

August 2019

FULSHEAR LIVING

monthly



**Fort Bend Cares awards
\$170,000 in grants**

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FREEDOM FEST 2019
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FULSHEAR LIVING *monthly*™

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Fort Bend Cares awards \$170,000 in grants



Fort Bend Cares board of trustees members and 2019 Grant recipients.

Fort Bend Cares awarded \$170,000 in grants to local nonprofits committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged children in Fort Bend County.

Supporters gathered at Safari Texas Ranch to celebrate the results of another successful year. The event was sponsored by Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital. Key sponsors included Covia, Fluor, Silver Eagle Distributors, Rice & Gardner Consultants, Gregg Engineering, Billy & Tammy Brown, and Don & Ellie Knauss and the ongoing support of volunteers and additional donors.

The grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and more than 40 Fort Bend Cares Grants Committee volunteers performed a thorough review of grant applications from local nonprofits before making their recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

“Fort Bend Cares supporters entrust us to evaluate grant applicants to ensure the money they have helped us raise has the biggest and most positive impact on

disadvantaged children in Fort Bend County,” said Grants Committee Chairperson Patty Ward. “Those serving on the Grants Committee take this responsibility very seriously and are always so moved and impressed by all the dedicated organizations doing the much-needed work to help these kids.”

New grant recipients this year include Bo’s Place, which provides grief support services, resources and referrals to children who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives, and College Community Center, which organizes eight weeks of activities for students.

Since 2005, Fort Bend Cares has awarded more than \$2 million in grants to organizations that strive to improve the lives of the youth in Fort Bend.

For a complete list of 2019 grant recipients and for more information on Fort Bend Cares, visit www.fortbendcares.org.

Texana serves over 14,000 clients each year in its array of service programs that are located in each of the six counties, covering about 6,000 square miles.



From left: Grayle James, Fort Bend Cares Board of Trustees and Ellen Rhoads, Senior Manager of the Texana Children's Center for Autism are thrilled about the \$10,000 Fort Bend Cares grant which will be used in Texana's Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign to support expansion of Texana's Applied Behavior Analysis treatment for children with autism.

\$10,000 awarded to Texana Center for kids space

Fort Bend Cares made a \$10,000 grant to Texana's Forward Together in Fulshear Capital Campaign to support expansion of Texana's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) treatment for children with autism.

The Texana Children's Center for Autism currently has locations in Rosenberg and Sugar Land that help over 400 children each year with communication, self-care, and social skills.

"Unfortunately, the need for the program far exceeds Texana Center's available space," said Ellen Rhoads, senior manager of the Texana Children's Center for Autism. At any given time, between 200 and 300 children are waiting for a space at the Children's Center for Autism.

"Many of the waiting children reside in the Katy/ Fulshear Area. "The gift from Fort Bend Cares will help Texana Center reduce the waiting list and get more children with autism into ABA therapy that will help them learn to communicate and prepare them for school.



"Thank you, Fort Bend Cares, for helping Texana Center serve children in every corner of Fort Bend County!"

About Texana Center

Texana Center is a 501(c)3 public, not for profit, organization that provides behavioral healthcare and developmental disabilities services to residents of a six county area that includes Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller, and Wharton Counties. Texana Center has its headquarters in Rosenberg in Fort Bend County.

Texana serves over 14,000 clients each year in its array of service programs that are located in each of the six counties, covering about 6,000 square miles.

Texana Center is designated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as the Local Mental Health Authority and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Authority for the six aforementioned counties. Texana Center is a member of the Texas Council of Community Services, the National Council for Behavioral Healthcare Services, and Mental Health Corporations of America.

Remembering the ‘Year of the Charger’

Story & Photos by Chad Washington

KATY – It was the usual graduation ceremony at Katy ISD’s Leonard Merrell Center, full of proud parents and happy high school graduates.

But this was the first graduation ceremony for Fulshear High School, the newest high school in Lamar Consolidated ISD. The words “First Class 2019” were placed on each graduate’s scarf to remind all of being the first-ever graduating class.

