

# A DREAM *fulfilled*

KATY COURIER

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COURIER PHOTO/CATHERINE BROWN

Jennifer Archer, parks and recreation director, drives a railroad tie into the track Monday.

## Katy railroad park officially opens with spike-driving event

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Almost 30 years after the original vision began, the City of Katy Railroad Park Information and Tourism Center and Katy Heritage Society Museum is finally a reality.

"This is a special day for Katy," Mayor Doyle Callender said. "Thank you to everybody who had a part in this. This is a dream come true for some of us."

Building on the work of former mayor Dan Cox, Callender and the city council secured land to move the depot and caboose to the heart of downtown Katy.

"We saved two wonderful structures," Callender said. "We have a beautiful location. We took a piece of ugly land and made it beautiful."

Carol Adams, president of the Katy Heritage Society, said the items the museum exhibits now give "just a hint of the museum we plan to have in the future."

Adams said the society plans to bring in more photos and historical documents. Also, the freight room will be transformed

into what it looked like long ago with products that would have been loaded on and off the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad, she said.

"To know what those people wanted (for) 30 years is finally coming to fruition is very gratifying," Adams said.

Adams said the purpose of the museum is to help visitors learn about the railroad and the City of Katy.

The museum will be open daily.

Instead of the traditional ribbon cutting, Callender had all the people who were involved in the project help drive spikes into a piece of railroad that will be kept in the park.

David and Marilyn Frishman, the "caretakers" of the depot, presented Callender with a plaque in commemoration of his work on the project.

David Frishman also said the depot and caboose will be a lasting legacy for the city.

Guests also were given bandanas honoring the event and cookies made by Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Archer.

Left: Mayor Doyle Callender speaks with former Katy Mayor Dan Cox at Monday's event commemorating the official opening of the City of Katy Railroad Park Information and Tourism Center and Katy Heritage Society Museum.

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