

February 2018

NEW TERRITORY

monthly

*'Acting is the best way
to free your heart'*

**As the theater enters into its 50th show
with Aladdin JR., actors applaud
Inspiration Stage as a local legacy**

Inside:

**This Valentine's Day
try something a little unique**

*Plus: The Fort Bend Symphony
Orchestra presents 'All in the Family'*



Fred A. Garrett, DDS, MS | Richard W. Boyd, Jr., DDS, MS | www.LoneStarBraces.com

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GENERAL MANAGER

Lee Hartman
leehart@fbherald.com

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

Marquita Griffin
mgriffin@fbherald.com

COMPOSITION & GRAPHICS MANAGER

Alfred H. Dubé
adube@fbherald.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Melinda Maya
mmaya@fbherald.com

Rachel Cavazos
rcavazos@fbherald.com

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Aladdin

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For four years Inspiration Stage has shown us just how talented our local students are and this month the popular community theatre will present its 50th performance — Aladdin JR — which is a milestone for the founder, directors, actors and community alike. Additionally, Inspiration Stage will be one of the first theatre companies to premiere the newly revised version of Disney’s Aladdin JR. If that’s not inspiring, we don’t know what is.

The inaugural production of Jungle Book KIDS put Inspiration Stage on the map. (Photo by Chris Dyess)

INSPIRATION STAGE PRESENTS ITS 50TH PRODUCTION

filled with magic and wonder

By Marquita Griffin & Alisha McMillen

The legacy that has become Inspiration Stage began in the fall of 2013 with 23 students and an audience of just over 100 guests for three shows. The inaugural production had been Jungle Book KIDS, in which every student who auditioned was cast. The community theatre is now 50 shows in, with the competition to participate in each production demanding and fierce.

The national award-winning theatre now announces Aladdin JR. as it’s 50th production, which will run over eight shows for two weekends from Feb. 23 through March 4.

THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Inspiration Stage’s artistic director, Mandy Seymore-Sensat, who previously ran an adult community theatre, and directed youth organizations, saw a need in Sugar Land for professional youth theatre, so when she found the Sugar Land Auditorium, with its historic stage and 394-seat theatre, she considered it a match made in theatre heaven.

“Inspiration Stage is a labor of love that has only been made

possible with the help of Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation for the use of such a beautiful and historic theatre, our patrons for their support of the arts in Fort Bend and an inspired group of talented young and adult actors who have given so generously to help us soar,” said Seymore-Sensat.

Four years and 49 productions later, Seymore-Sensat and her team have grown Inspiration Stage to offer the most professional youth theatre in the area, with young actors driving from as far as League City and Pearland to participate in its shows.

December’s production of The Sound of Music, had a cast of 41 — with 62 youth auditioning — as well as near record-breaking audiences of 1,368 attendees over the eight-show run.

FREEING YOUR HEART ONSTAGE

The Marinos, who live in Telfair, have made Inspiration Stage a family experience. All four Marino kids — Luca, 7, Dean, 11, Sofie, 13, and Isabella, 14 — have participated in various Inspiration Stage shows over the years.

“At iStage, I learned that acting is the best way to free your

heart and I love the costumes and being part of a show," said Luca who is in the first grade.

"Inspiration Stage is one of the few places I can go where I don't feel weird or odd. And the greatest thing about iStage is that everyone is equal — whether you're in the Ensemble or Aladdin, you are given a chance to shine and help create amazing productions," added Dean, who is a sixth grader.

Isabella Marino who just completed her seventh show said Inspiration Stage is her "home away from home."

"I am blessed to work with such talented people, especially the directors and choreographers who have taught me so much and helped me to grow in my craft," said the 14-year-old freshman.

Inspiration Stage's 50-show collection includes both adult and youth shows. In addition to the inaugural show, *Jungle Book KIDS* (fall 2013) and *The Sound of Music* (winter 2017), other audience youth favorites include *Peter Pan JR.* (spring 2014), *Lion King JR.* (fall 2015), *Elf JR.* (winter 2015) and *James & the Giant Peach JR.* (fall 2016).

Both *Lion King JR.* and *James & the Giant Peach JR.* won the highest level of award at their respective Junior Theatre Festivals in Atlanta, an Outstanding Production award. The most popular adult shows were *The Little Mermaid* (summer 2016) and *Hairspray* (summer 2017).

"I'm always thankful and surprised to see us grow with each show. Theatres all around town are struggling to create art, to keep their doors open and to make ends meet," said Seymore-Sensat. "We have something very special here in Sugar Land: a community theatre that strives for professionalism all while providing a safe home to theatre artists. We are truly lucky to do what we love with people we love and have support of the City of Sugar Land."

CREATING UNIQUE EXPERIENCES IN THE COMMUNITY

Involved since the beginning, Aladdin JR.'s music director, Sarah Patterson, has also been the music director for the majority of the youth shows at Inspiration Stage. Annelea Bootle, acting as stage manager, will support Patterson and Director/Choreographer Seymore-Sensat on



Aladdin JR.

"Over the past four years, I've had the privilege to work with hundreds of young actors from Fort Bend County and the greater Houston area," Patterson said. "Each class and production brings a unique experience to guide and develop their skills as young artists, and I am consistently amazed at the work ethic and passion from our students of all ages."

"I acknowledge that it begins at home—the parents and patrons of this community instill in our students such a love and respect for the performing art," Patterson added. "The opportunity to bring this Broadway adaptation of Aladdin for the first time to the community of Sugar Land is another tremendous honor for our organization that wouldn't be possible without the community's support."

THE IDEAL MAGIC FOR THE 50TH PRODUCTION

Based on the hit Broadway musical and from the producer of *The Lion King* comes the timeless story of Aladdin, a thrilling new production filled with unforgettable beauty, magic, comedy and breathtaking spectacle.

It's an extraordinary theatrical event where one lamp and three wishes make the possibilities infinite.

"In addition to celebrating our milestone 50th show, we are excited to announce that we will be one of the first theatre companies to premiere a newly revised version of Disney's Aladdin JR. that is based on the hit Broadway musical," said Seymore-Sensat. "It features musical numbers from the Broadway score by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, and Tim Rice and a revised script by Chas Beguelin."

Hailed by USA Today as "Pure Genie-Us," Aladdin on Broadway features all your favorite songs from the film as well as new music written by Tony® and Academy Award® winner Alan Menken (*Newsies*) with lyrics penned by the legendary Howard Ashman (*Beauty and the Beast*), Tony Award winner Tim Rice (*The Lion King*, *Aida*), and book writer Chad Beguelin (*The Wedding Singer*).

See why audiences and critics agree, Aladdin is "musical comedy wish fulfillment" states New York Magazine.

Continued on page 7

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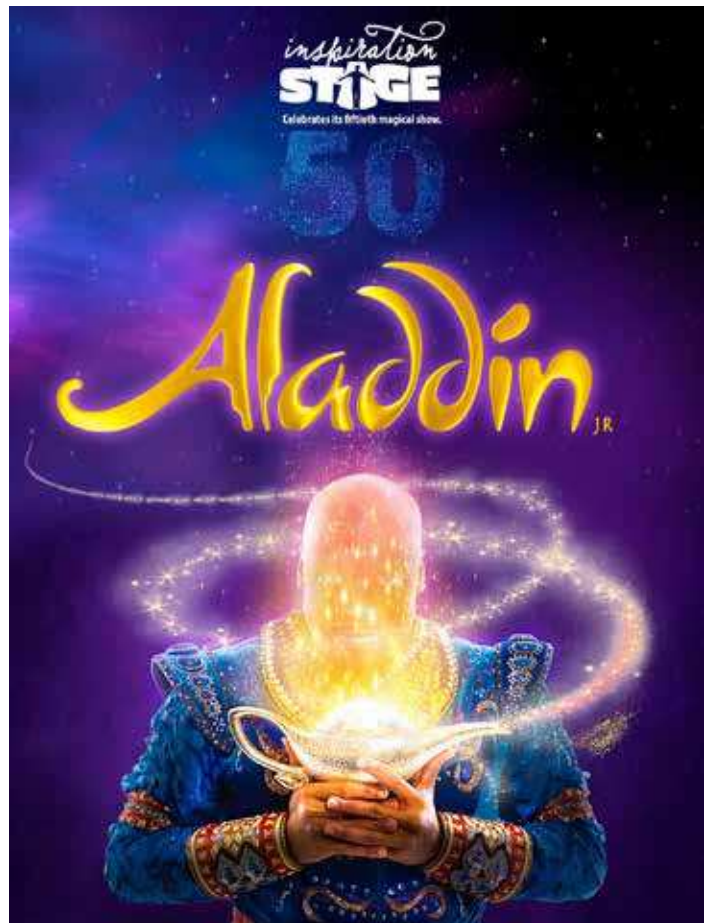
"ACTING IS THE BEST WAY TO FREE YOUR HEART."

— Luca Marina

WHAT: Inspiration Stage's Aladdin JR
WHERE: The historic Sugar Land Auditorium at 226 Lakeview Dr.
WHEN: Feb. 23 – March 4, Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 3:30 p.m.
WHAT ELSE: Director & Choreographer: Mandy Seymore-Sensat; Music Director: Sarah Patterson; Stage Manager: Annelea Bootle.
 For more information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.