Rafal Bilewski, valedictorian of the class, recounted in his commencement address about how the class started as young sophomores not knowing each other when Fulshear opened in 2015, and how they had grown up together and become a closer unit.

“I remember us meeting each other three years ago in this new school of over 400 students, not knowing each other and not knowing exactly about the future ahead of us,” he said. “We were just kids going to school not fully understanding where we would head up and just going with the flow.”



Fulshear High School graduate Katsiaryna Aliashkevich gets a congratulatory handshake from former Lamar Consolidated ISD board president James Steenberg during Saturday's graduation ceremony.

“Throughout the years, I think we have made, broke, grown and strengthened our relationships, took new opportunities for better or for worse, and as a result, grew as better individuals.”

Bilewski says he will go on to study engineering at Texas A&M University this fall.

Fulshear principal Daniel Ward declared that 2019 will be known as the “Year of the Charger.”

Not only did the Class of 2019 accomplish a lot academically, but athletically as well. The baseball and volleyball teams each won district titles and had deep postseason runs, with the volleyball team reaching the regional finals. Also, the golf and tennis teams had several players reach the state tournament.

“It seems like only yesterday that you were at Charger



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TRYOUTS BEGIN JULY AND AUGUST



Graduates of Fulshear High School stand after receiving their diplomas and becoming the first-ever graduates of the school.

Camp and unsure of what Fulshear High School would become,” Ward told the crowd. “The Class of 2019 has made the start of Fulshear’s legacy bright, strong and fully charged. Anything achieved by Fulshear High School will be started by this class.”

Ward got a little choked up when he told the graduates that he was honored to be their principal.

“You will always have a special place in my heart and I will never forget the graduating class of 2019,” he said.

Ward went on to remind the students of the school motto, “Once a Charger, Always a Charger.”



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LCISD tech students win big at national competition

By Alex Wukman

Lamar Consolidated ISD's Technology Student Association clubs scored major victories at this year's national conference and competition. Held from June 28 to July 2 in Washington, D.C., the event attracted technology and engineering students from all over the country. LCISD students competed in both team and individual events, according to standings published on the 2019 National TSA Conference Results page.

The results show that Fulshear High School student McKenzie Quarles took first place in dragster design. Dragster design requires students to design and build a working CO₂ powered drag car. Quarles had previously won the award in 2018.

Iris Ung, a student at Foster High School, took fifth place in photographic technology. Students were required to use photographic and imaging technology to convey a message based on a theme, according to the Technology



Photo courtesy of LCISD | Lamar Consolidated High School students Luis Sepulveda, Vincent Aaron DyCruz, Madison Morris, Kristian Mendoza took third place in the Technology Student Association's national scientific visualization competition. The final round of the competition was held at the TSA's annual conference in Washington, D.C., which was held from June 28-July 2.

Student Association's website. For the photographic technology finals, students had to create a single image from an onsite prompt. Ung also took fifth in the future technology and engineering teacher competition.

The future technology teacher competition requires students to investigate technology education preparation programs and test their potential as a future technology educator.

Reading Junior High School student Evan Zhang took fourth place in the middle school CAD foundations

A group of seven people, including adults and children, are posing outdoors near a body of water. They are all smiling. The text "Smile!" is written in a large, blue, cursive font at the top left.

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Photo courtesy of LCISD | Foster High School student Iris Ung, left, took fifth place in the Technology Student Association's national photographic technology competition. The open competition was held at the TSA's national conference in Washington, D.C. The conference ran from June 28 to July 2

competition. The competition required students to create a 2D representation of an engineering part or object.

LCISD students also performed well in the team competitions. Briscoe Junior High's website design team took third nation and the school's microcontroller design team is sixth in the country. Lamar Consolidated High School's science visualization team took third in the nation.

Science visualization teams compete by using either 2D or 3D computer graphic design tools to communicate science, technology, engineering or mathematics idea, subject or concept.



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George Ranch High School had a big showing at the national competition, four of the school's teams made it into the top 10 of their respective fields. George Ranch's engineering design team came in fifth in the nation.

