

January 2019

FULSHEAR LIVING

monthly



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FULSHEAR LIVING *monthly*™

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Community comes together for city clean-up

by CLAIRE GOODMAN



Volunteers split into groups and picked up trash and junk throughout the city.

The city of Fulshear is known for its natural beauty. It's a place where people can still appreciate the plants, wildlife and landscape of Texas' nature even though the fourth largest city is a short drive away.

Unfortunately, not everyone respects the natural environment of Fulshear.

Trash is casually discarded by the roadside. Streams and rivers often become the final resting place of plastic bottles and old tires.

Forever Fulshear is an organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the natural environment of the city. Each fall, Forever Fulshear hosts its "Keep Fulshear Beautiful" event in which volunteers come out to clean up trash and junk that has been carelessly dumped by roadsides and nature trails. Boy Scouts also planted new gardens around City Hall as part of the project

On Nov. 10, around 200 volunteers congregated at City Hall to conduct a mass clean-up around Fulshear. Volunteers included city leaders, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, church groups and families. The diverse volunteers all shared a common goal: keeping Fulshear beautiful. The morning started out with intermittent rains, but the volunteers pushed through with their plans despite the light sprinkling and wet chill in the air.

Mayor Aaron Groff was excited to see how many community members came out despite the unpleasant weather. "It was great to drive up to City Hall and see so many people, especially the kids. The energy and the excitement and the willingness of the

kids was the best part. Even though it was sprinkling everyone came out to pick up trash," he said.

City council member John Kelly agreed. "It's an honor to be here cleaning up the streets and inroads that aren't as well-traveled," he said. "It's great to be able to get out and see your neighbors and do something positive for the community."

The volunteers split into groups and moved through different parts of Fulshear. Kelly led his group from City Hall to the back end of Bois d'Arc Ln. picking up trash as they went along. "We found a lot of trash. The most interesting thing someone found was a license plate, but (the trash in) our section was mostly cans, bottles and those types of things that people just throw out of car windows while they're driving."

Groff's group found even more interesting refuse. "Somebody threw bags of shoes off a bridge. Not just a couple bags: like seven bags of shoes. It was almost like a shoe collection that they were going to donate or something but instead they threw them off a bridge," Groff said.

Groff added with a laugh of frustration, "The most ironic part of it too is that right there where they were dumped is the 'No Littering' sign. And there was tons of trash right there."

Seeing the community come together to clean up the city was inspiring to the volunteers. One particular young volunteer stood out because it was her birthday, and she chose to spend it cleaning trash to make the city a better place.

Gabrielle Williams celebrated her eighth birthday picking up trash with her family. "I wanted to be here because I really like



PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:

The Boy Scouts came to Keep Fulshear Beautiful to clean up trash and plant a new garden at City Hall.

City council member John Kelly and his crew walked roughly two miles cleaning trash along the inroads of Fulshear.

Mayor Aaron Groff led his group of volunteers down Bois d'Arc Ln. cleaning up trash at the 'Keep Fulshear Beautiful' event.

Mayor Aaron Groff's most interesting, and troublesome, find was seven bags of shoes that had been thrown off a bridge.

playing outside, and I want to help the animals have the longest life they possibly can by picking up trash," she said.

Gabrielle was joined by her mother, Christy Williams, father, Byron Williams and five-year-old sister, Olivia Williams.

When Gabrielle announced she wanted to spend her birthday cleaning up trash, Christy thought that Gabrielle was confused or that her interest would wane. "When (Gabrielle) said she wanted to clean up trash for her birthday, part of me thought maybe she didn't understand. So I tried to get her to elaborate, and I said, 'What do you actually want to do?,' and she said, 'I want to pick up trash.' And every time we revisited the topic she said, 'Mommy I told you I want to pick up trash.' She was really clear about it: no party, no friends over: she just wanted to do this for her birthday," Christy said.

Byron added, "It caught me off-guard, but it fits her personality

perfectly to want to help people and animals and nature."

Gabrielle and Olivia were far from being the only young children present for the clean up. Jeremy Odell, Cub Master of Cub Scouts Pack 106 reported that almost 50 Cub Scouts and their families showed up to help clean Fulshear. The Scouts have a long-standing tradition of community service and environmental activism, so Keep Fulshear Beautiful was a great opportunity for the children to grow as Scouts and community members.

Keep Fulshear Beautiful also has a clean-up in the spring. Groff hopes that the community will continue to come out regularly to improve the natural beauty of the city. "Fulshear is growing, so the need for the community to be involved in keeping it clean is growing, too. When I see so many children and families come out wanting to help, it's the best feeling," he said.



