

# 20 Questions with *Carol Adams*

Carol Adams is a wife, mother of two, and the founder of Katy Heritage Park. She is also a city council member and executive director of the Katy Heritage Society. Adams is involved in many other local organizations including the Katy Area Economic Development Council, Friends of the Katy Library, and the West Fort Bend County Republican Women, just to name a few.



Carol Adams at Katy Heritage Park

**1 How long have you lived in Katy?** 17 years

**2 Tell me about your family?** I've been married to Hill for over 29 years. We have two children, our daughter Anne, 23 who works for Extreme Technologies, Inc. and our son Robert, 21 who is a senior at Texas A&M, proudly wearing boots this year in the Corps of Cadets.

**3 How did you end up in Katy?** We lived in the Houston Heights for about 12 years and we were considering moving somewhere, but had made no plans. Hill was a member of Falcon Point at that time and was early for a tee time, so he was driving around and found this wonderful old house. When I saw it, I knew it was exactly where we wanted to raise our children. We got here as soon as we could.

**4 How do you balance work, civic responsibilities, and family?** I love my family and the work I do. It is not hard to find time for things you really care about. I also don't sleep much.

**5 What inspired you to form Katy Heritage Park?** The city needed someplace like our park to anchor the community and the society's inventory of historic structures was outgrowing our old site. Doyle Callender (then mayor) and I visited about forming a partnership to create the park. He was so enthusiastic and supportive, it wouldn't have happened without him.

**6 What challenges did you have in forming Katy Heritage Park?** We had some opposition. There was no precedent to follow to create a public/private partnership to equally share a city park. The move itself required all the utility lines to be moved so we could roll all the houses to the park on the same day. It took a great deal of planning and the work of many, many people. Today when we see it enjoyed by so many people I know it was well worth it, I hope those who opposed it are also satisfied that it was a good idea after all.

**7 What are the benefits of having the Katy Heritage Park in our community?** It's a wonderful place to learn about Katy history and to be surrounded by beautiful old homes. Hundreds of students and visitors come through every year, folks get married there, and it is a very popular setting for photographs. We also host special events for holidays there too.

**8 What are your goals for the Katy Heritage Society?** I'd like to carry on the vision of our charter members, to protect and preserve our heritage. I would really like the society to be recognized for how important it is for the whole Katy area. We do more than entertain and educate, more than take care of "old stuff," the society is a significant force for economic development and tourism. I also want people to begin to understand that we are not funded by the city. We maintain our buildings, improve our exhibits and pay our bills from private donations.

**9 Why did you run for city council?** My father was Harris County commissioner for precinct 3 (Katy) for many years. He really loved Katy and did a lot for the city (he considered moving our family here in the 70's.) Then my brother was Harris County Judge for a long time, also doing all he could for Katy. I feel like it is kind of a legacy for me to carry on. From my involvement with other things here, I felt that I could bring some good ideas and a different perspective to council.

**10 What has surprised you during your term so far?** I think the hardest thing is that there is some miscommunication and that no matter how much I've tried to do for Katy, I'm still considered by some as an outsider. The best thing is seeing how most of our city employees work with a genuine desire to do a great job for our citizens.



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**11 What are your goals as a council member?** I try to encourage thoughtful and sincere consideration of the many issues facing us as Katy grows. We have some challenges and opportunities right now, new development, the economy and maintaining the quality of life that brought most of us here. I want Katy to embrace all the positive changes but to not be absorbed by them.

**12 What three adjectives best describe you?**  
Sincere, equitable, and appreciative.

**13 What motivates you to stay so active in the community?**  
I really love Katy; it is a great small town and a great larger community. As I have learned about its history and met so many fine people here I am proud to call it home. I'm grateful for this lifestyle and need to show that appreciation by doing whatever I can to take care of it, make it better while I'm here.

**14 What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?**  
Of course it is my children. Work wise, it would have to be the creation of the park.

**15 How would you like to see citizens of Katy become more involved in their community?** I would like to see the citizens of the Katy area embrace the idea of actively participating in making Katy what they want it to be. It is up to us all to make it safe, beautiful, prosperous, not just for a few community activists, boards or elected officials.

**16 What is your vision for the city of Katy?** To maintain our character, improve the impression visitors have when they come, to create more reasons for people to come and make it user-friendly for residents.

**17 What is one fun fact not many people know about you?** I love power tools and woodworking. I make things... tables, bowls, things like that and then inlay them with turquoise, malachite... useable art.

**18 What do you like best about living and working in Katy?** Everything I need is right here, I love my home, work is just a few minutes away. We have exceptional venues for health care, entertainment and shopping. People here are friendly and I really like how still the city can be, especially on Sunday afternoons...you can ride a bike around Katy and just enjoy the peace and quiet, but be 30 minutes away from the 4th largest city in the United States.