Sarah Patterson and Mandy Seymore-Sensat are elated to see the theatre company's 50th production this month.



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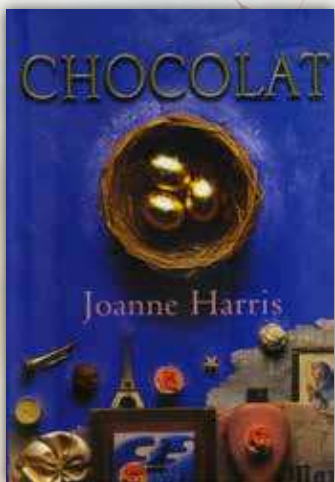
Did you know chocolates weren't always a Valentine's Day staple?

Though certain elements of modern-day Valentine's Day celebrations can be traced back to the 14th century, chocolate is not one of them.

In his 1382 poem, "Parlement of Foules," English poet Geoffrey Chaucer became the first to connect romance with St. Valentine's Day. Over the next several centuries, the day's connection to romance only grew stronger, and by the Victorian era in England, it was not uncommon for lovers to profess their affections through songs, poetry and even the giving of roses as gifts.

It was during the Victorian era that British chocolate manufacturer Richard Cadbury began searching for ways to use the cocoa butter that his company was extracting during the production of their drinking chocolate. In 1861, Cadbury decided to produce edible chocolates, which he even sold and marketed in heart-shaped boxes decorated with images of Cupid and rosebuds.

It would be a few more decades before edible chocolates caught on in the United States, where they remain a must-have item for many Valentine's Day celebrants more than 150 years after Cadbury first began selling them.



Read "Chocolat" this month

Share your love of reading with other book lovers at one of the book clubs that meet monthly at Fort Bend County Libraries' Sugar Land Branch Library, 550 Eldridge. New members are always welcome.

Members of the Sugar Land Book Break meet on the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 1p.m., in the Conference Room. The book club discussion on Thursday, February 8, will be on "Chocolat", written by Joanne Harris. Those attending are invited to bring a lunch, if desired.

For an evening alternative, the Sugar Land Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m., in the Meeting Room. The group will meet on Tuesday, February 27.

The book clubs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Sugar Land Branch Library at 281-238-2140 or the library system's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.

Celebrate Valentine's Day in a unique way

Valentine's Day is an opportunity for couples to celebrate their love for each other, whether their relationship is relatively new or has endured through many years.

The National Retail Federation estimates that Americans are expected to spend close to \$20 billion on Valentine's Day this year.

While chocolates and champagne are high on the list of most-purchased items for February 14, couples should not feel beholden to tradition on Valentine's Day. This year may be the perfect time to try something new, even if it's out of couples' comfort zones. Here are some novel ideas for couple's looking to set their celebrations apart.

♥ **Paint and sip:** Couples can take part in a growing trend this Valentine's Day. At paint-and-sip events, people are guided step-by-step through the process of painting their own masterpieces. Breaks are provided through the evening to indulge in beverages and snacks of choice. Couples can bring along a bottle or two of wine and a platter of cheeses, chocolates or other Valentine's Day fare. Those interested can inquire at their nearest paint and sip location, such as Pinot's Palette, for Valentine's Day specials.

♥ **Activity night:** Couples who are naturally competitive or devoted sports fans can enjoy the evening by engaging in some healthy competition. Some restaurants host trivia nights, or couples can head to the nearest arcade and battle it out. Panic and escape rooms are cropping up in towns across the country. These employ 60-minute real-life experiences in which participants must solve clues to escape the room. This can be a great bonding experience for fun-loving couples.

♥ **Chef lessons:** Although some couples may dine out on Valentine's Day, men and women who like to dabble in culinary arts can prepare their own meals from the comforts of their own kitchens. Others may want to enroll in classes that provide expert instruction from area chefs or culinary instructors. Cooking classes can be an ideal way to spend time together learning skills that can be put to use again and again.

♥ **Adventures:** Couples who like to push the envelope can explore the possibilities of thrill-seeking activities. Some may include bungee-jumping, hot-air balloon rides, taking laps at the racetrack, or hitting the ski slopes.

None of that mushy stuff, please

George Memorial Library in Richmond will present a fun program for the young adult teen community — "Anti-Valentine's Day Party for Teens" - on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 4-6 p.m. in Room 2A. Teens in grades 9-12 who are sick of seeing all the lovey-dovey mushy stuff can "uncelebrate" Valentine's Day with crafts, food, and fun at this Anti-Valentine's Day Party! Materials for this event are made possible by the Friends of the George Memorial Library.

Be eco-friendly this Valentine's Day

Red may be the color most often associated with Valentine's Day, but those who want environmentally friendly ways to celebrate this day of love can tint the occasion with a little green.

This list of earth-conscious Valentine's Day gifts can provide inspiration for loving couples.

♥ **Give organic chocolate.** Eco-conscious chocolate connoisseurs will appreciate indulgent fine chocolates crafted with the planet in mind. Some of the world's best chocolate is produced from small cacao farms that do not employ fungicide or insecticide in their farming practices. Choose chocolate artisans that produce their chocolate from responsibly-sourced ingredients for a sweet Valentine's Day treat.

♥ **Plant a live gift.** A living gift can be a symbol of enduring love and one that gives back to the environment. Couples can explore their options at local nurseries and plant a shade tree, shrubbery or even a fruit tree. This is certainly a gift that can give every year.

♥ **Write it down.** Love notes are a simple, heartfelt gift. Choose to scribble down sentiments on recycled paper with non-toxic inks. Give that love note even more traction by framing it for a lasting gift.

♥ **Adopt an animal.** Animal lovers crusade for their favorite mammals, reptiles and amphibians every day. Rather than exchanging a stuffed animal on Valentine's Day that will only take up space on a shelf or bed, consider saving the life of a real animal. Conservation agencies can always use helping hands. Donations can be used to feed and shelter pets or to restore habitats for wild animals.

♥ **Give living plants.** Flowers can express all types of emotions, but those cut blooms will begin to fade after a few days, especially when some flowers are flown in from all over the world. Gifting a potted plant from a local nursery is a more eco-friendly idea, and one that can last for many years to come.

♥ **Create a free-range, organic meal.** Homemade food can be a nice gesture, especially when cooks select fair-trade, organic and free-range products. Don't forget to extend the specialized shopping to include wine or other beverages that are locally sourced.

♥ **Give gifts of sustainable comfort.** Practical but luxurious linens and clothing made from sustainable materials are great eco-friendly gifts. Bamboo bedding or organic cotton shirts offer comfort and promote environmental stewardship.

DIY Bath Bomb & Sugar Lip Scrub Workshop

Are you stumped for Valentine's Day gift ideas? What about bath scrubs that you can make yourself? Teens in grades 9 through 12 can learn how to make fun bath products and skin-care accessories at a special Young Adult program, "DIY Bath Bomb & Sugar Lip Scrub Workshop for Teens," on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1 to 4 p.m., in the Conference Room at Fort Bend County Libraries' Sugar Land Branch Library, located at 550 Eldridge. In this Young Adult program, teens will learn how to make bath products using common household goods and natural ingredients. Make a sugar lip scrub or a relaxing bath bomb that is gentle enough for kids to use.

Materials for this program were made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the Sugar Land Branch Library.

The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, however, and reservations are required. To register online at the library's website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on "Events," select "Sugar Land Branch," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-238-2140, or by visiting the library.



Timeless romantic poetry

Traditionalists who want to commemorate Valentine's Day in the most romantic way possible may want to harken back to the days when poetry was the primary way lovers expressed their affection for each other.

Poets have been putting pen to paper for centuries, and many great works evoke the themes of love and romance. Those with little experience writing their own poetry can always borrow heartfelt words from some of history's greatest bards.

John Keats

Keats was an English Romantic poet who lost both of his parents at a very young age. As Keats grew older, he was introduced to a circle of literary men, including Percy Bysshe Shelley and William Wordsworth. Keats decided to try his hand at poetry as well and went on to publish many poems now considered among the greatest ever written. Tragically, Keats died from tuberculosis at the age of 25. "Bright Star" is one of his famous romantic works.

Bright Star

*Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art-
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priestlike task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors-
No-yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever-or else swoon to death.*

Robert Browning

Browning was already proficient at reading and writing by the age of 5, having studied with his father, a scholar. At an early age the young Browning became interested in poetry but didn't write much through his formative years. Only after marrying fellow poet Elizabeth Barrett did Browning begin to write in earnest. "Life in a Love" is one of his romantic musings.

Life in a Love

*Escape me?
Never-
Beloved!
While I am I, and you are you,*

*So long as the world contains us both,
Me the loving and you the loth,
While the one eludes, must the other pursue.
My life is a fault at last, I fear:
It seems too much like a fate, indeed!
Though I do my best I shall scarce succeed.
But what if I fail of my purpose here?
It is but to keep the nerves at strain,
To dry one's eyes and laugh at a fall,
And baffled, get up to begin again,-
So the chase takes up one's life, that's all.
While, look but once from your farthest bound,
At me so deep in the dust and dark,
No sooner the old hope drops to ground
Than a new one, straight to the selfsame mark,
I shape me-
Ever
Removed!*

William Shakespeare

It should come as no surprise that the man who wrote the tragic love story of Romeo and Juliet would also prove himself an accomplished poet. "Sonnet 18" is evidence of Shakespeare's grasp of the theme of love.