Around 200 volunteers congregated at City Hall to clean trash in Fulshear.



Volunteers picked up trash off the road side.



Ironically, large quantities of trash were dumped right in front of the 'No Littering' sign.

HORSING AROUND FOR DOGS

— *New Fulshear area dog rescue raises money with polo event* —



When starting up a new charity, sometimes support comes in unexpected places. Belle's Buds Rescue is a new dog rescue that serves the Fulshear area. On Oct. 27, Belle's Buds Rescue hosted a fundraiser called "Pups & Polo" at Pecan Acres Polo Club.

The event was supposed to feature a polo tournament, but rains the night before made the fields too dangerous for the horses. Belle's Buds went ahead with the event despite the cancelled game, and the experience was still enjoyable for both the supporters and dogs.

Tammy Livingston and Julia Stanzer started Belle's Buds back in April after Livingston's dog died suddenly and tragically. "Belle was the love of my life. She changed a lot of people's lives because she loved people. She loved kids and dogs, and she just made everybody feel more confident."

Livingston and Stanzer started out pulling dogs from the streets. Stanzer said, "I saw a dog get hit by a car right in front of me, and I called animal control for help, and they said, 'You know what we do.'" Realizing there was a great need for a no-kill solution to strays in the area, Livingston and Stanzer banded together to start helping abandoned dogs.

Rather than leave the dog with animal control, Stanzer took him to the vet. "By the time we got there, he started to try to stand up. So we said, 'We're going to do whatever we can to help him.'"

They posted the dog's pictures on Facebook to see if he had an owner, but no one claimed him. Instead, someone reached out and offered to pay for the dog's medical care. "That's what triggered us to start an official rescue," Stanzer said, "We said, 'We need to just start doing this.'"



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Tammy Livingston (left) and Julia Stanzer started Belle's Buds Rescue to help homeless dogs in the area.

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After that, dogs kept coming to Livingston and Stanzer. Once they opened the door to saving dogs, they were inundated with homeless dogs from the area.

When their official status as a dog rescue was established, they started raising funds to help more dogs. Livingston is a long-time polo fan, so the decision to host a charity polo tournament came naturally to her.

She's been playing polo for 25 years and was a polo club manager in Houston for 12 years. Pecan Acres Polo Club owners Tim Kelly and Melissa Kelly are staunch advocates of animal rescue, so when they saw a chance to help a local rescue raise funds and awareness, they readily offered their club.

Even though the polo tournament was rained out, there were still plenty of entertaining activities and attractions at Pups & Polos.

Famous Argentinian polo player Hernan Tejera did a demonstration teaching visitors how to properly swing the polo mallet and how to hit the ball from horseback. After the instruction, everyone ran around the polo field playing with foot mallets. Recalled Livingston, "Families were hitting the ball around on the field, and the kids especially loved it."

Pups & Polo also featured a silent auction, dessert table, and professional photographer who took photos of families with a vintage truck.

Belle's Buds brought several to the event to represent the rescue. For fun, the rescue even had a "Smooch the Pooch" kissing booth where visitors could kiss the adoptable dogs.



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IN & AROUND FULSHEAR

Pups & Polo raised around \$4,000 for Belle's Buds, and six dogs were adopted from the event.

The money will go towards medical care for the dogs Belle's Buds pulls off the streets in Fulshear. There are around 30 dogs currently in their care with more coming in every day. It's tiresome work, and sometimes the volume of animals in need

feels overwhelming. But Stanzer and Livingston's ardent love for dogs keeps them working every day.

Livingston laughed, "We say we're going to quit every day. but then by that afternoon we remember why we're doing this."

For more information on Belle's Buds and their work in the Fulshear area visit www.bellesbudsrescue.com



Belle's Buds set up a kissing booth for their adoptable dogs.



Julia Stanzer with some of Belle's Buds adoptable dogs at Pups & Polo



One of the fundraising features at Pups & Polo was a dessert sale.



Professional polo player Hernan Tejera was on hand at Pups & Polo teaching mallet techniques.





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FULSHEAR POLICE

are now equipped with body cameras

by **CLAIRE GOODMAN**

There are two sides to every story, and now thanks to a new set of body cameras, the Fulshear Police Department will be able to tell both sides.

