



PHOTOS BY SHERREL ROGERS

BROOKSHIRE

Local volunteers tackle community projects

BY SHERREL ROGERS
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

On September 16th, more than 16 volunteers came together to help out Brookshire residents with minor yard work, tree trimming, maintenance lawn work, and disposal of items no longer used by the residents.

On September 23rd several organizations known as the Community Service Crew, along with Mayor Darrell Branch and also Mayor Pro Tem Jeremiah Hill, came together to do outside house work for two of local Brookshire residents. The Service Crew worked on removing boards right below the base of roof all around one of the resident's home. While one crew removed all the boards, the second crew were measuring the length of the footage for the board to be replaced. The third crew was receiving the proper measurements of the boards which had to be cut, assembled and nailed back onto the resident's home. Trees were trimmed in the second resident's yard front and back.

Organizations that were in attendance



included the City of Brookshire, Greater Mt. Zion, Word of Promise, All Thread Tires Katy, and other community members.

Butterfinger, Kroger head to Houston on gaming tour

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Calling all gamers! As part of Butterfinger and Kroger's gaming partnership, gamers can get a crispety, crunchety look at how they can Game Better with Butterfinger through a multi-city national tour. Game lovers nationwide who pull up to select Kroger supermarkets will have a chance to interact with popular video games including Monster Supercross and Hot Wheels. Attendees will also receive branded Butterfinger gaming merchandise and peanut-buttery chocolate bars to accompany them while they game.

Additionally, Kroger members who participate in the Points Rewards Plus program, will receive automated rewards points. By creating an account,

participants can redeem Rewards Points for gamer-favorite Rewards* such as digital video games, Xbox gift cards, PlayStation gift cards, Nintendo gift cards and more downloadable content.

The free program is available at select Kroger grocery stores in the Houston area including these in the Katy area:

- Wednesday, October 4th (4pm - 7pm): 1712 Spring Green Blvd, Katy, TX 77494
- Thursday, October 5th (4pm - 7pm): 2700 West Grand Parkway N, Katy, TX 77449
- Friday, October 6th (10am - 1pm): 9703 Barker Cypress Rd, Cypress, TX 77433

For more information on the points rewards plus, please visit kroger.com/f/gaming.

Blinn College District to open new location in Waller

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Blinn College District is opening a new location in Waller this fall that will bring its nationally recognized, highly transferable courses to college students in the greater Waller and Harris County region.

Blinn will begin offering classes Monday, Oct. 23, at Waller ISD's W.C. Schultz Junior High School, formerly known as Waller High School, located at 20950 Field Store Road in Waller. This expansion will provide greater accessibility for college students in Waller, Harris County, and the surrounding region.

At this new site, Blinn will offer an array of transferable academic core courses, providing the community with an affordable pathway to their college degree. Blinn already partners with Waller ISD to provide high school dual-credit courses at the high school.

"We are excited to bring the educational excellence that has defined Blinn College to this vibrant region," said Dr.

Mary Hensley, Chancellor of the Blinn College District. "We look forward to bringing the same exceptional instruction, innovation, and commitment to student success that has made Blinn the state's academic transfer rate leader and allowed us to guide thousands of students each year to the state's leading university programs."

The new Waller location demonstrates Blinn's commitment to student growth and achievement and its responsiveness to the evolving educational landscape. Blinn will begin by offering academic core courses during the fall second 8-week term, including English, government, history, math, philosophy, and speech.

In addition to Blinn's highly transferable classes, students attending Blinn's Waller location will have access to Blinn's online academic resources, including tutoring and library services.

For more information regarding course offerings, registration details, and other updates, please visit www.blinn.edu/waller.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 449 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, 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: J. Beavers, M. Willett, H. Tolleson & C. Gabriel
AGAINST the proposal: (none)
PRESENT and not voting: (none)
ABSENT: T. Crist

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 \$ 1.16 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 1.03 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 1.16 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 1.03 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.130 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-11.2069%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$300,697	\$337,965
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$300,697	\$337,965
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,488.09	\$3,481.04
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		(\$7.05) -0.2021%

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.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 287 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 12:00 noon, at Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP, 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: F. Sheehy, C. Pacioni, A. Juarez, A. Secor & D. Fontaine
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 \$ 1.000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 0.940 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$ 1.000 /\$100 Adopted	\$ 0.940 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		-\$0.060 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-6.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$253,771	\$279,273
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$253,771	\$279,273
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,537.71	\$2,625.17
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$87.46 3.4464%

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.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.