

Katy Times



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PREVIEW
INSIDE

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Waller County finishes memorial

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Waller County courthouse has a new decoration honoring America's veterans on its front lawn. Installation of the roughly \$300,000 monument honoring U.S. veterans was completed last week after being in development for years as a grass roots effort by county residents, officials said.

"A lot of towns and counties have some type of veterans memorial whether it's a (monument or) a memorial park and we didn't have anything, so it was actually the veterans who put everything together. They raised 100% of the money," said Waller County Commissioner for Precinct 4 Justin Beckendorff.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon said the project began before he was initially elected as county judge in 2014 when a committee chaired by Waller County Commissioner Jeron Barnett was formed. The committee was initially all veterans, Duhon said, but as time went by other community members stepped in to support the project that court members fully supported.

Duhon and Beckendorff both said they were proud of the Waller County community for stepping in because the committee was able to raise the money and make sure the memorial happened.

Final invoices for the project have not been received as yet, but the court has expressed a willingness to cover any small cost gaps that may exist after money from the committee's fundraising efforts are exhausted, Duhon said. That number may be around \$40,000, but Duhon said the funding is available in the county's capital outlay fund – the portion of the county's budget set aside to maintain, upgrade, acquire or repair capital assets such as facilities or vehicles.

The memorial itself consists of a concrete foundation and marble and black granite monuments honoring U.S. veterans. The black granite slabs have laser-etched images on them depicting each branch of the military's service to the nation. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard are all

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Grundfos breaks ground

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Grundfos, a global water technology manufacturer, has broken ground on its new 45,000 square foot facility in Brookshire. The new facility will house Grundfos' Americas Regional Center in the southwestern corner of Koomey Road and Highway 90 and is expected to provide a strategic advantage to the company.

"To better serve the market, the new Americas Regional Center will strengthen our proximity between important sales areas and production hubs in North and South America, while fostering creativity for innovative applications and solutions," said Eric Boutot, Grundfos Americas vice president of regional operations.

The Brookshire Economic Development Corporation helped draw Grundfos to Brookshire to promote the city's prosperity, BEDC representatives said at the organization's annual conference last year.

Brookshire Mayor Darrell Branch said the city was excited to have the new Grundfos facility join the city, especially after how competitive the process was to get the sought-after manufacturer.

"The City of Brookshire welcomes with all the southern hospitality and diversity it is well known to represent, the Americas Regional Center of European-based Grundfos; its employees, unique brand and high-quality products," Branch said.

Branch said in December 2020 when the Grundfos facility was first announced that he looked forward to the economic advantages Grundfos would provide to the city. The jobs and revenue brought to the city by the expanded plant should help the city prepare for the urban sprawl headed Brookshire's way as Greater Houston continues to grow, he said.

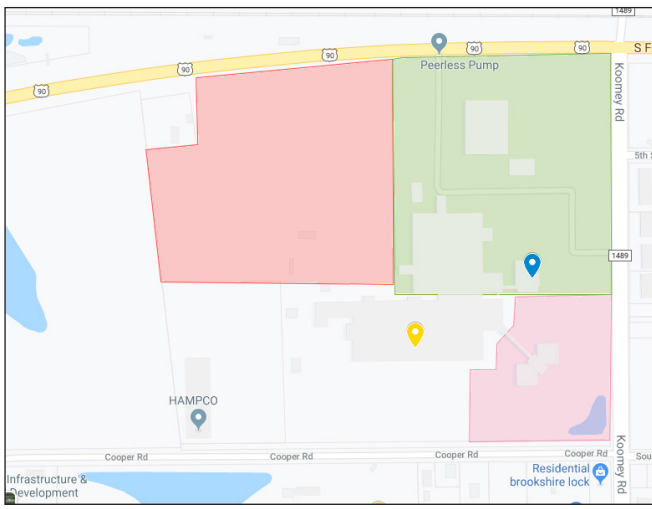
Boutot said in a December 2020 interview that he expects the expansion to Grundfos' Brookshire facility to bring about 90 positions to the area. Some of those positions will be new hires while others will transfer in. The location provides the pump manufacturer with easy access to skilled workers, he said, but also provides simple geographic advantages by its proximity to nearby ports and highway systems that help in distributing products once they are manufactured.

Of the positions brought to Brookshire, Boutot estimated eight to ten would be department heads, 20-30 middle managers and the remainder general employees.

Brookshire was also considered an ideal location because of its growth, said Dieter Sauer, Grundfos Americas regional managing director for the area.

"The city is rapidly growing with a fast economy and large talent pool. With the new Americas Regional Center and our strong market position, we expect to attract the competencies that will keep us in front of the industry," Sauer said.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon said he was happy Brookshire had been considered and he appreciated those who



The portion of the map highlighted in green is the current Grundfos facility. The sections to the west and south highlighted in pink indicate the location of the expanded plant into Grundfos' Americas headquarters.

contributed to the project coming to Brookshire.

"When we found out that Grundfos was considering our community for their new Americas Regional Center, we were excited to say the least," Duhon said. "It has been a pleasure getting to know them and learn about their amazing, industry-leading, business. I also want to take a moment and recognize Texas State Rep. Cecil Bell who was instrumental in bringing this opportunity to Waller County."

Grundfos representatives said the company is focused on sustainability and is working to help the world meet United Nations climate goals related to water and climate change.

According to documents provided by Grundfos, the company was founded in 1945 and owns 83 local sites around the world which manufacture more than 17 million pumps each year. The company has about 19,000 employees worldwide.

Boutot said he expects the plant's expansion to bring significant growth to Brookshire – so much growth that Grundfos may sponsor development of a new high-end hotel to support business travelers coming to the plant.

Brookshire beat out Indianapolis, Indiana as the choice for Grundfos' new regional headquarters.

Local leaders throughout Brookshire expressed appreciation for the opportunities they expect the plant to provide.

"This project will provide high quality employment opportunities in Brookshire and further our presence as an enviable location for companies. We appreciate the opportunity to have worked with Grundfos on this exciting project," said Brookshire Mayor Pro Tem and EDC President Marilyn Vaughn.



Grundfos has broken ground on its 45,000 square foot facility in Brookshire. The expanded facility will serve as the company's headquarters for the Americas region which includes the U.S., Canada and Mexico and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2021.

Katy City Council candidates discuss election

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

After the May elections were postponed due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, candidates for Katy City Council bided their time and are now actively campaigning again as it gets closer to election day. Candidates are taking to social media to spread the word and participated in a forum held Sept. 10.

A video of the forum is available on the Katy Times and Katy Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook pages. (<https://www.facebook.com/thekatytimes>)

At the forum, there was limited time for questions and additional questions were later proposed to the candidates and each was given the same amount of time and word count limits to respond to them. Their answers for these additional questions are published below. Responses have been lightly edited to fit in the space allotted and for clarity.

The questions below required candidates to voice their stances on preserving Katy's heritage, promoting local businesses and fiscal responsibility. Candidates for wards A and B each answered the same

See **CANDIDATES**, page 2



Chris Harris (top-left) is Mayor Pro Tem of Katy and is running unopposed for Katy's At-Large council seat, and has effectively won his race as a result. Janet Corte (incumbent), Dharminder Dargan and Diane R. Walker to Harris' right are running for Ward A. In the bottom row (from left to right) Durran Dowdle (incumbent), Sam Pearson, Steve Pierson and Rory Robertson are running for the city's Ward B council seat.

