Your Source for Affordable Family Fun in the Fort Bend Area!

COOL FUN!

in the Summertime

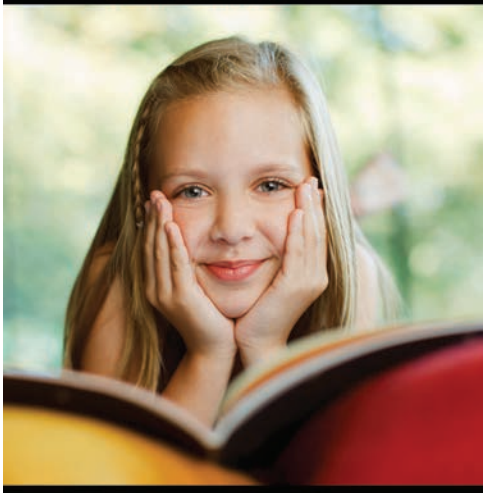
plus THE ULTIMATE Camp GUIDE

fort bend parent

FREE

July 2021 | www.fortbendparent.com

Benedictine Tutors
Truth in Learning®



SUMMER CAMPS

MATH - CODING - SCIENCE LABS
STEM - READING - WRITING

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Summer of Fun! CONTEST

ONE LUCKY FAMILY WILL WIN A **SUMMER OF FUN GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE!**

4 passes to Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid
4 passes to Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid
4 passes to Moody Gardens Palm Beach

**date restrictions apply*

CLICK HERE TO ENTER!

Winner will be randomly chosen on July 19 from all who enter by midnight on July 18.

Good luck!

COVER CUTIES

BRAYDEN & BRYNLEE

Brayden is 8 years old and Brynlee is 6 years old.

Brayden will be going into 2nd grade in the fall. His favorite things about summer are going to the pool and playing with his friends! He is spending his summer break enjoying Nerf wars & Minecraft-ing with his friends and taking Taekwondo classes at Fort Bend Martial Arts!

Brynlee, Miss Bluebonnet State, will be going into 1st grade this fall. She is spending her summer break preparing for UNM Nationals at Disney, and taking musical theatre classes at Inspiration Stage! (Follow my journey @Miss Brynlee, on Instagram!) She also loves going to Typhoon Texas and relaxing in the lazy river during summer break!

FOLLOW US!

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Sign Up!

Sign up for our weekly eBlasts with a direct link to our current issue! Each week in our eblasts, we have links to crafts, recipes, activities and resources for family fun as well as events and offers from local businesses. We also send out special eblasts to our subscribers with CONTEST information periodically and dedicated eblasts from local businesses! Don't miss out!

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!

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NINJA SUMMER CAMP!

JUNE 7TH - AUG. 10TH

NEW! NINJA WARRIOR COURSE FOR KIDS

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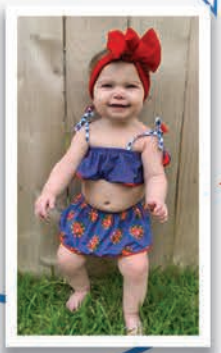
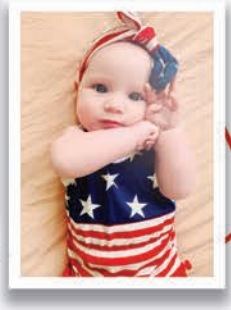
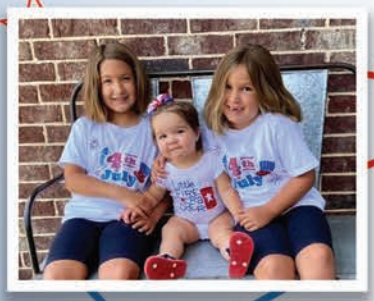
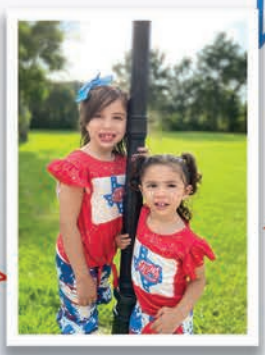
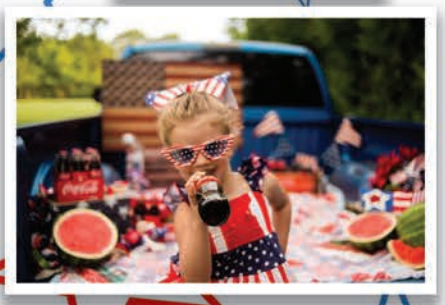
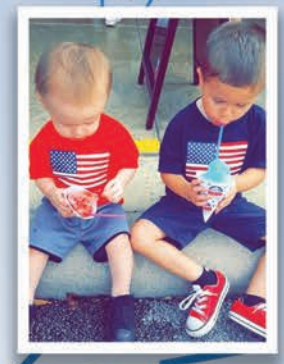