Sonnet 18

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

Fun Facts about Kissing

- ♥ In Logan County, Colorado, it's illegal for a man to kiss a woman while she is sleeping.
- ♥ Most folks (two-thirds) tip their head to the right when they kiss.
- ♥ Kissing at the conclusion of a wedding ceremony can be traced to ancient Roman tradition where a kiss was used to sign a contract.
- ♥ The good ol' act of smooching helps blood circulation, can relieve headaches and prevent tooth decay (the anticipation of a kiss increases the flow of saliva to the mouth, giving the teeth a plaque-dispersing bath).
- ♥ Our brains have special neurons that help people locate each other's lips in the dark.
- ♥ A pucker kiss uses only two muscles. French kissing uses all 34 muscles in the face. (Speaking of French kiss: The term French kiss came into existence around 1923 as an English slur against the French culture which was thought to be overly concerned with sex. In France, it's called a tongue kiss or soul kiss because if done right, it feels as if two souls are merging).
- ♥ A lipstick imprint of a kiss made by Mick Jagger's mouth once sold for \$1,600.
- ♥ Under the Hays Code from 1930-1968, people kissing in American films could no longer be horizontal; at least one had to be sitting or standing, not lying down.
- ♥ Kissing releases the same neurotransmitters in our brains as parachuting, bungee jumping and running.
- ♥ Lips are 100 times more sensitive than fingertips.

- ♥ The most important muscle in kissing is the orbicularis oris, also known as the kissing muscle, which allows the lips to pucker.
- ♥ More than 95 percent of people occasionally like to rub noses while kissing, which is often referred to as an "Eskimo kiss" in Western culture.
- ♥ No two lip impressions are alike.
- ♥ Starting in the Middle Ages, people who could not read used an X as a signature. They would kiss this mark as a sign of sincerity and, eventually, the X came to represent the kiss itself. That's how the "X" came to represent a kiss.
- ♥ The scientific name for kissing is osculating.
- ♥ Men who kiss their partners before leaving for work average higher incomes than those who don't.
- ♥ In the 1500s in Naples, kissing in public was punishable by death.
- ♥ In Indiana it's illegal for men with mustaches "to habitually kiss human beings," in Hartford, Connecticut, men are apparently prohibited from kissing their wives on Sundays, and in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, it's a crime to kiss a stranger.
- ♥ The average person spends 336 hours of his or her life kissing.
- ♥ A passionate kiss burns 6.4 calories a minute. A Hershey's kiss contains 26 calories, which takes five minutes of walking - or about four minutes of kissing - to burn off. (What a way to work off that Valentine candy).
- ♥ The fear of kissing is called philemotaphobia.



Fun Valentine's Day numbers

Valentine's Day is one of the most popular days of the year to celebrate. Here's a look at some interesting numbers associated with this day to celebrate the love people have for one another.

512

The average dollar amount spent per person for Valentine's Day.



15

Average cost, in dollars, of a box of chocolates.



58

The number of pounds, in millions, of chocolate bought during Valentine's Day week.

400

The year that Pope Gelasius declared February 14 a day to honor Saint Valentine.

150

The number of cards and gifts, in millions, sent each year for the day of love AND the average amount, in dollars, men spend on gifts. Women spend an average of \$74 on gifts.



1.7

The amount, in billions, that is spent on candy for Valentine's Day, according to the National Retail Federation.

2

The ranking of red roses in comparison to other types of flowers gifted.

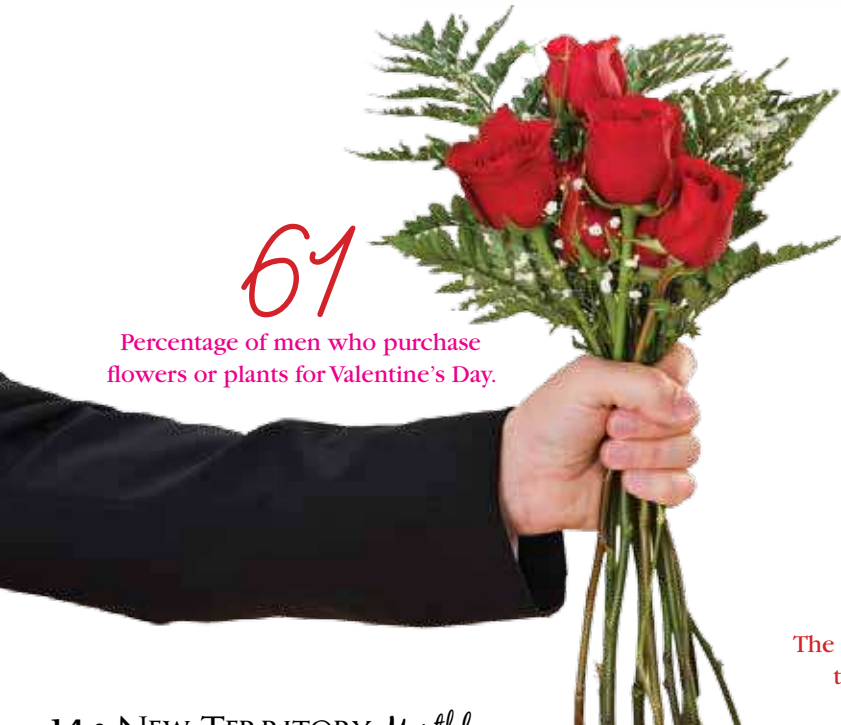
8.6

Amount of dollars, in millions, spent on sparkling wine for Valentine's Day, making it the second most popular occasion, after New Year's Eve, to enjoy some bubbly.



61

Percentage of men who purchase flowers or plants for Valentine's Day.

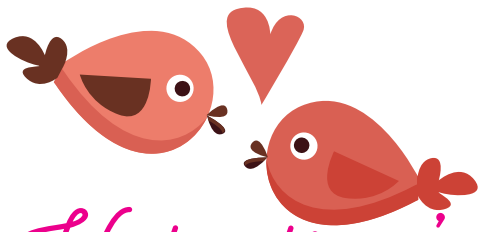


1

The dollar amount, in billions, that Americans are expected to spend on Valentine's Day cards.

62

The percentage of adults who say they celebrate the holiday.



Valentine's Day for the kids



Crafts

Children can have fun cutting out cupids, making coloring pages or doing just about any other Valentine-inspired craft, like making their own cards.

Another craft idea is to write secret love notes with invisible ink. Lemon juice can be used as invisible ink. Have children write a message by dipping a cotton swab or their finger in lemon juice and then writing words on a white piece of paper. Once the papers have dried, an adult can reveal the message by placing the paper in front of a heat source, such as an iron or a light bulb. The message will magically appear and reveal those secret sentiments.

Children can get crafty by making gifts for the special people in their lives. Combine the concept of valentines with the ambiance of a candle. For an even safer alternative, opt for an LED-flame candle instead of traditional candles.

Kids can glue foam conversation hearts, sold at many craft stores, to the outside of the candle. Wrap the middle of the candle with ribbon, and they've just created an easy, heartfelt gift.

Kids' dinner

Encourage the next generation of chefs to create culinary masterpieces, which they can then serve to family members or friends. Children can even prepare dinner as a token of appreciation to their parents.

Plan recipes with kids in advance, but look for age-appropriate menu ideas, particularly those that will not require much use of the stovetop or other dangerous kitchen appliances. Kids can always do the prep work and then ask an adult to put the food into the oven for cooking.

One easy idea is to create heart-shaped hamburger sliders and Valentine-colored mashed potatoes. Use red potatoes with the skin on to create the potato mash. The sliders can be shaped by hand or using a heart-shaped cookie cutter.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and the holiday presents many opportunities for children to share in the fun and festivities.

Although Valentine's Day may be geared toward adults, children are quite drawn to the celebration as well. Perhaps it's the promise of candy or chocolate that gets their attention, but Valentine's Day annually appeals to the younger set.

Some couples opt to leave children in the capable hands of a babysitter come Valentine's Day and enjoy the evening solo. But for those who want to include youngsters in their fun, they can explore the many enjoyable and clever crafts and other activities available.

Learning games

Valentine's Day can be turned into a learning opportunity for children. One idea is to create an "Attracting Love" game that illustrates the power of magnets and the laws of attraction. Fill an empty glass jar with various items made into heart shapes. These can include small pieces of pipe cleaner, paper clips, paper, and even aluminum foil hearts. Put the top on the jar and shake up the contents. Let children guess which items will be attracted to a magnet, then have them test their theory with a strong magnet rubbed on the outside of the jar. See which hearts are attracted to the magnet.

Other learning games can include matching or finding the differences between pictures, counting paper hearts or making recipes of scented modeling dough.

Dessert fun

Invite youngsters into the kitchen to try their hands at different recipes, making sure that they have a chance to sample their handiwork afterward.

