

REPORTER NEWS

Pearland Edition

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

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50 CENTS

Around Town

SEPTEMBER 21

ROTARY CLUB
Rotary Club of Pearland meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursdays at the Pearland Chamber, 6117 W. Broadway St. Call 832-293-9860 for information.

VATRE SESSION
Pearland ISD holds an informational session on the upcoming VATRE, or voter approval tax ratification election, at 6 p.m. in the PISD Education Support Center. More information, including an interactive tax calculator, can be found online at pearlandisd.org/VATRE.

SEPTEMBER 22

FALL FLING DANCE
Fall fling dance for ages 50 and up begins at 11:15 a.m. at the Knapp Activity Center, 2424 S. Park Avenue. Entry is \$8 for activity center members and \$12 for nonmembers, and includes entertainment, door prizes and refreshments. For information, call 281-652-1890.

CRAFT & CAR SHOW
Pearland Founder's Day Market, Craft and Car Show is 1 to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 2320 Hatfield Road. Market continues Saturday and Sunday. Visit pearlandexchangeclub.org/foundersday.

SEPTEMBER 23

FUN RUN
Ruff Runner and Yappy Hour pet-themed race for all ages is 7 to 10 a.m. at Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway. For information, visit parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/ruff-runner-yappy-hour or email events@pearlandtx.gov.

VENDOR FAIR
El Grito Vendor Fair is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway St. More than 40 vendors will be on site along with live entertainment.

FALL FLING
Melvin Knapp Center, 2424 South Park Ave., hosts its annual Fall Fling for seniors. For more information, call the center at 281-652-1890. Membership at the Knapp Center is \$25 per year for Pearland residents and \$50 for non-residents. For information, call 281-652-1890.

THE PEARL PRESENTS
The Pearl Theater, 14803 Park Alameda, presents "The Revolutionists" by Lauren Gundersen at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased an hour before show time. Final performance is 3 p.m. Sunday. Call 832-459-4674 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 24

FUN RUN
Head for the Cure 5K Run/Walk raises funds and awareness for brain cancer treatment and research at Pearland Town Center, 11200 Broadway St. For information, visit Pearland-TownCenter.com or call 713-340-0704.

CRAFT & CAR SHOW
Pearland Founder's Day Market, Craft and Car Show continues 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 2320 Hatfield Road. Visit pearlandexchangeclub.org/foundersday.

SEPTEMBER 25

COUNCIL MEETING
City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 3519 Liberty Drive. Meetings are open to the public.

BOOK FAIR
Wilder Elementary Scholastic Book Fair opens at 5 p.m. and continues until Friday at the campus, 2225 Kingsley Blvd. For information, call 281-245-3090.

SEPTEMBER 26

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Brazoria County Commissioners meet at 9 a.m. at the courthouse, 111 E. Locust St., Angleton. Meetings are open to the public and public comment time is allotted. For information, minutes, video and agendas, visit brazoria-countytx.gov.

SEPTEMBER 27

WILD HOUR
West Pearland Library, 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway, hosts "School Age: Wild Hour" at 4p.m. in the storytime and activity area. Library programs are free and open to the public. For information, call 713-436-0995.

Master Naturalists learn about Urban Ecology



Kathy Pittman, President is with Amanda Gabehart with 4,000 volunteer hours, and John Boettiger, Membership.

By Richard Schaffhausen

The Brazoria chapter of Texas Master Naturalist held their monthly meeting Wednesday evening September 13, 2023, at the AgriLife building in Angleton.

John Boettiger, membership chairman, reported that Cindy Goodrum, Sheree Muzny, Kathy Purvis, Pam West, Chris Tobola, and Barb Whaley had recertified in August. To recertify, members must have 8 hours of advanced training and 40 volunteer hours.

Boettiger also reported Amanda Gabehart reached the 4,000-volunteer milestone.

This year to date, members have impacted 4,776 adults and 16,237 youth through outreach programs and educational programs such as the "Birds of Prey" programs presented at area schools, Brazoria County Summer Library Programs and the Discovery Environmental Education Program for area 4th and 7th graders at Brazoria NWR.

The meeting keynote speaker was Chris Tobola, Associate Professor at Brazosport College whose topic was "Urban Ecology." Tobola stated 80% of the United States population lives in cities and suburban environments. She noted the human population is the Keystone species in the Urban ecosystem. Among other things humans are introducing exotic species and causing mass faunal extinctions and changing ecosystem stability by altering environmental constraints and biota. Even within the urban areas within Brazoria County, children don't know where their food comes from except from a grocery store and most adults and children have no idea what wildlife they share within their environment.

For more information on becoming a Texas Master Naturalist: <https://txmn.org/tmncot/>. Our next meeting will be 8:30 am October 11 at the Brazosport Planetarium. Visitors are welcome.

Homestead exemptions still on radar

By N. Bradford

A discussion on raising the City of Pearland's homestead exemption -- currently at 2.5 percent -- will probably happen this fall, city officials say.

