

FALL 2025



GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWS

Volume 23, Issue 2

Dickinson | Friendswood | Galveston | Hitchcock | La Marque | League City | Santa Fe | Texas City

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THE GALVESTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

provides funding for books, online services, audio/visual materials, programs and extension services through its continued support of the Galveston County Library System.



Dickinson Public Library

4411 Highway 3
Dickinson, TX 77539
dickinsonpubliclibrary.org
281.534.3812



Friendswood Public Library

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



Genevieve Miller Hitchcock Public Library

8005 Barry Ave.
Hitchcock, TX 77563
hitchcockpubliclibrary.org
409.986.7814



Helen Hall Library

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



La Marque Public Library

1011 Bayou Rd.
La Marque, TX 77568
lamarquelibRARY.org
409.938.9270



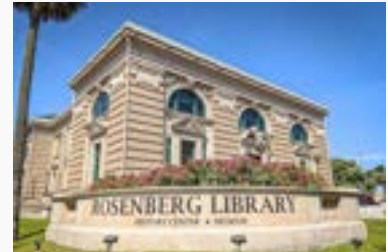
Mae S. Bruce Public Library

13302 6th St.
Santa Fe, TX 77510
ci.santa-fe.tx.us/library
409.925.5540



Moore Memorial Library

1701 9th Ave. N.
Texas City, TX 77590
library.texas-city.tx.gov
409.643.5977



Rosenberg Library History Center & Museum

2310 Sealy St.
Galveston, TX 77550
rosenberg-library.org
409.763.8854

DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 SUMMER READING 2025 AT DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This summer at the Dickinson Public Library was one for the books! Thanks to the generous support of the 2025 TLA-HEB Summer at the Library Grant and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant, we were able to host a season filled with imagination, discovery, and fun. Families joined us for lively Storytimes, creative crafts, special literacy activities and unforgettable experiences for all ages designed to spark a lifelong love of reading. Our community came together through engaging events that celebrated books while building connections across all ages.

We are so thankful to all of our participants, volunteers, and community partners who helped make Summer Reading 2025 a season of joy. Together, we celebrated the power of books and the connections they create—proving once again that reading truly does bring people together.



2 A YEAR OF CELEBRATION, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY

2025 has been such a bright and joyful year here at the Dickinson Public Library—one filled with creativity, laughter, and special moments for every age group. We kicked things off with our first-ever Baby Rave, where more than 100 little ones and their families filled the library with music, lights, and giggles. It was more than just adorable fun. It also supported early literacy and motor skill development, while giving caregivers a wonderful space to connect.

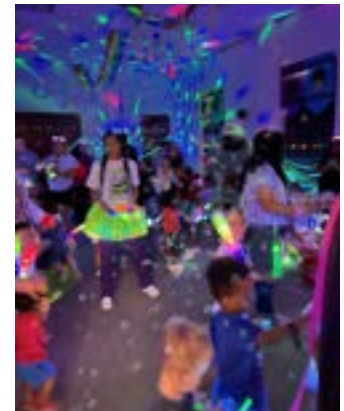
That same excitement carried into our DJ Dance Party & Petting Zoo, when the library parking lot transformed into a lively celebration. Families danced in the sunshine and children got to meet goats, rabbits, turtles, kangaroos, and more, many for the very first time! It was a chance to celebrate summer while also learning about animals up close. Our Storytimes were just as special, with fantastic guest readers who shared their love of books and taught kids about our city and the important work people do in our community.

For our teens, we opened the library after hours for an unforgettable Laser Tag Lock-In, turning the stacks into glowing battlegrounds. Between games, teens enjoyed snacks, swapped book recommendations, and built friendships, proving that the library is a place for fun and connection at every age.

Adults enjoyed a year-long celebration of Jane Austen's 250th birthday, complete with a graceful Tea Party featuring tea, sandwiches, and a lively round of trivia. This event brought readers and book club members together in a uniquely elegant way. We also added a touch of intrigue with our popular Murder Mystery Nights, giving patrons the chance to team up, play detective, and solve fictional crimes together.