**19 If you could wave a magic wand and change something about Katy, what would it be?** There are a lot of folks who have lived here their whole life or a very long time...and there are a lot of new residents. There is some dissension between them-- those who live in the city and outside the city limits. I would love to have folks from the newer areas embrace the town as their own too, to get involved in what we're doing there. Having a charming small town as the heart of this greater Katy area is very powerful for all of us.

**20 Describe your future plans for Katy Heritage Park?.** We're significantly limited by funding, but I'd love to see the park grow. If we could add a small church, a one-room school house, a small store and make some of our exhibits very 'hands-on' for the children, that would be my ultimate goal for the park. I'd also really love to see more people get involved in the process; we need people to be chairmen of our houses, help with our events and make it possible for the society to sustain all we have accomplished and still hope to do. KM



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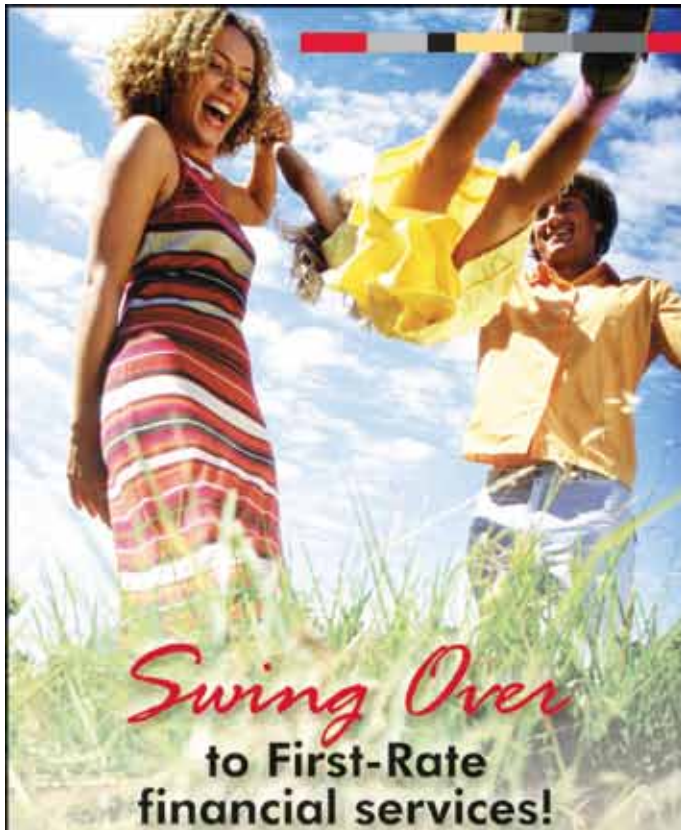
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# Katy's Top 10

How well do you know the city of Katy? Test your Katy expertise on these fast facts from the Katy Heritage Society to find out.

## Top 10 Annual Events

- 1 Katy Rodeo & Livestock Show *February/March – Katy ISD*
- 2 Easter Egg Hunt *March – City of Katy*
- 3 Folk Life Festival *April – Katy ISD*
- 4 KPD Fish Fry *April – Katy Police Department*
- 5 July 4 VFW Bar-B-Que *Katy VFW Post 9182*
- 6 July 4 Kids Bike Parade *Katy Heritage Society*
- 7 National Night Out *August – Katy Police Department*
- 8 Rice Harvest Festival *October – Katy Chamber of Commerce*
- 9 KFD Fajita Dinner *October – Katy Fire Department*
- 10 Christmas Tree Lighting *November – City of Katy*



## Top 10 Worst Disasters

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 1900 Hurricane              | 6 1961 Hurricane Carla  |
| 2 1915 Hurricane              | 7 1983 Hurricane Alicia |
| 3 1919 Train Wreck            | 8 1989 Freeze           |
| 4 1930 Flood                  | 9 1994 Ice Storm        |
| 5 1954 Tucker Rice Dryer Fire | 10 2008 Hurricane Ike   |

\* Based on damage to person or property in chronological order

## Top 10 Crops

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Cotton     | 6 Peaches        |
| 2 Corn       | 7 Peanuts        |
| 3 Grapefruit | 8 Rice           |
| 4 Oats       | 9 Sweet Potatoes |
| 5 Oranges    | 10 Watermelon    |

## Top 10 Wild Animals in Katy Today

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1 Armadillo | 6 Hogs     |
| 2 Bobcat    | 7 Nutria   |
| 3 Coyote    | 8 Opossum  |
| 4 Deer      | 9 Rabbit   |
| 5 Fox       | 10 Raccoon |

## Top 10 Wild Animals in Katy (100 years ago)

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Beaver     | 6 Fox                     |
| 2 Bison      | 7 Muskrat                 |
| 3 Black Bear | 8 Pronghorn Antelope      |
| 4 Bobcat     | 9 Red Wolves              |
| 5 Deer       | 10 Wild Cattle and Horses |