"The City of Friendswood has found a way to be at 20 percent," Alex Kamkar told fellow council members during an August discussion. "The City of Katy has increased their homestead exemption. The City of Waco this last year went to the max. We are not the only city that has costs."

Mayor Kevin Cole said he hopes to have a discussion on raising the exemption this fall.

"This time last year, we talked about the homestead tax exemption. I asked to bring it up at the strategic planning workshop in February," Cole said. "It was

not mentioned a single time that day. We've got some promises and assurances we will have that discussion come October."

Cole did note that savings provided by raising the homestead exemption would have to be made up somewhere else, including businesses, or through tax increases.

"There is an offset -- not saying we shouldn't do it," he said.

It was clear on Monday that the council has different views on the topic.

Councilman Rushi Patel said raising the exemption to 20 percent would hurt businesses.

"For \$38 a year savings, we're going to destroy the businesses," he said.

Councilman makes plans for District 29

By N. Bradford

Pearland City Councilman Alex Kamkar announced he will seek the Republican nomination for District 29 state representative, the seat currently held by Rep. Ed Thompson.

Thompson, a Pearland insurance agent who in his sixth term as state representative, announced in August that he will not seek reelection.

District 29 includes Brookside Village, Pearland, Manvel, Alvin as well as the eastern portion of Brazoria County.

A Houston area developer and Pearland resident since 2017, Kamkar was first elected to the Pearland council in 2020.

"I was the fiscal hawk on the city council, and I'll work in Austin to bring deeper, meaningful property tax reform, secure the border and sup-

port parental choice," Kamkar states in his

Sept. 14 candidacy announcement. "I'm running for state representative to make sure we keep our community safe, thriving and prosperous for today and tomorrow."

Candidate filing for the March 5, 2024 primaries will open on Nov. 11 and the deadline is Dec. 11.

Shadow Creek HS Junior named to All-State Journalism Staff

Alvin ISD Press Release

For any athlete, the biggest individual honor that can be bestowed upon the conclusion of a season is to be named to an all-state roster in his or her sport.

However, that honor also exists for other activities sanctioned by UIL, the organization that governs high-school athletics across the state of Texas.

Last month, Shadow Creek High School Junior Kavya Nandagiri was named to the 2023 UIL All-State Journalism Staff.

In order to qualify, students were required to collect 50 points over the course of the school year by participating in UIL invitational contests in addition to district, regional and state events, as well as Interscholastic League Press Conference and other similar events.

According to Shadow Creek High School journalism coach Cindy Gonzales, achieving this status is no small task. Only 168 students in the state of Texas were named to the staff.

"Being named to the All-State Staff is an incredible achievement for any journalism student," said Gonzales. "It takes a lot of work and determination to be named to this elite group."

The UIL sponsors five journalism contests -- news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, headline writing and copy editing. Students compete at the district level, and then the top three places advance to regionals. From regionals, the top three places advance to state competition.

In May, Nandagiri took first place in editorial writing at the 2023 UIL Academics State Meet in journalism (6A). In addition, she earned the Tops in Texas award in editorial writing. The UIL judges award this recognition to one of the six first place winners for the 1A-6A conferences for each of the journalism contests.

"Being a part of the All-State Journalism team feels so rewarding," Nandagiri said. "Being able to use my skills to compete and win is one of the highlights of my year."

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Fall calendar:

Pumpkin season opens Sept. 30

By N. Bradford

Cooler temperatures, fall crafts and pumpkin-themed photo opps are just around the corner as the fall calendar begins to fill up.

One of Pearland's most visible harbingers of fall, the annual St. Andrews Pumpkin Patch, is slated to open Sept. 30 at 2535 E. Broadway St. Celebrating 25 years of pumpkin-related memories and family photos, the patch will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Halloween night.

For more information, call 281-485-4936. In addition, New Hope Church is planning its fall market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Satur-

day, Oct. 7, at both the Pearland location, 3350 Manvel Road, and in Friendswood at 108 W. Edgewood Drive.

Another fall tradition, the mega corn maze at Froberg Farms in Alvin celebrates 10 years in 2023, opening this weekend at the farm, 3601 West Highway 6. The annual fall festival includes a tractor-pulled "bee" coaster train, duck races and gem mining. Admission is \$12 for ages 3 and up and free for everyone else. Fall festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 6 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights. For information, call 281-585-3531.

Back in Pearland, the ninth annual Art on the Pavilion is Oct. 14-15 at the Pearland Town

Center, featuring new and returning artists in a juried show with live music, food trucks and vendors.

Set from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, the event is free to the public on the central outdoor area at the town center, 11200 Broadway St.

Live entertainment includes musicians Joe Calderon at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Tucker Hart at 3 p.m. Saturday, Anthony Puskas at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Patty O'Beers at 12:45 p.m. Sunday and Wendy Elizabeth Jones at 3 p.m. Sunday.

More information can be found at visit-pearland.com/artshow/ or by calling 281-997-5970.