Faux chocolate truffles made with chocolate sandwich cookies can be a tasty treat for little hands. Start by mashing up some Oreo® cookies, then add them to a bowl with one 8-ounce package of cream cheese. Mix until everything is incorporated into a sticky batter. Truffles can be made into balls or heart shapes. For children celebrating Valentine's Day and winter fun, turn the truffles into edible snowmen. Dip the truffles into melted chocolate or colored candy melts to coat. Place on a wax paper-covered cookie sheet and refrigerate for an hour, or until the truffles are firm.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS New Territory officially annexed into Sugar Land

BY AVERIL GLEASON

Greatwood and New Territory have been annexed to Sugar Land.

The action was initiated after Sugar Land City Council members approved the measure in December 2016.

The two communities cover 3,850 acres of land.

A total of 30,000 residents live in Greatwood and New Territory.

Sugar Land will benefit from the annexation by increasing its population by an additional 34,000 residents. The city has grown from 2,800 people in 1960 to nearly 87,000 prior to the annexation.

The annexation also will increase Sugar Land's taxable property revenue.

The two communities will benefit from city services such as police, EMS, water and road maintenance.

"As the Sugar Land Police Department assistant chief of police, I want to welcome everyone, including me and my family, to Sugar Land," Greatwood resident Scott Schultz said. "We will take care of y'all. We will also be doing the traffic control out on the service roads."

Presently, municipal utility districts and county government provide serves to New Territory and Greatwood. Neither existing

Sugar Land residents nor the residents of the two communities will bear higher costs because the annexation, according to city officials.

Sugar Land has a University of Houston campus, a minor league baseball team and a new performing arts venue — seating over 6,000 people.

The city has begun adding staff to provide for the increase in services to the two communities.

"A heartfelt thank you to the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office for the years of service you have provided us," Lori Stanton Harpst said. "We've been in New Territory for 28 years, and appreciate all you have done for us."

Sugar Land police have trained 21 officers to take over patrolling Greatwood and New Territory.

"We are well prepared," Schultz assured citizens. "This transition will be seamless."

Independent auditor confirms financial neutrality of annexation

An independent, external auditor recently confirmed the financial neutrality of the annexation of New Territory and Greatwood.

City Council approved an agreement with Whitley Penn, LLP on Nov. 21 to review annexation data after questions about the finances related to the annexation were raised at a Nov. 7 meeting. The review was presented to City Council on Tuesday; it confirmed the recent annexation was financially neutral to the city of Sugar Land.

The annexation, which occurred on Dec. 12, was accomplished



Wright was recognized during a recent City Council meeting. She is pictured center with family, co-workers, peers, the municipal court judge and City Council members.

without any increase in costs, as services to the annexed areas are funded with money set aside during the last 10 years specifically for this purpose. Additional staff, vehicles, equipment and contracted services necessary to provide full municipal services to the newly annexed areas were paid for by the annexed residents through utility rates, property taxes and previously paid surcharges for city fire and ground water reduction services.

"This annexation was one of the most significant events in the history of the city and the result of a deliberate, thoughtful process that required 10 years of planning, thought and public feedback," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "After a decade of preparing for this day in partnership with the residents and leaders of Greatwood and New Territory, we could not be more proud that both of these communities are now officially within the city of Sugar Land."

For more about the annexation, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/annexation.

Brittany Wright becomes 81st clerk to earn coveted certification

Sugar Land Municipal Court Clerk Brittany Wright recently obtained her Certified Municipal Court Clerk certification. The Texas Court Clerks Association in conjunction with the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center and Texas State

University awarded the certification. Wright is the 81st clerk to attain the certification since CMCC's program began in 1996.

The CMCC program is comprised Certified Court Clerk I, Certified Court Clerk II and Certified Municipal Court Clerk.

Wright previously obtained Certified Court Clerk I and II certifications, which both require the completion of 40 hours of education and a three-part exam.

"Certified Court Clerks, such as Brittany, are a tremendous asset to a court," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "Having knowledgeable, well-educated and confident staff in court administration helps ensure that all defendants receive due process and are properly provided with their legal options. This not only results in excellent customer service, but it also provides a better experience for defendants, attorneys, and the public who visit our court - a true example of Sugar Land's championship workforce."

TCCA is a non-profit professional association of municipal and justice court clerks and administrators. Its purpose is to increase the proficiency of judicial administrators and clerical personnel through education and the exchange of ideas.

TMCEC is a program of the Texas Municipal Courts Association and is funded by a grant from the Court of Criminal Appeals. TMCA is an association composed of municipal court judges, clerks, prosecutors and court support personnel. It monitors legislation, attorney general opinions and changes in case law to ensure that the 843 municipal courts in Texas remain up-to-date on the law.



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Commissioner Morales to be honored by Fort Bend Regional Council

Fort Bend Regional Council's 9th Annual Helen Cordes Award Dinner will take place on Thursday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Stafford Centre.

The Cordes Award Dinner is held in honor of an individual who has given their time, experience and expertise to Fort Bend Regional Council. The 2018 honoree is Fort Bend County Commissioner Vincent Morales, who has been an outspoken advocate for FBRC.

Commissioner Morales is a longtime Fort Bend County resident, business owner and former mayor of Rosenberg. Since 2011, he has devoted his time in office to serving the citizens of the City he calls home and preparing it for the future. In 2016, he was elected to Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court for Precinct 1, and is now in his first term of that office.

As an active member of the community, Morales has been involved in several organizations including the Central Fort Bend Chamber, the Lamar Educational Awards Foundation (LEAF) and the Rosenberg Railroad Museum. Morales served as a board member of Child Advocates, the Rosenberg Development Corporation and the I-69 Alliance, as well as on the advisory board of OakBend Medical Center. He also has served as a director on the West Fort Bend Management District.

Commissioner Morales is married to Fort Bend County native Regina Klinge Morales, President/CEO of the Central Fort Bend



Chamber. They have two children, The Honorable Christopher G. Morales, County Court at Law 1 Judge, and Justin Morales, Vice President of GreenScape Associates, LLC, and two daughters-in-law, Vanessa and Brooke Morales. They, along with their three grandchildren, Madelyn, William and Parker Morales, all live in Fort Bend.

FBRC Chief Executive Officer Lisa Poynor said "We are so very honored that Commissioner Morales will be accepting the Helen Cordes Award this year. He has been a long-time advocate for Fort Bend Regional Council and especially the Leadership High School Program. I can't think of a more deserving honoree."

The Cordes Award Dinner honors Helen Cordes for her generous community spirit and many community achievements. Helen served on the Fort Bend Regional Council's Board of Directors from 1991-1997 and was President from 1992-1995. During that time and long afterward, she served FBRC with such a sincere passion for the mission that she has inspired all who have shared the privilege of working with her.

Sponsorship of this event enables FBRC to break the cycle of addiction in families and to strengthen our community. For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Seth Malin at smalin@fortbendcouncil.org or 281-207-2406.

Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse, Inc. has been changing lives and giving hope since 1978. In addition to outpatient substance abuse treatment, FBRC reaches 13,000 students in 39 elementary, middle and high schools in Fort Bend, Lamar Consolidated and Stafford School Districts.

Hope For Three is Roundin' Up Fort Bend Friends and Neighbors

Hope For Three Autism Advocates Seventh Annual Luncheon, presented by Daugherty Insurance, is set for 11 a.m. Feb. 8 at Safari Texas Ranch in Richmond. Friends and neighbors will join for a casual mix and mingle in their western wear, with a cowboy's appetite lunch served at 11:30am.

Wranglers have the honor of hearing from several dad's on the many challenges and rewards of living with an autism spectrum disorder.

Since 2011, Hope For Three has provided help and created hope to local autism families. Today, autism is the leading developmental disability in the United States with 1 in 68 children and 1 in 45 school-age children affected. The average lifetime cost of care for one person with autism can extend up to \$2.4 million dollars.

Autism is not going away, nor is the need for crucial therapies and supports for children living with this life-long disorder. Hope for Three invites friends and neighbors to join the H43 posse as a guest, volunteer, underwriter or table sponsor. Simply meander on over to hopeforthree.org or call 281-245-0640 to learn more about this exciting and informative jamboree. Individual tickets —\$50 — are also available.



From left Anne Marie Buckle, a young woman with autism, Presenting Sponsor John and Lisa Daugherty, Daugherty Insurance, Darla Farmer, Hope For Three Executive Director and Erin Buckle prepare to saddle up for autism.

Save the Date for Sixth Annual “Strike Out” Autism Family Fun Day

The excitement is brewing and getting louder each day as the planning and preparation begins for Hope For Three’s Sixth Annual “Strike Out” Autism Family Fun Day. The event is slated for Sugar Land Skeeters opening weekend, April 29 at Constellation Field.

Strike Out is an exhilarating experience whereby about 400 family members living with autism are treated to mid-afternoon fun and partake in one of America’s greatest past times - baseball. It is also an opportunity to educate more than 7,500 spectators about autism spectrum disorders and its affect on one in 45 school-age children.

The event is a huge undertaking. Returning for the third year as MVP Presenting Sponsor, is Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation. Serving as honorary switch hitters are Fort Bend County Judge Bob Hebert, all 18 City Mayors, event committee members and more than 300 volunteers.



Presenting Sponsor, Jim McClellan with Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation, Sugar Land Skeeters staff, Hope For Three staff and volunteers, event committee members and Hope For Three Teen Huddle volunteers with “ausome” kids.