The engineering design competition requires teams of 3-6 students to develop a solution to one of the National Academy of Engineering's grand challenges. Each team's solution is graded on a variety of factors, including: precise problem definition, thorough research, creativity and experimentation.

The judges also weigh the documents and models that the team generates along its path towards a solution. Teams that make the semifinals have to present and defend their solutions to a panel of judges.

George Ranch's animatronics team came in ninth. In the animatronics competition, teams are required to demonstrate their knowledge of mechanical control systems by creating a device that communicates a specific topic, idea, subject or concept.

The competition also requires the usage of sound, lights and a surrounding environment. George Ranch also

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placed ninth in computer integrated manufacturing. In the computer integrated manufacturing competition a team of 2-6 students design and build a promotional product that showcases the current conference city and/ or state. George Ranch came in 10th in the board game design competition. Board game design requires students to create a visually appealing, interesting, exciting and intellectually challenging game from scratch.

In the final competition, teams had to set up and demonstrate how the game is played.

Three new trustees elected to school board

The LCISD Board of Trustees canvassed the votes for three new trustees: Jon Welch, Joy Williams and Alex Hunt. Hunt represents District #7, Welch represents District #5 and Williams represents District #4. After the new Board was seated, the Trustees voted on the Board Officers to serve from May 2019 to May 2020.

The Board elected Kay Danziger as President, Kathryn Kaminski as Vice President and Mandi Bronsell as Secretary.

The Lamar CISD Board of Trustees typically meets on the third Thursday of each month at Brazos Crossing, 3911 Avenue I in Rosenberg. A workshop session is normally held the Tuesday before each regular meeting, where trustees review agenda items and can have their questions answered. Trustees each receive detailed information regarding agenda items the week before meetings are scheduled. Lamar CISD Board meeting videos are uploaded the following week and remain archived on the Lamar CISD YouTube channel.



LCISD Trustees – From left Jon Welch, Joy Williams and Alex Hunt.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Workshop:** Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Board Meeting:** Aug. 15 at 7 p.m.
- **Board Meeting:** Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.
- **Board Workshop:** Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Board Meeting:** Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Unique extracurricular activities that can help students stand out

According to The Princeton Review, college admissions officers approach each admissions season hoping to create a class made up of students with diverse interests and backgrounds. To accomplish that goal, officers typically look at each applicant's extracurricular activities to learn more about the person behind the application. Academic performance is important, but extracurricular activities might help set students apart from other applicants with similar academic backgrounds but little or no extracurricular activity on their applications.

Students who want to their extracurricular activities to stand out among the masses of college applicants can speak with officials at their school about these opportunities.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS: Often referred to as "Model UN," this activity asks students to role-play as United Nations delegates. Students who participate in Model UN develop public speaking skills while also learning how to conduct research, frame debates and develop their leadership skills.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLUBS: Such clubs can allow students who study foreign language to develop their language skills further, and they also can be great ways to learn about the culture and history behind the languages they're learning. Many schools also sponsor additional

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subject-specific clubs, such as chemistry clubs or English clubs, which can be ideal for students who want to pursue college degrees in such subjects.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: Students who qualify for membership in the National Honors Society are challenged to develop their skills further through participation in school activities and community service.

Extracurricular activities for non-athletes

According to the State of Play:2018 report from The Aspen Institute, 69 percent of children between the ages of six and 12 participated in a team or individual sport at least once in 2017.

As popular as sports are, the report found that just 37 percent of kids between the ages of six and 12 participated in a team sport on a regular basis in 2017. Lack of interest in sports is nothing for parents to worry about, though it is important that parents encourage their kids to participate in extracurricular activities, which can pay a host of dividends.

MUSIC: School bands or community music programs provide opportunities for kids to learn an instrument and connect with fellow music lovers.

VOLUNTEERING: Many organizations welcome teenager volunteers, which can help charities and other organizations meet their missions. Volunteering even allows kids to further indulge an existing passion. For example, kids who love the beach can volunteer with a local environmental organization that works to clean up local beaches and waterways.