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CANDIDATES

from page 1

questions. Generally, Ward A and B are separated by Franz Road north and south with Ward A on the south side of the road on the western portion of Katy. In the center of town, Ward A and B is separated by Airline Drive with A on the western side and B to the East. At 5th Street going east, the wards are again separated north and south by 5th Street and Mockingbird Lane.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 3 elections is Oct. 5.

Ward A

Dharminder Dargan

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PHONE: 832-937-7160

Diane R. Walker

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Janet Corte

WEB: Facebook: Janet Corte, City of Katy Councilmember Ward A

EMAIL: janetcorte2020@gmail.com

Q. Katy is over a century old and has a rich heritage that is treasured by its residents. If elected, what will you do to preserve the city's heritage?

Dharminder Dargan: How many Katy residents know that Katy was once called the "Rice and Oil" capital of the world? How many residents are aware of its rich history? I can assure you not many residents are aware of this. I believe this needs to change. The heritage of Katy needs to be preserved and maintained. We need to ensure that we take pride in projecting and enhancing our traditions.

We need to have regular programs and festivals which are designed to project local talents, traditions, and culture. We need to have a better marketing plan which can be tested, measured, and can be adjusted. We live in a world of social media and individual communication, and we must use all the tools available to us.

Involvement of the community with an inclusive approach is critical in making these programs successful. We have to ensure local businesses are also involved and ALL Katy residents are welcomed. We need to foster an environment that is reflective of our community, our traditions, and our values.

Diane R. Walker: I come from an old Katy family and my heritage is something that I have always taken pride in. I love our town's rich history and want to share it with as many people as possible. I am a member

of the Katy Heritage Society and would love to see the organization's membership grow. The Katy Heritage Society plans events throughout the year and opens the homes on the weekends for free tours. The grounds that surround the park are beautifully maintained by the City Parks and Recreation department. I would like our schools to make field trips to Heritage Park to learn about our history. As adults it is our job to make sure our history is passed down to younger generations.

Janet Corte: Although I am a native Houstonian, Katy has always been a part of my life and protecting the city's heritage is very important to me. Traveling back and forth to the Texas Hill country, the rice driers were a major landmark. My dad knew some of the rice farmers and would bring me out here to fish in their tanks and to see the millions of ducks in the fall.

My husband and I moved to Katy because we wanted our children to grow up in a town where everyone knew each other and watched out for each other. One of the first things I lobbied for as a Councilmember was a review and update of the ordinances for our Old Katy District. I also voted to purchase the historic Rylander property to save it from commercialization. I will continue working to find and support activities that honor and protect Katy's past and help build a sense of community between its residents.

Q. Business owners in the Old Town Katy District have expressed frustration with how difficult it can be to attract shoppers to the district. In what ways do you feel the city could better support those businesses and others within the city that may be struggling with a lack of traffic to their areas?

Dharminder Dargan: The heart of Katy is in the Old Town Katy district; We must revive it. The City of Katy needs to RE-introduce to the Old Town Katy district to all the new residents and businesses. We have to make a concerted effort to make it a cultural and event destination for ALL residents of the city. Tourism, special promotions, cultural festivals, and special business events should all be part of the program.

This can be done by creating short, medium, and long-term programs. We should develop cultural programs on a regular basis. These programs need to be as diverse as the Katy population today. We have to focus on beautification, repairs, and enhancing existing landmarks within the city. This can only be done if the local businesses are engaged and they also benefit from such efforts.

Diane R. Walker: Our local small businesses are a big part of the City's culture. During the pandemic I

have supported small business the same way as I did before COVID and the same way I will continue to do so in the future. I eat and shop local as much as possible. We need to strengthen our relationships with Katy Economic Development Council and local Chambers. I would like the City to consider having a designated link under tourism on our City page to connect people to our local business.

Janet Corte: We need to complete the Downtown Plaza and make it a destination. Not only will this help the downtown businesses but will also become a gathering space for residents furthering the small town feel that people love about Katy.

The City needs to continue working with business owners and other organizations to help promote their events, and as COVID regulations are lifted, bring back events such as the Rice Festival and Old-Fashion Christmas Festival. When the Visitors Center opens to the public, there needs to be an area where local business owners can place promotional materials.

I would like to see TravelKaty.com promoted more. TravelKaty.com is a visitors' guide to Katy, and I would like to work with our Tourism Department to see how we can add a subsection or link for the businesses in the Old Katy District.

Q. What do you feel the city spends too much money on and, in contrast, what do you feel the city should spend more money on?

Dharminder Dargan: Katy is a fast growing city, and it needs to focus on getting modern infrastructure and technologies. We need to focus on programs which are designed for the future. There are many outdated programs and processes which are in critical need of technological update.

As an Engineer, I truly appreciate and understand the role of Information technology. It adds huge value to the efficiency of any program. We also need a better communication plan and an outreach program. We need to upgrade facilities for all support services like the Police, Fire department, and all public services. We have many facilities in the city which are not fully utilized and need enhancement so that Katy residents and businesses can use them to their maximum potential

Diane R. Walker: The biggest part of our budget is spent on the Police and Fire department which is a valued and needed service. I would like to see strategically placed sidewalks in high pedestrian areas added to the budget. I would also like to see the City purchase more green space for parks. I would really like to see some volleyball courts added to our selection of available sport fields. I appreciate the staffs hard work in

creating a budget that kept expenses at a minimum this year.

Janet Corte: There is not a simple answer to this question. The City is very regulated when it comes to funding projects, so each area needs to be evaluated individually. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a road-map to the future but is outdated and needs to be reviewed /updated. Flood mitigation and drainage is still very important to our residents. We currently have several flood mitigation projects in progress, so I would like to see more funding to repair aging infrastructure which can also help improve drainage.

Also important to our residents is an outdoor lifestyle. Last year I successfully lobbied to have a connected system of bike/hike trails included in the City's Strategic Guide. The first phase of this project was to be in 20/21 budget but due to the negative financial impact the COVID shutdown had on the City's revenue this project had to be pulled. If reelected I will continue to lobby for this project as well as an overall improvement plan for all the City's parks.

Ward B

Durran Dowdle:

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Rory Robertson:

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Sam Pearson:

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Steve Pierson:

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Q. Katy is over a century old and has a rich heritage that is treasured by its residents. If elected, what will you do to preserve the city's heritage?

Durran Dowdle: Each generation has its own memories of what they see as Katy's rich heritage, some will fade away, but others remain prominent like that sense of community, Katy football, KISD FFA program, Rice farming or Duck and Goose hunting. What makes Katy is the people. It is what the people do in the community that give us what you describe as "rich heritage". Its Safety and Security, its gathering for worship, it is helping one another, like after Harvey. Let us identify what's physical and tangible to preserve, like our Iconic Rice dryers, and help others to understand the intangible, that which makes Katy, Katy. Change is inevitable but we do not have to lose what we have. It takes funds to

purchase and maintain assets when you are describing physical heritage, if you have \$10 million laying around, we can purchase the rice dryers. We have a heritage board and heritage society, a good foundation, let's start there.