Local Agencies Join Forces to Fight Child Abuse

In an effort to combat the injustices of child abuse and neglect, more than 20 agencies recently signed an agreement renewing their commitment to work together on behalf of child victims. The ceremony, hosted by the Child Advocates of Fort Bend (CAFB) Children’s Advocacy Center, was held at CAFB’s offices. The Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding details the importance of the CAFB Children’s Advocacy Center and lists the responsibilities of each agency in working child abuse cases.

The Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is an important piece in the collaboration of agencies working to reduce the trauma to children going through the civil and criminal systems,” said Fiona Remko, CAC Program Director. “The Center helps to bring together those agencies charged with the civil and criminal investigations of child abuse to ensure that the unique needs of abused children are being addressed in a child friendly manner. The Fort Bend community is very fortunate to have such a strong commitment from police chiefs and agency heads in fighting against child abuse.”

The CAC provides forensic interviews, case management services, therapy and criminal court advocacy services for free to families of abuse victims and to partner agencies. Child victims are referred to Child Advocates of Fort Bend’s Children’s Advocacy Center by law enforcement or CPS where trained specialists, social workers and therapists conduct forensic interviews, coordinate the criminal investigation, facilitate resource services, offer criminal court support and provide therapy to help children heal from their trauma.

“We value our collaboration and are most grateful for all of our partners who work very hard to make sure hundreds of children receive the services and treatment they deserve,” said Child Advocates of Fort Bend CEO Ruthanne Mefford.



From left, front row: FBISD Police Chief David Rider, Child Advocates of Fort Bend CEO Ruthanne Mefford and Fort Bend County District Attorney John Healey. Back row (L to R) are: Meadows Place Police Chief Gary Stewart, Sugar Land Police Chief Doug Brinkley, Regional Director of Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Jarita Wharton, Fulshear Police Chief Kenny Seymour, Rosenberg Police Chief Dallas Warren, Arcola Acting Police Chief Anthony Bingham, Child Advocates of Fort Bend Children’s Advocacy Center Program Director Fiona Remko and Katy Police Chief William Hastings.



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Golf for Greater Houston and Fluor impact foster youth

Fort Bend foster youth will receive thousands of hours of specialized services provided by Child Advocates of Fort Bend thanks to the generosity of Fluor Corporation and all of those who took part in the 10th anniversary Golf for Greater Houston Golf Tournament.

Event co-chairs April Nemec and Tracey Mooney led employees of Fluor in the year-long effort to raise more than \$400,000, with \$73,000 going toward CAFB's NEST and WINGS programs for aging-out foster youth. Nine other Fort Bend charities received a share of the proceeds.

"It's been such a challenging year for everyone in Fort Bend County, which is why this incredible gift means so much. With so many needs and deserving charities, we are especially grateful to Fluor and the tournament participants for remembering the children. More than 1,200 foster youth across Texas were displaced by Hurricane Harvey. While many of them are now back in stable environments, we are here to make sure each child has his or her needs met for the long-term, as they continue to move past hurdles on their path toward healing," said Child Advocates of Fort Bend CEO Ruthanne Mefford.

"Fluor has supported the WINGS and NEST Programs for foster youth for a very long time. This year, we had the opportunity to do something special by providing for them in an extraordinary way," said Barbara Jones, senior manager of community and public affairs at Fluor. "We hope the funds will leave a huge mark on these youth and change many lives."

"We do whatever it takes to help each child succeed in life," stated Child Advocates of Fort Bend CASA Program Director Metoyer Martin. "As the only CASA Program in the state of Texas that is able to match every child in foster care with a CASA

Volunteer to advocate for their needs, we have eyes and ears on every child and are able to identify their individual needs. In addition to helping with advocacy throughout their time in school, we model healthy choices, encourage them in school, teach life skills, guide them toward stable employment or careers and help them with whatever else they may need to keep them from becoming a statistic. Thanks to Fluor's generosity, we are able to continue these efforts and ramp up these programs to ensure that they are able to move past their abuse and find success."



From left, front row: Child Advocates of Fort Bend Development Officer Jessica Jubin, and CEO Ruthanne Mefford with Fluor Event Co-Chairs Tracey Mooney, April Nemec, Fluor Senior Manager of Community & Public Affairs Barbara Jones and Jennifer Smith; back row: Kurt Wendt, Rebecca Schoenherr, Victor Vann and Paul Miller.

Abigail's Place to host 2018 Annual Gala

Abigail's Place has announced that its second annual "Puttin' on the Glitz" gala — a Roaring Twenties themed party — is set for Feb. 23 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Agave Real in Katy, Texas.

All proceeds to benefit the clients of Abigail's Place.

Guests will enjoy signature cocktails, elegant hors d'oeuvres, music, whisky tastings, and a well curated silent and live auction.

Abigail's Place invites event sponsors who believe in investing in the community and supporting organizations that make a difference in Fort Bend County. Tickets to the event are \$100 per person or \$1,000 per reserved table (seats 8.) For tickets or more information, visit abigailspplace.org or call 832-945-1461.

"Last year's event was such a fun and impactful evening," said CEO and founder Shereen Sampson. "We chose to hold this year's gala at the gorgeous Agave Real to provide our guests a truly special and memorable event."

Abigail's Place is a 501(c)(3) Fort Bend County relief organization committed to supporting single mothers and their children in Fort Bend County by providing transitional housing

and restoring hope during a time of family crisis.

For sponsor or donor information, please email shereen.sampson@abigailspplace.org. To volunteer, please email lisa.davila@abigailspplace.org.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Heylman
From left, board members Dinah Givens, Luis Angel, Lisa Davila O'Toole, Adrian O'Toole, CEO and founder Shereen Sampson, Agave Real owner Steve Livingston, and Board member Donna Givens.

The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra Presents "All In The Family"

By JC Patrick

Thanks to a performance support grant from the Women's Philharmonic Advocacy, the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra features the works of musical families Schumann, Mendelssohn and Coleridge-Taylor in its first concert of 2018, at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 18 at the Stafford Centre.

In "All in the Family", the audience will explore compositions from both men and women in notable musical families.

Sometimes siblings, sometimes spouses, you'll find that the composers share more than a last name - they also share immense musical talent. Concertgoers will get a feeling for the creative styles of these talented musicians, and how their music is similar in some ways and extremely different in others.

The program includes Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel's Overture, her only known orchestral work.

Though she originally showed the greater musical promise, her brother Felix was the name remembered for generations. FBSO honors him with a performance of Hebridies. Robert and Clara Schumann were 19th century husband and wife composers.



Photo courtesy of Susan Lynch
From left: Elyssa Munden, Joe Freilich, Dan Patterson

Clara's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 7 and Robert's Manfred Overture gives the audience a taste of each one's unique style.

Avril Coleridge-Taylor was an English composer, the daughter of composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Avril's Golden Ballet Suite (Excerpt) stands with her father's Three Dream Dances.

The program will also feature the winner of the Marielle Ogletree Young Artist Concerto Competition, and the winners of the HTMA's concerto competition, William Hua (7th grade), performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, 1st mvt and Stephan Xie (10th grade) with Chopin's Piano Concerto in F minor, 3rd mvt.

Musicologist Alicia Levin, who specializes in 19th century women composers, will provide the pre-concert lecture and the children's activities during intermission. We encourage you to bring your family to this intriguing, entertaining performance.

More information about special season ticket pricing and performances is online at www.fbso.org. Single tickets begin at \$15 for adults. Children 12 and under are \$5 each, and teens are \$10 per ticket. Discounts are available for college students, seniors 55 and over, military personnel, and groups of 10 or more.

Tickets are available online at www.fbso.org or by calling 281.276.9642.

Caladiums for sale

By Roberta Terrell

Have you considered planting caladiums in your summer garden?

Thriving in our warm weather zone, 9a, the tropical-like plants are easy to grow and their flamboyant foliage adds a vivid richness to gardens or pots.

Grown from a tuberous root (often called bulbs), the showy leaves are available in a variety of many-hued combinations. In our area, the Garden Club of Richmond recommends Red Flash (red), Carolyn Whorton (pink), Candidum (white) and Tapestry (variegated) for the biggest color splash.

Growing to a height of 18"22", they are all Fancy caladiums with large heart shaped leaves and, with the exception of the Candidum, tolerate full sun.

Candidum thrives in shade or filtered sunlight and mixes beautifully with ferns and impatiens.

Caladiums are ready to be planted when all danger of frost is over and the temperature reaches 70 degrees Fahrenheit, usually late April or early May.

Begin by tilling the soil to a depth of 6 inches, working in high peat mulch. Plant the bulbs, eyes up, 6-12 inches apart, and cover with 1 Yo inches of soil. After leaves are up, fertilize sparingly every six weeks with fertilizer you normally use and water regularly, making certain the soil is kept moist but not soggy.

