



# A fun Fat Tuesday fundraiser

The Assistance League of Georgetown brought back their favorite fundraiser, Fat Tuesday Games Day, on Tuesday, February 21.

The nonprofit organization filled the Georgetown Community Center with 192 people. The event featured a variety of tabletop games from cards to dominos. There was also a silent auction and a raffle for an iPhone 12.

The group raised an estimated \$7,670 to support their programs, which include Georgetown Swims, The Nest, Hope Alliance and scholarships for graduating high school students, among others. The next Games Day is already set for February 2024.

— Kate St. Clair

**Left,** Paula Churchman, Emily Befort, Aline Kidwell and Chip Dalton play cards during the event Tuesday, February 21.

PHOTOS BY KATE ST. CLAIR

**Right,** Club volunteers ready the kitchen during the event.



Danelle and Jean Houck man the raffle booth.

## Georgetown and Williamson County turn 175

This year, Williamson County and the City of Georgetown are turning 175 years old. This is the most recent milestone for

land that has attracted people to it for the last 13,000 years, land that has borne witness to many stories.

Georgetown residents live on land that has been inhabited by Paleoindians, Tonkawa, Lipan Apache and Comanche. In the 1690s, the Spanish created El Camino Real de los Tejas, a route that carried people and goods through this area. Fifty years later, the short-lived San Xavier Missions were established on the San Gabriel River just across the Williamson County border in Rockdale. During the 19th century, American, Czech, German, Mexican and Swedish settlers began arriving. These groups would create the towns as we know them today.

On March 13, 1848, Williamson County was carved out of Milam District. In need of a county seat, George Washington Glasscock, and his business partner Thomas B. Huling, donated 172 acres of land with the stipulation it be named after him, thus creating Georgetown.

Ranching and cattle drives influenced the early years of the county, with part of the Chisholm Trail running through downtown Georgetown. Often overlooked are the Black cowboys who made up anywhere from a quarter to a third of all American cowboys during that time period. This included Georgetown residents like Emanuel Orgain. His skills in town were so well known that in 1965, over a quarter century past his death, the Williamson County Sun printed a photograph and memorial to Orgain's cowboying. Specifically, the paper

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Ann Evans

lauded his ability to find lost and stolen cattle, an important skill since cattle meant big money.

In that same time frame, brothers John and Dudley Snyder used the wealth and influence they gained from cattle drives to help bring Southwestern University to town in 1873. This move greatly influenced Georgetown's future as it brought several other influential figures to town throughout the years. These included women like Laura Kuykendall, the dean of women who was the first female in the county to earn her driver's license.

Another Southwestern alumna was Jessie Daniel Ames, who formed the Georgetown Equal Suffrage League before establishing the Texas chapter of the League of Women Voters. After leaving Georgetown, Ames founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching in Atlanta, Georgia. Long-time principal Annie Purl also graduated from Southwestern. Many residents still remember her as their first-grade teacher who always made them eat a piece of fruit with lunch. Mary Bailey is another educator who left her mark. Her likeness can be seen at the center of the "Preserving History" mural on the back of Georgetown's City Hall. Bailey began the first preschool for children of color in 1953 because she firmly believed that early childhood education was the key to future success.

Others have impacted Georgetown in different ways. Charles Belford left his stamp on the town through his lumber company, which built many of the iconic historic homes we associate with downtown today. More recently Dr. Douglas Benold was influential in modernizing medicine in

Georgetown by expanding the hospital, establishing the first EMS services in town and founding an integrated Licensed Vocational Nursing School years before Georgetown schools were integrated. This is just a small sampling of the individuals who have made a difference in the city throughout its history. Countless stories from our past are yet to be told, and an untold number of stories lay in our future.

As we approach the 175th birthdays of both the county and the city, there will be celebrations throughout the upcoming year. Williamson County will host a birthday party on March 10 complete with cake, mascots, performances and a laser light show. On March 10 and 11 be sure to stop by and help paint the new mural "Still Making History." The mural will be located at the corner of Ninth Street and Austin Avenue, and is a collaboration between Williamson County, the City of Georgetown Arts and Culture Board and the Williamson Museum. The Williamson Museum will open an exhibit by the same name that explores the county's past also on March 10. For more event times and more information about county events visit [wilco175.org](http://wilco175.org).

During the Spring Art Stroll on April 20, mural artist Yasaman Mehrsa will give a presentation about their process at the Georgetown Public Library at 5 p.m. before the work's official dedication later that evening at 6 p.m. One week later, join the City of Georgetown at the South Main Arts District for a special area dedicated to the 175th during the Red Poppy Festival on April 28-30. There will be a balloon artist, crafts and activities for kids and a wheel to spin for prizes. On Sunday, a scavenger hunt will be open to all ages where participants can collect goodies from different

### What's going on in the library?

- February 17 - March 23: Leslie Kell: Currents (first floor Café Gallery)
- February 17 - March 23: Waterloo Watercolor Group: Living in Bloom (second floor Bridge and Hall Gallery)
- March 4, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Immigration Assistance
- March 5, 2-4 p.m.: Meet Local Writers: San Gabriel Writers' League: moved to Parks & Recreation Admin Office in their Community Room, 1101 North College St.
- March 7, 10 a.m.: Homeschool Happenings (tickets required and available one hour before start of program)
- March 8, 6:30 p.m.: GPL World Cinema The Rose Maker (La Fine Fleur)

For more information about these and other library events, visit [library.georgetown.org/events-calendar](http://library.georgetown.org/events-calendar) or call 512-930-3551.

locations throughout the square such as the Williamson Museum and the YMCA booth. Upon completing six out of 10 stops you will enter a chance to win one of six gift baskets.

Hope to see you soon at the library and around Georgetown!

Ann Evans is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.



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**Saturday, March 25, 7 pm**

**First United Methodist Church**  
410 E. University Avenue. Georgetown, TX 78626

Tickets available at:  
[www.wilcoguitar.org/ticket-sales](http://www.wilcoguitar.org/ticket-sales)

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