As of Nov. 29, all Fulshear police officers will be wearing body cameras while on patrol. The cameras are the model “Axon Body 2”, which features 1080p resolution, 70 hours of recording time and 143 degree visibility. The cameras record both audio and video and are worn on the center of the chest over the officer’s clothing. The video captured by the cameras is stored on a cloud that can be accessed by computer or on a cell phone using a special application.

Capt. Mike McCoy of the Fulshear Police Department said, “The word we use for this program is ‘transparency’. The point of the cameras is to enable everyone to see what’s happening on both sides.” The cameras provide an added measure of protection for both police and civilians, but they are most beneficial in proving the innocence of police officers who have been accused of wrongdoing.

Fulshear is a low-crime area, and fortunately there have been no brutality or misconduct allegations against Fulshear police officers thus far. In fact, the cameras were purchased at the urging of the officers, not the civilians. “My officers have seen some of the things that are happening in other places, and they want that protection that the cameras bring,” McCoy said.

He explained, “God forbid we should ever have a situation where the officers have to shoot someone, but if we ever did and someone were to say, ‘That man was unarmed,’ our video footage would protect us.”

The cameras also have a special feature that allows them to sync to any other body cameras nearby, meaning that if multiple officers are on the scene, the cameras will link to combine one field of view. The combined angles will form a more complete picture of the exact scenario captured in the footage.

McCoy noted that with social media and recording devices, it’s easy to circulate YouTube videos or video footage that show

brutality or misconduct from one perspective. With a 143 degree visual field, the police department will be able to show vindicating evidence that a cell phone might not capture. “Someone might say, ‘(The person in the video) didn’t even have



All Fulshear police officers will wear the Axon 2 body camera while on patrol.

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a gun, and the police just shot him.' But with these camera angles, we'll be able to see if they actually did have a gun that just wasn't visible from that vantage point," McCoy explained.

The videos also give police the ability to respond quickly with counter-evidence, should an indicting video from the public surface. "These videos show up immediately, and people immediately jump behind them and make up their minds that the police did something wrong. Now we can produce our own accounts of what happened just as quickly," said McCoy.

While McCoy does not anticipate that the cameras will be needed to protect the force against brutality allegations, he believes they will still be valuable in other situations. The police department has had dashboard cameras on their squad cars for some time, and even though they



don't provide the same measure of security as a body camera, they have protected his officers every now and then.

He recalled, laughing, "One time I had a woman call and complain that an officer had been rude to her son while giving him a ticket," he said. "So I told her, 'OK, come by the station and we'll review the (dashboard camera) footage together.' She said, 'You have camera footage? That's OK, I don't think I need to come by.'"

McCoy acknowledges that occasionally the videos will reveal that the officer was in the wrong, and the cameras will be beneficial in those circumstances as well. "If the officer

did, in fact, do something wrong, we will know. And even if (what the officer did) wasn't anything serious, we can still use the video as a training tool to improve our department," he said.

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RICHMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT

supports 'Movember' movement with newly designed T-shirts

by **CLAIRE GOODMAN**



This year, the Richmond Fire Dept. began a new tradition of wearing t-shirts in support of 'Movember.' The shirts, designed by the firefighters themselves, are intended to raise awareness for prostate and testicular cancers and destigmatize the issue of mens' cancers.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and since 2012, the Richmond Fire Department has designed special T-shirts for their firefighters to wear in support of the movement. Every year the shirt features a new design created by the firefighters themselves, and the crews wear the shirts when not in uniform or responding to an emergency call.

This year the Richmond Fire Department began a tradition for mens' cancers as well. The department designed T-shirts for November, which is Prostate and Testicular Cancers Awareness month. The awareness movement, commonly known as "Movember" not only promotes awareness for prostate and testicular cancers, it also encourages men to discuss the disease more openly.

Men are more reticent to discuss matters like mens' cancers because society has perpetuated a stigma against men speaking about their illnesses or struggles. Mark Hedstrom, senior vice president of operations for the Movember Foundation said, "Men, as individuals, we're taught not to talk about our problems. We throw dirt on them or duct tape on them."

Remaining silent on the issue of cancer also stifles life-saving conversations about cancer screening and early diagnosis. The Richmond Fire Dept. hopes that by wearing shirts in support of the Movember movement they can help destigmatize the issues of mens' cancers.

The issue hits home for the fire department. T American Fire Service has been focusing more and more on the dangers of cancer causing substances like chemicals- to which firefighters are frequently exposed.