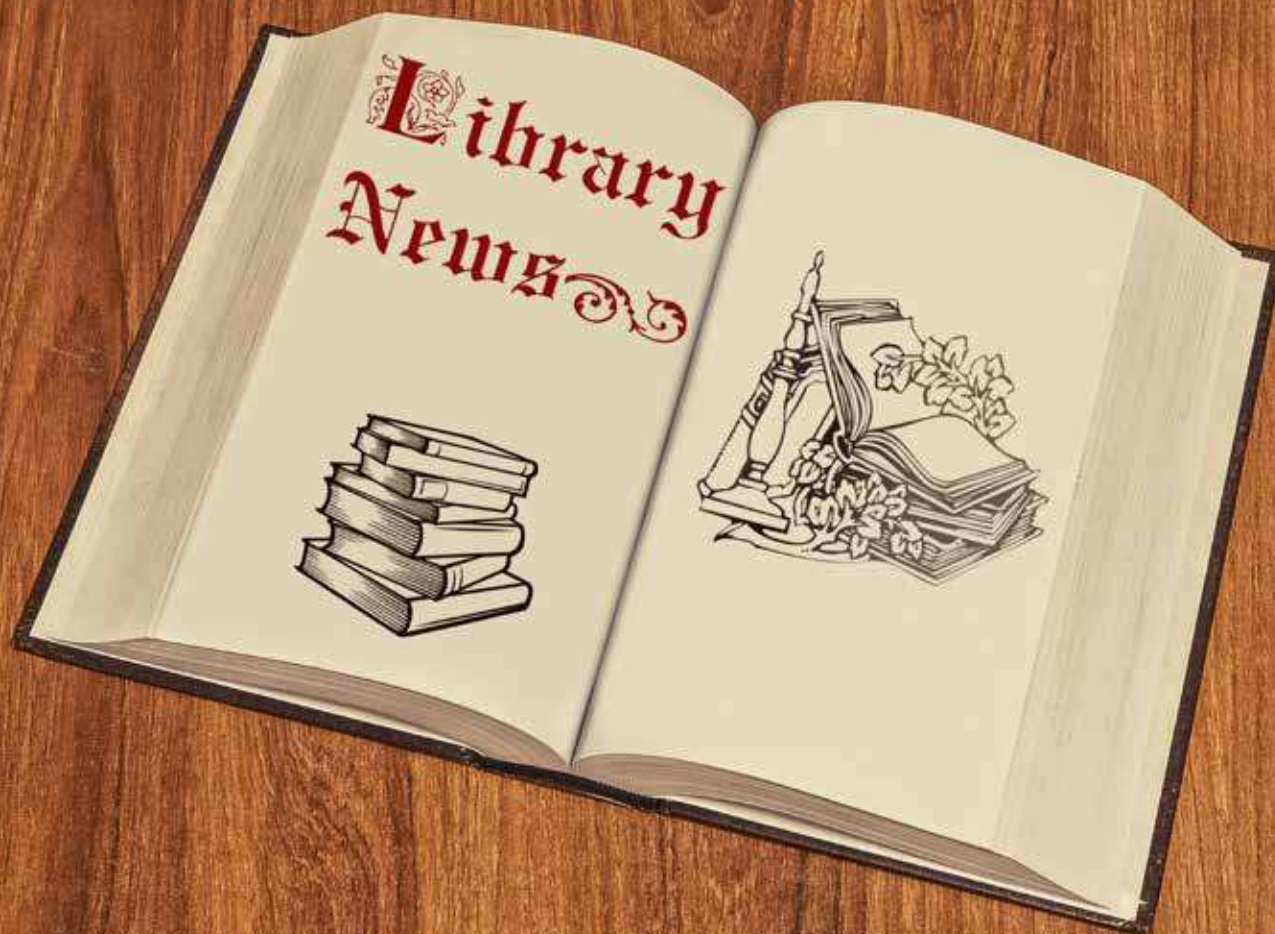
The Garden Club of Richmond is holding its annual Caladium Sale. Bulbs can be pre-ordered and will be available for pick-up

April 4, 5 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), and April 6 (10 a.m. - noon) at Joseph's Coffee Shop, 202 Morton Street in Richmond.

The bulbs are No 1 "fancy-leaved" and are available in Red Flash, Carolyn Whorton, Candidum, and Tapestry. Prices are: \$25 for 25 bulbs, \$50 for 50 bulbs and \$95 for 100 bulbs. March 23 is the deadline for all orders.

If you would like an order form or have questions, please email Nancie Rain at nrain@comcast.net (281-341-0588) or Roberta Terrell at robertaterrell@gmail.com (281-343-9932).





FEBRUARY PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY BRANCH LIBRARY

Fort Bend County Libraries' University Branch Library, 14010 University Blvd in Sugar Land, on the UH campus, presents a variety of free children's programs, adult computer classes, book clubs, and special programs for people of all ages each month. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the University Branch Library (281-633-5100) or the library system's Public Information Office (281-633-4734).

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Reading Club January 21-March 3

This six-week program is designed to encourage families to read, learn, and have fun together. Families participate in the program by reading books and completing optional "challenges" that can be done at home. All Fort Bend County families are eligible to participate. Families who complete the program by reading 36 books are eligible to receive a book bag for the family,

and will have their names entered into a drawing for a \$50 dining gift card, donated by the Friends of the Library. Each branch library will have a drawing for the gift card on March 5. A single registration is required for each participating family. An adult (parent or guardian) is asked to register the family online by going to the library's website (<http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us>) and clicking on the "Family Reading Club Sign-Up" image. Families may also register at one of the libraries in the Fort Bend County library system. Upon registering, families will then have their own online page on which to record their books or reading time. There is no charge to join the Family Reading Club. The program is sponsored by Fort Bend County Libraries and the Friends of the Library organizations that support the county library system.

"Databases for Everyday Life" Thursday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m., Computer Lab

Did you know that you can learn how to repair a small engine, plan a wedding or family reunion, or study a language with some of the library's free online resources that can be accessed from your home computer? Many of these online resources can help with DIY projects or everyday-life activities, such as auto repairs, home improvement, hobbies and crafts, job searching, and much more. Library staff will introduce these resources, all of which are

free to use by Fort Bend County library card-holders. Registration for the program began January 18. To register online at the library's website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on "Events," select "University Branch," and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-633-5100, or by visiting the library.

"African Hand-Drumming Program"

Friday, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m., Meeting Room 1



In recognition of African-American History Month in February, the library will present a demonstration of African drumming. Enjoy the traditional tribal rhythms and spiritual gifts of West African djembe drumming in a special performance by Gregg Powell, founder and director of the Joy of Djembe Drumming Ensemble. Powell will talk about the history of the instrument and the culture of the people who originally produced it. He will perform a variety of rhythms to demonstrate the influences of different countries and traditions. This program is made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the University Branch Library.

"Introduction to Digital Photography"

Saturday, Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m., Meeting Room 2

Professional photographer Myra Vorrice will discuss the basics of digital photography and the different features and capabilities of a camera. Learn about types of photography, as well as technical aspects of a camera – such as aperture, ISO, and shutter speed – that can be adjusted for various situations or effects.



"Pound® Fitness Work-Out Program"

Saturday, Feb. 10; 2 p.m., Meeting Room 1

Marinela Taylor, a certified Pound® Pro group-fitness instructor, will present a basic introduction and demonstration of this popular cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energizing fun of playing the drums. Pound fitness combines cardio,



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conditioning, and strength-training with yoga and Pilates-inspired movements, using lightly-weighted drumsticks. It is designed for all fitness levels, and it appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities. Taylor will demonstrate four different Pound positions and modifications and explain which muscles they work. Those attending this program should wear comfortable, workout clothes and sneakers, and should bring a bottle of water. The program is intended for older teens and adults.

“Facebook for Beginners”

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m., Computer Lab

Library staff will show how to set up a Facebook account, search for friends, make “friend requests,” and write wall posts. Those attending this class should have a basic working knowledge of computers, and must have a personal email account before attending the class. Reservations required. To register online at the library’s website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Events,” select “University Branch Library,” and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-633-5100, or by visiting the library.

“Culinary Book Club”

Wednesday, Feb. 21; 1:30 pm, Meeting Room 2.

This month, the theme is “Keep It Simple, Stupid.” Share recipes for dishes that contain five ingredients or less. Cooking enthusiasts of all ages and experience levels – from beginners to advanced – are invited to join. Those attending are welcome to bring their own cookbooks and recipes, or they may browse the library’s collection of cookbooks. Share tips, get ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie of other individuals who have an interest in cooking and good cuisine! Meets on the third Wednesday of every month; different cooking genres are explored each month.

“Friends of University Branch Library – Winter Book Sale” – Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Meeting Room 1. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$3.00. Numerous items will be available for sale, such as DVDs, CDs, magazines, and a variety of books, including children’s, teens’, mystery, computer, special interest, and romance. The Friends organization is instrumental in funding library programs such as the children’s Summer Reading Club. Proceeds from the book sale and annual membership dues also help to underwrite the costs of special programming and various cultural events at the University Branch Library.

“Internet Privacy & Security”

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m., Computer Lab

The Internet can be a source of information and entertainment, but users should be aware of possible dangers and be vigilant for online predators. In this program, library staff will talk about recognizing and avoiding common scams, sources of malware and computer infection, identity theft, and using alternative browsers and proxies. Learn how to protect your identity and personal information by creating safe profiles with strong passwords. Get tips on safely using a public WiFi network. Reservations are required. To register online at the library’s website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us), click on “Events,” select “University Branch Library,” and find the program. Participants may also register by calling the library at 281-633-5100, or by visiting the library.

