreach includes the Galveston County Child Protective Services & the TCISD Young Professionals resource fairs and the Heights Elementary Literacy Night.
Moore Memorial Public Library was awarded the “2023 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award” from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association. To receive this award, the library had to demonstrate its commitment to providing exceptional service to the community. Of the 545 public library systems in Texas, Moore Memorial Public Library is one of only 84 who earned this year’s award, making Texas City’s library one of the top 15% of all public libraries in the state.

MMPL was also fortunate to be awarded two grants that will enable the library to expand programs and services to the community. First, the “Family Place Libraries Grant,” which will provide the library with training and materials to develop new programs that promote early literacy, early childhood development, and parent education. The second grant was the “Thinking Money For Kids Program Kit.” With this grant, the library will receive training and materials to prepare a series of financial literacy programs for children ages 3-12, using age-appropriate games and activities.

The library had a full house for this fantastic six week course taught by a Nutrition Education Associate out of the Galveston County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office. This course included information on how to build, maintain, and plant a container garden. If you are looking for information about where you might attend a similar course, you can call the Galveston County Extension Office at 281.534.3413.

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office is also the organization that sponsors the County Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists programs.

BACODA started facilitating programs at Moore Memorial Public Library through use of their Happiness grant. They have been using this grant throughout the county to support various programs geared at improving and sustaining good mental health practices. The Creative Non-fiction writing class, mentioned in a previous issue of the GCLS newsletter, was just one of the many programs held at MMPL. Teens and Adults were able to take part in Holiday Ornament Painting, as well as prepare for Mardi Gras with the creation of Mardi Gras headdresses and masks.

Much thanks to BACODA for awarding MMPL with funds for future sustainable programs. In the future, the library hopes to add a digitization lab service to help the community to bring their old slides & pictures to be digitized, movie times at the library, cooking classes for all ages, and more!
SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

It’s Moore Memorial Public Library’s mission to spread bookish joy to everyone, including those unable to visit in person. MMPL’s YA Librarian doubles up as an outreach superhero, visiting senior care centers every month. From the Nessler Senior Center to the cozy corners of Sodalis Senior Living, the library brings smiles and stories, letting older adults know they’re thought about even when they can’t visit the library.

A related service the library offers is memory kits. These kits were designed to assist caregivers and families supporting individuals with Alzheimer’s disease. These kits, comprising themed items and activities, serve as memory aids and facilitators for communication between seniors and their caregivers. MMPL currently offers decade nostalgia kits and fun activity kits. Thank you Friends of Moore Memorial Public Library for sponsoring this collection. For further information on these resources, kindly inquire at MMPL’s information desk.

CITIZENSHIP PREP & HISPANIC ENTREPRENEURS

Moore Memorial Public Library continues to host Ser y Hacer Ciudadania Citizenship Preparation Classes. Participants receive guidance related to the naturalization process, receive mock citizenship testing opportunities, and have all their naturalization questions answered. This program is for U.S. green card holders who anticipate beginning the naturalization process. Registration is required. Please contact Magdalena Alvarado at 409.888.0062 or by email at magdala1@yahoo.com to register. Classes are also usually held at locations in Webster, Alvin, Galveston, and sometimes Galena Park.

MMPL was very excited to host the CELH Camara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston for an information session for Galveston County Hispanic entrepreneurs. This seminar was for those who are thinking of starting a business, or who already have their business and want to take it to the next level. Latinos Chamber of Entrepreneurs presented some very useful information and everyone enjoyed an energetic networking event.
SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS SERIES & REFERENCE SOLUTIONS

Texas City Economic Development Corporation, the Galveston County Small Business Development Center, and Moore Memorial Public Library have partnered together to form “The Small Business Success Series.”

This will be a collection of educational and networking seminars designed to foster the growth of the dynamic small business community. These seminars will be held monthly at different venues. Topics include Canva 101, Outreach Opportunities, Budgeting Your Marketing Efforts, Cybersecurity for Small Businesses, and more. People also have access to the free small business resource Reference Solutions database. County residents can access it using their Moore Memorial Public Library card.

TEEN DEPOT GOING STRONG!