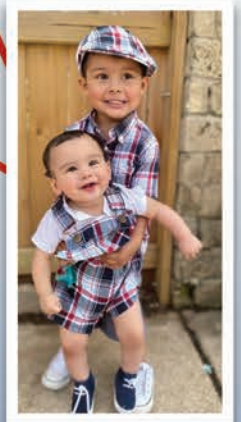
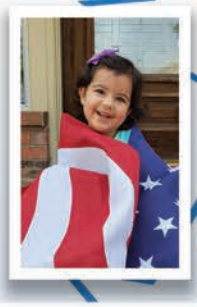



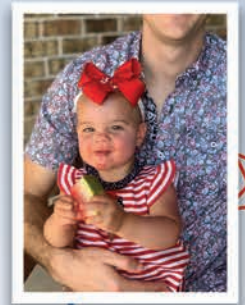
- AMERICA -

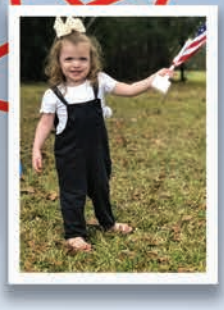
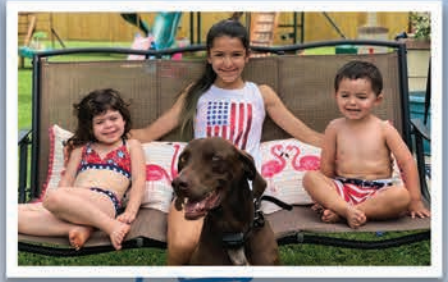
4TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY



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Active Camps

SUGAR LAND GYMNASTICS

Ages 4 to 13 | Monday - Friday 9am-3pm | extended care available | All camps are $40/day or $175/week. Siblings receive 10% off the daily rate.

Day camp includes gymnastics, karate, stranger danger classes, giant moonwalk slide, tumble trampolines, foam cube pits, trapeze swing, arts & crafts, group games and other group activities.

www.SugarLandGymnastics.com | 281-240-0999

SIENNA GYMNASTICS

Ages 4 to 13 | Monday - Friday 9am-3pm | extended care available

Day camp includes zip-line, warped wall, parkour obstacles, gymnastics, karate, stranger danger classes, rope swing, giant moonwalk slide, jedi sword fights, dodgeball, and other group activities.

www.SiennaGymnastics.com | 281-778-7822

SAFETY AMERICA / NINJA-KID WARRIOR

Ages 4 to 13 | Monday - Friday 9am-3pm | extended care available

Day camp includes zip-line, rock climbing, ninja course, warped walls, parkour obstacles, rope swing, moonwalk, jedi sword fights, dodgeball, and other group activities.

www.SummerCampSugarLand.com | 281-980-3030

OLYMPIA GYMNASTICS AND TUMBLING

JULY 12-16 • DOUBLE DARE
AUG 9-13 • EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Ages 4 to 13 | Monday - Friday 9am-3pm | extended care 7am-5pm for additional charge

Camp Olympia is for students and non-students, ages 4 to 13 (must be fully potty trained) Campers will be placed in age groups and rotate through different activity stations that will include open gym, sports, outside activities, games , inflatables and more! Campers will also participate in special event days such as Carnival Day and Water Days. Extended care is available to add on for an additional fee and is 7am-5pm. Lunch available for additional charge.

www.OlympiaTX.com | 832-321-7100

IRON CROSS GYMNASTICS

Iron Cross Gymnastics wants your family to have the BEST summer ever with one of the BEST summer programs in Fort Bend County! Camps are designed for Ages 5-13 but some 4's too if potty trained. More information available soon!

www.IronCrossGymnastics.com | 281-342-4766 (IRON)

BUSHI BAN INTERNATIONAL

Our Summer Camp Program is a fitness & self-defense program for children of all ages and fitness levels teaching multi-disciplinary techniques of martial arts including karate, Jiu Jitsu, kickboxing & ground grappling.

www.BushiBan.com | 832-833-0030

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Christian

CAMP ALLEN

Grades 3-10 as of Fall 2021 | Week Long Camps |$768 Per Person

We provide a fun & unique environment for young people to cultivate friendships, experience personal growth, and learn about the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. (located 1 hour from Houston)

www.CampAllen.org | 936-825-7175

Horses

THE SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP

ALL SUMMER!

