

Carriage Inn to host annual cake auction to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Members of the local Katy community are invited to support the Alzheimer’s Association at Carriage Inn Katy senior living community’s upcoming Annual Cake Auction on Wednesday, October 30th from 4 to 6 p.m. Bidding will begin at 5 p.m. and will be live on the community’s Facebook page and in-person at the community’s location at 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road in Katy. A variety of cakes, pies, and specialty baked goods will be available for bidding.

Donations of baked goods are needed and will be accepted at the community until October 30 at 2 p.m. Individuals or groups interested in donating may contact Kalye Rodriguez at Krodriguez@cardinalbay.org or

281-392-2800. Any baked goods are welcome -- the spookier the better!

“It’s always exciting to host this annual event at Carriage Inn,” said Kalye Rodriguez, Senior Director of Sales and Marketing. “This year, the auction will have a Halloween theme, which should be even more fun! We look forward to welcoming family and friends and a few fantastic community volunteers to facilitate the bidding.”

The community is hoping to raise over \$1,000 for their walking team participating in the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Those looking for more information about the event or interested in attending the auction can contact Kalye Rodriguez at krodriguez@cardinalbay.org or at 281-392-2800. RSVPs are encouraged but not required.

The Alzheimer’s Association

Houston and Southeast Texas serves the Greater Houston Metro Area and Southeast Texas, including Galveston and the Bay Area, Beaumont, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, and the Brazos Valley. Currently, more than 400,000 Texans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and over 1,000,000 family and friends are providing care.

Carriage Inn Katy offers independent living, assisted living, and memory care options 1400 Katy-Flewellen Road, Katy, TX. For more information, visit www.cardinalbay.org or contact Tony Rivas at 281-392-2800 or trivas@cardinalbay.org. Locally owned, Carriage Inn is a Cardinal Bay community managed by The Long Hill Company, a subsidiary of United Methodist Homes, a nonprofit senior living provider organization with a 150-year history of caring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chamber hosts energy experts at luncheon

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

The Katy Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a “lunch and learn” session at its offices at 814 East Street in Katy on September 26, featuring two speakers representing new energy technologies.

Alex Rohr, manager for community for Vesper Energy, presented his company’s plan for a battery energy storage system (BESS) which is planned for the Katy area. Ochoa Energy, a division of Vesper, is seeking local approval to build their battery storage facility at 27051 Highway Blvd, in Katy. The 24-acre facility would house up to 200 modules similar to shipping containers holding lithium-ion batteries, which Rohr said would store excess energy and then release it back onto ERCOT’s power grid when demand is high. When completed, the

500 MW system will provide enough to power about 60,000 homes for two hours, according to the company’s presentation. The project is expected to create two to four jobs locally.

Rohr said that ERCOT projects a need for 72 percent more energy in the next five years. BESS sites are becoming more common, especially in the Houston area, Rohr said. The Katy site is one of three being launched by Vesper; another is in Angleton and a third is in Galveston County.

According to research by the Katy Times, another BESS site, to be operated by different company -- Peregrine Energy -- was recently approved by the League City city council in a 6-2 vote, according to video of the council meeting. Earlier this year, GridStor, a developer and operator of utility-scale battery energy storage systems, announced that it has acquired an up to 450 MW /

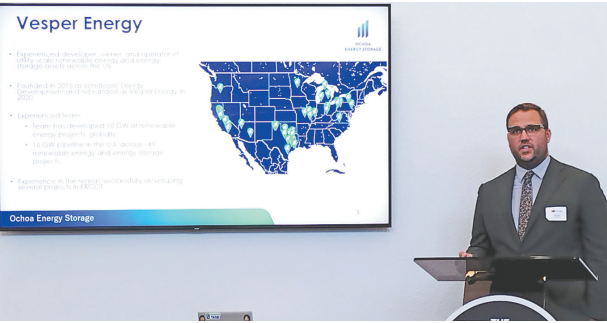


PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Alex Rohr, community affairs manager for Vesper Energy, shares plans for the company’s proposed Ochoa battery energy storage system (BESS) at a “lunch and learn” meeting of the Katy Area Chamber of Commerce on September 26.

900 MWh project in Galveston County from Balanced Rock Power. The Evelyn Battery Energy Storage project, which is slated to begin construction in summer 2024, has an anticipated online date of spring 2025.

Approval from the Katy City Council for the Ochoa project was delayed until the October 14 meeting, when the matter will be reconsidered.

Ramanan Krishnamoorti, a professor with University of Houston Cullen College of Energy, emphasized that future energy solutions need to meet all three of the following criteria: reliable, affordable

and sustainable, saying that many initiatives meet only two of the three. He said that the oil and gas industry is seeking solutions to deal with emissions through the development of technology such as catalytic converters and systems for removing carbon dioxide from the air through carbon capture. He also spoke about hydrogen fuels and electric vehicles, and the challenges created by the heavy weight of those vehicles.

K9 hero ‘Hero’ retires from KPD

FROM STAFF REPORTS

One of Katy Police Department’s finest officers is ready to enjoy a long and happy retirement full of naps, tennis balls and more naps, the department announced in a September 19 Facebook post.

K9 officer Hero became a member of the Katy Police Department in February 2016 and was assigned to Sgt. Robert McQuirter as his handler.

“We extend our deepest gratitude to K9 Hero and Sgt. McQuirter for their unwavering service and dedication,” KPD said in the post. “Their hard work and bravery have been instrumental in keeping our community safe. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement, Hero! Good boy!!”

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Ricewood Municipal Utility District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on October 15, 2024 at 12:00 PM at 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2500, Houston, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Carrie Prudhomme Elaine Mundy
Shelli Flores
Stephen Marcum

AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.3400 /\$100 Adopted	\$0.3400 /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.0000 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$262,583	\$285,474
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$262,583	\$285,474
Tax on average residence homestead	\$892.78	\$970.61
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$77.83 8.72%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An Election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The voter-approval tax rate is 0.345 and therefore, notwithstanding the above, no election is required.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.



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