Teen programming at the library is buzzing! This program, hosted four Fridays every month, has been growing. At Anime & Manga Club, teens can provide suggestions for age-appropriate shows and enjoy authentic Japanese snacks. Teens can also enjoy Board Game and JackBox Game sessions, Dungeons & Dragons Club, and a new fourth program, Creativity Club: a calmer program that allows creatives time to express themselves through drawing, sketching, knitting, crocheting, coloring, etc. They are more than welcome to bring their crafts for a chill, hour long program backed with lo-fi music. The library’s YA librarian also provides quick crafts to those wanting to join in on the fun!

The library also hosted the teen’s first ever Super Smash Bros. Tournament, which was a smashing success! With such high interest, future tournaments are being planned.

STORYTIME AND MORE

Regular storytimes continue throughout the year at the library, and new special Saturday events have been added too!

So far, visitors have enjoyed Hot Chocolate & Ornament Decorating, Salt Watercolor Snowflake Painting, Geometric Pattern Canvas Tote Bags, and decorating Celebratory Gifts Bags.

These programs are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month during the school year and are open to ages 5-12.
In 2023, more than 20,000 people visited the Mae S. Bruce Public Library, and more than 20,000 items were checked out, saving visitors around $238,272.26. Library staff worked diligently to create programming and events for every age group, from babies to senior adults. This included visits from Santa Fe Police and Santa Fe Fire, Children’s Author Renee Nolte, and local resident Mr. Mantooth.

Mae S. Bruce Public Library is grateful for each of you!
2 \textbf{CHILDREN'S EVENTS}

In the fall, local Santa Fe resident Mr. Chris Mantooth visited Story Hour and Homeschool programs to educate children on different science topics.

During his visits, children examined live insects and learned their harmful and helpful traits, heard about Christopher Columbus and early navigation techniques, and learned about the process of decomposition. Mr. Mantooth brought decomposing logs for the kids to take apart and find the different insects and organisms that live inside.

3 \textbf{JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB}

When a few of the teens in the Journal Club wanted to read Pride and Prejudice, many others wanted to join reading it. Since interest was so high, the library formed the Jane Austen Book Club!

Teens now meet often to talk about Elizabeth Bennet, Captain Wentworth and so many other of Jane Austen’s memorable characters.

Members also began doing small, Austen-themed crafts during book club discussions starting with friendship bracelets.
This past fall and winter, Helen Hall introduced a variety of engaging events tailored specifically for League City’s teen community:

Teen Night in Far Far Away: Teens were transported to the whimsical world of Shrek 2.

Steeped in Style: Teens were invited to don their finest tea party attire and indulge in a selection of exquisite tea blends, delectable treats, and tea-themed games. This event was made possible by the generous support of local businesses Nana’s Attic, Holly Berry Tea Room, and Rustika Cafe & Bakery.

Teen Talent Show: Showcasing the remarkable talents of League City’s teen community, the Teen Talent Show provided a platform for performances ranging from singing and musical acts to artwork and comedy routines.
NEW LIBRARY USAGE POLICY

Beginning March 4, individuals and families will need a valid Helen Hall Library card or a TexShare card to enjoy programs, collections, facilities, and services.

Questions about the new library use and card policies? Call the library at 281.554.1111 or email Library Administration at libraryadmin@leaguecitytx.gov.

NEW THINGS AT HELEN HALL

Helen Hall Library now has the myLibro app! Library users can use the app to scan their library card and check out, place items on hold, renew their materials, browse the events calendar, and more!

The library also has a new Volunteer Coordinator: Morgan Salgy! Under Morgan’s leadership, the volunteer program is being restructured to help match volunteers to opportunities that best match their interests and their experiences through a new application and interview process. An accommodation form is also available upon request.

In September, the Teen Advisory Board unveiled the highly anticipated Helen Hall Society Podcast! Covering a range of topics including books, movies, and library events, the podcast has already released 5 episodes. You can listen to them on the Teen Services webpage at bit.ly/HHLTeenPrograms, as well as on popular platforms such as Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, and iHeart Radio.
The library has been forming partnerships with local organizations to support adults’ lifelong learning journeys. College of the Mainland instructors visited and provided an overview of different classes available for anyone 50+. Additionally, the Galveston County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) conducted a series on “How to Start a Business.”

In December, the book *Hurricane Harvey: A Storm Like No Other* was launched to much acclaim. The book contains stories from the greater League City community put together by local authors and the library’s Local History Librarian.