Rory Robertson: As an executive board member of Katy's oldest non-profit, I stand proud of our history and I prove it by serving on the Katy Heritage Society Board. I love our history. I am a student of Katy's history and I teach Katy's History. My family arrived in Katy in 1904 so I love that much of the city's history includes my ancestors. Members of my family have also served on The Katy Heritage Society as I proudly do. It is such an honor and treat to visit the Johnny Nelson Katy Heritage Museum and see items that once belonged to my relatives. Katy's history is strong but must be protected. Our Mayor and city council has always supported our history and I intend to support our historical societies as well as the other non-profits. Any way that our city can endorse our history, we should fully embrace it.

Sam Pearson: Katy's High School sports have many state and district championships. This is a tradition which should always be supported and preserved.

The Katy Rice Harvest Festival has a long tradition in the city and should continually receive citizen, appointee officials, and council's support.

The Missouri, Kansas, Texas (MKT) should be honored with a downtown festival. The nickname of the railroad is "The Katy." The Stock Exchange symbol was "KT" A lot of people consider the train a nuisance and want to end their presence in Katy. This city was established because of this railroad. The Heritage of this city is attached to the train. Passenger trains traveling from Houston to Missouri were named "The Texas Special", "Katy Limited", "Katy Flyer" and the "Bluebonnet." We need to preserve the presence of this railroad in Katy.

Steve Pierson: Heritage is a part of our culture that reflects the people itself, their beliefs, morals, ways of thinking, acting and viewing the world. By preserving and keeping our heritage, we are creating a legacy for future generations. We have been richly blessed with a magnitude of heritage from the rice towers, wetlands, to many other landmarks not including an array of historic photos. We have the obligation as Katy citizens to preserve the history that was paved by our forefathers with blood, sweat, tears, hard work and glorious memories.

We need to reach out to organizations, governmental agencies to secure grants and or loans that can be used to restore and maintain

See CANDIDATES, page 8

This Week's Puzzle Sponsored by

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SUDOKU

				9				
	8						7	
7	2						4	6
	1		5		3	7		
						2		
2	9			1				
	3		6					8
							1	
		7			9		3	5

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Emaciation
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- Anatomical term
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Western Pacific republic
- List of foods
- It can strike the ground
- Drenches
- Some are cole
- Squad
- Expresses emotion
- One point east of due south
- Satisfaction
- Holds nothing back
- Top of the body
- Not well-liked
- Did slowly
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Gland secretion
- Vital to existence
- Aristocratic young women
- Erik __, composer
- Not young
- Jewish term for "Sir"
- Secondary school
- __ student: learns to heal
- Regarding
- Highly excited
- Mainly
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- Cakes
- Biomedical nonprofit
- Dried-up
- One who is symbolic of something
- Body part
- Muslim ruler
- Women from Mayflower
- Notes

CLUES DOWN

- Not us

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20					21			
				22				23				24	
25	26	27			28			29				30	
31			32		33		34					35	
36					37		38			39			40
	41					42			43		44		
								46		47		48	
49	50			51			52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

- Helper
- Bleat
- Type of chair
- Jr.'s father
- Necessary for certain beverages
- Hillside
- Dutch painter Gerrit __
- Gave a new look
- Ancient Greek City
- Confidence trick
- Type of fund
- From an Asian island
- Malay boat
- Western Australia indigenous people
- Cluster on underside of fern frond
- You need it to get somewhere
- The woman
- It may be green
- Makes less severe
- One from Beantown
- Cavalry sword
- Metric linear unit
- Hawaiian dish
- Yokel
- Dissuade
- Mutual savings bank
- Caesar, comedian
- Primordial matters
- We all have it
- Hermann __, author of "Siddhartha"
- Historic MA coastal city
- Shady garden alcove
- Small amount
- Horse-drawn cart
- Nocturnal rodent
- Spiritual leader
- Air mattress
- Speaks incessantly
- Auction term
- Atomic #62

Answers will be provided in next week's edition.

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Randle, former Fulshear mayor, passes at 96

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

Viola Randle, who served as the first Black mayor of Fulshear passed away last week at the age of 96, the city announced via Facebook. Randle served the city as mayor from 1993-98 and continued to serve the city in various capacities including as a member of the Fulshear Historic Commission up to her death.

"When I served as Mayor from 2010 to 2016, I could count on Ms. Randle attending nearly every City meeting we held. She kept a close watch on the direction of the City and how any new ordinances and plans affected our original downtown area where she lived. I valued our conversations and listened carefully to her advice," said former Fulshear Mayor Tommy Kuykendall.

Randle often attended community events regularly such as July 4 celebrations and other celebrations in addition to most Fulshear City Council meetings.

"She was a phenomenal woman. I'll never forget when she stood up at the City Council meeting and said 'Don't kill Fulshear.' Nobody could stand up and speak from the heart like Ms. Viola," said Dawn McRea in response to the city's announcement.

Randle held her comments at city council for important issues that impacted the city and reminding attendees council members to work together on issues and come together as a community. Randle was mayor when the population of the city was only around 600 people, the city's announcement said, but she continued to be a leader in the

city according to many anecdotes from those that knew her.

Randle was born on Walker Lane in Fulshear July 26, 1924 and passed in the city she loved Sept. 25, 2020.

A memorial walk will be held Sept. 25 from 5-8 p.m. at Greater Zachery Missionary Baptist Church in Fulshear. Masks will be required for participants per the organizers.

"She loved the Lord and served her church with unwavering dedication and love," the church said in an online statement. "She will be truly missed by all. In this time of sorrow, we take comfort in scripture."

Kuykendall remembered Randle fondly and asked for support for her family and community as they mourn her.

"Please pray for Viola Randle's family and the Fulshear community as we reflect on her life and struggle with her loss," he said.



RHONDA KUYKENDALL

Viola Randle served as the first Black mayor of the city of Fulshear from 1993-98 and was known for her ongoing participation in the community throughout her life.

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Masks and other adjustments in a COVID-19 world

Relax. This is not a column on the efficacy of wearing masks. Who has the energy anymore?

I'm wearing one in case it prevents me or someone else from getting sick. That's pretty much it. If it turns out that it didn't do any good, so be it. Unless my fogged up glasses cause me to misstep and fall down a mineshaft, I will have lost nothing.

I'm more interested in the implications of the acceptance of mask wearing in public places as a cultural norm.

I confess – sometimes I forget. In my 56 years on Earth, I've never worn a mask in public. Now, I'm getting used to wearing a mask everywhere I go. It's not a seamless transition. Thus, I've had to endure some sideways glances from pious neighbors and fellow shoppers who act as if I've just given Winnie the Pooh a wedgie.

It's not easy to find a mask that fits my head. The elastic straps pull on my ears, so I look like a house-elf. I've tried the kind that tie in the back of my head but that seems like work. I finally settled on a black one with straps that would fit a hippo.