Richmond Fire Department Chief Mike Youngblood said, "We have lost too many in our profession to cancer. The International Association of Fire Chiefs, along with other organizations have researched and promoted ways to reduce the loss of our firefighters. New cancer screening initiatives are being put in place to ensure that members of the Richmond Fire Department have all measures available to detect, diagnose and prevent cancer."

Michelle Moore, representative for the Richmond Rotary Club which supports the Richmond Fire Department, said, "When it comes to their health, too many men don't talk about and don't take action toward identifying and managing activities regarding cancer screening as well as implementing preventative measures. Awareness is the key to understand the actions needed to manage men's health and the Richmond Fire Department specially designed t-shirts will draw attention to men's health and cancer awareness."

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The Fulshear Festival of Lights kicked off the Christmas Season with the lighting of their giant Christmas tree in downtown Fulshear.

FULSHEAR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS kicks off the Christmas Season

by **CLAIRE GOODMAN**

The Fulshear Festival of Lights is perhaps the most highly-anticipated Christmas event in Fulshear. The evening brought the Christmas Spirit to downtown Fulshear with singing choirs, a parade, a giant Christmas tree, a visit from Santa and much more.

This year's Fulshear Festival of Lights was held on Dec. 1. Thousands of visitors flocked to downtown for the festivities. The Fulshear Police Department reported that at one point, the line of cars driving to the festival was 6 miles long.

It was worth the wait. The First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir led a Christmas carol sing-along for the crowds. The giant Christmas tree dazzled with its lights and bright ornaments. Hundreds of vendors came out selling everything from food to crafts.

The Master of Ceremony for the evening was Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear-Katy Chamber of Commerce. He greeted festival goers in his finest Christmas suit as he cruised through the



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LOCAL EVENTS

parade route on a Segway.

There were plenty of activities for children as well. Children could jump on giant inflatables, and Home Depot came out with a Christmas craft station for kids to paint ornaments.

When the sun set, the parade began. The Fulshear Fire Department and Fulshear Police Department brought their vehicles through the crowd with their lights and sirens. Mayor Aaron Groff and the Fulshear City Council even had their own float.

The evening concluded with a spectacular fireworks show choreographed to Christmas music.



Mayor Aaron Groff and Fulshear City Council throw candy to parade spectators.

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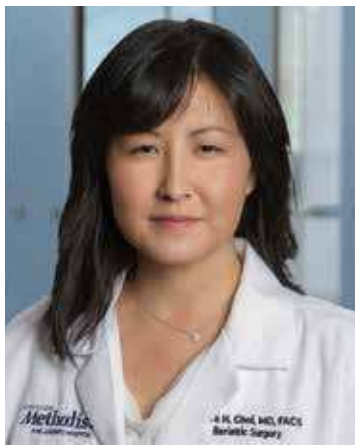
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Master of Ceremony for the evening was Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear-Katy Chamber of Commerce. McCoy greeted visitors on in his Christmas suit.



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Texana 5K raises money for NEW FULSHEAR CAMPUS

Story by **CLAIRE GOODMAN** | Photos courtesy of **ANDI WALLIS**

As construction for the new Texana Center continues, the Fulshear community has continued to show up in support of the cause. The Texana Center, which provides services to adults and children with autism or intellectual and developmental disabilities, has been the recipient of multiple major fundraising events in the area.

Coming on the heels of October's Scarecrow festival, which raised more than \$20,000 for the cause, the Texana Center hosted its second annual Texana 5K in November.

The race took place at the Jordan Ranch development. In addition to providing the race area, the master-planned community enthusiastically supported the event by promoting it.

The weather on the morning of the race was dismal with a wet chill and intermittent rains. Still, Andi Wallis, Community Relations Manager for Texana Center estimated that roughly 100 people showed up for the race. She believes the attendance would have been much higher had the weather been more pleasant.

"We had about 160 participants register, but we probably had

about 100 people actually there," Wallis reported.

"A lot of people had signed up to walk, but then they woke up and the weather was cold, so they decided to choose the 'sleep in' option," she added laughing.

Despite the dreary weather, the event was still entertaining and fun for the community. Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce was the Master of Ceremonies. Jason Hurley, fitness trainer at Summit Fitness Studios did a warm-up before the race- decked out in a festive turkey hat.

There were plenty of fun activities for the kids: "Jump for Joy", a party rental company, donated the use of a 16-foot slide for the children to play. The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office also brought their Ford Mustang squad cars out to the event. Children were invited to sit in the backseat and learn about the police force.

The Texana 5K raised \$18,400, all of which went towards the construction of the new Fulshear campus.

