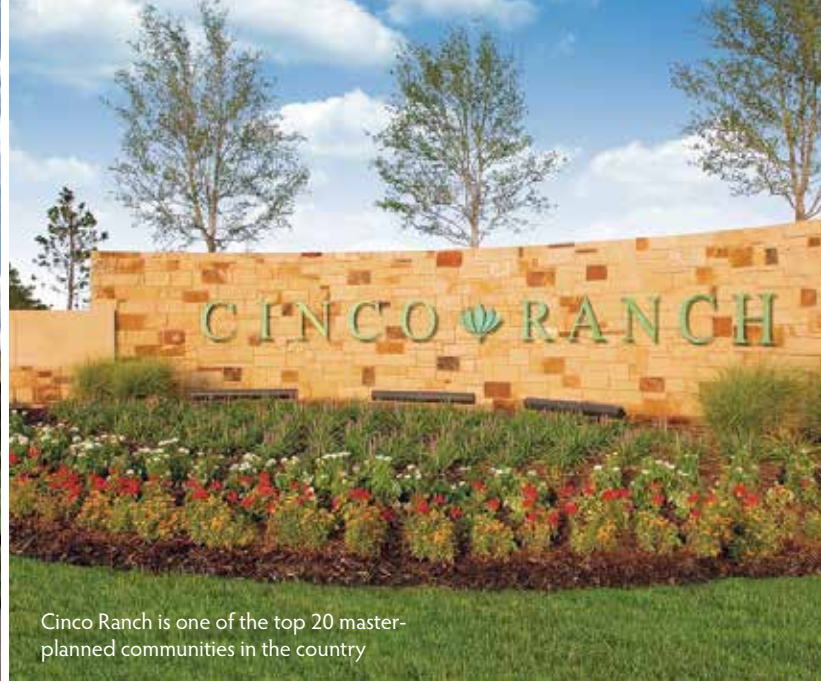




The original Katy Train Depot opened in 1898

Photo by Sini Sundarajan



Cinco Ranch is one of the top 20 master-planned communities in the country



The Bayou Nature Trail winds through Cinco Ranch

Photo by Sini Sundarajan

# What Every Katyite Should Know

Facts, folklore, and everything you've always wanted to know about Katy, Texas

*Written by Katy Magazine's Editors*

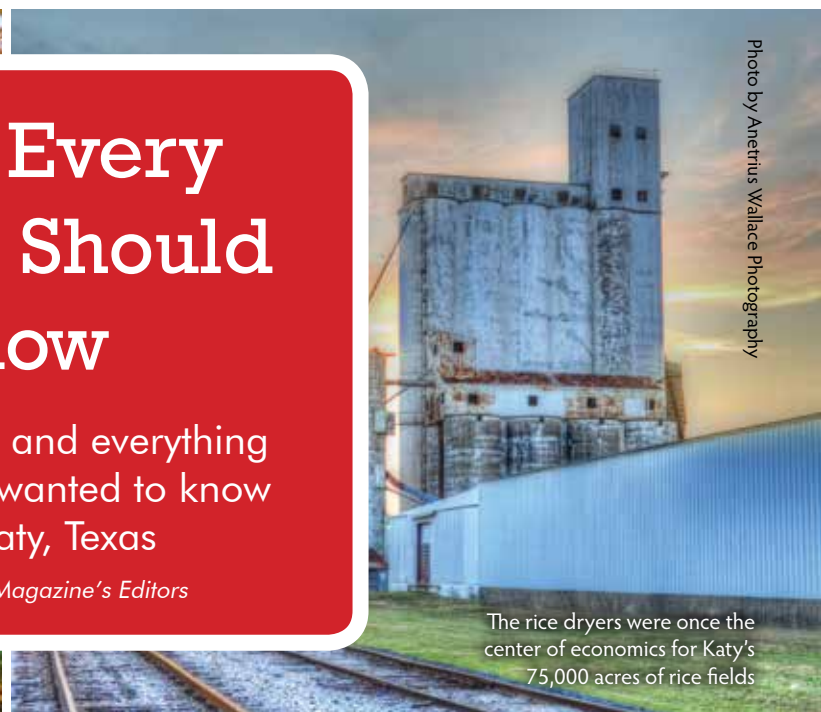


Photo by Anetris Wallace Photography

The rice dryers were once the center of economics for Katy's 75,000 acres of rice fields



Photo by Sini Sundarajan

Katyites and their furry friends enjoy evenings along Spring Lake Trail in Cinco Ranch



Photo by Anetris Wallace

Stan Stanley (right) is the namesake of Stanley Elementary. Pictured with wife, Patsy.



### How Katy Got Its Name

Some historians will tell you that Katy is named after the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad that passed through town. Others claim the city was named after a popular saloon keeper named Katy Mares.

### Katy's Early Foundation of Education

Many of Katy's early settlers came from the North or Midwest and set a precedent for high education standards. The first school was located at Avenue D and 6th Street, and the first teacher was Mrs. Edna James. Katy ISD was organized in 1918 and is now a nationally-recognized school district.

### Katy's Rice Connection

Historically, Katy was a rice farming community, which is why you will see old rice dryers as you pass through town. In the early days, rice wells (large holes) were built which doubled as ice cold swimming holes for kids.

### The Old Oaks of Katy

Most of Katy's giant trees were planted by early settlers badly in need of shade. They grew into beautiful, majestic oaks that are scattered around historic Katy. You can identify them by the small golden plaques on their trunks.

### Katy's Understated Hangouts

Long-time Katyites can be found shooting the breeze at Snappy's Café, No Label Brewery, Midway Barbeque, or the VFW Hall.

### Katy's Famous Celebrities

Actress Renée Zellweger is a former cheerleader and graduate of Katy High School, class of 1988. Other notable celebs who once called Katy home include Clint Black, Andy Dalton, and Kearran Giovanni.

### Katy Tiger Pride

The Katy Tigers have won seven 5A state championships, so football is a huge part of the community. Get ready for a sea of red if you attend a Katy Tiger football game at Rhodes Stadium!

### A Goose Town

Every fall, thousands of migrating geese arrive on the Katy prairie to roost, which is why you will see geese monuments as you drive around Katy.

### Katy ISD School Namesakes

The majority of Katy ISD schools were named after prominent Katy educators or notable community leaders. Many of the school namesakes visit their campuses and stay involved in activities.

### Katy's Five Ranches

Cinco Ranch, a master-planned community, was actually built on five ranches (*cinco* meaning "five" in Spanish), hence the name, Cinco Ranch.

### Hurricanes in Katy History

Virtually every structure and home in Katy was damaged by the Galveston hurricane on September 8, 1900, but no Katy lives were lost. Katy has also weathered smaller storms like hurricanes Andrew, Ike, and a few others. **KM**

## Katy Train Legacy

Because of the MKT Railroad, trains are a big part of Katy's history. You can spot decorated trains at Exley Elementary, Tradition Bank, and Katy Heritage Park just to name a few.



**Agave Road**  
1016 FM 1463

**Citizens for Animal Protection**  
17555 Katy Fwy., Houston

**Exley Elementary School**  
21800 Westheimer Pkwy.

**Katy Heritage Park**  
5990 George Bush Dr.

**Multiplicity**  
1306 Avenue A

**Tradition Bank**  
1515 W. Grand Pkwy. S.

To find out more about Katy trains,  
visit [katyheritagesociety.com](http://katyheritagesociety.com).