On the campus where I teach, virtually everyone is wearing a mask. I have a difficult time hearing students in class and the larger the room, the worse it is. The bigger problem is I can't see faces. Wearing a mask obscures the features. I don't like it. It's as if we're all partially anonymous, isolated, hiding in plain sight. There's a reason why outlaws wore masks when they robbed the stagecoach.

"But, if it saves lives," the refrain goes. Who am I to argue?

I am a little confused by the general lack of consistency. I was so desperate to watch a football game on Saturday I landed on Army vs. Middle Tennessee State. I have no affiliation whatsoever with either program. I did notice the coaches were all wearing masks on the sidelines. The players, of course, were not.

In our school district in Kentucky, high school football practice continues unabated. But school itself remains closed. Classes are online-only until at least Oct. 12. I'm not picking on football. I love football. I'm just wondering why we're playing football if our kids haven't been in school since March.



I've been around enough teenagers in my life to know that online education is no substitute for in-person learning, though I wish I had purchased a few shares of Zoom stock last year. Of course, I hadn't heard of Zoom before March so I was a little behind the curve.

Kids, teenagers in particular, need to get their rear ends out of bed, take a shower, put on clothes, show up on time and pay attention. It's about developing good work habits.

In high school, I had a history teacher who told us, "You might not remember much American history but, by jiminy, you're going to learn how to be on time."

He was right on both counts. I don't remember much of what he taught but I can still see him, standing outside the door of the classroom, audibly counting down the seconds before the start of class.

I realize online learning has a place. It's a valuable tool. But there is a perceived lack of accountability baked into remote instruction. I can't tell you how many students during my Zoom sessions last spring awoke minutes before the beginning of class and "attended" the session supine, under a blanket, if they awoke at all. It's difficult to engage in the middle of a REM cycle. I had one student who stayed on screen well after class ended, though he had turned off his camera. I stayed on too because I wanted to see if he had a question. Then I heard something that sounded like a lawn mower in the distance. He was snoring. I wanted to believe his snooze had nothing to do with my lecture but I allowed for the possibility. It wouldn't have been the first time. I didn't have the heart to wake him.

I'd like to believe we'll return to a time when masks, social distancing and distance learning will no longer be a requirement. If a student wants to sleep in class, then he can do it in person, just like I did.



Coronavirus, divisive politics have autumn optimism in short supply

I made it through the summer of COVID-19 – though I'm thankful that neither I nor any of my family have contracted the novel coronavirus.

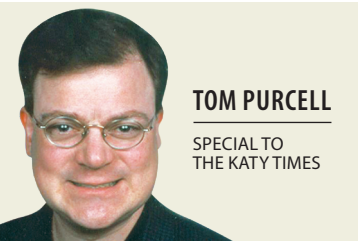
It wasn't easy for me or anyone. Every Monday, I went on a diet to lose my "covid 19" – as in the 19 pounds I put on during March, April and May – because by every Friday, I slipped back into the bad habits I'd developed during the spring.

What a blur the spring months were. I remember being shuttered in my house all day long, every single day. Thank goodness my consulting contract wasn't canceled – I've been working on a communications project for a medical company – and I was able to keep busy during the day.

But I went stir crazy every night. I took a lot of naps. I watched a lot of movies. I consumed a bit more wine than normal – box wine – which, apparently, lots of others did.

According to "USA Today," Americans began consuming inexpensive box wine not by the glass, but by the bucket.

I stumbled through the spring months but I managed to get through them with high hopes for the summer. I hoped warmer weather would help kill, or at least slow, the daggone virus, allowing



us to get back to some semblance of normality.

How naive. After this summer, I'm not sure the normal I'm referring to – when people could disagree with each other's politics yet remain civil – will ever return.

I remember the awful George Floyd video in late May that resulted in initially peaceful protests. Briefly, America was galvanized. We all wanted better police training and vetting.

Now, riots and lawlessness are nightly occurrences in various cities. Statues are being torn down. Businesses are being burned. Capitalism, the alleged cause of all things wrong in America, is under attack. And many people, myself included, aren't clear how initially peaceful protests morphed into what's happening now.

Our politics get nastier by the day. People get into other people's faces over the political candidates

they support. They interrupt restaurant diners. They pull down political posters on private property.

Come on, America! That's not who we are.

It's no wonder, according to a recent Cato Institute survey, that 62% of Americans are afraid to share their political views. What a shame that in our country, which champions free speech as one of our most important and valued rights, millions of citizens are afraid to exercise it.

Meanwhile, old COVID-19 chugs along. I didn't think America could get more divided – but, again, I am awfully naive.

People who argue that we overreacted to COVID-19 are slugging it out on social media with people who say the second wave is going to be plenty worse.

"Unfriending" has become the No. 1 activity on Facebook, to be sure.

All I know is that I somehow endured the spring of COVID-19, then I somehow got through the summer of COVID-19.

The way things are going, though, the autumn of COVID-19 is looking to offer more of the same.

I'm already on my way to the grocery store to stock up on a few boxes of pink zinfandel.

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Market Day set to return Oct. 17

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Katy Market Day organization announced this week that its first craft fair of 2020 is set for Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. held in Old Town Katy near Katy City Hall. The announcement indicated the event had been approved by Katy Mayor Bill Hastings and would feature 50 vendors in addition to food trucks.

The announcement said prior vendors have already taken up the majority of the spots available for the event, but organizers would consider filling any unexpectedly open places starting Sept. 25. Those interested should email info@katymarketday.com.

Market Day is a monthly event held regularly from March through December. However,



BRANDEE MILLER

the market has been cancelled from March through September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event is held on the block surrounding the Katy Downtown Plaza project which includes

Second and Third streets as well as avenues B and C.

Katy Market Day is spearheaded by Betsy Proctor, proprietor of The Limited Edition Art and Antiques in Old Katy.

Project Guardian hopes to improve interactions with autistic residents

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Harris County Sheriff's Office has launched a program dubbed Project Guardian to improve the department's interactions with children and adults on the autism spectrum. The program establishes communication with families with autistic members to help set expectations for officers and families, an HCSO press release said.

"We continuously work with the community to ensure we are doing all we can to best serve our residents with compassion and understanding," said Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez.

The press release noted that flashing lights and other sensory stimulus can be overwhelming for those with autism. The program

allows families with autistic members to submit photos and other information about the special needs family member that can help officers make decisions when responding to calls.

The program is part of HCSO initiatives designed to help individuals with mental health or behavioral health issues avoid the criminal justice system by receiving care and intervention appropriate to their needs, the press release said.

More information on Project Guardian is available at: www.harriscountycit.org/paroj-guardian.

"Project Guardian engages the community, builds positive relationships, and embraces public safety as a shared responsibility. It's an example of what we can accomplish together," Gonzalez said.

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[Image of a laptop and smartphone displaying the website]

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 220 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via telephone conference at 1-877-304-9269 and the access code is 571475#. 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.

FOR the proposal:	C. LeBouf, K. Gehringer, B. Dahl, B. Colliander & G. Krejci
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	(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 \$ 1,500 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 1,500 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.000	/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$234,338	\$277,437
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$234,338	\$277,437
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,515.07	\$4,161.56
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$646.49 18.3920%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

The purpose of the district exceeding the rollback rate is to provide funds necessary to satisfy annual debt service requirements and to maintain adequate fund balances.