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Don McCoy, president of the Fulshear-Katy Chamber of Commerce was Master of Ceremonies for the Texana 5K.



The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office brought their Ford Mustang squad cars to the Texana 5K and invited children to look over the cars and sit in the backseat.



Runners stretch before the race.



Runners line up for the start of the race.

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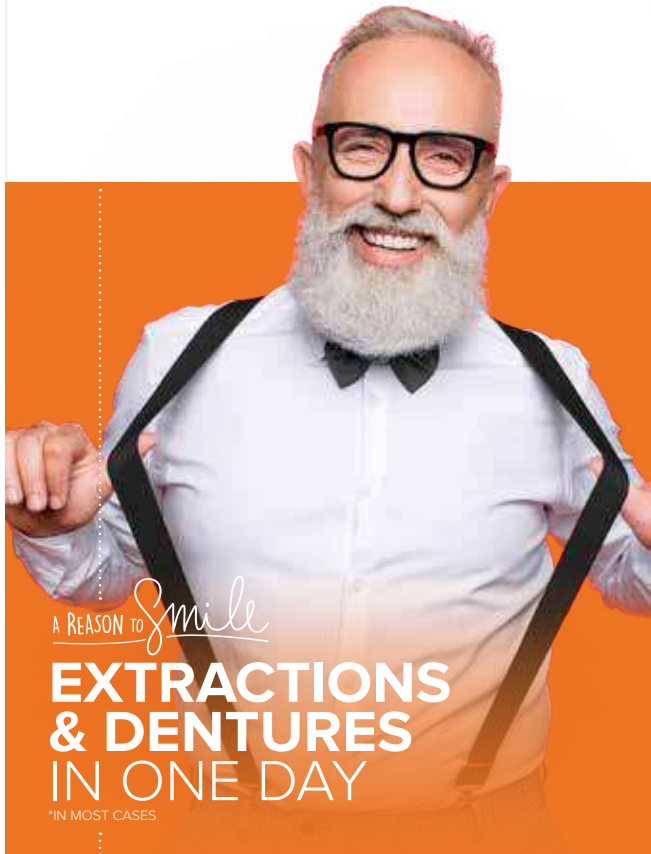
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Jason Hurley from Summit Fitness Studio came out to lead the participants in some pre-race stretching.



And they're off! The Texana 5K raised money for the construction of the new Texana Center Fulshear Campus.



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7 WAYS Fulshear residents can GIVE BACK

by JULIE SILVA

The season of giving is upon us, and there's never a better time to open up your heart, your schedule and your pocketbook. The items below are just a few ways Fulshear residents can help locally.

1 Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels
Adopt a Senior through the Secret Santa program at Fort Bend Meals on Wheels. Step 1: Contact Meghan Person at 281-633-7741 or meghan@fortbendseniors.org, and let her know how many ornaments you'd like. She'll have you pick them up at their offices at 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. Step 2: Shop! Remember to include a receipt if you purchase a gift card. Step 3: Wrap it, and if there are multiple for the same person, put them in one big gift bag. Securely attach the ornament with the senior's name to the gift.
Fort Bend Seniors also is looking for elves to drop off the presents the week before Christmas. Other ways to the agency help include meal delivery, packing meals and assisting with arts and crafts or hosting exercise or dance classes. For more information, visit <https://fortbendseniors.org/volunteer>.

2 Second Mile
Second Mile is collecting new, unwrapped toys now through Monday, Dec. 10. Families will be able to shop at their Christmas Toy Store for gifts at highly discounted prices, and they say their biggest need is for children ages 8-12. Visit <https://www.secondmile.org/events-page/christmas-toy-drive-2018> for more information.
Other ways to help include hosting a food drive, serving neighbors in the organization's pantry or helping organizing the warehouse. For more information, email volunteer@secondmile.org or visit <https://www.secondmile.org/volunteer>.

3 Pregnancy Resource Medical Center-Fort Bend
The Pregnancy Resource Center provides education and support to women facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies. The organization needs client advocate volunteers to greet, consult with and assist the clients who visit the center. The center's hours have been extended to accommodate those who work or go to school. For more information, call Meggi Stewart, client services director, at (281) 232-2375.
Other volunteer opportunities include LEAP (Learn Earn and Plan) "Baby Boutique" volunteers, LEAP volunteers and diaper drive hosts. For more information, visit <https://prmcfortbend.org/get-involved/opportunities>.

