The beginning of a New Year is the perfect time for a Fresh Start to a Healthier You. A FREE, hands-on, three-week adult learning program that uses practical experience and information to change lives and improve health. Presented by Sharon Mitchiner from Better Living for Texans (BLT), this three-week program will be held at the library on Tuesdays, January 10th, 17th, and 24th at 2 PM. Participants will learn about food safety, balancing healthy meals, saving more at the grocery store, and how to provide delicious, healthy, and economical meals for themselves and their families. At the end of each day there will be a different item to take home to help you in your kitchen, along with recipes and food samples. Make it a resolution today to be a part of this program and kick-off a healthy new year!

This series was developed by BLT, a statewide nutrition education program that was established in 1994. If you have any questions about this program, visit the Reference Desk or call us directly at (409) 643-5977.

January 3rd marks the launch of the library’s latest local history online exhibit commemorating the 1867 Settlement — the only freedmen’s settlement in Galveston County. The exhibit covers the history of the founding families, and the community’s growth and change from the Reconstruction-era through the mid-twentieth century. The area is marked by several historical markers honoring the unique history and origins of the African American community in west Texas City. To access the exhibit, visit the library homepage (www.texascitylibrary.org) and click “Local History” at the top of the page to be taken to the online exhibits page.
All library programs are FREE to attend. All programs will be held in the Library Meeting Room.

**Winter Programs**

**Annual Meeting of the Friends of Moore Memorial Public Library** – Library Director Beth Ryker Steiner will give a “State of the Library” speech, and Mayor Matt Doyle will discuss the “State of Texas City.” Refreshments will be served.

When: Monday, January 9th at 6 PM

**A Fresh Start to a Healthier You** – A three-week program offered by Sharon Mitchiner from Better Living for Texans to help you achieve a healthy lifestyle.

- Tuesday, January 10th at 2 PM Food Safety
- Tuesday, January 17th at 2 PM Balancing Your Day
- Tuesday, January 24th at 2 PM Saving More at the Grocery Store

**Craft a Valentine for your Valentine** – Get together with others at the library to make crafts and valentines for the people in your life you care about, or donate it to be given to a local senior living home.

When: Thursday, February 9th at 3:30 PM

**From Maine to Galveston, Republic of Texas: the Life and Times of Lucy Parker Shaw** – Author James Valentino will discuss his book focusing on letters written by Lucy Parker Shaw, an immigrant to Galveston in 1883, to her mother in Eastport, Maine about Shaw’s new life and experiences in 19th century Galveston, Texas.

When: Wednesday, March 22nd at 1:30 PM

**We Were Prepared** – Local author Frank Urbanic will discuss his book about the Boy and Girl Scouts who were mobilized as first responders during the Texas City Disaster of 1947. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

When: Tuesday, April 4th at 2 PM

**LEGO Problem-Solving** – Kids ages 8-12 will solve a fun and challenging problem using LEGOs. Challenge your mind and stretch your creativity!

- Saturday, January 21st at 1:30 PM
- Saturday, February 18th at 1:30 PM
- Saturday, April 22nd at 1:30 PM
- Saturday, May 13th at 1:30 PM

**LEGO Mindstorms** – Teams of two will build their robot, learn how to program it, and test it out in a series of challenges. The next programs will be Friday, January 27th at 3:15 PM, Friday, February 24th at 3:15 PM, and Friday, March 24th at 3:15 PM.

**Heritage Quest/Ancestry.com Overview** – The local history librarian will lead an hour-long overview of HeritageQuest Online and Ancestry.com (Library Edition). The first ten patrons can also work with HeritageQuest using our laptops.

When: Friday, January 13th at 1:30 PM

**Calvin Bell’s Journey: from Slavery to the Smithsonian** – Dr. Mary Smith will present this program on the life of the former slave turned cowboy from Galveston County whose cattle branding iron is now part of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington D.C.

When: Tuesday, February 21st at 1:30 PM

**Manga Club** is now called the **Anime & Manga Club**! This club is a monthly meeting of members who were mobilized as first responders during the Texas City Disaster of 1947. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

When: Tuesday, April 4th at 2 PM

No matter what you're into, you'll find a group to love at the library!
**Kids Zone**

**WINTER CHILDREN’S PROGRAMMING**

Weekly Storytimes are back for children ages 1-5! For the winter and spring sessions, Storytimes will run from January 3rd through May 17th. Storytimes help your child build early literacy and social skills that are important for future kindergarten success.

On Tuesdays at 10:00 AM we have Toddlerlicious Storytime for children ages 1-3. Every week, there will be stories, songs, rhymes, bubble time, and play time. Preschool Storytime is held on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM for ages 3-5. Every week, there will be stories, songs, alphabet learning, and a different fun and educational activity or craft. Three year olds can come to either program. It’s up to the caregiver to determine when your 3-year-old is ready for Preschool Storytime.