SPECIAL YOUTH EVENT

“Basic Coding Concepts”

Monday, Feb. 19, 3 p.m., Meeting Room 1

Students in grades 1 through 5 will learn basic coding concepts using hands-on tools. Learn how to use coding skills to direct a robot mouse, program the “Dash & Dot” robot, and more!

VISIT US ONLINE!

For the details on the all of the computer classes, book clubs as well as the teen and children’s programs at the University Library in February visit: www.fbherald.com/monthly_magazines



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FEB. 3

Dad & Daughter Dance

The 22nd Annual Dad and Daughter Dance, themed "Enchanted Forest" is set for 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Missouri City Community Center, 1522 Texas Parkway in Missouri City, TX. Tickets are \$30 for father/daughter pair, \$20 each additional daughter. Call 281.403.8637 or visit www.missouricitytx.gov

Superhero Fort Bend Boys Choir Gala

The Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas is hosting its Fort Bend Boys Choir at their superhero-themed gala dinner and auction event at 6:30 p.m. in the Safari Lodge at Safari Texas, 11627 FM 1464 in Richmond. Dress code is your super secret identity in business casual or perhaps it's time to get your cape and tights out of mothball storage. This action-packed evening includes a delicious buffet meal, a Live Auction and a Silent Auction. Every taste and price range will be represented in the auctions which will include: sporting event packages, weekend trips, handmade items and much more. Visit fbctx.org/2018-gala-dinner-auction-event/

FEB. 10

Boots & Badges Gala

Behind The Badge Charities, Inc. will host its 2018 Boots & Badges Gala at 6 to 11 p.m. at 16555 Southwest Freeway, Suite 200 in Sugar Land. Visit www.behindthebadgecharities.org

FEB. 16

2018 Silver Jubilee Gala ticket purchase deadline

The Fort Bend Education Foundation will host its 2018 gala on March 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., but guests are encouraged to purchase tickets by Feb. 16. This 25th anniversary gala will be held at Sugar Land Marriott Town Square. This evening is dedicated to raising funds for our students, teachers and schools. The deadlines to donate an auction item is Feb. 2; to reserve a hotel at discount is Feb. 16; and to purchase individual tickets is Feb. 16. Visit <https://www.fortbendisid.com/foundation>



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The Fort Bend Education Foundation presents "Silver Jubilee Gala ... Celebrating 25 Years"

The Fort Bend Education Foundation's Gala, "Silver Jubilee... Celebrating 25 Years," presented by Purdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP, promises to be a sparkling celebration of the sterling achievements of the Fort Bend Education Foundation over the past 25 years. This memorable evening will occur on March 3, 2018, at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Square.

Ladies and gentlemen - get your silver on! Ladies, don your brightest sparkling attire. Gents, be the silver fox you know that is within you. Experience jubilation as you journey through this special evening with Fort Bend's finest in support of our children's education.

Enjoy a sumptuous feast and thrilling entertainment in the stunning setting. Let the sparks fly as you dance the night away to the unbeatable music of the band Password.

Saunter over to the Silent Auction and Bid Board area for a vast array of most interesting and must have items. The highlight of the evening will be the much-anticipated bidding in the Live Auction. Place a bid yourself or amass a group of jubilant fellows for better bidding power. Razzle and dazzle with your bids inspiring others to shoot for the stars. The sensational items and packages will be auctioned by none other than Commissioner James Patterson.

At the end of an evening to remember, you will surely have a wonderful feeling about your contribution in sparking memories to ignite the Foundation's future. For table sponsorships, individual tickets, or auction donations, please visit www.fortbendisid.com/foundation.



Photo courtesy of Mary Favre; Artistic Graphics courtesy of Jasmine Raziuddin
Underwriters of the Silver Jubilee Gala are (sitting) Co-Chairs Lynn Halford and Peggy Jackson; (1st Row Standing) Dr. Victor Hassid, MD Anderson Cancer Center; Lina Sabouni, AUTOARCH Architects; Mike Siwierka, Purdue Fielder Brandon Collins & Mott; Sharon Galloway, CHI St. Lukes Health Sugar Land Hospital; Chris Keene, Rangeland Energy; (2nd Row Standing) Ron Bailey, PBK Architects; Ray Aguilar, Classic Chevrolet Sugar Land; Shefali Jhaveri; Dr. Eric Peterson, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic; Oscar Saenz, Jacobs Engineering; (3rd Row Standing) Irfan Abji, E Contractors; Ray Meyer, Paradigm Consultants; Charles Carter, UnitedHealthcare; Gary Pearson, Republic Services and Douglas Walker-Rice, Rice and Gardner Consultants. Not pictured: Prime Contractors, Bass Construction, the Bhuchars, Bracewell LLP, Gold Star Transit, IBI Group Architects, the Likhari, Netsync Network Solutions, the Patels, Rogers, Morris & Grover, Stantec Architecture and Thompson & Horton.



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CALVARY EPISCOPAL PREPARATORY Spelling bee, presents and a 'glorious night'

By Krista Kuperus



Mallory Akbar and Cora Kuperus take a break from wrapping presents to pose for a picture.

Santa Behind the Badge

The Richmond Police Department got an assist again this year from the warm-hearted students in second and fourth grades at Calvary Episcopal Preparatory. These students sponsored a toy collection drive, and with contributions from their fellow Crusaders, provided more than 140 gifts for children in the community. Students enjoyed wrapping presents to be delivered to the Santa Behind the Badge program which is sponsored through the Richmond PD.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to fifth grade student Zara Chinwuba, who was the winner of Calvary Episcopal Preparatory's schoolwide

spelling bee. Students in grades 1-8 participated in the bee, with two competitors per grade. It was a heated competition, with students hanging in there for many rounds before the winning word was finally spelled by Zara, who will represent Calvary in the upcoming district spelling bee.



Zara Chinwuba with spelling bee sponsor Julianna White.

Calvary Talent Shines at 'Oh, What a Glorious Night'

Calvary Episcopal Preparatory's talented musicians from ages 4 years old to 18 years old worked hard to prepare for the annual Christmas program, and it was true to its title: "Oh, What a Glorious Night." Of course, the actual glorious night was the birth

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3rd grade Crusaders (left to right: Fiona Lisman, Drew Laffere, Travis Prater, Neel Reddy, Logan Curry and Kaden Jones)

of Jesus, and that story was skillfully told by members of the third grade class. The bands played and the choir sang, signed, and rang bells and chimes. It was a lovely celebration of this holy season. Musicians were under the direction of Donna Estrada, Paula Smith, and student director Ella Wheelless, who won the opportunity to “Be Miss Cookie for a Day” at last year’s CPTO auction.

New leadership for University of Houston at Sugar Land

Paula Myrick Short, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Houston and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Houston System, has announced Jay Neal as Associate Vice President and Chief Operating Officer University of Houston at Sugar Land and University of Houston at Katy.

“I am delighted to offer this position to Dr. Neal,” said Dr. Short. “I am confident he will continue to work with the University and community to advance the shared vision of UH Sugar Land and UH Katy as integral parts of the University of Houston.”

The move was effective Jan. 1.

“It is my great privilege to lead the faculty, students, and staff at UH Sugar Land,” Neal said. “I look forward to continuing the great work of connecting with our Fort Bend County community, business, and government leaders that began with Bob McPherson’s great vision and collaborative spirit.”

McPherson was appointed Interim Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Operations in 2015, while continuing to serve as dean of the UH College of Education. He will return to that post.

Neal will be charged with academic and administrative leadership of both UH Sugar Land and UH Katy. That includes outreach to community agencies, government entities, school districts and community colleges.

Neal has served as the Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs and Operations at UH Sugar Land since May 2016. He also served as an associate professor at the UH Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management where he taught for more than 15 years.

UH Sugar Land became an institute of the University of Houston in fall 2016. It is home to the UH College of Nursing, as well as programs from the Colleges of Technology, Education, Social Work, and Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. In the past year, enrollment has increased from 1,645 students to 2,365 students as the academic offerings grew to 10 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs. This includes programs unique to UH Sugar Land. Additionally, groundbreaking is expected soon for a new 100,000-square-foot facility.

The University of Houston System purchased 46 acres of land in Katy in 2016 and will break ground on the facility in spring 2018. It will house programs in nursing and engineering, as well as programs from UH-Victoria.



Fort Bend Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution presented Retired U.S. Navy Captain James Merhmann — who serves as Outreach Director for the PTSD Foundation of America, Inc. — with a \$515 gift card at Sugar Land City Hall. This year chapter members also provided lap robes and knitted caps to homeless veterans. From left are: DAR members Beverly Cowan, Elizabeth Melton, treasurer Molly Smith, James Mehrmann, regent Paula Burns and secretary Karen Robertson.