4 Riverbend Baptist Church
Riverbend Baptist Church hosts the Season of Giving, offering six projects and opportunities to serve.

- Saturday, Dec. 1-Unwrapping Christmas: Provide digital devotions and family activities
- Saturday, Dec. 1-Fulshear Christmas Parade: Construct floats, provide actors and carolers
- Tuesday, Dec. 4-The Ballard House: Prepare and serve a meal to families who are living at the Ballard House
- Saturday, Dec. 8-Family Hope Food Fair: Sort and load at Parkway Fellowship
- Saturday, Dec. 15-Angel Tree: In connection with Prison Fellowship, church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the Gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent.
- Sunday, Dec. 20-23: Celebrate Light: Outdoor walk-through Christmas light experience

For more information, email Todd Melton at TMelton@RiverBendBC.org or call (281) 797-0185.

5 Lunches of Love
The whole family can put their arts and crafts skills to good use by decorating lunch bags for Lunches of Love. The agency was completely out leading into the holiday season and uses a regular size (No. 4) lunch bag. You can use markers, crayons, coloring pencils and stamps (but not stickers). Other ideas include gluing on word searches or seek and finds or drawing tic-tac-toe boards. Deliver the bags to 1122 Fourth Street in Rosenberg or mail to: Lunches of Love, P.O. Box 1161, Rosenberg, TX 77471.

6 Friends of the Bob Lutts Fulshear/Simonton Branch Library
The organization was formed to raise funds for special programming at the local library branch. A book sale benefitting the organization is ongoing inside the branch. For more information or to join the organization, call 281-346-2850 or email zdll02@ev1.net.

7 The Petterrie
The Petterrie is a pet rescue nonprofit that is based on foster families. Not only does the organization rescue abandoned animals, it also is working to spay and neuter the entire population. Want to help? Try fostering an abandoned dog or cat, or participating with the senior citizen pet support program. Short on time? You can make a donation direction on their website.
Visit <https://thepetterrie.com/volunteer/> for more information.



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Fulshear comes together for FURRY FRIENDS FESTIVAL

by **JULIE SILVA**

As Ramona Ridge cradled Missy, a shih tzu still shaking after receiving a microchip implant, she recognized the large black dog striding toward the table.

“There’s Onyx!” she called out to Julie Dowdall, who was helping veterinarian Kristen Slater microchip a reluctant puppy.

Onyx is one of more than 50 dogs that have been adopted out of The Petterie since it was established about two years ago. She was found abandoned at Antonie’s Market Grill in October and Dowdall took her in for about a month before rehoming her to Fulshear resident Jennifer Raby. Raby said it took a little work for Onyx to get used to Raby’s three other dogs, and Onyx went to training for social issues.

A year later, Onyx is a part of the family, is a great guard dog and thinks she can do everything Raby’s 5-pound Chihuahua can do.

Supporters of The Petterie came from all over Fulshear for the Furry Friends Festival, hosted by RE/MAX Cinco Ranch-The Gayle Bowen Team on Saturday, Nov. 17, in Fullbrook. The festival included a dog obstacle course, a dog trainer, photos with Santa,

\$10 microchip implants and raffles. Slater, of Paws to Claws Veterinary Care, donated her time for event.

All of the proceeds from the festival went to the nonprofit, which relies solely on donations.

Bowen and her team put the event together in two weeks, and she plans to make it an annual affair.

“People in this area really love their pets,” Bowen said, as she pointed to her daughter Stephanie Bowen Sykes’ T-shirt, which read “Rescued is our favorite breed.”

Bowen hoped to raise \$5,000 for The Petterie, as well as spread the word about the fairly new nonprofit.

Ridge said The Petterie uses donations to spay and neuter local animals. Every dollar donated, she said, goes back into helping animals.

“We’re hoping to get it down to no roaming dogs,” said Ridge, adding that they’d like to start a trap, neuter, release program with the cats in downtown. “A lot of private residents have chipped in to help, but there’s still a ways to go.”

Dowdall said The Petterie is foster-based program without a building because they want their dogs to be in a home environment with families. Some of the dogs, she believes, have been dumped because people think Fulshear is in the country. Other dogs, Dowdall said, are let out to freely roam by their owners — that’s why spaying and neutering is so important. The Petterie has found 18 dogs in one specific area, she said, and 17 were puppies.


“We’re local. We aren’t big enough to go all over, and we’ve got our hands full with what we have here,” said Dowdall, noting the dozens of dogs they’ve adopted out to Fulshear residents. “We’ve had such great success with local people adopting our pets, and they’re staying local, and they’re responsible pet owners.”