That’s a wrap! Another successful Family Place Library™ infant caregiver workshop series has just been completed. It is a joy to reassure families they are on the right track and empower them to be their child’s first teachers. Ongoing partnerships with Texas Children’s upWORDS specialist for speech and language therapy have helped further enhance the library’s early literacy and family support initiatives.
School-aged children agree: Helen Hall Library's new after school programs are something special! From live action Choose Your Own Adventure, arts and crafts, building and tinkering, movie days, and fun with food, the library has engaging and hands-on activities for kiddos on Thursday afternoons.

Helen Hall Library has introduced a 100 Books Before Graduation Reading Challenge, encouraging teens to embark on a literary journey by reading 100 books before they graduate high school.

Participants have the chance to win prizes and earn the ultimate bragging rights upon completion. The prizes, selected by the Teen Advisory Board and generously donated by the Friends of the Helen Hall Library, include a Helen Hall Library laptop backpack and a $25 Amazon gift card.
Each week the Genevieve Miller Hitchcock Public Library hosts Storytime for ages one through five. Young ones sing, dance, learn rhymes, practice sign language, enjoy crafts and experiments and read amazing books! Families can join in every Thursday at 10:30 AM.

STEAM Day is another program offered throughout the year. This program is designed for school age students combining science, technology, engineering, the arts and math to guide kids’ inquiry, discussion and problem-solving. Check the monthly calendars for upcoming dates!

The library also offers Teen Day once a month which allows teens to come into the library, hang out and do fun activities with arts, games, challenges and more!

The Sewing Bee Club is a new program offered on Thursday mornings at 10 AM. Join the club to learn to sew, crochet, cross stitch, and more!

The library’s music class meets every Tuesday at 2 PM. “The Rockin’ Recorders” group performed at the annual Christmas Open House and did a fantastic job! Join and learn how to play the recorder with this rockin’ group!

Finally, the library holds a family craft one Saturday every month. This craft is great for all ages to come together and make art. Craft bags are also available every month for patrons to do in the library or to take home!
In October, Genevieve Miller hosted its annual Trunk or Treat program. There was an incredible turn out with over 200 participants! Amazing volunteers decorated their trunks and passed out candy and treats to the Trick-or-Treaters. Children enjoyed games, a moonwalk, and lots of fun in the park. There were so many amazing costumes and volunteers! Everyone can’t wait for the next Trunk-or-Treat!

On Saturday, March 23, the library will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your cameras and Easter baskets and meet the Easter bunny and hunt for eggs!

The Easter Bunny will hop in from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 11 AM. Great for children up to ten years old. Each age group will have the opportunity to win some cool prizes!
Over the past ten years, Friendswood Library has served an average of 166,313 visitors with 344,833 library materials checked out each year to the Friendswood and Galveston County community. Between 2022 and 2023, Friendswood Library provided 857 educational and entertainment programs, classes, and events to over 28,000 residents of Friendswood and Galveston County.

Nearly 10,000 county residents used the library’s computer services for school, work, information, entertainment, job searching and resume creation over the past fiscal year. Weekly instruction on library technologies are offered during Resource Spotlight classes. and Friendswood Library’s reference department answered nearly 26,000 county residents’ questions.

Friendswood Library’s robust early literacy programs, tween, and young adult programs, offer numerous unique Storytime and early learning activities including Yoga Storytime, Adaptive Storytime for neurodiverse and special needs children, STEAM night to introduce science and technology skills, crafts and gaming, and so much more.

During the summer, the library welcomes thousands of family members, young people, and individuals to join in the celebration of reading through book clubs and fun events. This coming summer, the library will celebrate reading through the theme Adventure Begins at your Library. In the coming weeks, the library will be adding a new set of services including a new astronomy program with stargazing events and a sublimation printer for patron use.

Find out more by visiting Friendswood Library’s website and browse the hundreds of activities for people of all ages!

Along with classic and popular movies, Friendswood Library is now celebrating acclaimed international films on the second Friday of each month at 7 PM. Films from around the world are selected from sources such as BFI’s Sight and Sound great films list and film critic picks from around the world.

