

SPRING 2026



GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWS

Volume 24, Issue 1

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

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STATISTICS

GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



736,322

LIBRARY VISITORS

Up 5.6%
from previous year



1,345,814

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

Up 6.8%
from previous year



139,872

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Down 1.9%
from previous year

1,425,188

TOTAL WEBSITE HITS

Up 2.8% from the previous year

104,117

COMPUTER USERS

Down 5.7% from previous year

212,099

WI-FI USERS

Down 7.6% from previous year*

244,952

REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS

Up .69% from previous year

159,757

IN-HOUSE USE

Down 6.3% from previous year

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

FY 2025-2026

FINANCES

GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM



\$109,914

EXTENSION SERVICES

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

These funds help provide training opportunities for all staff of member libraries.

\$2,661

PROGRAMMING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT



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



\$465,705

DIRECT ALLOCATION

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

\$35,760

ADMINISTRATION



TOTAL SPENT: \$614,040

EXTENSION SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Extension Services continues to serve a critical role in providing library services to Galveston County residents who would otherwise not be able to participate.

Marilyn Lyons, Extension Services Assistant II, pictured below, is based out of Galveston's Rosenberg Library and has served in her role for more than 41 years. She continues to provide delivery service to institutions and individuals countywide. This service is especially critical to individuals with longterm disabilities, those who are visually impaired, and those who are homebound. Read below for some comments from the community about this vital program.



Introducing ... the new GCLS van! Generously funded by the Galveston County Commissioners Court, you'll soon see this van all over Galveston County, with a brand new van wrap design coming soon!



Marilyn Lyons,
Extension Services
Assistant II

“

“This wonderful service has been a part of our program at The Children's Coalition Galveston for about 13 years. We love and appreciate you Marilyn!”

- Mary Musick, Assistant Director

“What a rewarding and wonderful service for all!”

- Kenneth Marvin Brown

“One of the many reasons to support libraries! It's not just about books but about serving the community.”

- Kristie Jones

”

10,587

ITEMS
DELIVERED

(Up .41%)

676

HOMEBOUND
VISITS

(Down 4.7%)

GALVESTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

The GCLS Advisory Council serves as an advisory board to the GCLS and the Rosenberg Library, which by contract with the County serves as the headquarters library for the 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 the GCLS. In 2025, the Council met on April 8 and Oct. 14.

The Advisory Council is scheduled to meet April 14 at the Rosenberg Library and Oct. 13 at the Helen Hall Library. Meetings are at 12 PM.

GCLS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 2025-2026 Advisory Council is comprised of the following members:

Lanette Lashway, Chair
(League City)

Kathleen Brooks
(Hitchcock)

Stephanie Carter
(Santa Fe)

Helena Aucoin
(Galveston)

Laura Childs
(Dickinson)

Christina Bergvall
(Texas City)

Christopher Lane
(La Marque)

Diane Freeman
(Friendswood)

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
dickinsontexas.gov/1121/dickinson-public-library
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
cityoflamarque.gov/216/La-Marque-Public-Library
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.texascitytx.gov
409.643.5979



Rosenberg Library History Center & Museum
2310 Sealy St.
Galveston, TX 77550
rosenberg-library.org
409.763.8854

DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1 CHICK-FIL-A TEA PARTY

We hosted a Chick-fil-A themed tea party for our families, and it turned out to be such a joyful and memorable gathering. Families came together to enjoy an afternoon filled with laughter, conversation, and community connection. Chick-fil-A partnered with us to make the event extra special by providing delicious treats and refreshing drinks for everyone who attended.

From the moment guests arrived, there was a warm, welcoming atmosphere, kids chatting excitedly, parents relaxing and catching up, and plenty of smiles all around. The treats were a huge hit, and the drinks kept everyone refreshed as we enjoyed spending time together.

We're grateful to Chick-fil-A for their generosity and to all the families who came out and helped make the day such a success. We truly had a wonderful time, and we're already looking forward to the next opportunity to bring our community together.



2 FRIENDS OF THE DICKINSON PUBLIC LIBRARY DONATION

Our Friends of the Dickinson Public Library donated \$1,000 to help us give out books during our Pictures with Santa event, and we couldn't be more grateful. Their support means that every child who comes to see Santa will get to take home a brand new book to enjoy, and that's a gift that lasts far beyond the holiday season.

