

Sorority's Katy Chapter to host 'International Day of the Girl' event

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host an event celebrating the United Nations International Day of the Girl. The festivities will be held on October 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mark A Chapman YMCA, 1350 Main Street in Katy and will feature corporate and education leaders who plan to bring STEM programs (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) to life for attendees.

Registration is now open at bit.ly/4Chfi5e for girls of all ages and more than 65 are expected to attend. The event is free to attend, and includes lunch, but pre-registration is required as space is limited.

The inaugural celebration of the Girl Child was first held on October 11, 2012, by the Civil Society of the United Nations. The day was established to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and fulfillment of their human rights and is observed annually "to accelerate progress toward a future in which every girl can fulfill her potential," organizers said. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s local International Awareness and Involvement committee has elected to build on the program and feedback from prior events to include an in-person STEM-related program this year.

About Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded on January 13, 1913, by 22 young women studying at Howard University. They sought to create an organization rooted in sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. Today, the group has over 350,000 initiated women and over 1,000 chapters located worldwide.

The Katy Area Alumnae Chapter was chartered on June 14, 2020, by 57 dedicated members. Motivated to make a difference in the communities in which they work and live throughout the Katy area, members came together to charter KAAC in the midst of a global pandemic. Undeterred by the obstacles presented by the pandemic, the chapter embraced the theme "Planting deep roots, cultivating Katy Area connections, growing in Service and Sisterhood" to launch award-winning programs which align with the Sorority's "5 Point Programmatic Thrust" which include: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, political awareness and involvement.

This year's theme is "Girls' Vision for the Future" and the group plans to support that with fun activities for girls to engage in that help them envision great opportunities and possibilities, organizers said. The opening speaker

who works with NASA will share her interests as a young girl and how eventually her career path led to now working with the science of weather. Other presenters will demonstrate tools or activities from cyber security to physics to healthcare.

The event is sponsored by H-E-B and Chick-fil-A, who will be providing lunches for the girls and by The YMCA Katy West, who donated the space for the event.



Jose Murillo

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

From healthcare career to owning a small business: A change inspired by a Chihuahua

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

After spending over a decade as a hospital CEO, José Morillo was ready for a change. Fueled by his search for reliable pet care for his Chihuahua, Taco, Morillo stumbled across Camp Bow Wow. Inspired by his experience, he took the leap into small business ownership and opened his first Camp Bow Wow in Katy in 2015. Camp Bow Wow is located at 1515 Vander Wilt Land in Katy.

Following the success of his Katy location, Morillo expanded with a second Camp Bow Wow in Kemah in 2018 and a third in Cypress in 2020. Morillo credits the success of his camps to the leadership skills he gained in healthcare administration. His expertise in managing resources and teams was key to navigating the financial and operational challenges of the pandemic. Earlier this year, Morillo was honored at the IFA Annual Convention as a

2023 Franchisee of the Year for his achievements with Camp Bow Wow.

As a small business owner, Morillo takes pride in mentoring his staff, especially his daughter-in-law Jazmine, who now serves as director of operations and marketing. In the past nine years, he's built a dedicated team of camp counselors, leads, and managers, providing the same level of care that attracted him as a customer. "It's incredibly fulfilling to see them work together to create a positive experience for our campers and their pet parents," he says.

Morillo is grateful for his small business ownership journey, a career that allows him to reclaim his time with his family while building a lasting legacy and supporting the causes he's passionate about. Despite the challenges, Morillo loves what he does: "I get to work with dogs, provide a much-needed service to our community, and do so with incredible pride."

About Camp Bow Wow®

Camp Bow Wow® is a leading franchise brand in the rapidly growing pet care industry with over 200 franchise locations in 41 states and Canada. Since 2000, the Camp concept has provided the highest levels of fun, safety and service for its Campers and peace of mind for their parents. Dogs romp together in an open-play environment and snooze the night away in a spacious individual cabin. In addition to day care and overnight boarding, the company offers personalized enrichment opportunities, grooming services and a rewards-based dog training program. The Camp Bow Wow brand family also includes the Bow Wow Buddies Foundation®, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing urgent medical care funds to dogs who are homeless or whose parents cannot afford to pay their veterinary bills.

For more information or to learn about opportunities, visit www.campbowwow.com/franchising/

Fort Bend Junior Service League opens scholarship applications



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT BEND JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE

Fort Bend Junior Service League scholarship recipients who received awards in spring 2024 are shown.

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSL) announced on Sept. 21 that the application period for its annual scholarship awards is now open. These scholarships will be awarded in spring 2025 and are to be used towards tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year. Female high school seniors or adult residents of Fort Bend County with higher education aspirations may be eligible for assistance through the FBJSL scholarship program. FBJSL is offering up to six \$1,000 Volunteer Scholarships and one \$2,000 New Beginnings Scholarship.

The Volunteer Scholarships are available to female high school seniors, who are residents of Fort Bend County, who aspire to higher education. Recipients must have exhibited exceptional dedication to volunteerism and

community service. High school seniors must have completed a minimum of 100 hours of community service, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, and plan to enroll in an accredited college or university.

The New Beginnings Scholarship is designed to empower adult women, who are residents of Fort Bend County, by enhancing their career opportunities through continued education. Eligible candidates should have been accepted into an accredited college, university, or vocational school after a break in their education and demonstrate a financial need. For further details and to access application forms, please visit fbjsl.org/scholarship-programs/. The application deadline is Feb. 1, 2025.

The Fort Bend Junior Service League (FBJSL) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and to improving the Fort Bend County community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Proceeds from various events and fundraisers have made it possible for FBJSL to donate more than \$5.75 million to non-profit agencies in the Fort Bend community since its inception in 2001. To learn more about FBJSL visit fbjsl.org or contact publicrelations@fbjsl.com.

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The FRY ROAD M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on **October 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** at Fry Road M.U.D. District Administration Building, 20111 Saums Road, Katy, TX 77449. 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: James Roadarmel, David Buxkamper, James Teal, Marcy Martinez and Michael Kramm

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 Adopted	This Year Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$.32782/\$100	\$.32661/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00121/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-.36%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 210,732	\$ 228,228
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 42,146	\$ 45,646
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 168,586	\$ 182,582
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 552.65	\$ 596.33
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ 43.68 7.90%

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. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate. The voter-approval tax rate is \$.32661, which includes \$.01334 of unused increment.

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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints establishes Mandarin-speaking congregation serving the Katy area

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced on September 9 the creation of a new congregation for Mandarin speakers in Katy and the surrounding areas.

The ecclesiastical leader of the newly formed congregation, Fred Ong, said, "Two years ago we started a small Sunday school with two families from California and one family from Oregon that moved to the Katy area. When our Sunday School attendance numbers grew to over thirty members, we knew the Lord's time had come to form a branch [congregation]."

The congregation meets

About The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a global religious organization headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. With missions of members worldwide, the Church is dedicated to promoting the teachings of Jesus Christ and providing opportunities for spiritual growth and community service.

at 9100 Heritage Bluff Drive, Richmond, every Sunday at 1 p.m., offering a place for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Katy Stake President Shad Hanis, said, "This amazing group of members and friends has steadily increased in numbers each week and we invite any Mandarin speak-

ing community members to come join us each Sunday."

For more information about the Mandarin-speaking congregation and its activities, please contact the Mandarin-speaking missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at (832) 578-0312 or (281)903-4844.