Saturday, Karen Donohue brought her rescue puppy, Iris, to the festival to meet with Nick May of Mayday Dog Training. Iris gets excited when meeting new people and wants to jump all over them. Donohue’s had a dog trainer come to her house, but Iris is behaved at home.

May said there are different collars and tactics that can help and encouraged Donohue to come to one of his weekly training sessions.

The 9-month-old puppy was found abandoned with her siblings on a country road in Waller. When she was rescued, her right eye was so damaged, it had to be removed, but that doesn’t stop her from loving on everyone she meets.

“She’s a really sweet dog,” Donohue said.



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A group of Fulshear residents and their four-legged family members roam the Fullbrook grounds during the Furry Friends Festival on Saturday, Nov. 17.



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Iris sits next to Karen Donohue as she the Fulshear resident talks to Nick May of Mayday dog training at the Furry Friends Festival in Fulshear on Saturday, Nov.17. A rescue pup with one eye, Iris likes to jump on everyone she meets.



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Ramona Ridge comforts Missy, who just received a microchip implant, at the Furry Friends Festival in Fulshear on Saturday, Nov. 17.





Jennifer Raby pets Onyx at the Furry Friends Festival in Fulbrook on Saturday, Nov. 17. Raby adopted Onyx after she was found abandoned at Anthony's Market Grill last year.

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Fulshear Chamber adding **KATY TO TITLE**

by **VALERIE SWEETEN**

With the growth of a community like Fulshear, it's only natural that other aspects continue to expand with area businesses as they stretch to the boundaries of the area.

Keeping pace with Fulshear is the newly named Fulshear Katy Area Chamber of Commerce (FKACC) formerly the Fulshear Area Chamber of Commerce (FACC).

How did this come to be?

According to Don McCoy, the president of the FKACC, it all began in July 2018 when the Chamber's board of directors and chamber members voted to add Katy to its name.

"We wanted to better reflect the make up our membership," said McCoy. "Roughly 30 percent of the chamber members are Fulshear businesses. The remaining 70 percent are outside of Fulshear city limits, some as far as Sealy, Rosenberg, Eagle Lake and League City. We even have a chamber member in the Cayman Islands."

Based on feedback from the Chamber's annual member survey, business addresses for every member was mapped out therefore revealing a greatly expanded geographic footprint, said McCoy.

What it revealed was the obvious that an incredible number of businesses are interested in sharing their attributes to help each other and the surrounding communities.

"The numbers and the new map spoke volumes, so we chose to amend our name to include the overall Katy area to better represent our growing membership," McCoy said.

With this new change, there is also a new website, www.fulshearkaty.com for more information as well as a Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber mobile app available on Apple and Android.

This FKACC specific app allows chamber members to login, submit press releases, manage their classified ads, add pictures, and refer members to one another. Non-chamber members can use the business directory to look for services and providers.

"In addition to the mobile app, we have new traffic catcher pages for all chamber members," McCoy said. "This is an internet page that is made specifically for each company that mirrors their current webpage but is a one stop shop for important information. This one-page link contains the business's phone number, location, map, and business hours all in one easy to use and download page."



This service also provides members with a monthly email report informing them of how many searches they matched and number of visits their page received.

The entire chamber membership welcomed and positively accepted the name change. It passed with 99 percent in agreement.

FKACC will continue to grow with their community and helping others to do the same with their businesses.

"We strive to make the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce a tangible resource for our members. It is very hard for people, in the midst of running their own business, to take the time to study all about marketing and networking. It is our job, here at the Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce to help educate and raise members' awareness through various marketing programs and initiatives," McCoy said.

The Fulshear Katy Area Chamber will stay involved and engaged with every member through weekly communication, monthly chamber meetings, networking events and more McCoy added.

Bring in 2019 with these drink recipes



Hot Buttered Rum

by **MARY of BAREFEET**
IN THE KITCHEN

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 cup Monk Fruit In The Raw bakers bag (or 24 packets of Monk Fruit In The Raw)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/16 teaspoon ground cloves
- Boiling water
- Half and half or heavy cream

DIRECTIONS

1 Combine the butter, sugar, Monk Fruit In The Raw, cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamom, and cloves in a mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until thoroughly combined. Use immediately, or transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

2 To make each drink, scoop 1 1/2-2 tablespoons of the buttered spice mixture into a small mug. Pour 1/4 cup of boiling hot water into the cup and stir or whisk to dissolve completely. Add 1-2 tablespoons of half and half or cream, and stir once more. Taste, add more water or cream, as desired.