We're truly honored to have such caring and dedicated friends standing beside us. Their generosity helps us create moments of joy, spark a love of reading, and make our community feel a little brighter. We appreciate them more than words can say, and we're so thankful for everything they do to help our library grow and thrive.



3 DUNBAR MIDDLE SCHOOL VISIT

Our staff had the chance to visit Dunbar Middle School, and it was such a meaningful experience. We brought books to donate to the students as part of our ongoing effort to encourage early literacy, not just inside the library, but throughout our local schools as well.

Getting to place books directly into the hands of young readers is always a special moment. It's a reminder of why we do what we do: to spark curiosity, support learning, and help kids discover stories that stay with them. We're grateful for the opportunity to partner with our schools and continue building a strong culture of reading in our community.



4 TEXAS AMERICA250 POP-UP EXHIBITS

We are excited to celebrate and explore our nation's history with the traveling Texas America250 pop-up exhibit provided by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. It's a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, learn, and connect with the stories that helped shape our country. The exhibit brings history to life in a way that's engaging, hands on, and fun for all ages, and we're thrilled to share this experience with everyone who visits.



5 COMMUNITY CLOTHING AND TOY DRIVE

We recently hosted a community clothing and toy drive, and with Christmas right around the corner at the time, our goal was simple: to help make the holidays a little brighter for families who needed it. What made this effort truly special was the way our community showed up.

People donated clothes, toys, and so many thoughtful items, and they helped spread the word. Because of that support, the drive became a huge success. It was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with kindness and generosity at the heart of it.

We're incredibly grateful for everyone who contributed and helped make the season a little more magical for others.



FRIENDSWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 ZAKI CON 2026

Friendswood Public Library's annual anime and pop culture convention, Zaki Con, returned in January. This free, family-friendly event is planned and run with assistance from the library's Teen Advisory Group. Inspired by their love of the Japanese animation studio Studio Ghibli, our teen volunteers and librarians design a weekend of movies, crafts, interactive gaming, costume contests, and more with the aim of engaging the community and sharing a love of Japanese anime and manga. Popular attractions such as the Artist Alley and pop-up Cat Café drew large crowds, as did the introduction of food trucks in the parking lot.

Each year, the Teen Advisory Group selects three to four films to screen during the convention, both from Studio Ghibli's collection and other studios with a similar vibe. The featured Studio Ghibli films form the theme for the convention which is reflected in a new logo that is chosen through a Logo Design Contest ahead of the convention. Crafts inspired by the films are offered after each screening so viewers can take home a little souvenir to remember the movie. This year, an ongoing speedrun competition was held to test gamers' abilities at beating a level of the video game Celeste. The competition brought in a mix of first-time players and experienced e-sport athletes. The annual cosplay contest featured lots of handmade costumes that reflected the love and deep knowledge our young patrons have for their favorite characters in film, video games, and books.

The Artist Alley, which features local artists and vendors, is possibly the centerpiece of the entire weekend. More than 50 artists and vendors - Teen makers, crocheters, digital and traditional artists - filled up the available space less than 12 hours after the initial application opened. Attendees could find almost anything to satisfy their geeky hearts. Our partnership with Friendswood Animal Services and two local boba shops made the return of the pop-up Cat Café a success. Adoptable cats and kittens were petted and cooed over, while attendees sipped sweet drinks and ate delicious cookies.



For the first time, Zaki Con was happy to offer food from several area food trucks. Attendees were able to spend the whole day at the convention without having to leave the library for food! Beers' Rolling Smoke BBQ, Moo's Mobile Beverage Buggy, and Island Bread Co. were all available for lunch and dinner throughout the weekend.

Every year, the Teen Advisory Group and librarians search for ways to make the event even better, and this year we were proud to host more than 3,000 attendees at Zaki Con 2026. We look forward to planning the next convention!

2 NEW READING CHALLENGE

Friendswood Public Library has a new reading challenge on Beanstack for all ages. Read to Feed encourages patrons to log their reading and complete activities while learning about ways to help others in need. Readers track books, earn badges, and unlock donations by reaching reading milestones. For every 2,000 minutes read, a flock of chicks is donated through Heifer International.



3 CAREER AND RESUME WORKSHOP

Friendswood Public Library offers monthly Career and Resume Workshops designed to help patrons build job search skills and improve workforce readiness. These workshops include guidance on resume writing, cover letters, LinkedIn profile optimization, and the use of AI tools for job searching. For upcoming workshops, visit the events page on our website.