Finally, at the heart of our community, our Adult YA Book Club continues to flourish. What began with a shared love of young adult fiction has grown into a group bound by friendship, conversation, and discovery. With support from the Friends of the Library who generously fund our books, this group has become one of the cornerstones of our programming.

From dancing and laughter to reading and friendship, this year has shown once again that the Dickinson Public Library is more than a building—it's a gathering place where creativity, learning, and community come together.



3 SUMMER FUN AND FAMILY MEMORIES

What a wonderful time we had at our Foam Party! The library's outdoor space was full of bubbles, laughter, and music. It was such a joy to watch children and families playing together and making memories. Every child left not only with smiles (and a little foam in their hair!) but also a free book, reminding us that fun and literacy can go hand in hand. We are so grateful for the Kona Ice truck that kept everyone cool and refreshed, and for our friends at the Dickinson Police Department who joined us after a fun Storytime to hand out popsicles. Events like these remind us just how special our community is and how powerful it can be when we all come together. At the library, our goal is always to create experiences that bring families closer, spark joy, and inspire a love of reading. The Foam Party was one of those magical days we'll remember for a long time—and we look forward to welcoming you back for more programs filled with laughter, learning, and connection.



4 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This year, we were proud to strengthen our ongoing partnership with Dickinson Independent School District by participating in a variety of school events such as Literacy Nights, Open Houses, and Back-to-School celebrations. These events permit us to connect with students, families, and educators, share library resources, and spark excitement about reading and lifelong learning. We're grateful for the opportunity to support our schools and be an active part of the DISD community year after year.

That spirit of collaboration extends to our continued support of the Dickinson Youth Action Council—a passionate group of student leaders committed to civic engagement and positive change. DYAC members have led impressive initiatives this year, including voter registration drives and community improvement projects that promote active citizenship. We're proud that the library serves as a welcoming hub for DYAC meetings, planning sessions, and youth-led collaboration.

Together with DISD, we're helping to create meaningful opportunities for young people to lead, serve, and grow. The library remains committed to empowering students—whether through literacy, leadership, or the shared goal of building a stronger, more connected community.

In collaboration with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Dickinson Public Library collected hundreds of articles of clothing to give away at our first-ever clothing drive! These items went to over 150 families. Fellow community members did their part by donating gently used clothing to the cause, so the donations were abundant. It was extraordinary to witness the generosity of the public and see how willing everyone was to help.

Looking ahead, we will continue actively seeking community partnerships and additional grants to help our library thrive. These resources are vital for creating wonderful, memorable experiences for everyone who visits the library.

We are incredibly grateful to our amazing partners, including Dickinson Feed Supply, Chick-fil-A, the DePelchin Group, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, the Dickinson Police Department, DISD, WIC, ConfiDenal, Galveston County Food Bank, Keep Dickinson Beautiful, and many others. Their ongoing support helps us maintain and expand the library as a welcoming, vibrant space where people of all ages can learn, grow, and connect.

Together, with our community's continued support, we look forward to providing even more exciting programs and resources that make the Dickinson Public Library a true cornerstone of the community.





5 DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY NAMED LIBRARY OF EXCELLENCE FOR 2025

We are thrilled to announce that the Dickinson Public Library has been honored with the prestigious Library of Excellence Award for 2025! This incredible achievement reflects the dedication, passion, and hard work of our entire staff, who go above and beyond every day to serve our community with creativity, professionalism, and heart.

Our team's commitment to providing outstanding programs, exceptional customer service, and a welcoming environment has made a lasting impact on patrons of all ages. From early literacy initiatives to engaging teen activities, from adult cultural events to innovative technology classes, our staff continuously strives to meet and exceed the diverse needs of Dickinson's residents. This award is a testament not only to our achievements but to the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and community care that defines the Dickinson Public Library. Every staff member's enthusiasm and dedication play a vital role in making our library a welcoming place for learning, connection, and inspiration.

We are incredibly proud of this recognition and remain motivated to build on this success, continuing to deliver high-quality services and programs that enrich lives and strengthen our community for years to come.



FRIENDSWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 INTRODUCING WEISS FINANCIAL RATINGS

Friendswood Library is excited to introduce Weiss Financial Ratings, a source for independent and unbiased financial analysis. Explore ratings and reports on banks, credit unions, insurance companies, stocks, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds. There are even step-by-step materials on how to become an investor and build habits for long-term financial health. With a Friendswood Library card, patrons can access this resource at greyhouse.weissratings.com.