$1,149 for 1 week | $2,299 for 2 weeks

Mother/Daughter $2299 for 2 people for 1 week

Mother/Daughter or All Girl Camps. Our summer camp sessions run from Saturday through the following Friday every week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Sessions are all-inclusive (lodging, all meals, tack, horses, lessons, etc.)

www.TexasHorseCamps.com | 830-460-8487

STEM & Educational

TUTORING CENTER

ALL SUMMER!

Summer Programs in Reading, Math, and Writing for K-12. Improve your child's academic skills to help them succeed in school. Fun learning environment. Concerned about grades? What if your child started the school year already knowing their course material? Now is the time to catch up and get ahead for math, reading and writing courses. Stop the summer brain drain!

Richmond: www.richmond.tutoringcenter.com 281-980-1242

Sugar Land: www.sugarland.tutoringcenter.com 832-449-3286

MONTESSORI REGGIO ACADEMY OF SUGAR LAND

FUN SUMMER CAMP | THROUGH -JULY 31, 2021

MRA Sugar Land will offer a Spring Break and Summer Camp this 2021. Don't let your child sit at home bored. Enroll them for a week of learning and fun with our dedicated MRA staff and students. MRA Siblings and Fort Bend ISD students will have the chance to participate in a week of Reggio art activities, Montessori learning, dance and singing classes, and many more extra curricular activities we have to offer!

montessorireggioacademy.com | 281-299-5187

CALVARY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

We offer several great options. Choose from Cooking, Dance & Arts, Sport Skills Camps, or Organization 101. More information coming!

www.CES-Richmond.org | 281-342-3161

SUGAR CREEK MONTESSORI

THROUGH AUGUST

The "camps" are offered in short 2 week sessions, or monthly. The summer program includes field trips to museums, theater (plays), and other fun destinations. On campus visiting attractions such as a magic show, petting zoo, puppeteers and similar activities are also scheduled. Although the summer is a more relaxing environment for children, children still have opportunities to work with Montessori materials to continue learning academic skills. Using the Montessori approach, children explore and learn new skills or practice previously taught skills through fun and interesting themes. This program covers Language, Math, Science, Geography, Art & Craft and practical life experiences.

www.sugarcreekmontessori.com/summer-school
Fulshear 281-394-9797 | Katy 281-693-7267
Sugar Land 281-261-1000

THE HONOR ROLL SCHOOL

THROUGH AUGUST 6

Preschool – 8th grade

Our summer camp programs provide children opportunities to explore, discover, make new friends and learn new skills. It all starts with our outstanding counselors, whose talent, creativity and leadership set the tone for an unforgettable experience. They encourage our campers to reach for new heights and expand their horizons and interests. This summer, we are offering our families more options than ever before. In addition to traditional day camp, academic camps and specialty camps are wonderful ways for students to focus on kindergarten prep, drone aviation, engineering, movie making, sports and much more.

www.thehonorrollschool.com | 281-265-7888

BENEDICTINE TUTORS

JULY 5 - 9, JULY 12 - 16, JULY 19 - 23, JULY 26 - 30, AUG 2 - 6, AUG 9 - 13

Ages: 5 - 12

We offer both Full and Half Day Academic camps for students in grades K thru 8th to help give them the edge they need to succeed in the coming year! Math Mornings are a balance of learning new math concepts along with fun activities such as Coding, Robotics and Science Labs. English Afternoons consist of Reading and Spelling Labs as well as Writing Workshops.

www.benedictinetutors.com/katy-summer-camp

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Multi-Child Family Discount
Seasonal Holiday Activities
Parents Night Out

COOL FUN

8 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR COOL THIS SUMMER!

Even the hottest Texas weather won't slow the kids down. But when the temperatures soar outside, heat related illnesses, including dehydration and heat exhaustion can be real concerns. Here are some ideas to keep your family cool this summer...

1 **PLAY INDOORS!** While playing at your house is definitely an option, there are a variety of indoor venues to choose from as well. From playgrounds at fast food restaurants or malls to indoor arcades, you're sure to find a great place to relax while the kiddos burn off some energy!