4 NEW BOOK CLUB - CLASSIC SHORTS

Friendswood Public Library's Classic Shorts Book Club invites participants to discuss influential short stories from the 19th and 20th centuries while exploring the life and times of each author. Many of the selected works are in the public domain and are widely available online at no cost, making the program accessible to all readers. For upcoming book club dates, visit the events page on our website.



5 HOME DELIVERY

Friendswood Public Library offers home delivery service for Friendswood residents who are unable to visit the library due to age or temporary or long-term physical or medical limitations. Patrons may request titles or have library staff select materials based on their interests, ensuring continued access to books and library resources from home.



GENEVIEVE MILLER HITCHCOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY



1 SPRING UPCOMING EVENTS

Each week, our library hosts a storytime for ages 1-5. We sing, dance, learn rhymes, do sign language, enjoy crafts and experiments, and of course, read amazing books! Join us at 10:30 AM every Thursday.

STEAM Day is another program we offer 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 out our monthly calendars for upcoming dates!

The Sit & Chat Sewing Club is a new program we offer at 10 AM every other Thursday morning. Join our club to sit and chat with new friends while sewing, crocheting, cross stitching, and more!

Our music class meets at 2:30 PM every Tuesday. "The Rockin' Recorders" group performed at our annual Christmas Open House and did a fantastic job! Join us to learn how to play the recorder and join this rockin' group!

We also host a monthly family craft event one Saturday each month. This craft is great for all ages to come together and make art. Check out the monthly calendar on our website or our Facebook page for the latest dates and information. We also have craft bags available every month for patrons to do in the library or take home!

2 TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

We hosted our annual Trunk or Treat program in October. The turnout was remarkable with more than 200 attendees! Our wonderful volunteers decorated their trunks and distributed candy and treats to the trick-or-treaters. We had games, moonwalks, and lots of fun in our park. There were so many amazing costumes and volunteers! We can't wait to host this again!



3 SPECIAL GUESTS AT STORYTIME!

In November, we hosted a Day of the Dead storytime with special guest writer, Eloísa Pérez-Lozano! The children explored the holiday traditions of Día De Los Muertos and engaged in a delightful and vibrant craft.

In December, we had a special guest for storytime - the one and only Mrs. Claus! She brought joy and cheer to all the children who attended. We sang songs, read books, learned rhymes and had a jolly time! Join us next December when we welcome her back for another fabulous seasonal storytime event.



4 SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2026

We have made it to the most wonderful time of the year. We're preparing for our annual Summer Reading Program! We are thrilled for this year's theme, which is, "Unearth a Story." We've already secured Orbit from the Houston Astros, Crocodile Encounter, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and several other exciting programs and possibilities. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates as we approach summertime!



HELEN HALL LIBRARY



1 GROWTH, CONNECTION, AND MOMENTUM

Over the past six months, Helen Hall Library has deepened its role as a vibrant center of learning, creativity, and connection for League City. Through expanded outreach, innovative programming, and strengthened partnerships, the library continues to evolve alongside the community it serves. Through every display, every storytime, every conversation, the library remains focused on creating meaningful experiences for residents of all ages.



2 CELEBRATING SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

This year, League City's Steve Jones Inspiration Award was presented to longtime library volunteer Linnet Thomas (pictured right) who is a testament to the quiet but powerful impact of sustained service. For more than two decades, Linnet has embodied the spirit of curiosity, generosity, and joy that defines Helen Hall Library. Seeing a library volunteer honored with an award named for a former library staff member is a meaningful reminder that our greatest strength is our people.



That spirit was on full display during seasonal celebrations. More than 500 community members filled the library for our Holiday Open House, sharing music, creativity, and connection. The Friends of Helen Hall Library launched their first silent auction in conjunction with the event, raising more than \$2,000 to expand mobile services and fuel greater access.

In the spring, more than 200 children and caregivers transformed the municipal complex into a joyful Mardi Gras parade, complete with decorated bikes, music, and handmade masks. This celebration of imagination and togetherness had such a positive community response and support that plans are in the works for Mardi Gras 2027! 15



3 OUTREACH THAT BUILDS OPPORTUNITY

Intentional outreach efforts resulted in a 120-percent increase in community contacts over the past year, not simply a growth in numbers, but in relationships. From Eco-Fest to Pumpkin Palooza and YMCA Trunk-or-Treat, the library showed up consistently and visibly, reinforcing its role as an active community partner. Those connections have already opened new doors. Educational organizations, teen-led nonprofits, and local schools have reached out to collaborate, expanding the library’s impact well beyond its physical space. New bookmobile stops at Wellby Financial and The Crossings Retirement Community ensure that access to library resources continues to reach residents where they are.