2 A NEW OFFERING: BLACKSTONE UNLIMITED

We now offer Blackstone Unlimited, a digital service with unlimited audiobooks and e-magazines. Enjoy instant access with no holds, no waitlists, and no limits. Browse a wide range of genres and topics, then listen or read anytime on the app or online. To get started, visit blackstoneunlimited.com and create an account with your email address and Friendswood Library card.



3 WEEKLY CROCHET AND KNIT GROUP

Every Wednesday at 4 PM we host a Crochet and Knit group. Everyone is encouraged to bring current projects or start a new one. Crochet beginners are always welcome to join. Some yarn and hooks are provided, but feel free to bring your own supplies. This program is a great opportunity to meet other crafters, share ideas, and enjoy a relaxed setting to work on projects together.



4 INSPIRING ORIGINAL ART

This summer, we invited artists of all ages to “Color Our World” by picking up a canvas and showing their creativity. More than 300 canvases were taken home, and the community returned over 100 original works of art. The project came together in a gallery opening, celebrating the talent, imagination, and spirit of our community’s first-ever summer art exhibit.

5 SATURDAY WRITING WORKSHOPS

Every second Saturday of each month at 1 PM is our Writing Workshop hosted by Local Author Michael Bolinger. All writers and skill levels welcome, whether you write genre fiction, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, or essays. Sessions include guided exercises, constructive feedback, and time to share your work.



GENEVIEVE MILLER HITCHCOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 SUMMER READING FUN AT THE HITCHCOCK LIBRARY

The Hitchcock Public Library had a wonderful 2025 Summer Reading Program. We had several amazing guests such as Crocodile Encounter, Galveston Island State Park, Texas Snakes, Hitchcock Fire Department, and more! We had 130 patrons, ages birth to 16, participate in our reading challenge, and even more join us for our 6 weeks of programs. Our awesome readers read over 63,000 minutes! We hosted craft days and made some really amazing creations for Father's Day, 4th of July, Glow in the Dark Craft Day, and more. Next year, we hope to offer our Summer Reading Program for all ages! We had such a fun summer and can't wait to come back better than ever next year.



2 UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Story Time started back up in September! We offer a fun, interactive Story Time for ages 1 to 5 on Thursdays at 10:30 AM. Join us for songs, music, rhymes, books, and more!

STEAM Day is another program we will be offering again this fall. This program is designed for school aged students, and it's geared toward combining science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math to guide kids' inquiry, discussion, and problem-solving. Check out our monthly calendars for upcoming dates!

We also offer a Teen Day once a month for teens to come into the library, hang out and do fun activities with arts, games, and challenges.

In October, we will host our annual Trunk-Or-Treat program! Join us for some fall fun with decorated trunks, a costume contest, a moonwalk, games, Story Walk, and lots of fun! This event will be from 3 to 5 PM on Saturday, October 18.



HELEN HALL LIBRARY



1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES: BIG IDEAS FOR LITTLE LEARNERS

This spring and summer, our Children's Services team reimagined learning through fun, hands-on experiences designed to spark joy and curiosity. We kicked off spring with the return of our Spring Fling, welcoming families to our front lawn with sensory play, games, and sunshine during CCISD's spring break.

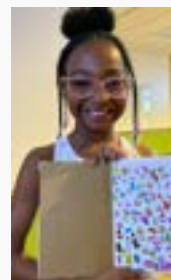
Our partnerships blossomed, too. Texas A&M AgriLife brought incubated chicken eggs to the library—eight chicks hatched and became an instant attraction for curious young patrons. The League City Water Production team stopped by with their mascot, Captain H2O, for a superhero-themed storytime on the importance of clean water.

Summer brought even more color—literally—with our annual Summer Kick-Off Party at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center, inspired by the “Color Your World” reading theme. With local businesses like Cool Cow Creamery joining in, we created a vibrant community celebration to launch our busiest season yet.

