



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

In commemoration of the 237th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, members of the Katy Star of Destiny Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution receive the Proclamation for Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2024, read by Councilmember Rory Robertson and presented by Mayor Dusty Thiele at Monday's City Council meeting. Pictured (left to right) are Susan Stormer, Jan Vance, Thiele, Laurel Cull, Robertson and Claudia Stokes.

KATY

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square at Avenue C and Second Street would be held after that. She also said that a ceremony commemorating 9/11 would be held at City Hall at 8:30 a.m. on September 11.

• Councilmember Dan Smith noted that the Rice Harvest Festival, to be held October 12-13, is one month

away and that entries are still being accepted for the parade which will be October 5.

Special recognitions were presented to:

• The Katy Business Association, in honor of the organization's fortieth anniversary (see related story on A4).

• The Star of Destiny Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, affirming the week of September 17-23, 2024, as "Constitution Week."

The next meeting of city council will be September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy.

PLANS

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4 Planning team will also seek input on the draft recommendations from the community.

All in 4 Katy East: A Precinct 4 Community Plan is approximately a nine-month process which started in the Fall of 2023 to set a shared vision that strives to enhance the quality of life for all residents within the study area, according to the

To learn more about this Precinct 4 Community Plan and to see a study map of the area, go to cp4.harriscountytx.gov/Infrastructure/Planning-Community-Development/Community-Plans/Katy-East-Community-Plan-and-Mobility-Study.

county website. The plan covers a portion of the east part of the greater Katy area, south of Clay Road, west of

Highway 6, east of Katy Fort Bend Road, and north of Cinco Ranch and the Barker Reservoir.

DRUGS

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received information indicating that narcotics were being distributed from several locations in the Brookshire area to include multiple residences and a business. SRT and Task Force Officers executed four search warrants and multiple arrest warrants during the operations. As a result, seven defendants were arrested and charged with multiple felonies to include Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, with several more felony charges

on multiple defendants pending.

Cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, and United States currency were seized during the operations.

Task Force Officers also recovered stolen items including a truck, skid steer, and firearms. The defendants were identified as the following, Ivan Barrura (37), Melesio Oviedo (42), Sonny Baker (53), Jonte Grant (47), Curte Bailey (37), Antoinette Stewart (46), and Glenn Evans (38). The defendants were booked into the Waller

County Jail without incident.

The Westside Narcotics Task Force covers four counties and is comprised of investigators from the Austin County Sheriff's Office, Bellville PD, Sealy PD, Hempstead PD, Waller County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Colorado County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Waller County Sheriff's Office Patrol, K9, and Drone divisions assisted with the arrest / search warrant operation.

ARREST

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The Fort Bend County Medical Examiner's Office performed a postmortem examination and listed the manner of death as homicide.

A warrant for Criminally Negligent Homicide was

obtained by the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. Subsequently, Austin Mapes turned himself in to the Fort Bend County Jail where he was booked on the charge. His bond has been

set at \$100,000.

"This is truly a tragic incident," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the victim's loved ones during this difficult time."

HOSPITAL

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the culmination of many months of planning and countless hours of preparation to make these units a reality," said Jerry Ashworth, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Katy and Memorial Hermann Cypress hospitals. "Across the Memorial Hermann Health System, we work every day to create healthier communities through personalized care. I cannot think of a better way to provide personalized care to the patients of the Katy area and beyond than through this much needed expansion."

In Phase I, the Emergency Center doubled in size to 40,000 square feet and added additional treatment rooms, including two state-of-the-art trauma rooms, an additional CT scanner, upgraded equipment and more. Additionally, the project added three operating rooms, with shell space to add up to three more. Phase II will include renovations to the existing Emergency Center and is expected to be finished in late summer 2025. HKS Architects, M Strategic Partners and Tellepsen are partners on the project.

"Memorial Hermann Katy is currently a Level III Trauma Center and will pursue a Level II Trauma Center designation in the near future due to increasing volumes and the need for a higher-level of trauma care in the community," said Vivien Bond, chief operating officer for Memorial Hermann Katy, who is managing the expansion project. "Our newly expanded units are key components of the journey to becoming a Level II Trauma Center."

These projects are part of the hospital's ongoing \$167 million expansion, which has added significant capacity and specialty services on the campus. Highlights of completed projects include:

- Katy's only Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit (IMU) and a 40-bed adult IMU, accommodating patients with more severe illnesses or injuries
- 40-bed medical/surgical acute care unit that serves a variety of patients including those who are recovering from surgery or have an acute illness
- A new parking garage that added almost 700 parking spaces on the west side of the campus
- Medical Plaza III that will house clinical office space for affiliated physicians, as well as enhanced pediatric services, including pediatric rehabilitation and pediatric imaging services. The building is complete and ready for tenant build-out.
- The relocation and expansion of the nursery, including the addition of four neonatal intensive care unit rooms
- Expansion of the cardiac catheterization lab
- Expansion of food services

Other projects in the works include an overhaul of Women's Services, including doubling the number of obstetrical emergency rooms and adding labor and delivery rooms and a cesarean section suite.

The expansion is also adding job opportunities, both clinical and administrative. Qualified candidates can learn more at memorialhermann.org/careers/. The hospital is also looking to bring on additional volunteers. Learn more at memorialhermann.org/locations/katy/volunteer.

For more information on Memorial Hermann Katy, call 713-222-CARE (2273) or visit memorialhermann.org.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The FORT BEND-WALLER COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Justin Graham, Charles K Chapline, Michael Salinas, Wesley Frommel, Martha Blecher

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.91000 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.85000 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.06000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.59%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$429,138.00	\$462,887.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$429,138.00	\$462,887.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,905.16	\$3,934.54
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$29.38 0.75%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

About the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1837 and is the largest and most diverse law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County. The Sheriff's Office has over 900 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers and 22 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.