4 EARLY LITERACY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The inaugural Baby Con welcomed 180 attendees and eight partner organizations, placing trusted resources directly into the hands of young families. The feedback was clear: families left informed, supported, and grateful. Planning for the second annual event is already underway.

Storytimes continue to evolve in creative ways, from Children's Yoga to First Responder Storytime, blending literacy, movement, and civic partnership. Seasonal programs drew strong participation, while passive programs such as Blind Playdate with a Book sparked curiosity and significantly boosted circulation.



Expanded Braille collections and the addition of AWE early literacy computers reflect an ongoing commitment to inclusion and equitable access, ensuring every child can discover the joy of reading in ways that meet their needs.



5 TEEN INNOVATION AND BELONGING

Teen Services has created spaces where confidence grows alongside creativity. Teen Story Starters removes traditional barriers to book clubs, inviting teens into a relaxed, welcoming environment that has already inspired participants to read aloud and explore new genres.

Hands-on workshops, trivia nights, and themed after-hours events reinforce the library as a safe and engaging space for teens to connect. Skill-building programs such as Teen LEGO® Lounge and Teen Code Breakers demonstrate that fun and intellectual growth can thrive together.

Through the Texas Reads grant-supported Teen Reading Resource Bags initiative and expanded school visits, hundreds of teens have been connected to personalized reading resources, strengthening literacy while building lasting relationships.





6 A COMMUNITY THAT LEARNS TOGETHER

Adult programming reflects the same spirit of growth and exploration. Book clubs are thriving, personalized book boxes have nearly tripled in participation, and language classes continue to expand.

Programs centered on wellness, creativity, financial literacy, and emerging technologies reflect a broader vision: supporting not just reading, but quality of life. From sound bath meditation to artificial intelligence workshops, residents are finding new tools for growth, both personally and professionally.

When community members took the stage at Helen Hall Library's Got Talent, it was more than entertainment; it was a celebration of shared creativity and courage.



MAE S. BRUCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1 A NOTE FROM OUR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Hello, everyone! We had a blast last fall with all of our activities and patrons coming to use our computers. Our numbers remain stable as we look back at a successful fall season and move throughout an exciting spring. The number of circulations last October was 2,230, with 1,308 in November, and 1,961 in December. Our door count remains steady: October - 2,689, November- 1,856, and December - 1,849. We also saw successful numbers for programming. We hosted 30 programs in October with 1,059 in attendance; 20 programs in November with 482 in attendance (minus one week for Thanksgiving); and 26 programs in December with 628 in attendance.

~ Becky McClain, Library Director

2 RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Fall Story Hour: We enjoyed visits from Santa Fe's fire and police departments. We made pizza, had a monster hunt outside, decorated spooky cupcakes, played mini golf, dressed up for a Halloween Party, decorated sugar cones to look like Christmas trees, had an ugly sweater party with popcorn and a hot cocoa bar, and a Christmas party with both our Home School and Story Hour groups.



3 HOME SCHOOL

Our Home School group had a visit from the Rockin D Longhorns ranch in Santa Fe. They also celebrated Día De Los Muertos with special guest writer, Eloísa Pérez-Lozano, learned about insects with Chris Mantooth, and learned about the water system with Jason Maldonado.



4 AND MORE!

We also have a monthly Scavenger Hunt put together by Alex Duran (pictured right), one of our teen volunteers. We love our volunteers! Our take-home crafts and a community coloring page are a big hit with our patrons.



MOORE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

1 ADULT PROGRAMMING: A SEASON TO REMEMBER

The past six months have been strong for adult programming! While our recurring programs continue to draw steady attendance, we'd like to highlight some of our special programs. True crime enthusiasts filled the room when Detective Sgt. Jeff Winstead returned for another fascinating behind-the-scenes look at real-life Texas City-area criminal investigations. With his oversight of the Criminal Investigations Division, Crime Scene Investigations, and the Digital Forensics Laboratory, Sgt. Winstead gave attendees a rare, insider perspective on how crimes are actually solved, and patrons are already looking forward to his return during Police Week in May.