WRITING: Youngsters with an interest in writing can participate in local creative writing groups. Such groups can be great places to brainstorm story ideas and learn about the creative writing process.

Tax-Free Weekend

During this annual sales tax holiday, you can buy most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) tax free from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. In most cases, you do not need to give the seller an exemption certificate to buy qualifying items tax free.

This year's sales tax holiday runs Friday, Aug. 9 through Sunday, Aug. 11. For more information visit comptroller.texas.gov.



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Popular classroom learning apps

According to research from Grunwald Associates, LLC, 71 percent of parents embrace mobile devices and feel they open up learning opportunities for kids that didn't previously exist. According to Apps for Education, there are more than 500,000 educational apps currently available for download. Apps can be stimulating and fun, but finding quality resources may involve sorting through those that aren't necessarily valuable. The following are some apps parents may want to consider.

Memrise: Learning a second or third language can be a boon to students of any age. Memrise drills students on vocabulary, phrases, aural recognition, and more.

Kahoot: Kahoot is a platform to create games and review content. Kahoot can be an ideal way for several students to prepare for a test in a digital study session.

Reading Eggs: This comprehensive learning system covers essential components of reading: awareness, vocabulary, phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Parents can see progress reports and know if and where extra attention may be necessary.

Edmodo: This app is designed to streamline workloads for teachers and help make it easier for them to stay connected with the classroom and their students. Parents can set up accounts and stay abreast of their children's activities, grades, messages and progress. Though it's not a learning app, Edmodo can be a valuable tool for classroom management.

Epic: This online children's subscription book service offers immediate, on-demand access to high-quality reading materials for children ages 12 and under. Voracious readers will always have content they can access, in addition to audio books, educational videos, and educational quizzes.

Photomath: This app enables students to snap pictures of complicated math problems and get step-by-step directions on how to answer them. Instead of simply giving the answer, Photomath provides students with the tools to answer the problems on their own.

StudyBlue: Students can create and share mobile flash cards, study guides, quizzes, and choose from other study materials to help reinforce lessons.

3 TIPS TO ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL HOMEWORK AREA

#1: Create a communal homework table

The Harvard Graduate School of Education notes that youngsters who seem reluctant to do their homework may benefit from doing their afterschool work at a communal table. With parents nearby, such students may feel less lonely and may be less likely to procrastinate if they know mom or dad are nearby. Students who are not reluctant to do their homework may benefit from working quietly in their bedrooms.

#2: Clear the area of distractions

Distractions like televisions, devices that are not necessary to complete assignments and even younger siblings can make it hard for teenagers to concentrate on their work. Designate a time each day for homework, ensuring that the television is off and that devices have been placed on "Do Not Disturb." In addition, high school students with younger siblings can expect their brothers and sisters to be finished with their homework first. Make sure youngsters recognize the importance of staying quiet until everyone has finished their homework. Encourage younger siblings to leave the homework area and play quietly or read elsewhere in the home.

#3: Include a break between school and homework time

Much like parents may like a few minutes to unwind when getting home from work at night, kids likely won't want to dive right into their homework after getting home from school. A break between the school day and homework time can help kids clear their heads so they're more capable of concentrating when they sit down to do their work.



Bradley graduated from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman Genesis Bradley graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Bradley is the daughter of Jennifer and Bryan Bradley of Fulshear.



U.S. Air Force Airman Genesis Bradley

Fort Bend seniors show off their talents

By Scott Reese Willey

Fort Bend County senior citizens have plenty of talent. Senior citizens from across Fort Bend and Waller counties came together at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center for the annual Independence Day Celebration & Senior Talent Show. Nearly 200 seniors attended the event, and more than 10 acts took the stage to show off their talents.

"The talent show competition was fierce and included singing, patriotic readings, dancing, prayers, and instrumental acts," organizers said.

Three judges, — Fort Bend Seniors Chief Finance Of-



Anna Wilkerson of Fulshear sings "Amazing Grace" during the annual talent show hosted by Fort Bend Seniors. She won first place for her talents.



