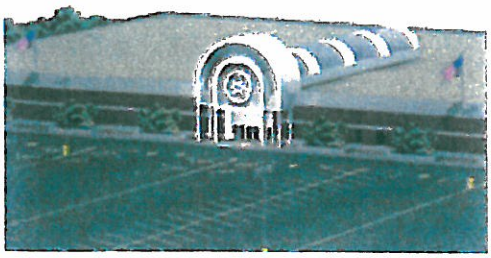
Certified Retirement Community
Community Assessment

Tab 2- I Continuing Education

The old adage that one is never too old to learn is absolutely true. This lifelong pursuit of education is recognized by three area community colleges – Brazosport College, Alvin Community College and Wharton County Junior College. With Houston so close, we are a short commute to University of Houston, Rice University, and many other satellite campuses to numerous to list.

Brazosport College - 500 College Dr, Lake Jackson – Phone 979-230-3000
Classroom and online courses are both offered with a variety of interests to seniors including computer skills, languages, design, canning, sewing, wine & wine tasting, etc. For those that merely watching *"Dancing with the Stars"* is not enough, the college offers sixteen sessions of ballroom and swing instruction.
In March & October, Seniors 50+ may enroll in ALLP-Adult Life & Learning Programs. You may choose from 1-20 different classes for a flat fee of $40 or bring a buddy and each pay only $35. Program runs for six weeks.
For a complete list of non-credit courses, go to www.brazosport.edu/ce

Alvin Community College – 3110 Mustang Rd, Alvin – Phone 281-756-3500
Continuing education courses include computer & internet training, CPR, real estate sales person, professional inspector, handgun safety, etc. Special classes for senior adults include life story writing, 50+ Aerobics, Pilates for 50+ and more.
For more information, visit www.alvincollege.edu



Wharton County Junior College –
Satellite Campus located at 4000 Ave F, Ste. B
Bay City – Phone 979-244-4552
Offers an array of training courses including beginning computers, Internet & E-Mail, Photoshop, medical training, personal enrichment, personal finance, and American Citizenship classes.

The Senior Citizens Program held at the Wharton Center brings seniors together for social interaction which includes a meal and activities, free to participants.
Contact us at www.wcjc.edu

Brazoria County Extension Office - Master Gardener Training Class – 21017 CR 171. Angleton – Phone 979-864-1558
For the senior gardener, a love of gardening and search for knowledge is central to why Master Gardeners join the program. The Brazoria County Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with the AgriLIFE Extension to improve gardening skills throughout the community. We share our gardening knowledge through community service and outreach, gardening training and educational programs. Visit at: http://grovesite.com/mg/bmg

Brazoria County Library – West Columbia Branch
518 E. Brazos – Phone 979-345-3394

Library Hours

Monday	10 am to 8 pm
Tuesday	10 am to 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 8 pm
Thursday	10 am to 6 pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10 am to 5 pm
Sunday	Closed

Yearly events include Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Used Book Sale, National Library Week, Summer Book Reading and Children's Story Time (every Wednesday at 10:30 am)

Internet service is available

Centrally located on the Gulf Coast – West Columbia is only a short trip away to many museums and community gardens. Although they are too numerous to list, we have provided a partial list of local and close surrounding area.

West Columbia

Columbia Historical Museum and Rosenwald School – located in the First Capitol State Bank building ~ Columbia's first financial institution. The museum's exhibits highlight the history of West and East Columbia from the Republic Era to present day. Displays include furniture, china, numerous papers and vintage memorabilia; steam boat travel along the Brazos River; Oilfield Era; and ranching heritage. Behind the museum, sits the Rosenwald School, a one-room school house which has been restored to re-live history.

First Capitol – Republic of Texas Replica – in about 1833, Leman Kelsey built a story-and-a-half clapboard structure near this location. The building was used to house the newly formed government of the Republic of Texas in1836. The First Republic of Texas Congress convened here and Sam Houston took his oath of office as President with Stephen F. Austin as Secretary of State. In 1837, the government moved to Houston. The Storm of 1900 destroyed the original capitol building and the replica of the building was built in 1976-77. The Brazoria Historical Militia performs re-enactments here during historical events.

Varner-Hogg Plantation – one of the oldest plantations in Texas and open to the public. Martin & Elizabeth Varner received their land grant from Mexico in 1824. The house was built in 1835 by the Columbus Patton family. Santa Anna was held prisoner here in 1836. The property was purchased by former Governor James Stephen Hogg in 1901 and donated to the state of Texas in 1958. The plantation house and park are open daily.

Our Neighboring Cities . . .

Brazoria: Brazoria Historical Museum

Angleton: Brazoria County Historical Museum; Stephen F. Austin Statue and Visitor's Center

Alvin: Alvin Historical Museum; Marguerite Rogers House Museum; Nolan Ryan Exhibit Center; Shimek's Gardens

Clute: Brazosport Planetarium; Brazosport Museum of Natural Science

Lake Jackson: Lake Jackson Historical Museum; Abner Jackson Archeological Site; Train Museum; Sea Center Texas.

Houston (approx 1 hour)

Museums

Houston Zoo

Houston Museum of Natural Science

The Children's Museum of Houston

Houston Museum of Fine Arts
Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston
The Health Museum
Holocaust Museum of Houston
Houston Fire Museum
Art Car Museum
San Jacinto Monument and Museum
Space Center Houston (NASA)
and many more…

Also enjoy special events at:

George R. Brown Convention Center
Reliant Park
Minute Maid Park
Toyota Center
Houston Ballet
Houston Grand Opera
Houston Symphony