The library "kitchen" was alive with laughter, great smells, and good company when Chef Jimmy Graves led a hands-on cooking class this past October. Patrons came hungry and left happy with a new recipe in hand and new friendships formed, and we plan on inviting Chef Jimmy back for more culinary fun in the upcoming year. Our Sourdough 101 workshop was such a great success that we had to add a second class to meet demand. Participants went home with their very own active sourdough starters, and by now, Texas City kitchens are hopefully bubbling with fresh-baked goodness. Our crochet program has also been a beloved staple, with patrons turning out enthusiastically for festive crafting sessions like our December mini yarn Christmas tree ornament workshop. Whether it's learning about local investigations, mastering a new dish, baking bread from scratch, or crafting something to take home, we hope to offer programming that brings our residents together in meaningful and memorable ways.



2 TEXAS CITY ANCESTRY SEARCHERS: FIFTY YEARS OF PRESERVING FAMILY HISTORY

What began on March 3, 1976, when nine women gathered with little more than a shared passion for family history, became one of Galveston County's most enduring contributions to local history - the Texas City Ancestry Searchers (TCAS). In those early days, the library's genealogy collection was modest at best, but TCAS wasted no time changing that, fundraising to purchase materials and donating to Moore Memorial Public Library every spring. By the 1980s, members were walking Galveston County cemeteries with notebooks in hand, carefully recording every tombstone they could find, work that was compiled into four volumes and donated back to the library and is still in the collection today. Members simultaneously collaborated with staff on the Texas City Oral History Project, preserving community voices before they could be lost to time. Moore Memorial became a genuine destination for genealogical research, and between 2006 and 2008, a comprehensive county-wide cemetery survey resulted in thousands of tombstone records uploaded to FindAGrave.com, where they remain a resource for researchers around the world today.

Fifty years later, TCAS is still going strong and continues to bring outstanding programming to the community. In the past few months, members and guests have explored the extraordinary life of Amelia Earhart in a presentation facilitated by the Lone Star Flight Museum, discovered the hidden stories behind cemetery markers and symbols with genealogist and historian Esther Camacho, and learned top tips for unlocking family connections through FindAGrave.com from longtime historian Melodey Hauch. Whether you're deep into your own family research or simply curious about local history, the Texas City Ancestry Searchers warmly welcome you, because all stories deserve to be told, and this dedicated group has spent fifty years making sure yours can be.



3

2025 ACHIEVEMENT OF EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARIES AWARD

Moore Memorial Public Library has been honored with the 2025 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award from the Texas Municipal Library Directors Association (TMLDA), marking the third consecutive year the library has received this distinction. This prestigious award recognizes libraries that demonstrate excellence across ten key service areas, including service to underserved and special populations, collaborative community partnerships, innovative and expanded programming, literacy support, and digital inclusion. Out of 516 public libraries across Texas, only 101 earned this award in 2025, placing Moore Memorial Public Library in the top 20 percent of public libraries statewide. We are pleased to continue serving the Texas City area with high-quality services and programs. Thank you to our staff, partners, and supporters whose dedication made this achievement possible.



4

INTRODUCING THE MMPL DIGITAL LAB: CREATE, PRESERVE, AND EXPLORE

Moore Memorial Public Library is thrilled to introduce the Digital Lab, a designated space designed to help patrons preserve cherished memories, explore new technology, and unleash their creativity. Do you have boxes of old VHS tapes, cassette recordings, slides, negatives, or faded photographs tucked away at home? The Digitization Space makes it easier than ever to breathe new life into those family treasures by converting them into digital formats you can save, share, and enjoy for generations to come. State-of-the-art scanners and digitization equipment are available by appointment, and training is provided to ensure every patron feels confident and capable from the moment they sit down.

But the Digital Lab isn't just about preserving the past, it's also a launchpad for brand-new ideas! Our 3D printer gives patrons the ability to design and print nearly anything their imagination can dream up, with access to beginner-friendly computer-aided design programs like Tinkercad and Prusa slicing software to bring designs to life. All it takes to get started is attending a free, one-time orientation class where you'll learn the basics of 3D design, safety, and setup. No experience necessary! Orientations are scheduled throughout the year, so keep an eye on our online calendar and social media for upcoming dates.

Whether you're a family historian, a budding designer, a student, or simply someone who loves exploring what technology can do, the MMPL Digital Lab has something for you. Appointments for both digitization and 3D printing can be made by calling 409-643-5977. Come explore, create, and discover what's possible right here at your library!