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

Water District
Notice of Public Hearing
on Tax Rate

The Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 449 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., by teleconference at (1-866-390-1828), Access Code (5392815). 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.

FOR the proposal:	J. Beavers, S. Stavinoha, T. Christ, C. Vinklarek
AGAINST the proposal:	(none)
PRESENT and not voting:	(none)
ABSENT:	J. White

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 \$ 1,320 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$ 1,290 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	-\$0.030	/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.0000%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$255,845	\$257,865
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$255,845	\$257,865
Tax on average residence homestead	\$3,377.15	\$3,326.46
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	(\$50.69) -1.5010%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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.

Alfred Lewis, a member of the Greatest Generation, departed this life on September 18 with the full intention of joining his wife, Gloria Lee Westerman Lewis, in heaven. Alfred was born to William Alfred Lewis and Sarah Agnes Veronica Berry at the home of his Irish Grandmother on December 14, 1922 in New York City. He enjoyed his early years getting all of his mother's attention but then his brother Bobby was born five years later and Kenny another five years after that.

Alfred's childhood revolved around school and playing soccer and baseball. Family outings often involved visiting his mother's Irish Catholic relatives and attending seders with his father's Jewish family. He attended school in New York City until his family moved to Irvington, New Jersey where he would graduate from High School. He began his college days at Georgetown University of Foreign Affairs but that was interrupted by World War II. While at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, he attended a USO Dance where he met the love of his life, Gloria Lee. He courted her until he was shipped overseas to North Africa, and then Italy.

While in the War, his unit fought in North Apennines PO Valley, an often forgotten phase of the conflict, where his unit was captured by the Germans. He often told stories of his capture, and escape, and he later received several medals including a Purple Heart. When he returned home to

the states his romance with Gloria continued and she made a trip to New York to meet the Lewis Family. He continued his studies and

graduated from Columbia University in New York City.

Gloria and Alfred were married in San Antonio, Texas on September 14, 1947. Their honeymoon was a long drive back to New York City. He would continue graduate studies at New York University. They made their first home in Uniondale, New York. Then it was on to Lima, Peru where he enjoyed business travels all over Central and South America. He met former President Juan and Evita

Peron' in Argentina. His business travels always included time for museums, cultural events, and tours of the sites. He never met a stranger, and found it interesting to engage in conversations with people from all walks of life from bus drivers to the presidents of countries. All were treated with the utmost respect, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

Alfred was active in many organizations throughout his long life including Boy Scouts, Masons, Eastern Star, Fair Haven United Methodist Men, Kiwanis Club, Katy VFW, and Katy Lions Club. Upon turning 80 years old, he also enjoyed his time participating in the aerobics swimming class at the Mary Jo Peckham Park pool. Serving in many capacities over the years, Alfred remained an active member of Fair Haven United Methodist Church for over 50 years.



ALFRED LEWIS
1922-2020

He stayed busy with his five children: Grant, Diana, Heather, Rhonda, and Aileen and his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He spent over four years living in College Station with his Daughter Rhonda and her husband Marvin who faithfully took care of him. While there, he attended Our Saviours Lutheran Church with Rhonda and Brooks and enjoyed lots of time with family. There wasn't a wrong or injustice too small for him to handle when it came to them. He lived each day to the fullest and never missed an opportunity for conversation. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sally and Billy, his loving wife Gloria, and his brother Bobby. He is survived by his brother Kenneth(Wanda Mitchell), Sister-n-law Lita Lewis, children Grant(Joanne Lewis), Diana (Mike Kossa), Heather (David Hmcir), Rhonda (Marvin Elam), and Aileen (Lou Sparks), grandchildren Zoe(Clint Thomas), Bryan (Joanna Morong), Amber(Romero Vasquez), Damien, Siohban, Chris(Crystal Kimbrough), Brent, Brad, Sean, Cody, Adam(Emily Russell), Lyndsee (Billy Nelson), Hunter, Gloria, Caroline, Marvin IV(Kristina), Mark(Courtney Elam), Marisa, Megan and numerous great grandchildren.

He will be laid to rest at Veterans Memorial National Cemetery in Houston on September 28th at 11 a.m. A safe celebration of life will occur at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Food Pantry at Fair Haven United Methodist Church or The Houston Food Bank. The Lewis Family also requests all eligible Americans to vote in this upcoming presidential election in honor of Al's selfless service and devotion to his country.

Express condolences at Dignitymemorial.com.

FPD honored by 'parade'

By R. HANS MILLER
NEWS EDITOR

A procession honoring law enforcement officers will take place Sept. 26 in the Cross Creek Ranch subdivision of Fulshear. The informal parade will feature participation from the Westenders Car Club as well as displays of support for law enforcement, especially the Fulshear Police Department.

Organizer Bill Heede said in a brief statement that area residents are encouraged to change their porch lights to blue bulbs and display signage in support of Fulshear's police force.

The Fulshear Police Department and Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office are expected to attend the event, Heede said.

Heede said the procession was resident-initiated at Cross Creek Ranch by citizens who support Fulshear PD which they say performs their duties admirably.

"Fulshear Police Department is not only respected and endeared locally, but also has a nationwide social media following," Heede said. "This is a direct result of the professionalism, leadership and community focus within the department."

The impromptu parade is set to begin assembling between 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 6450 Cross Creek Bend Blvd. this Saturday, Heede said. Back the Blue flags will be available for those that do not own one. Political signage is discouraged, he added, because organizers want the focus for the event to be support for law enforcement officers rather than political candidates.

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Isaiah 40:31

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on the LORD shall
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they shall run and not
be weary, they shall
walk and not faint."

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3 Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father
of compassion and the God of all
comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort we ourselves
receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Psalms 94:19