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Cowboy Photos

1 Edmund Samora, with sons Esai and Sebastian, a kindergarten student and fifth-grader at Holy Rosary Catholic School, and A.J. Williams, enjoy each other's company and the warm bonfire at The Black Cowboy Museum's "Cowboy Christmas" event held at the First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)

2 Lone Star Stampede members Jody Carroll, of Fairchilds Carroll Stables; Rose Rathburn, a George Ranch High School AP English teacher; and Boys Scout District Executive Monica Carroll ride through the "Cowboy Christmas" event at the First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)



3 Harold Simmons sings while Jim Rinkey and Allen Lee play the saxophone and guitar to "Stand By Me" and various Christmas classics and country songs during "Cowboy Christmas." (Photo by Diana Nguyen)

4 Martina Murphy sings "Neon Moon" at the "Cowboy Christmas" event. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)



Candlelight Ball



1

1 Paula Plummer, Margaret McBride, Dawn Webb and Vicki Latham, share a laugh at the Fort Bend Museum's Candlelight Ball. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)



2

2 Sheri Penton Lindsey plays classical Christmas songs on the piano at the Fort Bend Museum's Candlelight Ball. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)

Snow Day!



1



4



2



3

1 Calvary's Ime James and Haley Tran have fun dodging a snowball

2 Taylor Ray fifth-graders Julian Cormier, Makai Simuel, Stephen Ramirez, Avery Robles and Siara Segura build a mini snowman on the school's playground during Fort Bend County's rare snow day. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)

3 From left, Lilly Vaughn, Seth Okere, Pierce Lathrop, Alex Delange, Nakia Darrough, Zola Manuel, Jessie Matta and Yeva Cherry — Calvary Episcopal's prekindergarten class — enjoy Fort Bend County's rare snow day

4 Calvary second grade enjoying the snow. From left, in front: Dillion Rodriguez & Joshua Babin; back: Jayden Barron, Olivian Kocian, Stephanie Kheng, Ava Lee, Zoya Cherry, Cora Kuperus, Wonu Adedeji, Lola Perches, Vivian Troung and Sara Catherine McDonald.

Garden Club of Richmond



1 Hostesses for the Garden Club of Richmond Sparkle, Shimmer & Shine Christmas luncheon were Joyce Steffee, Sandra Billingsley, Courtney Raska, Keely Knipling, Ruthie Herfort, and Deidre Doggett.

2 Participating in the holiday Garden Club of Richmond cheer at Veritas in Sugar Land were, from left, Donna Kay Tucker, Ruthanne Medford, Billie Wendt, Evalyn Moore, Rennie Knipling, Peggy Mathis, Debbie Fash, Carolyn Pope, Nancie Rain, Laura Hartman and Gay Young.

Hurricane Harvey Help



1 Jefferson County Open School students London Conner, Sierra Ventimiglia, Marielle Pulsinelli, Jodi Alishouse and Ty Harmes at St. John's United Methodist Church in Richmond. The students are five out of 46 volunteers — six adults and 36 students — who traveled from Lakewood, Colorado to Richmond to help those in the greater Houston area affected by Hurricane Harvey. (Photo by Diana Nguyen)

2 Jefferson County Open School junior Sierra Ventimiglia, who was housed at the St. John's United Methodist Church in Richmond to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey, cuts a borderline for a blanket.



The 17th Annual Sugar Plum Market, presented by the Fort Bend Junior Service League and Memorial Hermann, raised an impressive \$280,000 for charity. Those proceeds were presented to Fort Bend County charities on Dec. 15 at a check presentation party held at Memorial Hermann Sugar Land. Since its inception in 2001, the Sugar Plum Market has raised more than \$2,400,000 for numerous local charities. The popular holiday shopping event continues to grow, and this year welcomed 7,000 attendees and over 100 unique vendors. More photos from the 2017 Market may be viewed on the Sugar Plum Market Facebook page. For more information about the Sugar Plum Market or FBJSL, please visit www.sugarplummarket.com or www.fbjsl.org.

Why women should listen to their hearts

Despite the perception that heart disease is a man's disease, it's the No. 1 killer of women, according to the American Heart Association. Millions of women die of heart disease every year, yet many are unaware of their risk for the condition. Women often put off taking care of their health — and this inaction can put an extra burden on their hearts.

One form of heart disease, a heart attack, can strike suddenly and with no advance warning. Just like men, women often experience the crushing chest pain and discomfort typically associated with a heart attack. However, women are somewhat more likely than men to experience other common heart attack symptoms and often ignore them.

"A misunderstanding of gender-related heart attack symptoms could cause women to delay getting care because they aren't sure if they're having a heart attack, panic attack or indigestion," said Kesavan Shan, MD, a board-certified cardiologist with Houston Methodist Cardiology Associates.

"It's key to learn and watch for signs that something may be wrong — and if you're ever in doubt, don't hesitate to seek prompt medical care."

How A Woman's Heart Attack May Feel

You may already be familiar with classic heart attack symptoms for men, such as crushing chest pain that radiates down the left arm associated with sweatiness, paleness and shortness of breath. "Women are more likely than men to describe chest pain that is burning and sharp as well as experience extreme fatigue, pain in the neck, jaw, throat, abdomen or back," Shan said.

"Breaking out in a cold sweat is also more common in women, as is lightheadedness," Shan explained.

Risk Factors Offer Clues

Managing your risk factors for cardiovascular disease is only possible if you know what they are, and routine screening tests can reveal the answers. At your next checkup, ask your doctor to assess your weight and BMI (body mass index), waist circumference, blood pressure, cholesterol and fasting blood glucose level. "These tests offer important clues to cardiovascular health as well as your overall health," Shan said.

Heart Attack Not Sole Setback

With all the focus on heart attacks, some aren't aware that cardiovascular disease can take many forms. Other heart problems include heart failure, in which the heart isn't pumping as efficiently as it should; arrhythmia, a too-slow or too-fast heart-beat that can affect its ability to meet the body's needs; and heart valve problems, which can impede proper blood flow through the heart.



Dr. Kesavan Shan, board-certified cardiologist

Nearly all of these conditions are easily detectable with routine medical checkups," Shan said. "It's yet another reason why establishing an ongoing relationship with a primary care physician is so critical to your heart health."

Menopause Is Too Late To Prepare

Women with heart disease risk factors, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and a family history, shouldn't wait until menopause to start a dialogue with their primary care physician about a prevention regimen to keep them healthy. A recent survey published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* found that 74 percent of women in the United States had at least one heart disease risk factor, but only 16 percent told their doctor about it.

"Women have such a low prevalence of heart disease until menopause that often times, the topic is ignored until women are well into their 50s and 60s," Shan said. "But those with risk factors need to be 10 years ahead of the game when it comes to prevention. Unfortunately, too many women already have heart disease by the time they're tested."

To schedule an appointment with Kesavan Shan, MD, at Houston Methodist Cardiology Associates, call 713.776.9500. For the latest news, events and information visit our Facebook page at fb.com/methodistsugarland.

Heart Health Screenings

Schedule an appointment to learn your 10-year risk for heart disease and receive cholesterol and blood pressure screenings. Registration is required. Go to events.houstonmethodist.org/heart-sl or call 281.274.7500 for more information and to register.



Valentine's Day Word Search

K	S	R	U	T	F	V	B	A	W	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	H	C
N	L	U	F	I	T	U	A	E	B	G	N	I	L	R	A	D	Y	M	S
L	E	B	Z	V	E	B	H	H	E	A	R	T	X	G	V	S	Z	E	A
G	F	Z	H	O	N	E	Y	Z	E	T	A	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	D
V	V	A	E	I	T	E	E	W	S	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	W
G	N	I	T	S	A	L	R	E	V	E	B	O	I	G	N	I	R	A	C
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G	Y	V	E	M	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D	B	L	I	P	S	W

WORDS

- ADORABLE
- AMAZING
- BABE
- BEAUTIFUL
- BELOVED
- BEST
- CARING
- CHERISHED
- COMPLETED
- CRAZY
- DARLING
- ENCHANTING
- EVERLASTING
- FAVORITE
- FOREVER
- GORGEOUS
- HANDSOME
- HEART
- HONEY
- HUGS
- KISS
- LIPS
- LOVING
- LUCKY
- PARTNER
- PASSIONATE
- ROMANCE
- SEXY
- SUGAR
- SWEETIE
- TREASURE
- UNCONDITIONAL
- VALENTINE
- WONDERFUL

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

The Houston Glass Show & Sale and The Best Little Antique Show in Texas

The dates for The Houston Glass Show & Sale will be Feb. 16, 17 and 18.

Friday night the show will open at 6 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Hwy 36 S in Rosenberg.

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual opening party from 6 - 9 p.m. Two buildings filled with top quality merchandise will be featured.

Building C is the glass show featuring glassware and pottery from 1880's through the 1980's including: American Brilliant Cut Glass, Early American Pressed Glass, Carnival Glass, Depression Glass, Fenton, Cambridge, Fostoria, Westmoreland, Imperial, Heisey and Blenko. The second building showcases the general line antique show with a variety of jewelry, silver, art glass, quilts and pottery.

The Houston Glass Show remains one of the best glass shows in the country.

The show was founded by members of the Gulf Coast Depression Glass Society in the mid 1970's. Frances Bones found the facilities at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in 1982 and it has been the show's home ever since.

For more information visit www.maxmillerantiques.com.

Show hours will be Friday 6-9 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. Friday admission is \$15 and is good all three days. Admission on Saturday and Sunday is \$6, good for both days.



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