5 2ND ANNUAL LOCAL AUTHOR SHOWCASE: CELEBRATING THE VOICES OF OUR COMMUNITY

Last year's inaugural Local Author Showcase was a wonderful celebration of creativity, connection, and local talent, and we are excited to announce that it's coming back! Moore Memorial Public Library will host the 2nd Annual Local Author Showcase from 11 AM to 2 PM Saturday, April 25, bringing together published authors from Texas City and Galveston County for an afternoon of storytelling, connection, and discovery. Attendees will have the chance to browse a diverse collection of locally written books, chat with authors about their writing journeys, and purchase personally signed copies, perfect for gifts or treating yourself!

Whether you love fiction, history, poetry, children's books, or something in between, there is something for every reader at this event. Last year's showcase featured an impressive lineup of talented local voices spanning an incredible range of genres, and this year promises to be even better. Come support the authors who call our county home and discover your next favorite book right here in Texas City. We look forward to seeing you there. This is one event you won't want to miss!



6 TEEN PROGRAMS: FRIDAY FUN AND A NEW FAN FAVORITE

Friday afternoons at Moore Memorial are the place to be for teens! Our beloved recurring programs (Jackbox & Board Games, Creativity Club, and D&D Club) continue to draw enthusiastic crowds of teens looking for a welcoming space to hang out, create, and connect. For 2026, we added something new to the mix, and it has quickly become a runaway hit: the Monthly Mini Con! This anime, manga, and comic enthusiast club brings together teens ages 12 to 18 for an afternoon packed with trivia competitions, character-versus-character debates, video gaming sessions, comic book and manga discussions, art creation, pinback button making, music, snacks, casual or full cosplay, and more. Teens also get a voice in shaping the club's future by voting on upcoming activities, because this is their space!

What makes these programs so special is the fellowship they create. Whether a teen walks in as a seasoned Dungeon Master, a die-hard anime fan, or simply someone looking for something fun to do on a Friday afternoon, they leave having made connections and memories. The Monthly Mini Con in particular has tapped into something real, a desire for teens to geek out together in a judgment-free zone where every fandom is welcome. We can't wait to see where the rest of the year takes us!



7 SUMMER 2026: UNEARTH A STORY!

Get ready to dig in - the 2026 Summer Reading Program is almost here! This year's theme is "Unearth a Story," and we are busy planning a summer full of free, fun programming for children ages 1 to 12 and teens ages 12 to 18 throughout June and July. Kicking things off in style, our 4th Annual Summer Reading Program Kickoff will be a dinosaur extravaganza featuring Jurassic Extreme Houston's walking dinosaurs, a dinosaur inflatable combo, bubbles, dino-themed games and activities, face painting, and more!

This summer's incredible lineup of special guests includes the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Science Heroes, a YAH Yoga instructor, Mr. Leo's Magic and Puppet Show, ARMA Houston, and everyone's favorite, Chef Jimmy Graves, plus a variety of additional programs each week. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details and dates as they are announced. It's going to be an unforgettable summer!



8 WINTER OPEN HOUSE: A SEASON OF COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY

The 2nd Annual Winter Open House, generously sponsored by the Friends of Moore Memorial Public Library, was a wonderful afternoon of holiday cheer and connection! Last December, guests of all ages gathered for cookies, hot cocoa, games, crafts, button-making, and a scavenger hunt, plus the chance to win prizes. The energy in the library was warm and festive, and it was a joy to see so many patrons come together to celebrate the season.

This year we added something extra special to the mix with our very first Winter Art Contest: Gingerbread Man Decorating! Beginning in mid-November, patrons picked up paper gingerbread men to take home and decorate with whatever supplies and creativity they could muster. The results were impressive, entries were turned in at the Open House, and the community got to be part of the fun by voting for their favorites on Facebook. We're already dreaming up what comes next!



9 PRESERVING THE PAST: LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAMMING

Moore Memorial Public Library was proud to play a central role in helping develop and launch the first-ever Galveston County History Round-Up, a landmark collaborative event held last November at the Texas City Museum. Partnering with the Galveston County Museum, Galveston County Historical Commission, Rosenberg Library, Texas City Museum, League City Historical Society, College of the Mainland, Dickinson Public Library, and Helen Hall Library, MMPL helped bring this county-wide digitization event to life. Residents came in with photographs, letters, land records, and fragile documents. More than 40 historic family items were digitized on-site, with each participant leaving with a flash drive of their treasured materials. Among the most memorable submissions was a striking 1922 photograph of a young Daily News paperboy, a reminder of just how much history is quietly waiting in family collections across our county. All digitized materials will be preserved in a shared digital archive through the Archives and Museums of Galveston County, ensuring these stories remain accessible for future generations. The event was such a success that organizers have already scheduled the next Round-Up for November 2026, so start setting those family photos and documents aside!