Precinct 4 Constable Trever Nehls, standing, and Sheriff Troy Nehls, at right, pose with a group of seniors at the Independence Day Celebration and Senior Talent Show.

ficer Liz Toomey, Volunteer & Outreach Manager Rick Branek, and board member Sandi McNeil had a difficult time picking winners from so many talented performers. First-place winner was Anna Wilkerson of Fulshear's Irene Stern Community Center, a singer and pianist who wowed the audience with two gospel songs.

The second-place winner was Barbara Castillo from the Rosenberg Senior Center, who inspired the judges with her prayer and poetry readings.

Coming in third place was the TriCity Crazy Band Group, which included a group of seniors from the Fifth Street Community Center in Stafford, whose instruments included pots and pans, kazoos, and even a rubber chicken.

Joining the event were Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls and his twin brother, Precinct 4 Constable Trever Nehls, who sponsored the barbecue lunch. Chef Ara Malekian volunteered his time prepping the food, while both the Nehls joined in serving the nearly 200 seniors present.

Fort Bend Seniors provides hot, home-delivered meals to more than 1,500 senior citizens daily, many of whom live alone and cannot prepare their own meals.

In addition, FBS offers meals at 12 congregate centers as well as transportation to and from the centers, health screenings, recreational activities and more for older adults throughout the community.

Throughout the year, Fort Bend Seniors puts on large events for the 12 congregate centers to come together and celebrate. The next event on the FBS Calendar is Senior Prom, slated for Aug. 2.

For more information on FBS programs or events, visit www.fortbendseniors.org or call 281-633-7049.

Texas Master Naturalists announce 2019 fall training

By Margo "Mac" McDowell

Registration for the Fort Bend and Waller Counties' Texas Master Naturalist Coastal Prairie Class for 2019 is now open.

Naturalist students and graduates of this program may volunteer for projects around Fort Bend and Waller County including Katy Prairie Conservancy, Brazos Bend State Park, local school educational programs, Fort Bend County Fair, the Seabourne Nature Fest and the Chapter's signature project: Seabourne Creek Nature Park.

You can be involved in anything from trail management to educating students about our natural habitat with hands on materials. You can decide based on what interests you.

In addition to attending classes taught by recognized experts, you will participate in field trips to exceptional natural areas including Attwater Prairie Chicken National Refuge, Sea Center Texas, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Brazos Bend State Park and Katy Prairie Conservancy.

You will have the opportunity to enhance your knowledge of local geology, range management and ecological

diversity. Additionally, you will also visit local private reserves to experience different habitats and ecosystems.

The classes are scheduled to begin Tuesday evening Aug. 20 and complete in late October. The series includes four evening classes on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and eight Saturday classes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday classes are held at area parks and preserves to provide learning opportunities for new trainees in the field. Evening classes are near the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Texas Highway 36, South.

The total cost for the program is \$50 each person. For more information call 281-633-7033, email at mmcdowell@ag.tamu.edu or visit www.txmn.org/coastal.

Dancing queens take the stage in MAMMA MIA!

Sugar Land's national award-winning community theatre, Inspiration Stage, is excited to present MAMMA MIA!, with 12 shows over three weekends through Aug. 11 at the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, 226 Lakeview Dr.

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Sam (Max Morgan) and Donna (Megan Haines) in Inspiration Stage's MAMMA MIA!

unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show.

"We have a strong, solid cast of local actors bringing the characters of this romantic comedy to life. With its unforgettable ABBA score, our staging promises the enchanting tale of eternal laughter, enduring love, explosive choreography, and a walk down the aisle for a daughter and three possible dads...and a walk down memory lane for a mother and her true love," said guest director Nathan C. Hand.

Hand is no stranger to the stage, both as a performer and as production staff. He has collaborated in professional, non-profit and educational theatre for more than 25 years. He previously co-directed and co-choreographed The Producers with artistic director Mandy Seymore-Sensat at Inspiration Stage in the summer of 2015.



