With the arrival of fall and the milder temperatures (let's keep our fingers crossed), it's time to grab the family and head outside to enjoy the many wonderful *festivals in Katy and its surrounding areas.*



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Fort Bend County Fair

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg September 26-October 4

The Fort Bend County Fair has grown into one of the largest and most successful fairs in Texas. This year's theme, "Honoring Volunteers – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," is a tribute to the many volunteers who make the fair possible year after year. The event includes a BBQ Cook-Off, live entertainment, games and booths, as well as the naming of the Fort Bend County Fair Queen. Visit fbcfa.org.

Greek Festival

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral Complex 3511 Yoakum Blvd., Houston

October 2-4

Experience being Greek for day with live entertainment, food, and games and activities for children of all ages. Visit greekfestival.org.

Multi-Cultural Celebration of Fort Bend

Strafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Center, 10505 Cash Rd., Stafford *October 4*

A celebration of cultural diversity featuring a costume parade/ International fashion show, various upbeat cultural performances presented by an array of talented artists, plus food, arts and crafts booths, as well as a children's play area. Visit if-fb.org.

Traders Village Art Car Show

Traders Village Market, N. Eldridge Rd. October 5

Traders Village becomes a canvas for rolling works of art! See more than 75 vehicles of all sorts painted, pasted, and carved into masterpieces on wheels. Come meet the artists and enjoy live music throughout the day. Free admission, parking is \$3. Visit tradersvillage.com.

Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival

Downtown Square Conroe, Texas October 10-12

Have fun, eat some catfish, and support the non-profit group Friends of Conroe, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Conroe and Montgomery County. The festival includes arts and crafts exhibitors from Texas and other states near and far, live music, amazing Cajun food, and kids activities, including a petting zoo, monster mural, amusements, and pony rides. Visit conroecajuncatfishfestival.com.

Fall Family Festival at St. Peter's

St. Peter's United Methodist Church 20775 Kingsland Blvd. **October 11**

Don't miss this local festival ideal for kids and families. Fun, food, and games! Call 281-492-8031.

Houston Italian Festival

Houston Farm & Ranch Club 1 Abercrombie Dr., Houston **October 11-12**

Celebrate the culture, heritage, and romance of Italy. Admission is \$6 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Visit houstonitalianfestival.com.

Texas Renaissance Festival

21778 FM 1744, Plantersville October 11-November 30

A unique celebration of medieval traditions with family entertainment, arts and crafts, food, and even a fireworks display. This is one of the nation's biggest and most acclaimed renaissance celebrations. Go to texrenfest.com.

Needville Harvest Festival

Needville Harvest Park

October 17-18

Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, this weekend-long street fair features food, dancing, and live entertainment. Call 281-343-0218.

Bayou City Art Festival

City Hall, Downtown Houston **October 18-19**

This downtown Houston festival features awe inspiring works from various artists. Admission is only \$10 for adults and free to children 12 and under. Visit bayoucityartfestival.com.

Pet Fest

Old Town Spring, Texas **October 18-19**

Find your perfect family pet this weekend with over 50 rescue booths and animal shelters. Participate in contests, demonstrations, seminars, pet fashion and spa services, and even a pet psychic will be on hand! You can even get your pet microchipped, blessed at the Blessing of the Animals, and vaccinated. Well socialized pets are welcome to attend and admission is free. Call 281-528-7070 or visit petfestoldtownspring.com.



Historic Richmond Pecan Festival

Downtown Morton Street, Richmond Mid-October

This event features a pecan bake-off, pecan raffle, baked goods, games and activities for kids and teens. Call 281-232-2155 for exact event date information.

Island Oktoberfest

First Lutheran Church, Galveston October 24-25

This family-friendly festival includes authentic German food, live entertainment, arts and crafts booth, games, and many children's activities. Attendees are encouraged to wear German attire. Visit firstlutherangalveston.com/oktoberfest2008.cfm.