2 **SPLISH & SPLASH!** No pool? No problem! Just turn on the sprinkler and let the fun begin. Even just a hose will keep the kids busy and cool for hours. Try out a local public splash pad. The kids love them and most are free!

3 **READ A BOOK!** Check the Fun-Time Calendar to find out about all the fun programs that are offered at our local libraries this summer. While you are there, sign the kids up for the Summer Reading Program and find some good books and a quiet corner. In addition to keeping them cool, it also keeps them smart!

4 **BUNDLE UP!** Have you ever put your head inside a freezer to cool down on a hot day? Then put on your winter coat and head out to the ice rink. You can't find a "cooler" place than this on a blistering day.

5 **GO CAMPING!** It's not much fun camping outdoors in the hottest part of the summer, but pitching a tent in the living room will do the trick. While you enjoy the benefits of air conditioning and indoor plumbing, your kids will enjoy doing something different. Have a campfire style dinner (you can keep the grill outside!), turn off the TV and lights and use electric lanterns or flashlights to see. Tell scary stories and stay up late. And most importantly, don't forget the s'mores!

6 **PLAY IN THE SHADE!** Kids crave the outdoors. While you don't want to deny them their time outside, you should be smart about it. Play first thing in the morning or after dinner in the evening, when it is cooler outside. Choose your parks carefully. If your neighborhood park doesn't offer good shade, check surrounding neighborhoods or recreational centers.

7 **SUDS IT UP!** Wash the car, wash the dog, wash anything! Give everyone their own sponge and bucket and everything will be spic and span in no time. I'd keep an eye on the water hose though, if I were you!

8 **TAKE IN A MOVIE!** Next to the ice rink, a movie theater is the coldest spot in the summertime. Some theaters have summer movie clubs, where they show free or $1 movies. Check with your local theater and see what they have to offer. Even watching DVD's at home is a good idea during the heat of the day.

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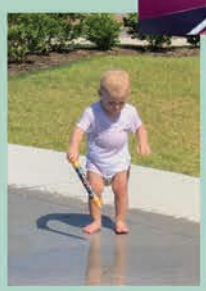

July

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS

FREE THURSDAYS AT HOUSTON MUSEUMS

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston courtesy of Shell Oil Company

5-9pm

www.mfah.org/visit/visiting-mfah-free

The Health Museum

2-7pm

http://houmuse.org/visit/the-health-museum

Houston Museum of Natural Science
Permanent Exhibits Free on Thursdays

2-5pm

http://houmuse.org/visit/houston-museum-of-natural-science/

Children's Museum Houston

5-8pm

www.cmhouston.org

FREE ADMISSION HOUSTON ZOO

July 6 and August 3

12-until Closing

This summer, we're offering special Free Tuesdays sponsored by PNC Bank during June to August. Tickets for June will be available on the Wednesday before at 9:00 a.m. Online reservations are required for all guests and members during this time. Tickets will not be available at the gate.

www.houstonzoo.org/plan-your-visit/prices-and-discounts/free-tuesdays/

PATRIOT PASS AT PLEASURE PIER

July 2-4

Three Parks - One pass for $49.99 enjoy unlimited visits on Friday, Saturday & Sunday to the Pleasure Pier, Kemah Boardwalk and Downtown Aquarium Houston; Pleasure Pier, Kemah Boardwalk and Downtown Aquarium Houston

www.pleasurepier.com/promos/patriot-pass

CINEMARK SUMMER MOVIE CLUBHOUSE

July 7 • The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part
July 14 • The Angry Birds Movie 2
July 21 • Dora and the Lost City of Gold
July 28 • Minions

Summer Movie Clubhouse is back at Cinemark with 8 weeks of kid-approved movies! Enjoy safe and exciting big-screen entertainment for just $1.50* per ticket for each movie. Save even more with $1 OFF deals on kids' snack packs, large popcorns & large drinks during Summer Movie Clubhouse showtimes.

www.cinemark.com/series-events-info-pages/summer-movie-clubhouse

SHOWSTOPPERS: A BROADWAY MUSICAL SCRAPBOOK PRESENTED BY HITS THEATRE

July 9 & 10 • 8:30 pm LIVE on stage and online! You can choose to watch it on the web. YouTube or Facebook!

