Katy Heritage Society scholarship deadline is Oct. 1

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Calling all high school seniors, current college students and adult learners! Every year the Katy Heritage Society aims to award at least one $1,000 scholarship in November. The number and amount of scholarships awarded may vary on available funding and the quality of applications received.

The deadline to submit is October 1. For more information go to katyheritagesociety.com and click on the Scholarship tab.

Katy was built by hardworking visionaries who settled the prairie, established businesses, raised families, served their community, and created opportunities for generations to come. In that same spirit, the Katy Heritage Society Scholarship supports individuals who are pursuing education or training to advance their careers, learn a trade, pursue higher education, or create greater opportunities for themselves and their families.

The Katy Heritage Society Scholarship is intentionally open to applicants at all stages ot life and career. There is no age restriction. High school seniors, current college or technical students, working adults, and individuals returning to school or pursuing career training are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must:

- Reside or work within the geographic boundaries of the Katy Independent School District
- Be pursuing or planning to pursue education or career training through an accredited community college, college, university, business or vocational program, continuing education program, technical school, or other qualifying educational institution.
- Be enrolled in an eligible educational or career-training program at some point during the scholarship award period, beginning in November 2026 and ending October 31, 2027.
- Provide proof of enrollment before scholarship funds are distributed. Applicants do not have to be enrolled at the time they submit their application.

The Katy Heritage Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, preserving, and sharing Katy's historic resources and stories. Scholarship funding is made possible through fundraising efforts, contributions from members and friends of the Society, and proceeds from Historic Katy.

Harmony Public Schools to hold beam signing ceremony for new Rosenberg campus

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Construction is underway on Harmony Public Schools' first Rosenberg campus. The elementary school will sit on a 20-acre site as part of a long-term plan that includes an adjacent middle and high school campus.

The new campus is set to open for the 2027-28 school year as part of Harmony Public Schools' Texas Education Agency-recognized, A-rated district. It will serve 650 students in grades prekindergarten through fifth. The campus will feature a state-of-the-art makerspace, lab and playground.

"We couldn't be more excited to officially join the Rosenberg community," said Ramazan Coskuner, South-West district superintendent for Harmony Public Schools. "We can't wait to open our doors to our founding prekindergarten through fifth-grade families and build something special together."

A special "beam signing" ceremony for the new Harmony Science Academy Rosenberg campus has been set for Thursday, October, 1 from 10 to 11 a.m. at 2425 Spacek Rd. in Richmond.

Harmony Public School is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year for students at https://www.harmonytx.org/apply.

About Harmony Public Schools

Harmony Public Schools is a Texas-born, Texas-wide public charter school system with more than 60 campuses serving PreK-Grade 12 students in 23 cities across the state, including Greater Houston, DFW, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, Waco, Lubbock, Midland-Odessa, Bryan, Beaumont, and the Rio Grande Valley. Harmony's curriculum places a heavy focus on STEM skills, Character Education, project-based learning, and college readiness.

To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and our 60+ campuses across Texas, please visit www.HarmonyTX.org.

Rice partners with Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation for early childhood educators

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Rice University's School Literacy and Culture (SLC) program, part of the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies' Center for Education, has launched a three-year partnership with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (BBHLF) to provide research-based professional development, mentorship and sustained classroom support for early childhood educators across the Houston area.

The initiative is projected to train 130 educators across 55 campuses, ultimately reaching an estimated 11,624 students during the program and many more throughout the careers of participating teachers.

According to Jordan Khadam-Hir, director of School Literacy and Culture at Rice, the program included a teacher from Katy ISD and two teachers from Royal ISD going through a short course referenced in the article (Developing Oral Language in Young Children) last spring, and this year a teacher in Royal ISD participated in CS (Classroom Storytelling). The teachers were not identified by Rice by the deadline for this story.

The partnership builds on a successful pilot in the spring, when BBHLF sponsored an eight-week SLC course, Developing Oral Language in Young Children. Educators who completed the course helped form the partnership's inaugural cohort and are now entering SLC's yearlong Classroom Storytelling program. A second group of educators is beginning the oral language course later this month.

"This collaboration represents a powerful union between two Houston institutions that share an unwavering commitment to Houston's future," said Robert Bruce, dean of the Glasscock School. "By elevating early childhood educators, we are not only enriching local classrooms today but also building a sustainable foundation for lifelong learning across our entire region."

Through BBHLF funding, educators will follow one of two multiyear pathways designed to meet campus needs: Early Literacy Leadership or Campus Leadership.

The Early Literacy Leadership pathway moves educators from Classroom Storytelling into the Early Literacy Leadership Academy, where they develop peer-coaching skills through coursework, seminars and mentorship before joining an advanced leadership community of practice. Participants become teacher leaders who can help transform classroom practices and mentor colleagues on their campuses.

The Campus Leadership pathway prepares educators to establish an Oral Written Language Laboratory (OWL Lab) on their campus through a two-year sequence that includes online learning, monthly Rice mentorship and co-teaching. OWL Labs provide specialized spaces centered on storytelling, play and culturally responsive teaching while serving as learning labs for other educators.

"Our vision for this partnership is rooted in the belief that teachers are the primary architects of a child's educational journey," said Jordan Khadam-Hir, director of SLC. "By pairing rigorous, evidence-based coursework with sustained one-on-one mentorship, this partnership empowers teachers to transform their classrooms into vibrant, language-rich spaces where every young child's voice is heard and developed."

SLC has provided early childhood professional development for nearly four decades, but school and district budget constraints can make sustained, multiyear training difficult to fund. BBHLF's support will help expand access to Rice-trained educators while providing participants with ongoing mentorship without adding to school budgets.

"Our mission is to transform lives and communities

See **BBHLF**, page 12

WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

The HARRIS-WALLER COUNTIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT #4 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on October 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2400, Houston, TX 77027. 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: Rhonda Gideon, Cindy Morrow and Sabrina Alaquinez

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Ruth Delaunay and Way Denkler

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. THERE WERE NO RESIDENTIAL HOMESTEADS FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.

	Last Year		This Year
Total tax rate (per $100 of value)	$1.50000 /$100 Adopted		$1.50000 /$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per $100 of value		$ .00000 /$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		.00%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	$ 0		$ 0
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	$ 0		$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	$ 0		$ 0
Tax on average residence homestead	$ 0.00		$ 0.00
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		$ 0.00 .00%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, 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.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 239 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 11:30 A.M. at the offices of Schwartz Page and Harding, at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, STE 2500, Houston TX, 77056. 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: Fred Garcia, Michael Gordinier, Timothy Robertson, Anthony Landry, Alma Hernandez

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)	$0.52000 /$100 Adopted		$0.54978 /$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per $100 of value		$0.02978 /$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		5.73%	
Average appraised residence homestead value	$266,691.84		$261,071.81
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	$266,691.84		$261,071.81
Tax on average residence homestead	$1,386.80		$1,435.32
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		$48.52 3.50%	

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.