**BEST CHILDREN’S BOOKS OF 2016 & OTHER LISTS**

Looking back at 2016, which children’s books stood out above the rest? Check out the kids booklists on the library website to find our compilation of the Best Children’s Books of 2016. You will also find lots of other helpful booklists to guide you in finding some of the great books available in our juvenile collection. Our booklists include bibliographies for the most current award-winning books (Caldecott, Bluebonnet, Newbery, etc.), genres (historical fiction, mystery, science-fiction, etc.), topics (science, nature, math, people and places, etc.) and many other categories for kids of all ages.

To find these booklists, visit the library homepage (www.texascitylibrary.org), click on the “Book Lists” tab and select “Kids” in the drop-down menu. From there, you’ll be taken to the Book List page with a big selection of booklists. If you have any questions, need help locating books on any of the lists, swing by the Children’s Department, or call us directly at (409) 643-5983.

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**THE STATE OF THINGS: FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING**

Every year the Friends of Moore Memorial Library hosts an annual meeting for all Friends members and interested community members. Library Director Beth Ryker Steiner will deliver a “State of the Library” address, and Mayor Matt Doyle will talk about the “State of Texas City”. Local residents are invited to attend this meeting to learn about the current state of both the library and the city, ask questions and find out what to expect in the year to come. Refreshments will be served. The meeting will be Monday, January 9th at 6pm in the Holland Meeting Room at the library. The Friends group raises funds for the library to assist with additional library purchases. The Friends have helped buy benches, shelving, LEGO Mindstorms robots, large print books for senior living centers, and much more.

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**SHOW THE LIBRARY SOME LOVE!**

**Love My Library**

Love My Library Card

Circulation Desk or the Reference Desk to start earning prizes. This year, you can earn free printing OR coupons to help with overdue fines! You’ll get a stamp for each time you visit the library and check out library materials, ask a reference question, use a library computer, or get a library card. Once an entire section is stamped (DVDs, Music, Books/Magazines, and Computers/Reference/Library Card) you win the prize for that category. It’s our way of saying, “Thank You,” to all our loyal patrons! If you have any questions about the program, please call the Reference Desk at (409) 643-5977.

**NEWSPRINT**

**LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:** The library will be closed on the following dates:

New Year’s Day: The library will be closed Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2nd. We will reopen Tuesday, January 3rd at 9 AM.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: The library will be closed Monday, January 16. We will reopen Tuesday, January 17 at 9 AM.
We Were Prepared: Boy Scout and Girl Scout Heroism

Join us at the library on Tuesday, April 4 at 2 PM as local author Frank Urbanic discusses his book We Were Prepared, which focuses on the mobilization of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as first responders immediately following the Texas City Disaster on April 16, 1947. Urbanic uses first hand accounts from Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to recount the tragedy and heroism of that fateful day.

He describes how Scouts as young as twelve years old were involved in rescue efforts, braving choking fumes from burning refineries, and dodging hot, jagged pieces of shrapnel to render aid to victims of the deadliest industrial accident in U.S. history.

Urbanc, an Eagle Scout and a former assistant Scoutmaster, conducted interviews with Scouts who were mobilized, and also included his personal experiences in this book. Frank is a retired U.S. Air Force officer who served as a base commander, a fighter pilot in Vietnam, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Calvin Bell’s Journey: From Slavery to the Smithsonian

Dr. Mary Smith, the African American History Preservation Chair for the Galveston County Historical Commission, will trace the untold story of Calvin Bell, a freed slave turned cowboy in post-Civil War Galveston County on Tuesday, February 21 at 1:30 PM.

Dr. Smith has worked extensively to bring attention to the role of African Americans in Texas City history. This program is an effort to highlight the experiences of African Americans in the Galveston County area through the untold story of Calvin Bell.

Bell’s journey spans from 1864, during the last days of the Civil War to 2016 when the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture displayed Calvin’s 138-year-old branding iron at its grand opening in Washington D.C. in 2016. His efforts and achievements formed a legacy for his family and community, now an integrated part of Texas City. With the branding iron in the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture, Calvin’s story can be shared worldwide.

Exercise Your Brain with BrainHQ

Welcome to BrainHQ, a new library database! BrainHQ provides fun and challenging exercises and games designed to help you improve attention, brain speed, memory, people skills, navigation, and intelligence.

Each brain exercise is broken down into 2 minute training bites so that you can fit these exercises into a busy schedule. You can do brain exercises on the go with the iPad app, and BrainHQ tracks your progress no matter what platform you use.

Registration for BrainHQ requires your library card number, basic information, and an e-mail address. It is accessible from our library website homepage (www.texascity-library.org) under “Electronic Resources – Databases”. The BrainHQ service can be found under “Brain Fitness”. If you need help getting started, visit the Reference Desk, or call us directly at (409) 643-5977.

Naxos Music Library Offers Free Streaming Music

Check out our new music streaming database: Naxos Music Library! You can now stream songs over your computer, phone, or tablet (Android or iOS) with just a library card. Choose from nearly 2 million tracks in genres such as classical, jazz, blues, rock, gospel, folk, and many more!