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620 HOUSES FOR SALE 2,000 SQ FT, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, fireplace, kitchen island, granite downstairs bar located in quiet neighborhood in Crystal Beach, Tx by School. For more information, call 936-488-1314.	850 HELP WANTED LAKE MANAGEMENT Company in Katy seeking FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN. Outside work, hands on training, no experience necessary. Benefits available. Pay depends on previous work experience. Apply in person - Mon-Fri: 9am to 3pm @ 4110 Katy Hockley Cut-Off Rd, 77493. 281-391-3688	850 HELP WANTED RECEPTION-IST/OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT FOR optometrist office. We will train. Please send resume to katy_family_eye_care1@hushmail.com or fill out application at 1313 Fry Rd., Katy 77449 281-579-6939	950 PUBLIC NOTICES COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid: ROBINHOOD LN. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BRUSHY CREEK Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., October 6, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. October 7, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on October 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid. A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility. Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET. Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County. Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us . ALAN YOUNTS County Auditor 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, Texas 77445	950 PUBLIC NOTICES COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid: KELLEY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER CLEAR CREEK Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., October 6, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. October 7, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on October 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid. A contract shall not be awarded to a bidder who is not the lowest dollar bidder meeting specifications unless, before the award, each lower bidder is given notice of the proposed award, and is given an opportunity to appear before the Commissioners' Court and present evidence concerning the lower bidder's responsibility. Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET. Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County. Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us . ALAN YOUNTS County Auditor 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, Texas 77445	950 PUBLIC NOTICES COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid: McALLISTER ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BROOKSHIRE CREEK Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., October 6, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. October 7, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on October 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid. 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ALAN YOUNTS County Auditor 836 Austin Street, Suite 221 Hempstead, Texas 77445	950 PUBLIC NOTICES NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JUDITH IRENE SCHROEDER, Deceased, were issued on August 11, 2020, in Cause No. 484626, pending in the Probate Court No. 4, Harris County, Texas, to: SUZANNE SCHROEDER BROWN and DEBORAH DENISE ROBERTS. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. c/o: F. N. "TREY" BROWN III Law Office of Mock & Brown Attorneys at Law 400 South Main Burnet, Texas 78611 DATED the ____ day of September, 2020. F. N. "TREY" BROWN III Attorney for SUZANNE SCHROEDER BROWN and DEBORAH DENISE ROBERTS State Bar No.: 00783728 400 South Main Burnet, Texas 78611 Telephone: (512) 756-2931 Facsimile: (512) 756-2933 E-mail: trey@mockandbrown.com	950 PUBLIC NOTICES NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL OUT-OF-DISTRICT MEETING PLACE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FORT BEND COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 174 To the residents and taxpayers of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174 (the "District"), and to all the persons interested in the meetings of the Board of Directors of such District: Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the District, at a meeting held August 20, 2020 established an additional meeting place outside the boundaries of the District at LJA Engineering, Inc. 3600 W. Sam Houston Parkway S., Suite 600, Houston, TX 77042. The meeting place previously established at the offices of LJA Engineering, Inc., 2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77042 is hereby abolished. Said meeting place is hereby declared to be a public place and open to the public. All residents and taxpayers of the District and all other interested persons are hereby invited to attend any meetings of the Board of Directors at such location and other locations previously established by the Board of Directors as meeting places of the District. <u>/s/Paula Rucky</u> Secretary, Board of Directors
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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



950 PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Sale of Property To satisfy a landlords lien. Sale to be held online at www.storage treasures.com Facility is located at 20603 Clay Rd. Katy, TX 77449 Bidding will open at 10:00am on October 9th, 2020 and conclude at 10:00am on October 13th, 2020. Unit items sold as is. Tenant name is Marella Narasse 1995 GMC Yukon	950 PUBLIC NOTICES
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September 17 Puzzle Answers

T	A	L	C		R	F	D		E	R	A				
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INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids will be received by Harris County M.U.D. No. 432 on CIVCAST until 2:00 P.M. on October 8th, 2020 for Morton Creek Ranch Section 15 Landscape Improvements.

All bids will be publicly opened and distributed for construction of improvements including sidewalks, irrigation, planting, fine grading, hydromulch, and sod.

Bidders shall submit the Bid on exact copies of the Bid Form provided on CIVCAST. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) and Certificate of Interested Parties (HB Form 1295) must be returned with Bid. (Forms are provided with Spec Book)

Bid Documents are available through CIVCAST. A non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 must be received by KGA Deforest Design, 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 300, Katy, TX 77494 prior to bid opening for bids to be considered. Only check or money order will be accepted. Interested bidders should contact Stephanie Lee at slee@kgadeforest.com if you have any questions.

A Cashier's Check or Bidder's Bond Payable to Woodmere Development Co, Ltd. on behalf of Harris County M.U.D. No. 432 in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted, outlined in the Contract Documents, must accompany the Bid.

Bidders must have at least five years of confirmed experience on comparable size projects of a similar scope in the Houston Area.

The successful bidder receiving contract award must furnish Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total Contract price. Each such bond shall be executed by a corporate surety duly authorized to do business in the State of Texas.

The winning bid is decided not by low price but by this standard:

"The responsible person or persons that, in the Board's judgment, will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the District's proposed improvements."

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive bidding informalities.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The County of Waller proposes to purchase the following items on competitive bid:

McALLISTER ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER BROOKSHIRE CREEK

Bids will be received by the Waller County Auditor, Alan Younts, until 2:00 p.m., October 6, 2020 in the office of County Auditor at 836 Austin Street, Suite 221, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Bids shall be opened by Commissioners' Court at 9:00 a.m. October 7, 2020, in the Waller County Courtroom, Hempstead, Texas 77445. The Court shall award the contract on October 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., in the Waller County Courtroom, during open session of Commissioners' Court to the responsible bidder who submits the lowest and best bid.

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Bid award shall be based on either unit price or lump sum as indicated on the BID SHEET.

Method of payment will be by check upon completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County.

Bid Forms may be downloaded from the Waller County web site at www.co.waller.tx.us.

ALAN YOUNTS
County Auditor
836 Austin Street, Suite 221
Hempstead, Texas 77445

900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	900 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
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CANDIDATES

from page 2

these artifacts. Setting up community organizations to work together to be sure we are advertising, inviting, revisiting certain time frames to share with the public the rich history that is in the heartland. By protecting the enhancement of buildings, sites, districts, structures, objects, and significant natural features keeps us connected as a community to its past.

Q. Business owners in the Old Town Katy District have expressed frustration with how difficult it can be to attract shoppers to the district. In what ways do you feel the city could better support those businesses and others within the city that may be struggling with a lack of traffic to their areas?

Durran Dowdle: As soon as this Covid business is over and we can “open up” we should start a campaign as follows. Advertisement and Tourism are key components to support any of our business's in Katy. Our smaller business's may not have the advertising dollars to put out sufficient notice. This is where all our business partners can help. The city supporting Katy Market days, The Katy Chamber of Commerce, The Katy Economic Development Co. and others to provide marketing, workshops, and partnering to get the word out about our businesses.

Rory Robertson: Our downtown is in the midst of a redevelopment which will include more open space when completed. In my opinion, the city should welcome and open up downtown for more evening events. We have many businesses that we should be actively supporting. We could easily allow more music events and festivals in the evenings which would include bringing in food trucks at a minimum once a month to create a draw for the existing businesses. We could create a “La Centera feel” in downtown which the residents have supported for years. Great food and shopping are what we would love to see. Katy has the Katy Market Days and a few festivals throughout the year but let's build on them. I love visiting downtown. There are the historical

homes and the businesses. I hope that all of you will shop local when you can and hopefully we can bring in many more opportunities to visit downtown.

Sam Pearson: I believe we should start a “Buy Katy” campaign. The citizens should be informed of the types of businesses which can be found in the Downtown Area. There is a Biblical principal that needs to become a daily thought. Farmers have always used this phrase; “Whatever you sow, you will reap.” Citizens of Katy, if you sow your money in Katy, more tax money comes to the city and you will reap a lower tax rate.

We also need to attract more festivals in the Katy Downtown Plaza. Charity runs, bike events, and car shows bring people to the Downtown area. There also needs to be an “attraction” business Downtown. Since Katy Hardware left “Downtown,” there is not a store or a daily stop for people. In Bellville, it is the bakery. In Brenham it is the corner, Must Be Heaven sandwich and ice cream shop. We do have a coffee shop. We may want to give a tax incentive to establish that drawing shop.

