

# Rotary Club of Katy awards community grants

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

At its September 26 meeting, the Rotary Club of Katy awarded over \$71,000 grants to ten area nonprofits including Christ Clinic and the YMCA, according to the club's website. Displaying the \$2500.00 mock check for the YMCA are Rotary

President Graydon Rochelle, Jerry Moye, Jay Donnella of Christ Clinic, Fred Greer and J. R. Richardson.

Christ Clinic's grant will go towards the charity clinic's operational costs, while the grant for the Mark A. Chapman YMCA at 1350 Main Street in Katy and the Monty Ballard YMCA at

22807 Westheimer Parkway in Katy will be used to implement the YMCA of Greater Houston - Safety Around Water program, an education program designed to prevent drownings in pools.

Names of other beneficiaries and the amounts of their grants was not available to the Katy Times by press time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAY DONNELLA

# 'Wolf Pack' athletes walk the red carpet at 25th anniversary celebration

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**

The Katy Wolf Pack celebrated their 25th anniversary on September 28 at its annual banquet, held this year at Tompkins High School in the Main Commons at 4400 Falcon Landing Blvd. in Katy. The red carpet event was filled with paparazzi, music, dancing and food as over 100 Special Olympic athletes and their 350 guests came together to honor all the hard work the athletes have put in over this past year, according to organizers.

Special recognitions were awarded to a few of the group's founders, including Sandi Dancel, Robin Judman and the Wolf Pack's namesake, Don Wolf. Plaques were also distributed to the sponsors "that have helped the Wolf Pack fulfill their dreams," said organizer Sue LaPrade in an interview with the Katy Times.

The Wolf Pack was founded in the spring of 1999 by parents Robin Judman and Patsy Hopkins, who had tirelessly requested for Katy ISD to create a Special Olympic Delegation for their sons and others, said LaPrade. They were finally given the green light, and with the help of Kathryn McClintock, the KISD Special Education Director at the time, an arrangement was made for a contingent of eight KISD Special Athletes to practice and participate in track with the "Alief Superstars," a Special Olympic team within the Alief School District. Katy ISD only needed to provide a coach and a coaching assistant. McClintock reached out to Don Wolf, a KISD Special Education teacher to see if he would be willing to be the needed coach and he did not hesitate. He was joined by his teaching assistant, Farrah Murray and together the two



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIES BY MICHELE PHOTOGRAPHY

Original athletes and founders of Katy's Wolf Pack celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary at their September 28 gala. Left to right: front row, Sean Rudder, Sandi Dancel, Robin Judman, Jordan Judman; back row, Will Lawrence, Alex Castillo, Don Wolf.

worked countless hours to prepare their athletes. The season was successful and culminated with the 1999 Special Olympic Summer Games at Rice University where the "Katy Contingent" became bearers of numerous medals.

It was so successful, said LaPrade, that Wolf was determined to form a non-school affiliated team so that all Special Athletes regardless of age or ability could participate in a competitive sport environment. So, with the help of the parents and volunteers, the "Katy Stampede" was born. At this time, Sandi Dancel, a Katy ISD paraprofessional, heeded the call for needed volunteers and stepped up to the plate. With addition of Dancel, the new delegation started to flourish.

"After just a few seasons of hard work and growth, the parents and volunteers felt it was time to honor Don for all that he has done for the Katy Special Needs Community and a unanimous decision was made to rename the delegation," said LaPrade.

"The 'Katy Wolf Pack' was born. Don Wolf, Sandi Dancel and Robin Judman have continued to nurture the Wolf Pack over the years and their compassion and hard work -- along with other key volunteers -- are what has provided the foundation that this team continues to thrive on."

Over the last 25 years, the program has grown. "We started with eight athletes and participated in one sport and now we have over 175 athletes and participate in eight sports," said LaPrade. "We were constantly surprised at how, given the opportunity, how much these athletes have accomplished. We have seen athletes gain confidence and pride in their abilities. Isolation has dissipated as they have developed lifelong bonds and friendships with their peers. They have in turn taught the volunteers and coaches to never set limits and to expect the unexpected."

What is the Wolf Pack looking forward to in the next 25 years?

"We would love to see more community volunteers and support. More sponsorships to help our program," said LaPrade. "These are vital for our continued growth and our goal to serve as many athletes as we possibly can."

# Learn how to avoid scammers at free library program Oct. 5

**CONTRIBUTED REPORT**

Fort Bend County Libraries' Mission Bend Branch Library will present "Avoiding Scams" on Saturday, October 5, from 2 to 3 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the library, located at 8421 Addicks Clodine Road, in northeast Fort Bend County.

Erica Knighton, from the Prairie View A&M Extension Office in Fort Bend County, will talk about the ways con artists use the Internet, cellphones, and email to target unsuspecting victims. Learn about some of the most common scams, as well as the psychology behind the most effective scams.

Those attending will get tips on ways to protect themselves and their family members from becoming the next victim. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, see the Fort Bend County Libraries website (fortbend.lib.tx.us).

## Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Harris County Utility District No. 6 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., at the Jackrabbit Road Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant, 16720 Pine Forest Lane, Houston, TX 77084. 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.

<b>FOR</b> the proposal:	R. Watkins, J. J. Sugg, D. Durgin, A. Grzanka & R. W. Schmitz
<b>AGAINST</b> the proposal:	(none)
<b>PRESENT</b> and not voting:	(none)
<b>ABSENT:</b>	(none)

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)	\$ <u>0.28200</u> /\$100 Adopted	\$ <u>0.28200</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$ <u>0.000</u> /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		<u>0.0000%</u>
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>224,229</u>	\$ <u>241,064</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ <u>-44,846</u>	\$ <u>-48,213</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ <u>179,383</u>	\$ <u>192,851</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>505.86</u>	\$ <u>543.84</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$ <u>37.98</u> <u>7.51%</u>

**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.

The purpose for the tax increase is to pay debt service requirements and operations and maintenance of the utility district.

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.

Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the tax office at (281) 499-1223.