The Kidz Pacz food program, in partnership with the Galveston County Food Bank, provided much-needed meals to families, and Cow Tails at Chick-fil-A, our storytime outreach partnership, continued to reach new audiences outside our walls.

And the numbers speak volumes:

- 5,800+ attendees at children's programs this summer
- 1,292 Summer Reading participants aged 0–11
- 49,959 books read and 576,784 minutes logged
- 30% increase in reference questions answered in June 2025 vs. June 2024



From musical performances to shadow puppets, from 90s parties to scavenger hunts, the creativity didn't stop. Our new tween programs for ages 8–11 introduced engineering, teamwork, and fine arts and will continue this fall.

And we're not slowing down! Fall brings new programming like Baby Con (a resource fair for caregivers of babies aged 0–3), Story Launch (for ages 5–7), and two new monthly storytimes: Stories and STEM and Yoga Storytime. Plus, our Middle Grade Collection—newly restructured thanks to the efforts of our Children's and Technical Services teams—is making book browsing easier and more exciting than ever for kids ages 8–11.

2 TEEN SERVICES: EMPOWERED, ENGAGED, AND ON THE MOVE

Teens at Helen Hall Library had much to remember these last few months, thanks to an energetic lineup of programs built around creativity, life skills, and community.

Back by popular demand, Mafia Night and Teen Pokémon Trivia brought friendly competition and big laughs. Our Teen Advisory Board led events like Free Comic Book Day, welcoming readers of all ages, while our staff took outreach on the road, engaging more than 160 students and families at local intermediate schools.

New summer hits included:

- Excel Quest – conquering spreadsheets with confidence
- Teen Henna Workshop – learning intricate design and cultural art
- Double Feature Fridays – sharing movie magic together
- Teen Doodle Spot – a safe space to relax and create, now a regular program

And it paid off:

- June 2025: 25 programs, 560 attendees (30% increase over 2024)
- July 2025: 24 programs, 390 attendees (44% increase over 2024)
- Teen Summer Reading: 224 participants (12% increase from 2024)



In collaboration with Adult Services, we're also supporting older teens (ages 16–20) as they transition into adulthood. Mocktail Mixers and Face It: Portrait Drawing Basics, taught by League City's Artist-in-Residence Noah Nolet, helped young adults express themselves while making new connections.

This fall, we're launching even more: Teen Story Starters, Anime Art Workshops, Clay Creations, and themed events like Anime Trivia Night and Teen Boo Bash. Plus, thanks to a new Texas Reads grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, we'll launch our Teen Reading Resource Bags in November, bringing personalized reading kits and digital tools to teens across League City and Galveston County.



ADULT & NEW ADULT PROGRAMS: LEARNING, WELLNESS, AND JUST PLAIN FUN

Adult Services bloomed this year with an exciting mix of hands-on creativity, practical skills, and stress-relief strategies.

This spring, we hosted:

- Language lessons
- First-time home buyer tips
- Bee Keeping 101
- Medicare & reverse mortgage seminars
- Digital literacy workshops (from cloud storage to AI-powered job hunting)

Our wellness series included meditation classes, stress-reduction workshops, and even a guide to planning a stress-free Disney vacation. And our community came out in style for our Barbie Fashion Show, a pink-powered celebration for all ages!

Summer brought:

- Art workshops with local artists and spinners
- Sound Therapy with our City Librarian, Meredith Layton
- Musical Bingo, Craft & Hobby Exchange, and more

Our New Adult audience (ages 18–30) got in on the fun with:

- Bob Ross Painting Tutorials
- Puzzle Panic competitions
- Blackout Poetry
- D&D and Anime Club Sr.
- BYO Book Club
- Around the World in Many Mocktails

And our Summer Reading Program saw its biggest adult turnout ever:

- 564 registered adults, up 57% from last year!



4 REACHING OUT, MAKING IMPACT

With a new strategic plan in motion, Helen Hall Library is forging stronger community connections, boosting visibility, and taking services beyond the library's walls.

Services to senior residences and community centers is growing – now reaching Regal Estates and Lake Haven Apartment Homes in League City, as well as the Bayside Community Center in Bacliff. Partnering with the Ballpark at League City, the library hosted pop-up branch services in the lead-up to summer. Once a month, library staff bring Helen Hall Library to the Farmers Market on the Bayou, signing people up for new library cards, leading kids' crafts, and giving away free books, thanks to the Friends of Helen Hall Library.