Steve Pierson: I will work with the downtown/district committee to encourage workshops to educate our business merchants on marketing and how to use the internet to boost their businesses. The workshops will educate the merchants on how to use the adversity of the flooding and COVID-19 issue to their benefit. I would encourage the city to build parking or provide shuttle to the downtown area. I would encourage tax free days each year to encourage more shopping. The police department will be more visible during downtown events.

Q. What do you feel the city spends too much money on and, in contrast, what do you feel the city should spend more money on?

Durran Dowdle: Priorities change with each challenge we have faced, like flooding, and now Covid. Looking at a 5-10 year plan the focus will be in gearing up, shifting our budget toward maintenance and aging infrastructure. Long range plans to set funding aside in preparation for system upgrades and improved service as technology improves where we may

limit the growth of government but still provide services to our citizens.

I would like to see a stronger focus on green space and investment into our parks, pathways and mobility for walking and biking that relate to outdoor activities. Just as we did by purchasing property across from city hall by Thomas Park.

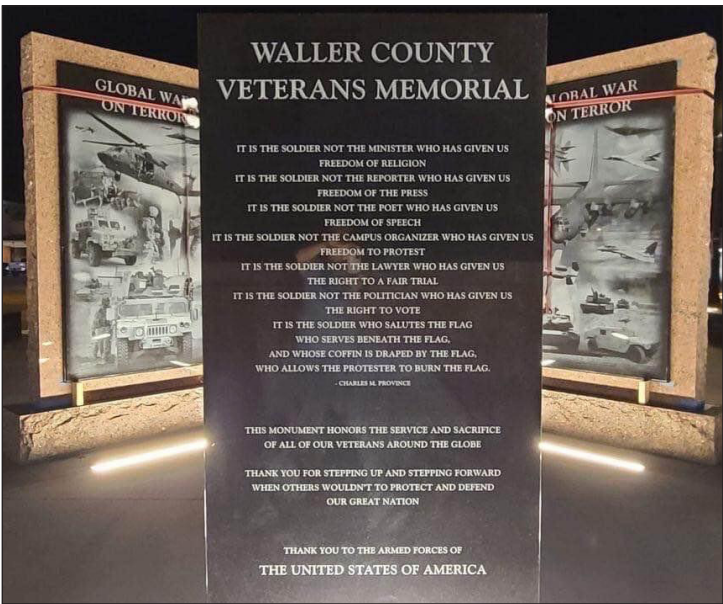
Rory Robertson: First, I would like to congratulate Mayor Bill Hastings on his recent budget. This is one of the great tasks placed upon that office and I agree with his budget decisions. Half our annual budget goes to the police and fire departments, which I completely support. Safety has to be our first priority.

Where I would change the use of the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds. These monies are brought in by our hotels and must be used on tourist-attracting events. I would love to see creativity in using HOT funds. Much of the money is used for 2-day events only. We need a longer-themed vision.

I support the city purchasing more green space. Our parks system is the best in Texas for our children and adults but we lack places for teens. We need a sporting complex geared for children 5-18. This can be accomplished on our own or with a partnership with Harris, Waller, or Fort Bend Counties. We must keep our kids active, yet we do not offer much for them.

Sam Pearson: I have looked over the new proposed budget in hard copy form. I can tell a lot of work has been done to keep spending down. There is not a particular department that seems to be spending too much money or overpaying their employees. Revenues are down due to the closing of retail stores during the virus. The mayor, city administrator, and department heads have kept all expenditures within reason.

Steve Pierson: More funds spent on the emergency services, flooding issues and other infrastructure issues. We need to significantly lower our property taxes each year. Seniors 65 and above need to be given a discount on their water bill. Not enough attention is given to our parks and our parks are in need of much repair. Our parks are places that should be safe and welcoming, an attraction we can be proud of.



COURTESY CHRISTY EASON

Waller County finished the installation of its new veterans memorial last week. The veteran-run project has been in development since before 2014.

MEMORIAL

from page 1

represented, and images were chosen by the committee which is comprised mostly of veterans from throughout the county.

Duhon commended Waller County Construction Manager Danny Rothe for helping to coordinate the project's completion.

Rothe said he was pleased with the work contractors did putting the memorial together. Architecture firm Blue Line out of Katy designed the structure; engineering was completed by EHRA Engineers, stone can from Laser Imaging; Kronberg's Flags and Flagpoles installed the flag fixtures; Tucker Concrete laid the foundation and Bobcat Crane placed the monuments.

“All indications said it was going to be really, really nice and it turned out better than I expected,” Rothe said.

Beckendorff said he was glad the memorial is finally complete because organizers and county officials really wanted the county's surviving World War II veterans – sometimes referred to as the “Greatest Generation” – to be able to see it and feel appreciated. He noted that the committee had already lost one of its founding WWII veteran members of the

original committee and Duhon said at least one other is reportedly in poor health.

“We lost Charlie Morgan – he was one of the founders – two years ago and unfortunately he wasn't able to see it, but he was one of the main people on the committee,” Beckendorff said.

Commissioners court members also said they were happy that the site was established to be a resource for educators who could develop lesson plans and come out to use the memorial as a visual aid for teaching students.

Duhon said the Waller County community felt strongly enough about the memorial that commissioners court happily welcomed the memorial onto the county courthouse square, which had its own complications. The Texas Historical Commission is generally protective of county courthouse grounds and what is installed in them, but the county fought for permission to have the memorial installed, which Duhon said he felt was appropriate in order to get the monuments installed in a timely manner.

“It was something that was definitely long overdue since we did not really have anything that paid tribute to our veterans in Waller County,” Duhon said.

Ceremonies to officially open the memorial are not yet fully planned, officials said.

WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE

The FRY ROAD M.U.D. will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference: 1-888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 926 8329 7102.

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.

FOR the proposal:	James Roadarmel, David Buxkamper, Oliver Brown, and Marcy Martinez	
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	James Teal	

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)	\$.42500/\$100 Adopted	\$.41750/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.00750/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.76%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ 146,888	\$ 154,365
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 29,378	\$ 30,873
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 117,510	\$ 123,492
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 499.41	\$ 515.57
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 16.16 3.23%	

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 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.

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011

WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON TAX RATE

The WEST HARRIS COUNTY M.U.D. #17 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2020 on October 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. It is anticipated said meeting will be held via telephone and/or video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the Governor of Texas in the Governor's proclamation concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Meeting access by Teleconference: 1-800-504-4496, Access Code: 2744507.

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.

FOR the proposal:	Thelma E. Boyle, Sharlene Rhea, Bryant A. Gaudette and TJ Covino	
AGAINST the proposal:	None	
PRESENT and not voting:	None	
ABSENT:	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)	\$.98500/\$100 Adopted	\$.96500/\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$.02000/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.03%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 163,107	\$ 167,722
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 163,107	\$ 167,722
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,606.60	\$ 1,618.51
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	\$ 11.91 .74%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE 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 eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

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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JOE SOUTHERN

George Springer of the Houston Astros dives for home to score on an inside-the-park home run in the 6th inning of Sunday's game against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Minute Maid Park. The Astros won 3-2.