## Top 10 Oldest Buildings

- 1 Featherstone House - 1898 at Katy Heritage Park
- 2 MKT Depot - 1898 5592 Fifth St./Private
- 3 Morrison House - 1898 at Katy Heritage Park
- 4 Wright House - 1898 at Katy Heritage Park
- 5 Robertson/Motheral House - 1900 5518 Fifth St. (Law Office)
- 6 Bartlett/Short House - 1902 1722 East Ave./Private
- 7 Cardiff House - 1902 1303 Ave. C/Private
- 8 Douglas Stores/2nd St. - 1902 (Hair Inspirations/Memorial TV)
- 9 Stewart House - 1902 5704 Fourth St.
- 10 Weller/Baird House - 1904 5800 Fifth St./Commercial



Information courtesy of the Katy Heritage Society. The information included is only for the area within the city limits. Lists are in alphabetical order unless otherwise noted.

# TMJ

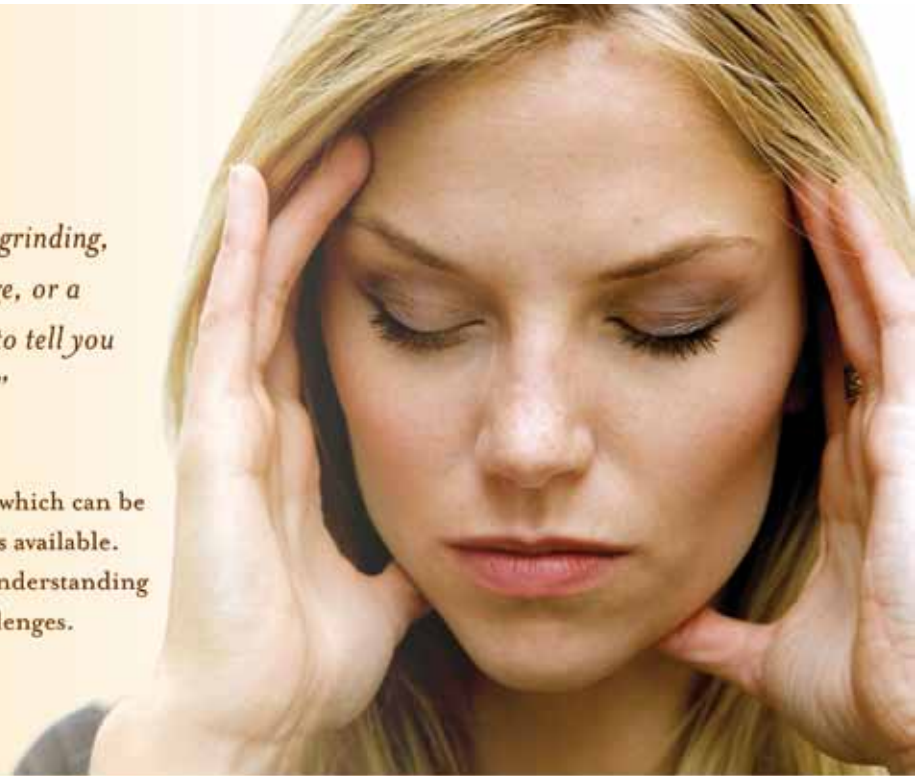
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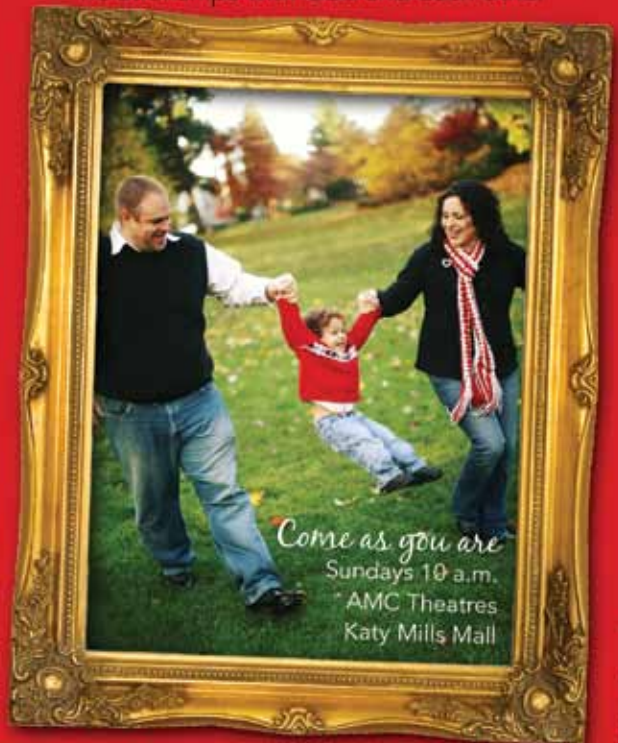


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