Relive your favorite showstopping Broadway musical numbers curated from the HITS Theatre production archive of shows performed at Miller over a 34-year history. Featuring 25 student performers in grades 1-12, HITS Theatre will transport audiences in-person and online with spectacular moments from musical theater history. Incorporating memory videos from well-known alumni and technical support from Stages Repertory Theatre, the evening is sure to touch your heart, bring back fond memories and create new ones! All performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are FREE!

www.milleroutdoortheatre.com

FLY DANCE COMPANY: THE GENTLEMEN OF HIP HOP

July 16 • 8:30 pm LIVE on stage and online! You can choose to watch it on the web. YouTube or Facebook!

Family favorite FLY brings its unique "theatrical hip-hop," a stylish, sophisticated and humorous fusion of street dance and classical music. All performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are FREE!

www.milleroutdoortheatre.com

MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE SUMMER MIXTAPE SERIES

July 29-30 • 8:30 pm LIVE on stage

The Miller Summer Mixtape series is a 3-day, multi-genre, independent music showcase featuring Houston's top local acts. From Jazz to Punk, Reggae to Country, and Indie Rock to pop, music lovers are invited to enjoy their favorite local artists on the Hill under the stars or from the seats!

Tonight's performance will feature Dende, Everlasting Vibez, King Baby Familia, and projection artist Input Output!All performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are FREE!

www.milleroutdoortheatre.com

SUMMER FUN VIBES AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HOUSTON AND FORT BEND DISCOVERY CENTER!

Ongoing

There's something new to do and celebrate every day of summer! Get away and soak in the fun during the Museum's splish-splashing, flip-flopping "Fun Summer Vibes." Set sail on a voyage of discovery filled with exciting, non-stop adventures every day, all day long! Open from Tuesday through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Free Family Night Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m.) Don't forget to book you visit in advance as the Museum will be operating at a limited capacity.

www.cmhouston.org
www.childrensdiscoveryfb.org/news/reopening-june-8

WESTWOOD GYMNASTICS EVENTS

June 4 & 18 • Open Gym

Kiddos run, jump and play through 4 hours of FUN! Pre-register online. $16

June 11 • Flip Flop Clinic

A two hour tumbling clinic that will include a warm up, basic tumbling, cross tumbling, standing back handsprings and back tucks, round off back handsprings, layouts, fulls and more. We will separate tumblers by their ability level, beginners through elite tumblers are welcome. Come Flip till you Flop.

Parent's Day Out

Tuesday June 8, 15, & 29 • Parents Day Out
Friday June 4, 11, & 18 • Parents Day Out

FREE TIME for Students & Non-Students, Boys & Girls, Ages 3 (potty-trained) & Up! 9am - 1pm

Kiddos run jump and play through 4 hours of FUN! If you are pre registered, check in at the main table and if you need to register at the door, check in at the side table. Kiddos in kindergarten and under must get a wrist band from the left side of the gym as we separate the younger kiddos from the older ones. Don't forget to pack a lunch

www.westwoodgym.com/events

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REPUBLIC GYMNASTICS EVENTS

June 4 • Tumble Clinic

Don't miss your chance to get extra tumbling practice in at our Tumbling Clinic offered one Friday a month from 7-9pm.

June 4 • Parents Day Out

Do you need a day out without the kiddos; are you looking for an exciting and safe environment for the kids to have fun, run, jump & play? Parent's Day Out is from 9am - 4pm Full Day, 9am - 1pm/12pm - 4pm Half Day or hourly. Don't forget to pack a lunch!

June 11 • Parents Night Out

Do you need a night out without the kiddos; are you looking for an exciting and safe environment for the kids to have fun, run, jump & play? Parent's Night Out is on select Friday nights from 7-11pm.

June 18 • Skills Clinic

Don't miss your chance to get extra tumbling practice in at our Skills Clinic offered one Friday a month from 7-9pm.

www.republicgymnastics.com

THE JOHNNY NELSON KATY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Ongoing

An old-fashioned broad-ax slashed binder-twine was used to officially open the 9,600-square foot Katy Heritage Museum in 2002. Vintage farming equipment and artifacts from Katy's agricultural and pioneering history are on display, along with scores of old photographs and fascinating antiques. School, clubs and groups can make arrangements for special tours. Admission is free. Thursday - Sunday, 11am - 5pm.

www.cityofkaty.com/visitors/museums

KATY VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Ongoing

"The G.I. Joe Museum" is a first-class military exhibit of historical significance encompassing every foreign conflict involving the United States. Special group tours available on request. Memberships available and contributions appreciated. Admission is free. Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm.

www.cityofkaty.com/visitors/museums

SATURDAY FARMERS' MARKET KATY, TX

Saturdays

Free Farmers Market On Grand Parkway

Come meet the hands that feed you. We offer you local sustainably grown produce, locally raised meats, farm fresh eggs, local raw honey, freshly baked bread & baked goods, jams & jellies, spices, snacks, multi-cultural foods, Artisan crafts & gifts, handmade soaps & spa products, Texas-raised herbs, flowers, plants and much more!