George Springer belts Astros past Diamondbacks

By JOE SOUTHERN
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

On Sunday afternoon, George Springer helped the Houston Astros beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2 with a pair of solo home runs in Houston's last home game of the season.

The home runs were significant in many ways. With Springer set to become a free agent when the season ends, they may have been his last as an Astro at home. His first homer came in the sixth inning when he smashed the ball to deep centerfield and raced around the bases, diving into home for an inside-the-park home run.

Springer's second dinger came in the next inning when he circled the bases after a shot over the right-field fence. It marked Houston's 2,000th home run in the 20-year history of Minute Maid Park. Springer also hit the 1,500th home run on May 11, 2016.

"I was excited to tie the game; I'm just happy to help," Springer said.

Springer said he wasn't sure he would get more than a triple out of the first hit and knew it was a homer.

"When I slid in and scored and was called safe," Springer said.

"I got to third base and ran for home. I ran as hard as I could for the final 90 feet," he said.

He said his next at-bat in the seventh – the solo shot that tied the game – was a huge moment that seized the momentum for the home team.

There has been speculation that the homer was Springer's last as an Astro in Minute Maid Park, as his contract expires this season.

"No, I'm not concerned about that now," he said. "The next road trip, the next games, that's what I'm concerned about."

Houston Manager Dusty Baker addressed the situation with Springer in his post-game conference.

"We hope we get to the point where he puts pressure on the Astros to sign him ... This ballpark is perfect for him," Baker said.

Against the Diamondbacks on Sunday, Houston started Jose Urquidy on the mound. He went six innings and gave up a pair of earned runs while striking out two. Blake Taylor got the win and Ryan Pressley earned the save. The Astros got the winning run in

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SCRIMMAGE ONE DONE



COLE MCNANNA

Football returned to the Katy area last week with teams participating in their first and only interscholastic scrimmage ahead of the delayed regular-season opener next Friday. The Katy Tigers hosted the Klein Collins Tigers at Legacy Stadium and will travel to play Clear Springs on Friday. Pictured is Katy running back Jalen Davis making a Klein Collins defender miss in the red zone.

Tigers open, close preseason with Klein Collins matchup

By COLE MCNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Football returned to the Katy area last week with Katy ISD teams participating in scrimmages in preparation of the delayed beginning to the Class 5A and 6A seasons following shutdowns due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some schools had their lone preseason game Thursday night while others were scheduled for the following day.

The Katy Tigers were among the teams hitting the field Thursday for their first interscholastic competition of the year at Legacy Stadium against the Klein Collins Tigers and although score wasn't kept in the early portion, after the two live quarters of play that ended the night, Katy held a 10-0 lead.

While the crowd wasn't as thick as it ordinarily would have been without the pandemic and social distancing, as many Katy Tiger fans as could did attend the game.

The fall 2020 teams with twin mascots switched offensive possessions every 15 plays for about two hours before the live periods were played with time and score being kept and Katy High head football coach Gary Joseph said he was pleased with the effort put forth by his team.

"They faced a little adversity going in, but they responded well. Even when they got some big plays early on, they had a good response and that's part of growing up," Joseph said. "Proud of our quarter-

backs and running backs, they ran hard. We've got a ways to go but it's a starting point."

Joseph said there wasn't much the team wouldn't be working on but for it being the first live action against another team following an extended offseason, he saw plenty of both positives and negatives from the scrimmage.

"I saw some good things and saw some things we've definitely got to clean up on but for a first scrimmage and first time out it wasn't bad," Joseph said. "Wasn't a lot of procedure penalties and you've gotta be encouraged by that. Our kids just gotta continue growing up and growing into their roles."

The team hasn't had much time to develop its identity, but the head coach was happy to have his athletes back out on the field playing football once again after it seemed doubtful for so long.

"The biggest thing I wanted them to do was to compete, go out and have fun," Joseph said. "You've been off for all this time and now we've been working all this time through the summer, you wanted to get out there and compete against other people. You get very comfortable competing against yourself, the kids get used to seeing the same thing over and over again and they get better at it but you want to see them do those things against different people in different concepts."

The next time the Katy Tigers go up against a different team it will be for real as the regular season begins Sept. 25 with a trip to League City

to square off with the Clear Springs Chargers.

"It's going to be good; I expect a little more fire from our kids," Joseph said. "You don't want a false sense of excitement; you want kids to actually be excited about it and that's something they've been wanting to do since last March – so here we are."

As Joseph said, there are plenty of things to work on but one of the bigger things he mentioned was team unity and developing the camaraderie that will help carry the Tigers squad through a hopefully long season.

"We've still gotta pull together. The mark of a great team is people that care and love for each other and we've gotta continue working on the chemistry of our kids and football team and making sure they pick each other up when they're down or if something bad happens," Joseph said. "The same thing that people talk to them all the time about. It's easy to worry about me but it's not about me on a football team. It's about us and we've just gotta continue working to get better at it."

Katy High took the first step to achieving that goal by finally returning to Mark Johnston Field at Legacy Stadium and Joseph was thankful for the opportunity.

"It's awesome, a great thing to be back," Joseph said looking around the empty stadium after the game. "Proud to be back, proud of Katy ISD for letting us get back. We've just gotta continue to keep this on a roll."

Baltimore Ravens soar past Houston Texans, 33-16



FILE/JOE SOUTHERN

Looking for answers. Houston Texans defensive end JJ Watt looks up at the scoreboard during a game last year against the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Texans lost 33-16 and started this season 0-2. They travel to Pittsburgh next week to take on the Steelers for an away game.

By COLE MCNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

With a 10-yard touchdown pass from Deshaun Watson to Darren Fells, the Houston Texans trailed the Baltimore Ravens 10-7 with 9:45 to play until halftime.

However, that was the only time the Texans crossed the goal line on Sunday while the visiting Ravens returned a fumble recovery for a touchdown and got a long scoring run from Mark Ingram to take a 33-16 win and drop the Texans to 0-2 on the season.

Houston had the ball for nearly 10 minutes less than Baltimore and crossed midfield on only half of its 10 drives. Twice the Texans' drive ended at the Ravens' 26-yard line and two drives ended inside the opponents' 20, with only the one touchdown to show for it.

Watson acknowledged those drives that go deep into enemy territory need to be finished with touchdowns instead of field goals, especially against high-caliber teams.

"We just didn't capitalize and with a great team like Baltimore, they did a heck of a job of containing us from getting into the end zone," the Houston quarterback said in his postgame press conference. "Those red-zone drives, you always want to get points but with a great team like that. We gotta get touchdowns."

He also said the scoop-and-score that put the Ravens ahead 10-0 early in the second quarter was a game-changer.

"We've got to start faster and continue to start faster. Gave them a defensive touchdown early on that kind of separated the game where we had some momentum and who knows what we could have done with that drive," Watson said.

Texans defensive end JJ Watt also talked about how playing from behind is not ideal.

"It is very difficult. You want to get out to a fast start, a positive start, and we didn't necessarily do that," Watt said. "These past two weeks you're playing against two very

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