MMPL also participated in the second annual statewide virtual Genealogy Lock-In, organized by the Genealogy Network of Texas and the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. This full-day event offered genealogy enthusiasts an impressive lineup of seminars covering everything from biographical writing and civil court records to Scandinavian ancestry research and harnessing AI as a genealogy tool. Whether patrons were just beginning their family history journey or were seasoned researchers looking to sharpen their skills, the Lock-In offered something valuable for every level, all from the comfort of home. Be on the lookout for this year's event information in the fall.

10 OUT IN THE COMMUNITY: MMPL TAKES THE LIBRARY BEYOND OUR WALLS

MMPL believes that serving our neighbors means showing up wherever we are needed, and this past season was packed with opportunities to do just that! We joined the fun at Texas City's Touch-A-Truck event, where staff set up a pumpkin painting station alongside the Friends of Moore Memorial Public Library who brought out family crafts for the crowd. We participated in the city's annual Halloween Festival trunk-or-treat, passing out candy and connecting with families. We also had a pop-up library table at the TC Garden Club Holiday Market, represented the library at Guajardo Elementary's annual Career Fair, and were happy to participate in College of the Mainland's Fiesta Comunidad, a vibrant celebration honoring the cultures, traditions, and contributions of the Hispanic community, where we shared coloring activities, program resources, and signed up new library card holders.



Beyond the fun events, MMPL was also proud to show up for some of the most meaningful work happening across our city. We participated in Homeless Navigation Day, distributing information about local resources and signing people up for library cards. We welcomed Communities in Schools of Galveston County for part of their November staff training day, sharing the wide range of county library resources available to the students and families they serve. We also presented at the Recovery Oriented Systems of Care monthly meeting, highlighting library resources to a room full of nonprofit and recovery service providers from across Galveston County. From festivals to resource fairs to staff trainings, we are proud to be a library that meets people where they are.



ROSENBERG LIBRARY

1 CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT THRIVES WITH CREATIVE PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Rosenberg Library's Children's Department continues to thrive by providing a packed calendar of thoughtful programming for children of all ages and their families.

Our Breakfast with Santa, held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, is always a fun event! It was a festive, joyful and well-attended occasion once again, and we're so thankful for all who joined.

We gave families a reason to "let the good times roll" at our library during Galveston's energized Mardi Gras season by providing a fun Fat Tuesday pancake supper with special guest Chef Ashley Zendt! Attendees made their own edible pancake works of art and enjoyed Mardi Gras-themed stories and activities during this bright, tasty, and free family event.

We were thrilled to see a crowd full of faces, (familiar families and new ones, too!) when the Huyen Quang Lion Dance Team from Houston joined us to celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Fire Horse. The exciting team put on a vibrant outdoor performance that undoubtedly delivered excitement and wonder.

Lastly, we've enjoyed hosting a variety of nature-focused programs in partnership with the Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists.

From programs highlighting raccoons and snakes to learning about Gyotaku or fish printing - a traditional Japanese art form that creates prints of fish - our minds have been expanded and curiosity has been sparked!



2 TEENS VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

From our Young Adult Librarian, Dustan Archer: Every year we host an After Hours event for the Rosenberg Library teens to celebrate Anti-Valentine's Day, a day in which teens who aren't so interested in romance and the holiday can commiserate, poke fun at, and celebrate their single-ness together. This year we watched "Ten Things I Hate About You," made duct tape roses, and worked on decorating sassy coloring sheets and postcards while eating smelly snacks to encourage people not to kiss them.

The last half of our evening was devoted to "Stupid Cupid" - a homemade version of a popular game called Werewolf, in which players are divided into two teams - the Heartbreakers and the Heartbroken (Werewolves and Villagers, respectively). The game is one of social deduction, where each team is trying to eliminate the other. All roles are secret, and anyone can claim to be whatever they want - roles are only revealed after a player is eliminated! All of the players are starting a new year in high school, and over the course of 'weeks' or just a few minutes in the game across multiple rounds, the Heartbroken must deduce who the Heartbreakers are and vote them out. Meanwhile, on the 'weekend' at the end of a round (where everyone's eyes are closed and heads are down), the Heartbreakers wake up and decide whose heart to break, thus running them out of school and eliminating them when everyone 'comes back' for the next week. A Gossiper (the Seer, in a standard Werewolf game) also gets a chance during the 'weekend' to pick out someone and find out if they're a Heartbreaker or a Heartbroken, thus adding some intrigue and knowledge about roles that others may not have. The teens had a blast playing, and the Heartbreakers won the game by eliminating some choice players, as well as the Gossiper who tipped their hand too early!