Fueling this expanded outreach, the library recently received a Texas Book Festival grant to build a mobile collection packed with high-interest and high-demand titles. With the help of a retired and repurposed city vehicle – now transformed into the library's first "bookmobile" – staff can roll out with books, supplies, and services to meet the community where they are!



5 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOOKMOBILE VISITS HELEN HALL

This summer, Clear Creek Independent School District hit the road with its brand-new Voyager Bookmobile, delivering books, interactive STEM activities, and fun giveaways to local schools and community partners. Helen Hall Library was proud to be a weekly stop, teaming up with CCISD to spark curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning all summer long!



6 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENTS

In June, the library hosted a virtual author event featuring bestselling novelist Lisa Jewell, in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium (LSC). The session drew over 1,250 live and on-demand viewers. Its strong turnout helped spark an ongoing collaboration with LSC, through which the library now offers virtual visits with bestselling authors two to three times each month.



7 TECHNICAL SERVICES: POWERING UP YOUR LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Behind the scenes, the Technical Services team at Helen Hall Library has been hard at work making sure you have the best materials at your fingertips. As we near the end of our fiscal year, we're excited to share some impressive growth!

Our Library of Things just got a major upgrade, with over 50 board games, including classics like Jenga and Mahjong, plus 27 puzzles and 40 hobby kits ready for checkout. Game nights just got a whole lot better!

Accessibility is a priority, too. We're adding 100+ new children's braille books, including titles with braille superimposed on print, so both blind, low-vision, and sighted readers can enjoy stories together.

Using smart tools like the Baker & Taylor leasing program and our own data tracking, we've been keeping popular titles available and manageable on hold lists. In just six months, we've cataloged 5,476 new titles, processed over 1,000 interlibrary loan requests, and responded to 282 patron material requests.

We're proud to be the team that gets the best books, games, and kits from our shelves straight into your hands!



MAE S. BRUCE PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 A NOTE FROM OUR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Oh, what fun we had during our summer session this year! For the summer months, we had a record visitor count of 7,741 patrons. We added Hoopla to our digital reading platforms for our digital readers. We expanded our Children's and Teen programming, as well as a book club for the summer programming. The Texas Municipal Library Directors Association granted us our accreditation for the 2025-26 year. It was a powerful and wonderful summer!

~ Becky McClain, Library Director

2 KID'S ZONE

We had a colorful summer here at Mae Bruce Library. Some of the highlights included: A drive-in movie for the kids, where we made cars from cardboard boxes for the children to sit in, watch a movie, and eat popcorn. Two live animal shows (Lone Star Snakes & Creature Teacher), where we learned about snakes and met a baby kangaroo. Children earned charms for reading this summer; the Croc Bracelets for the reading program were a gigantic hit. We finished the summer with a glow-in-the-dark party for the kids, which included Putt-Putt Golf, highlighter art, crafts, snow cones, and popcorn, among other things. ~ Julie





3 TEEN ZONE

Journal Society celebrated its twenty-first summer at the Mae S. Bruce Library. During the summer we meet every week, discuss how journaling can help heal a broken heart, empathize with others, be a great thinker, develop self-awareness, and learn from great thinkers like Marcus Aurelius, Michel de Montaigne, LaRochefoucauld, and Taylor Swift. We also celebrated with one of our own members who graduated from Rice University and was accepted at Oxford University.

We ended the summer meetings with an extremely competitive game of Journal Society Jeopardy to see who has really been paying attention!

Journal Society resumed twice a month starting in September.

We would love to see you! ~ DeAnna Williamson, IT/Adult Librarian



MOORE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 FAMILY PLACE & PLAY&LEARN WORKSHOPS

Last year, Moore Memorial Public Library proudly joined the Family Place Libraries™ national network. Since debuting in summer 2024, our Family Place play area in the Children's Department has become a favorite spot for families. Response to our five-week Play&Learn Parent-Child Workshops has been outstanding. The first session in January 2025 was well attended, and demand for the August session was so high that an additional workshop was added in October to accommodate families on the waitlist. These engaging sessions will continue in the future, complemented by the Parenting Collection in the Children's Department, which offers resources on child development, nutrition, and more.