Boo Bash

Traders Village Market, N. Eldridge Rd. October 25

Wear your best costumes to this free spooktacular for kids! Enjoy continuous live musical entertainment, trick-or-treating, the haunted hallway, and much more. Visit tradersvillage.com.

Halloween "Fun in the Run" Candy Trail

Buffalo Run Park, 1122 Buffalo Run Dr., Missouri City **October 25**

Come dressed in your best costume and stroll down the haunted candy trail, take a hay ride, watch an outdoor movie, or enter to win the costume contest.





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Texian Market Days

George Ranch Historical Park, 10215 FM 762, Richmond **October 25**

A celebration of history and heritage benefiting the educational programs of the Fort Bend County Museum Association. Programs include the Texian Time Machine, where kids (of all ages) can imagine life as it was during the early years of the Ranch's history. Enjoy folk life demonstrations, historical reenactments, historic house tours, an antique tractor show, and the Texian Arts & Crafts Marketplace. Visit www.georgeranch.org.

Ron Carter Wings Over Houston Air Show

Ellington Field **October 25-26**

Thrilling formations, tight turns, and solo head-on passes performed by the USAF Thunderbirds. The air show features military fighter planes such as the F-18, and the A-10. Flight legends sign autographs at a special autograph tent, and modern aviation displays, motion simulator rides, and a kid's carnival are part of the fun. Visit wingsoverhouston.com or call 713-266-4492.

ARToberFEST

Post Office Street between 21st and 23rd Streets, Galveston

October 25-26

Art enthusiasts can surround themselves in a relaxed atmosphere and historic charm while enjoying the works of over 120 artists at Galveston's premier art event. Go to artoberfest.com.

RE/MAX Ballunar Liftoff Festival

Nasa Johnson Space Center October 31-November 2

Watch colorful hot air balloons float up, up, and away during this exciting event. Sky diving exhibitions, live entertainment, information booths and food from local restaurants are also part of the fun. Call 281-488-7676 or visit ballunarfestival.com.

Texas Championship Pow Wow

Traders Village Market, N. Eldridge Rd. *November* 8-9

A two-day Native American Pow Wow featuring colorful tribal dance contests, Indian artists, teepee, food, honoring ceremonies, singing, and much more! Several hundred Native Americans representing dozens of tribes from across the country will take part in this celebration of culture and heritage. Visit tradersvillage.com.

Seaside Treasure Festival

Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, Galveston

November 21-22

The two-day event will feature arts and crafts vendors, a silent auction, food from the Seaside Café, and much more. Visit moody. org/stf.

Dewberry Farm

7705 FM 362, Brookshire *Weekends only from late September through late November*

Located west of Katy, Dewberry Farm is all about making memories and enjoying good clean country fun. The Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch are featured activities, but there's much more for all ages to enjoy! Visit dewberryfarm.com

This is just a small sampling of the fall festivals, events, and activities in and around Katy. If you know of an annual fall event that's not listed here, please email it to editor@katymagazine.com. **KM**

Fall Festivals are ideal for kids and families with lots of *fun, food, and games*

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Katy Rice Harvest Harvest Festival Parade & Festival Event

Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade Historic Downtown Katy

October 4

This is the kick-off parade to the Katy Rice Harvest Festival, and everyone is invited to participate. Enter the parade in one of these categories: eight and under, not-for-profit/civic, churches, classic vehicle, commercial, equestrian, school, and youth organizations. Or, you can just come out and watch. The line up is at the Church of Christ on 5th Street and East Avenue, and the parade will end at Avenue C and 10th Street. Visit rice.katychamber.com.

Katy Rice Harvest Festival

Historic Downtown Katy October 11-12

The fun-filled event, held over two days, features over 300 food and craft booths, a carnival, and family entertainment for young and old on two stages. The festival, which began in 1980, celebrates our rich farming and harvest traditions and area heritage. Go to rice. katychamber.com.



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