Cranberry Martini

by **ED GRIVNER**

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (1.5 fluid ounce) jigger vodka
- 1/2 fluid ounce orange liqueur
- 1/2 fluid ounce dry

- vermouth 2 (1.5 fluid ounce) jiggers
- cranberry juice 1 cup ice
- Cranberries

DIRECTIONS

1 Combine vodka, orange liqueur, vermouth, cranberry juice, and ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake vigorously to chill. Pour into martini glasses, and serve.

2 Garnish with cranberries.

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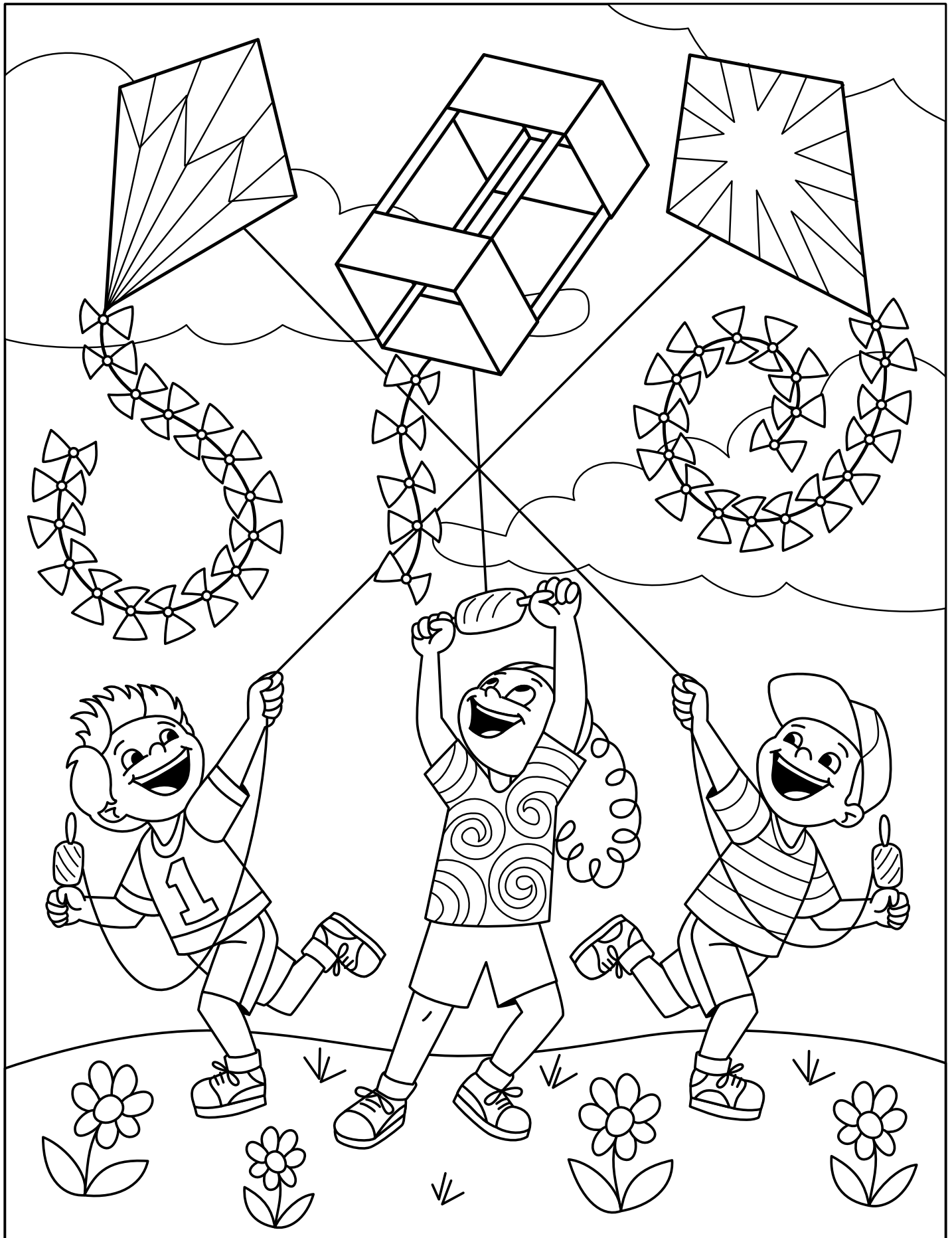


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