2 LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Moore Memorial Public Library's first Local Author Showcase was a wonderful celebration of community creativity and storytelling! Ten talented authors from Texas City and Galveston County shared their books, writing journeys, and signed copies with enthusiastic readers. From poetry and picture books to history, fiction, and motivational reads, visitors discovered a wide variety of local talent. The event was such a hit that every participating author is already planning to return for 2026, and we can't wait to welcome them back!



3 ONGOING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Moore Memorial Public Library offers a variety of fun and educational activities for kids throughout the school year. Weekly storytimes are held for toddlers (ages 1–3) and preschoolers (ages 3–5), while monthly programs for school-age children (ages 5–12) are usually scheduled on Saturdays. Recent highlights included creating mini piñatas for Cinco de Mayo.

Coming up this fall, families can enjoy Hispanic Heritage Month crafts in September, Thinking Money for Kids “Pet Cents” in November, and a Movie & Craft in December. During the October school break, look for Lego Free Build, Preschool Play, Thinking Money for Kids “Making Mooo-lah,” a Halloween movie and craft, and our ever-popular scavenger hunt.

Winter break will feature another scavenger hunt and a Thinking Money for Kids “Penny Pincher’s Party,” plus special children’s activities during our Winter Open House on Dec. 6.



4 GALVESTON COUNTY HISTORY ROUND-UP

Come one, come all to our first annual Galveston County History Round-Up! Community members are invited to bring photographs, letters, documents, and other meaningful items for this in-person digitization event. Collection experts will give you tips on how to care for your keepsakes and make sure you walk away with a flash drive of your digitized items. Bring family members along and with your cell phone, and create a short, interactive family oral history interview. The event is free, but registration is required. Just scan the QR code to sign up! A copy of all scanned items will be retained by the Archives of Galveston County. For more information call Theresa Mayfield, Moore Memorial Library at 409.949.3007.













Sponsored by the Museums & Archives of Galveston County

 SATURDAY NOV 8TH

 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

 TEXAS CITY MUSEUM
409 6TH ST. N., TEXAS CITY



TO REGISTER

Come one, come all to our first annual Galveston County History Round-Up! Community members are invited to bring photographs, letters, documents, and other meaningful items for this in-person digitization event! Collection experts will give you tips on how to care for your keepsakes and make sure you walk away with a flash drive of your digitized items!

Bring family members along and with your cell phone, and create a short, interactive family oral history interview! The event is FREE, but registration is required. Just scan the QR code to sign up! A copy of all scanned items will be retained by the Archives of Galveston County. For more information call Theresa Mayfield, Moore Memorial Library at 409-949-3007.

5 TSLAC AWARD

Moore Memorial Public Library is thrilled to share that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has once again awarded a TexTreasures grant to our library in the amount of \$49,538, marking the second consecutive year we've received this honor.

This is a project that is made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Grant # LS-259205-OLS-25) to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act. As a recipient of this grant, MMPL will work once again with the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History to digitize microfilm reels of the Texas City Sun newspaper from 1960-1971.

Currently, you can browse the Texas City Sun (1934-1959) on the Portal to Texas History (texashistory.unt.edu) and learn how Texas City survived the Depression, prospered during WWII and by the 1950s, truly began to live up to its motto that Texas City was the place to "Live, Work & Play." When this next batch of newspapers are online, coverage of the Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, and the space race are some of the significant stories that are headlined. You can also read about the growth of Texas City and the surrounding communities. Having the newspapers online provides an expanded resource for researchers, students and community members.



TEXAS STATE LIBRARY
AND
ARCHIVES COMMISSION

6 CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING – COLOR OUR WORLD!

The 2025 Summer Reading Program was a wonderful, fun, and delightfully messy success! Over eight weeks, Moore Memorial Public Library hosted 48 children's programs for more than 1,300 participants, kicking off with a colorful Messy Art event. Special guests included Chef Jimmy Graves, Texas Snake Show, Yoga for Kids, Mad Science, and puppeteer Mr. Leo. Creativity flowed as children painted, printed, wove, made puppets, beaded, and more.