We Grow It, Bake It and Make It! We are your friendly neighborhood Farmers' Market!

Leashed pets welcome.

https://fb.me/e/1WaiEPSrh

SATURDAY FARMERS' MARKET FULSHEAR, TX

Saturdays

The Fulshear Farmers' Market offers a vast array of produce and food products that were grown or produced within a 200 mile radius of Fulshear. The lineup includes seasonal vegetables and fruit, fresh seafood, Artisian breads, pastured Red Wattle pork, Dorper lamb, Certified Grassfed Wagyu beef, farm eggs, free range chicken, pies, cookies, pastas, granolas, dried fruit and nuts, Houston Chili Pepper Festival award-winning salsas, soaps, toiletries, Cold-pressed juices, local honey, fresh quail and quail eggs, pecans, local wines, kombucha, BBQ sauces, pickles and canned goods, Indian food, heat and eat meals, locally roasted and blended coffees, plants, and more. You will always find a delicious food truck or two, as well.

http://fulshearfarmersmarket.com

FREEDOM PARADE, FESTIVAL AND MOVIE NIGHT

July 3 • 6:00 - 10:00 pm

The Katy Heritage Society will have snow cones, a petting zoo, live music and crafts at Katy Heritage Park, followed by a children's bicycle parade contest, where participants are encouraged to deck themselves and their non-motorized bikes, strollers, scooters and wagons out in patriotic red, white and blue. After the parade winners are announced, "The Sandlot" movie will be shown at 8:30 p.m. in the park greenspace. Attendees can purchase popcorn, snacks or drinks for donation. 6-10 p.m. $5 (admission, children age 13 and under). 5990 George Bush Drive, Katy. 281-377-5710.

www.katyheritagesociety.com/gallery

KATY FREEDOM CELEBRATION

July 4 • 9 pm

Residents can view a fireworks show hosted by the city of Katy on the Fourth of July. Parking is available around Katy Mills Mall at 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Katy, and Typhoon Texas at 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy. Free.

www.facebook.com/events/235807397977638

TYPHOON TEXAS: RED, WHITE AND BOOM CELEBRATION!

July 2-4 • 10:30 am - 9 pm

Typhoon Texas will have additional events to celebrate the Independence Day weekend, leading up to the Katy Freedom Celebration. Friday, they will have carnival activities and live entertainment at the park from 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., followed by a fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. Saturday, these same park activities return, along with hot air balloon rides, from 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., and another fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. The three-day event concludes on Sunday, when the park is open 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m., and guests can attend a Salute to Heroes. The day ends with their longest fireworks show, the Katy Freedom Celebration at 9:05 p.m. $44.99 (park admission). 555 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy. 832-426-7071.

www.typhoontexas.com/houston/fourthofjuly

JERSEY VILLAGE JULY 4TH FEST ON JULY 4

July 4 • 10:30 am - 3 pm

Residents can enjoy a morning Fourth of July Parade beginning at the Civic Center, traveling down Jersey Drive and ending at Clark Henry Park followed by live music, food options and family games. 10:30 a.m. (parade). 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (live music). Free (admission). Jersey Drive and Clark Henry Park. 713-466-2100.

www.jerseyvillagetx.com/page/events.4thofjuly

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION PRESENTED BY TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - WEST CAMPUS

July 4 • 5-9:30 pm • Free

Join us for our annual July 4th celebration presented by Texas Children's Hospital - West Campus! 104.1 KRBE is our radio partner for this festive evening that includes live music, an interactive kids zone and fireworks show.

www.lacenterra.com/fourth-of-july

SHELL FREEDOM OVER TEXAS (VIRTUAL AND LIVE EVENT)

July 4 • 7-10 pm • Free

While the city of Houston's traditional full-day Fourth of July celebration has not returned amid the coronavirus pandemic, residents can enjoy an evening of live music and fireworks broadcast on ABC 13 and its platforms. Performers include Lee Brice, Jimmie Allen, Alanis Sophia, and Brian Jack and the Zydeco Gamblers. Those who wish to see the fireworks show in person will have Eleanor Tinsley Park as an option if they park downtown and walk to the location. The city of Houston also recommends any open spaces and neighborhood parks with a view of the western downtown skyline. Downtown Houston.

www.freedomovertexas.org

WILD & WACKY WATER GAMES!