Sky (Kiefer Slaton) and Sophie (Haley Hussey) in MAMMA MIA!

against the white-washed, blue-doored buildings of an enchanting Greek island with waters so blue, it aches your eyes. Don't miss MAMMA MIA! at Inspiration Stage this summer!"

MAMMA MIA! has an energetic cast of talented adults, ages 16 and above, from around the greater Houston area. MAMMA MIA! also marks the last show of Inspiration Stage's 2018/2019 season. For tickets and information, visit www.inspirationstage.com.



VFW Post 3903 auxiliary awards scholarships

The VFW 3903 Auxiliary, for the eighth year, awarded \$1,000 scholarships to LCISD senior students. An awards ceremony was held at the Post recognizing the recipients and their family. Each recipient read their essay they submitted with their application. The program was developed by Vickie Tonn who serves as Scholarship Chairman. Also serving on the committee were Margie Dillon, Auxiliary President; and Sharon Cyrus. From left are Elizabeth Anders, Lamar High School, attending Tarleton State University; Sharon Cyrus, Scholarship Committee; Abriana Hernandez, Fulshear High School, attending University of Houston; Margie Dillon, VFW Auxiliary President and Scholarship Committee; Vickie Lynn Tonn, Scholarship Chair; Haley Etzler, Foster High School, attending University of Texas at Austin; and Raney Harriss, George Ranch, attending TCU.

August 2019	
August 2 at 8PM	August 8 at 8PM
August 3 at 3PM and 8PM	August 9 at 8PM
August 4 at 3PM	August 10 at 3PM and 8PM
August 11 at 3PM	

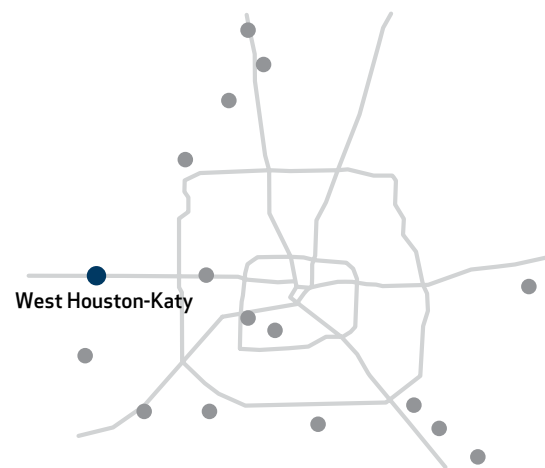
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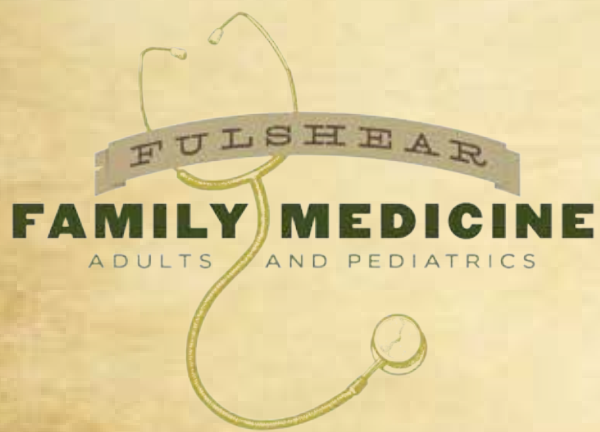
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August Events



August 3

Fulshear Farmer's Market

Every Saturday from 9am-1pm, the Fulshear Farmer's Market will feature the variety of local farmers, ranchers, and bakers. Located at 9035 Bois D'Arc Lane



August 9

Pauline Reese

Country angel Pauline Reese has a voice that's been deemed "top-notch" and with people like Willie Nelson calling her their favorite female artist, you won't want to miss out. Located at 9108 Farm to Market 1489, Fulshear, TX 77441 (Anthonie's Market & Grill)

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August 24

3rd Annual Cross Creek Ranch Pink Triathalon

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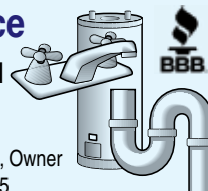
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