3 A NOTE FROM OUR COMPUTER LAB

Rosenberg Library digital assistance appointments are a hit! Requests for appointments continue to flow in, with library patrons seeking help with a variety of digital tasks, including learning how to pair devices, creating email accounts and spreadsheets, developing and updating resumes, submitting online applications for services and employment, and uploading documents to complete onboarding requirements for new jobs.

Additionally, the Rosenberg Library is working to foster partnerships with local organizations such as the Senior Medicare Patrol, Workforce Solutions, Compudopt, and students from the University of Texas Medical Branch. Through these collaborations, we hope to enhance programming and increase outreach. Working together, we have a bigger impact on the digital literacy skills of those in our community. Patrons interested in making a Digital Assistance Appointment can submit a request to do so through the Rosenberg Library website.

4 "LET'S GET CRAFTY" - ADULT PROGRAMMING SUCCESS

This past month, we welcomed local artist Annette Kinslow, who led a hands-on workshop where participants learned how to create wire wrapped rings. Attendees were guided through the process using basic jewelry-making tools to transform simple materials like wire and beads into unique, wearable pieces.



The program was a great success! Participants really enjoyed learning a new skill in a relaxed, creative environment, and many were excited to leave with something they made themselves. It was especially rewarding to see how quickly everyone picked up the techniques and added their own personal touch to their designs.



5 EXCITING NEW OFFERING - BIRDING BACKPACKS!

Our Circulation team announced an exciting new offering recently - our cardholders now have the opportunity to check out one of these amazing new Birding Backpacks!

Each backpack (we have eight in total) includes binoculars, educational Galveston and regional birding resources and pamphlets, a "Welcome to Birding in Galveston" insert and more.

Standard three-week checkouts with renewals are allowed.

This was made possible by a generous donation from the National Audubon Society to UTMB's Healing Wings Audubon chapter, and we are most grateful to help facilitate, especially with Galveston's fantastic birding opportunities.

News of these new backpacks was received by the community on social media with great interest and excitement. (This was one of our most-shared posts of the year so far!)

Patrons interested in learning more should visit our first-floor circulation desk.



6 MUSEUM UPDATE

Our newest museum exhibit, "Setting Sail: Highlights from the Rosenberg Library's Maritime Collection," is now open and viewable to the public free of charge from 9 AM to 6 PM Monday through Saturday in Trustees Hall, located on our fourth floor.

The exhibit highlights important places, people and events in Galveston's maritime history, and includes a mixture of art, models and historical artifacts.

Exhibit highlights include six ship models, the USS Galveston ship's wheel and silver presentation set, the James Lykes ship's bell, an iron barge cleat from a ship that sank in the 1900 Storm, a Naval officer's uniform, artifacts from the ELISSA, Texas Navy and the Battle of Galveston, as well as three maritime flags and 33 maritime-themed paintings.



7 GTHC TO HOST VIRTUAL TUTORIAL APRIL 9

The Galveston and Texas History Center and the University of North Texas will host a virtual tutorial titled, "Researching the Galveston Tribune on the Portal to Texas History," from 3 to 4 PM on Thursday, April 9.

First published under the name *The Post* in 1880, the *Galveston Tribune* published six evenings a week until 1964, when it was absorbed into the *Galveston Daily News*.

In 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2025, the Galveston and Texas History Center received TexTreasures grants to digitize their issues of the *Galveston Tribune* in partnership with the University of North Texas' Portal to Texas History. The Portal to Texas History now contains more than 12,000 digitized issues of the *Galveston Tribune* from 1884 to 1932, with issues up to 1933 to be uploaded by May 2026.

Now, you can learn more about this extensive digital collection in a free virtual tutorial! The tutorial will be given by Dr. Ana Kraemer, Director of the Texas Digital Newspaper Program of the Portal to Texas History. In this event, you can explore the *Galveston Tribune* online and discover how to use this valuable resource to further your historical research.

Those interested in the tutorial should register through the Rosenberg Library's online events calendar. The tutorial will be held via Zoom. No library card is required.