The library's annual goal is to keep kids reading all summer so they're ready for the next school year, and this year's readers truly delivered. Sixty-nine children completed 201 reading logs, recording a total of 2,010 hours of reading, and judging by the steady stream of returned books, even more pages were turned! Moore Memorial Public Library wishes everyone a happy, successful school year and looks forward to another exciting summer of reading in 2026.





7 TEEN WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS AT MMPL

Knowing what resources are available for job hunting, paid internships, and scholarships is important for anyone wanting to enter the workforce, especially young adults. This past spring, on May 15, teens ages 16 – 18 attended an informative program about job hunting opportunities and more, facilitated by Workforce Solutions of Texas City. Attendees left understanding the different ways they could utilize the tools and resources offered at the local agency and how its employees can help begin paving the way for their future career paths. We look forward to this becoming a yearly spring program and to the partnership this will foster with teens and our local Workforce Solutions agency!



8 A COLORFUL SUMMER WITH TEENS

Teens “colored their personal worlds” with the myriads of programs offered this past summer. Our Henna 101 event, hosted by Henna Love of Houston, was one of the major highlights for our many artistic guests. Attendees learned the history behind the artform, mixed their own henna paste, created their own designs, then took home care instructions for their designs. For those wanting a more punk-rock program, our Decorative Geode Skull craft fit the bill as teens decked out their own miniature skulls with colored crushed glass and paints. And we can’t forget the delicious foods featured, either! Chef Jimmy Graves, a beloved local, stopped by to teach teens how cook a simple yet adaptable stir fry and Asian side salad, which each attendee made to their personal tastes. Lastly, members from our local gardening club lent teens a hand with starting their own potted herb gardens. As they explained the best methods for caring for basil, parsley, and mint, the members also offered teens bright and tasty dishes made with each herb. This summer was jam packed with programming fun. We can’t wait to have these presenters return next year!



9 TEEN MONEY MOVES 101 WITH AMOCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Understanding the importance of and maintaining a banking account is a must in today's digital world; more so now that nearly all expenses are paid online. That's why we recently had a representative of the local AMOCO Federal Credit Union branch stop by to present Money Moves 101: Banking Tips for Teens. Guests ages 12 through 18 learned common tasks associated with managing checking accounts, overdrafts and how to prevent them, and ways to manage their money online while keeping accounts safe from hackers - because it's never too early to build a foundation centered around fiscal responsibility as a young adult.



10 SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS SERIES

Our Small Business Success Series has been going strong, with local entrepreneurs and small business owners turning out each month to learn, connect, and grow. These free workshops, hosted in partnership with the Texas City Economic Development Corporation, Galveston County Small Business Development Center, and the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce, offer practical tools, expert guidance, and valuable networking opportunities to help businesses thrive.

Sign up to receive updates and reminders about the free Small Business Success Series Workshops! Subscribers will receive 1 to 2 emails per month with details about upcoming workshops, including topics, locations, and how to participate. Don't miss out. Join today and stay informed!



11 FUN FOR ADULTS AT MMPL

Moore Memorial Public Library isn't just for kids. We've been having plenty of fun with adult programs, too! Our monthly BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club, Adult Anime & Manga Night, and Board Game Nights continue to bring readers and gamers together for relaxed evenings of conversation and camaraderie. This summer's special events were especially popular: a Bluebonnet Tote Bag Craft brightened up spring, the Sun Catcher CD Craft added sparkle to August, and our thrilling True Crime Night, featuring Detective Sergeant Jeff Winstead discussing a real Texas City murder case that was swiftly solved, was a huge hit with a captivated crowd. With creativity, color, and even a real-life mystery, adult programming at MMPL proves the library is the perfect place to learn, create, and connect.



ROSENBERG LIBRARY



1 CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM SUCCESS

Our Children's Department hosted another summer full of exciting events and Summer Reading Program engagement and fun!