You can create your own playlists or listen to pre-made, curated playlists by Naxos staff. Naxos also provides guided tours of musical eras, key composers, and the music they created if you’re interested in learning more about music history. Using the Naxos Music Library only requires your library card number. It is accessible from our library website homepage (www.texascity-library.org) under “Electronic Resources – Databases”. The Naxos Music Library service can be found under “Music”.

Learn a New Language This Year!

Does your New Year’s Resolution involve learning something new? What about picking up a new language for 2017? Library card holders have access to Transparent Language Online which offers over 80 different languages for learning through speaking, writing, listening, and reading.

Each language begins with a welcome lesson made up of the most common terms. In English, these would be “Hello”, “Thank you”, “yes” and “no”, before moving on to the alphabet and the phonics for each letter and, eventually, phrases and grammar. The user dashboard tracks new vocabulary learned and users can monitor their progress as they move through lessons.

To get started, all you need is your library card number, an email address, and very basic personal information. It is accessible from the library’s homepage (www.texascity-library.org) under “Electronic Resources – Databases”. Transparent Language Online can be found under “Languages”.

The Naxos Music Library service can be found under “Music”.

The BrainHQ service can be found under “Brain Fitness”.

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**Early 2017 Computer Classes**

Through the month of April, the library has planned computer classes to teach you how to use the mouse, create and use an email account, search the Internet, and create and save files.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pre-Test</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 5</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 6</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Computers: Keyboard &amp; Terminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 12</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, January 13</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Windows: Files &amp; Saving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 19</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 26</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Setting Up an Email Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 27</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Email (must already have an email account)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 2</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 3</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Computers: Keyboard &amp; Terminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 9</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 10</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Windows: Files &amp; Saving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 16</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 17</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Excel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 23</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Setting Up an Email Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 24</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Email (must already have an email account)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 2</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 3</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Computers: Keyboard &amp; Terminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 9</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 10</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Windows: Files &amp; Saving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 23</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Internet</td>
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<td>Friday, March 24</td>
<td>9:30-10 AM</td>
<td>Basic Word II</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 7</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Sign-up Procedure:** Registration for each computer class opens one week prior to the scheduled class date, and remains open until 3 days prior. Register in person at the Reference Desk or by phone at (409) 643-5977. Space is limited, so please call to cancel 24 hours prior to the class if you’re unable to attend. If you miss 2 sessions without cancelling 24 hours in advance, your future attendance will be limited. Arrive between 9:30-10 AM to complete the mandatory pre-test designed to evaluate your skill set.
The filing deadline for individual tax forms is **Tuesday, April 18th**. Most 2016 tax forms and instructions are available for download and printing from the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Help with common tax questions and problems is also available at the IRS website. After **January 1st**, an individual may request forms by mail through the IRS toll-free number, 1-800-829-3676.

On the IRS website, users looking for forms from previous years can click the “Forms & Pubs” tab to be taken to a search engine (see image below). Enter the form number and year into the text box and click “Search” to see results. Click on the forms for closer examination to make sure you’re choosing and printing the correct form.

The IRS website also offers a free electronic filing (or e-file) option through IRS Free File. If you’re filing a 1040EZ or 1040A tax return, Turbo Tax offers a free edition for e-filing at [https://turbotax.intuit.com](https://turbotax.intuit.com). H&R Block also offers free tax preparation services at [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com). You will need an email address to create a free account with both websites. Exploring free tax preparation options early can help you be prepared to file your taxes on or before April 18, 2017.

Library staff are ready to help patrons find and print forms, publications, or instructions from the IRS website. Please bring the number of the form, publications, or instructions you need to the Reference Desk at the library. Printing charges are $.10 per page for all black and white printing.

### Tax Time: Helpful Tips

**Forms and Publications**

- **Current**
- **Prior Year**
- **Accessible**
- **Ebooks**

Use our Forms & Publications Search to quickly find and download current forms, instructions and publications. To get started, enter keywords into the box below and click Search.

**Search current forms and publications (e.g., Form 1040)**

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**Veterans Oral History Project**

The library’s latest local history endeavor, the **Vietnam Era Oral History Project**, aims to conduct interviews with local veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War era. Veterans do not have to have been stationed in Vietnam or southeast Asia to participate. Veterans who served in any branch of the military between 1961-1975, no matter the location or length of service, qualify for participation. Veterans who participate can discuss any topics they are comfortable with, including early childhood and adolescence, military service, and life after military service. The mission of the project is to collect, record, and preserve access to the experiences of all of those who served the country. Although this project is targeted to veterans of the Vietnam Era, veterans of any period are welcome to participate.

Interviews will be made available on our website, and we will submit them to the Veterans History Project at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Information Packets are available at the Reference Desk. If you have any questions, contact Paloma, the Local History Librarian, at 409-949-3007, or email plenz@texas-city-tx.org.