By Belinda Mooney

SUMMER TIME MEANS POOL TIME FOR MOST OF US. And whether you own your own pool or you visit the local pool or beach it's always fun to play in the water. Having several ideas on hand for games the kids can play in the water can keep them from getting bored. Don't have a pool? That's ok - some of these fun games are easily played with a sprinkler. So dig out those swimsuits and goggles and head for the water.

DIVING FOR TREASURE

The oldest pool game has to be diving for an object to see who can get to it first. This is a game kids will play for hours in the pool. Kids toss objects that will sink and then search for it on the bottom of the pool. Today you can purchase toys that are weighted and brightly colored designed specifically for this game. But why not add a new twist? Why not hide trinkets or coins, sealed in plastic bags and fastened to something weighted on the bottom of the pool before the kids get there? Then they can have a real treasure hunt. Limit the amount of prizes each child can find, make sure they share and keep it to the shallow end of the pool.

SPRINKLER TUG OF WAR

Turn on your sprinkler full blast for this fun game. Divide the kids up into to two teams. Use a rope or heavy duty jump rope and have the kids grab hold. One team one each end. Then start the battle! There will be lots of wet, giggly fun as kids try to avoid getting dragged into the sprinkler water. To avoid kids falling on the sprinkler do not place the sprinkler directly in the path of the tug of war game. Set it a few inches back from the center.

WATER BALLOON DIVE & TOSS

For this game you will need to fill small water balloons as full as possible. Place them on one side of the pool on the bottom of the pool. Make sure they are spread out evenly. Divide the kids into two teams. You will need at least four kids for this game. Each team will be divided into divers and catchers. When you say go the divers start looking for the balloons on the bottom. They then toss them over to their team mates. The team mates have to catch them in a small bucket or bowl. Whoever has the most at the end wins. You can also play a similar version of this on land. Just have the kids toss the balloons back and forth catching them in a bucket and moving further apart each time they throw the balloon.

MARCO POLO

What pool party is complete without a good old fashion game of Marco Polo? One child closes his eyes and is "it." His goal is to find the kids in the water without opening his eye. Their goal is to keep away. The person who is it yells out "Marco" periodically and the others have to respond with "Polo" as he tries to figure out where everyone is. Whoever he tags becomes "it" next.

FANCY FOOTWORK

Relay races are as much at the pool as they are anywhere else. For this relay race you need two teams of kids and empty sports drink bottles with lids - one for each child. Divide the kids into two teams. Line them up at the edge of the pool. When you say go the first person jumps in the water, places his water bottle at in the water and has to race to the other side first. The catch - they have to push their bottle with their feet. As soon as they reach the other side the next team member jumps in and takes their turn. Lots of toe tickling fun in this relay race.

BUCKET BRIGADE

This relay race has many versions. One version has kids filling up a small bucket with water, racing across to a larger bucket, dumping the water and racing back with the bucket for the next person to go. Whoever has the most water at the end wins. But there are other fun twists you can add to this. You can form two lines and pass the bucket down the line, send it back up and whoever fills the bucket first wins. But for really interesting fun have the kids stand in line with their backs toward the goal. The first child fills the bucket then passes it up and over his head to the next child in line - without turning around or looking at them. The last child has to dump the water into the larger bucket backwards too.

RUBBER DUCK RACE

This silly game will have everyone laughing. Have each child get into the pool at the starting line with a rubber ducky or other small floating toy. Everyone should have something about the same size and weight. They then have to race their ducks across the pool but they can not touch the duck. They have to blow their rubber duck across the water. Who will be the first to get their duck to the other side. If the touch the duck its back to the starting line.

MORE WATER FUN

These are just a few of the many games you can play around the pool. If you have younger children you can let them paint with water around the edge of the pool or on a sidewalk. All you need is water and large paintbrushes. Another neat idea for younger kids is to fill small water balloons with water and freeze overnight. The next day remove the balloon part and let the kids play with their ice balloons in a small kiddie pool. Place a small toy in the middle of the balloon before freezing and they will have fun trying to figure out what is hidden in their balloon.