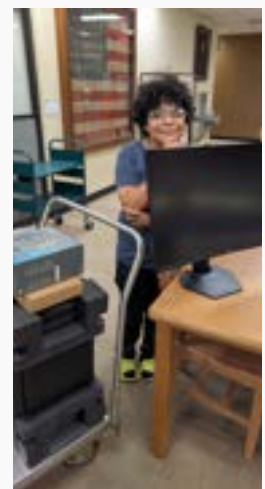
Our Palm Beach Summer Reading Kickoff Party, hosted and sponsored by Moody Gardens, was once again a huge success. Families joined us for a splash and kicked off the summer reading season in style by enjoying sun, fun, and Palm Beach's lazy river.

Reading hours were logged and prizes were received. We were even wowed by the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by many of our young patrons. Just look at the stack of books returned by one of our families! We are thankful for all our summer readers, and look forward to another exciting and eventful Summer Reading Program in 2026!



2 TEEN SUMMER READING PROGRAM RECAP

It feels like the summers pass faster every year, but maybe this year it was because the summer break was one week shorter! Our Teen Summer Reading Program finished up on August 9th, as the Galveston Independent School District planned to start a week earlier than usual. They'll be taking an extra week off during the December holidays to move into the newly-built Ball High School. Luckily, that didn't harm participation in the Teen Summer Reading Program too much. While we ended up with slightly fewer new registrations and less total time read, we still had phenomenal turnout for teen programs, had more active readers than usual, and a much-improved challenge completion rate. Our end-of-summer raffle prizes, which included two desktop gaming computers, definitely helped get teens excited for the Summer Reading Program and engaged!



3 TEEN AFTER HOURS: THE ROSENBERG SPEAKEASY

This summer, our Young Adult Librarian paired up with the History Center and Museum staff to put on a special Teen After Hours program entitled “The Rosenberg Speakeasy.”

History Center staff taught teens about what Galveston was like during Prohibition and up into the 1950’s, discussing old hotspots like the Balinese Room and how they’d play “The Eyes of Texas” when the Texas Rangers would show up for a raid.

After the presentation, with teens and staff dressed up in our most fashionable duds, teens participated in games of chance, from Plinko to roulette, to win points for Summer Reading Program prizes. This program was such a smash hit that it might be expanded to include a much wider audience next year!



4 TEEN AFTER HOURS: OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN

Implementing our second annual Teen After Hours: Overnight Lock-In as a way to close out the Teen Summer Reading Program was another resounding success as well. Teens got to paint under blacklights with neon paint, play dodgeball, enjoy games of laser tag, and learn about the spooky history of Galveston from author Kathleen Maca. Ms. Maca brought several ghost detection devices along, and teens were thrilled to be ‘speaking’ to a ghost right here in their library! Overnight programs are an exhausting endeavor, but it’s an event that teens will never forget – and those memories will remind them that the library is always there for them at any age.



5 FALL EVENTS

Looking forward, we have a lot of activities coming up in our Teen department. Nearly every day there's an after-school event, from Dungeons & Dragons to Artists' Alley Workshop, but the things teens are usually most excited about are our Friday Night After Hours programs. Party game nights, laser tag, and a Halloween shindig are the big tickets on our fall agenda!



6 COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer services at the Rosenberg Library are expanding! We now offer one-on-one digital assistance appointments for adults desiring personalized assistance with a variety of technology-based tasks. These free 45-minute appointments can be scheduled by library patrons wanting to create an email account, develop a spreadsheet, conduct an online job search, format a resume, submit forms and applications, access the library's digital resources, and more.

Computer classes will also be starting up again this fall. Classes offered in the upcoming months include Computer Basics, Using Microsoft Word, Introduction to Google Docs and Google Drive, and a Resume Writing Workshop.

Through the everyday assistance provided in the library's computer lab, our printing, scanning, and faxing services, new one-on-one digital assistance appointments, and our updated computer classes, we are meeting the evolving digital needs of our entire Rosenberg Library community.



7 MUSEUM UPDATE

"The Great Storm of 1900" exhibit in our Harris Gallery has been refreshed! We are proud to announce that the exhibit is now the new home of "The Great Storm" film, and visitors can view it anytime on demand during our normal library hours.

In addition to the film, recent exhibit updates include storm photographs that were not on display previously, as well as recovered artifacts that also serve as powerful reminders of the severity of the storm.