Each film event begins with an introduction to the work, a screening of the film, and then a moderated discussion of the film with attendees sharing their thoughts and insight. Refreshments are provided and After Hours movies are open to the public. Go to the Friendswood Library website to learn movie details or contact the library at 281.482.7135.
Friendswood Library’s Youth Service Department and Teen Advisory Group (TAG) hosted their 6th Annual ZakiCon Anime Event from January 5th through the 7th.

Around 1,300 people attended this fun-filled three-day event with games, zine making, crafts, films, art instruction, video game making workshops, Video Game Music 101, and an artist alley with 45 artisans sharing their artworks.

The event ended on Sunday with a Super Smash Bros. Tournament and a Cosplay Contest where youth of all ages got to show off their favorite character costumes. Proceeds from this event will be used for a mural to decorate the Young Adult Room.

Since partnering with Gale Excel High School program, Friendswood Library is excited to announce three new high school graduates with two new students entering the program. Gale Excel High School is a fully accredited high school program geared toward providing another chance for students to complete their diploma requirements. Friendswood Library has partnered with Friends of Friendswood Library to raise money for these life-changing scholarships.

For more information, visit Friendswood Library’s website and click on the Gale Presents Excel Adult High School tab.
After years of construction, the Rosenberg Library proudly announced the unveiling of Trustees Hall, located in the historic wing of the library’s fourth floor.

The project restored this 5,000 square foot space as close to its original 1904 construction as possible. With the opening of Trustees Hall, the public will have access to expanded exhibitions, including the opening exhibit, Faces and Places of Galveston. Visitors will see paintings of notable Galvestonians, as well as architecturally significant Island landmarks.

Currently, visitors can see an exhibit in the new space called Faces and Places, a bite-sized look at prominent people and locations that help make up Galveston. Future exhibits are on track to circulate, with the next one coming mid 2024.

For more information on Trustees Hall, visit www.visitgalveston.com/blog/galvestons-rosenberg-library-unveils-trustees-hall-a-new-must-see-exhibit-space.
LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH DISCOUNTS AND PERKS

For Library Card Sign Up Month in September, the library partnered with local businesses including Hendley Market, Hey Mikey’s, Joy Nails, EATcetera, Galveston’s Own Farmers Market, the Bryan Museum and many more to encourage individuals to sign up for library cards and use those cards for a perk at the businesses.

Throughout the month, the community received discounted prices or goodies like stickers and bookmarks at participating businesses.

Twenty one businesses participated, and at least 124 additional library cardholders signed up because of the initiative.

LOCAL STUDENT NOMINATED AS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Abby Sonstein, a student from Trinity Episcopal, was nominated by Rosenberg Library’s Children’s Department as Southeast Texas’ Region 8 Student Representative at the Texas Library Association’s Bluebonnet Award Luncheon. She accepted the honor and joined nine other student representatives from across the state in meeting the Bluebonnet Award’s winning author and illustrator, experiencing the latest library exhibits and the best the library world has to offer.
In December, several of Charles Dickens’ descendants visited Rosenberg Library! In the morning, the family spoke live with an audience about their experiences both as descendants and about the Dickens on the Strand festival, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023. The family was also able to see first editions of Charles Dickens work from the library’s Galveston and Texas History Center.

Later in the evening, three of the descendants returned to share a special teatime with local children. Everyone wore era-relevant clothing and enjoyed sandwiches, polite conversation, and different types of tea!

In 2023, Rosenberg Library was honored to receive the Moody Family Papers and Business Records - more than 850 boxes of materials dated from 1743 to 1991 - from the Mary Moody Northen Endowment. The collection reveals the history of the cotton and insurance industries, the Civil War, slavery, local and national politics, and the social and cultural life of Galveston.

“The Rosenberg Library is a trusted resource for authors, historians, students, teachers and others researching the history of Galveston,” said Betty Massey, the Executive Director of the Mary Moody Northen Endowment. “Our Board of Directors believes placing Mary Moody Northen’s archives in the Library’s care will extend the reach of the collection to new audiences.”

The endowment also funded a new position, allowing Rosenberg Library to hire archivist Melinda Pleasant, who works to organize the collection.

Within the past year, the library’s archives were updated with high-density mobile shelving, adding 500 extra feet of shelving space - a 45% increase. Iron Mountain packaged, inventoried, and moved the archival collections while Southwest Solutions Group performed the installation. These changes allow for more historical items and materials to be donated and preserved, especially from underrepresented communities.