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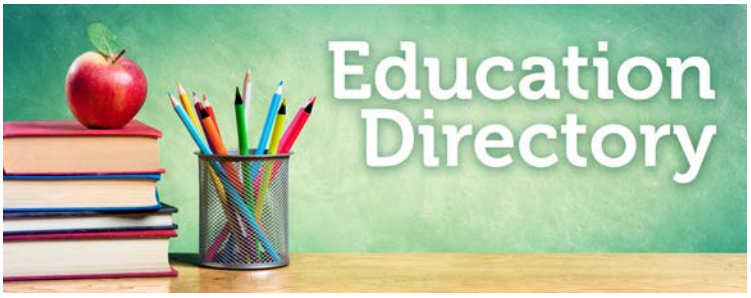

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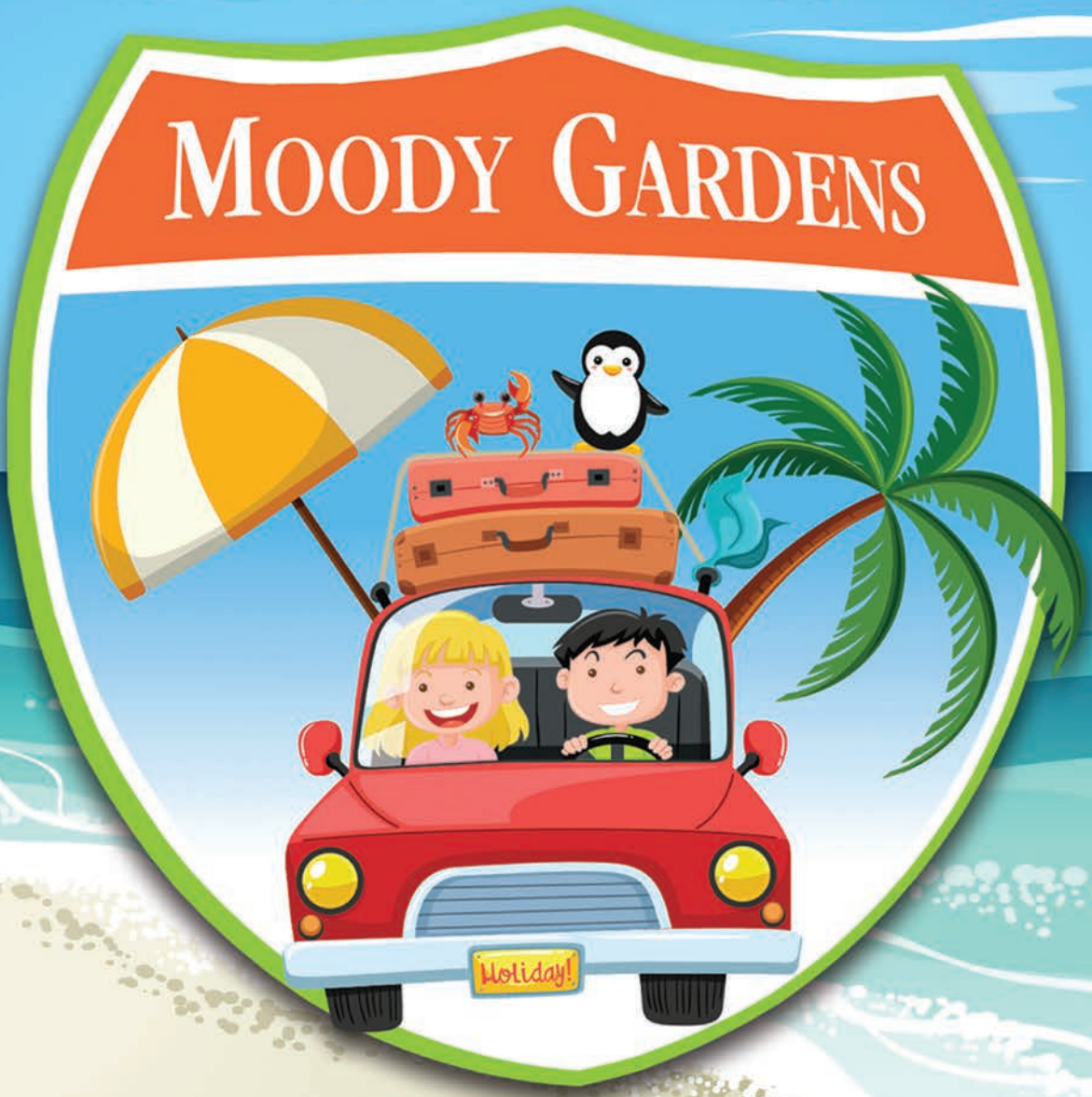

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