



Times photo by Luciano Battistini

Katy Mayor Don Elder Jr. joins Santa Claus in lighting the first night of the city's Christmas season at the 35th Tree Lighting and Holiday in the Park ceremony.

Katy highlights annual Christmas tradition

Luciano Battistini
Times Reporter

The City of Katy celebrated its 35th Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Katy Heritage Park, marking this year's beginning of the Christmas season.

"We are so proud tonight to be hosting the 35th annual Holiday in the Park city tree lighting ceremony," Katy Junior High School choir teacher Lori Brunner said.

"It's a great time for all of us to get together and think about all the good things this season brings."

Residents were treated to a Christmas lights decoration spectacle, with all the old houses at the park being lit as Mayor Don Elder gave the order.

"I know you all are having fun because you all are still blinking," Elder said jokingly. "Everyone has done a great job here and we're glad to have you in the city of Katy tonight."

Children were treated to two play areas covered with snow, while parents were free to mingle with neighbors and Katy city council members.

"I think it's great," Katy resident Harry Courtney said. "It's a good time to enjoy the festivities and get ready for the season."

As the day grew into night, the Katy Junior High School choir sang the carol "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," while Santa Claus himself showed up riding his sled on top of a fire truck just in time for the tree lighting.

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" Santa called out as he arrived at the park. "Merry Christmas!"

Katy residents rushed towards the fire truck trying to get pictures of him waving back at their children. Firefighters had to escort him to the stage asking residents to stand back as they made their way.

"I almost feel like a rock star," Santa said chuckling.

As the night grew colder, residents started filing out of the park. Children had big smiles in their faces, parents seemed a bit tired, all seemed satisfied with the event.

Among the city council members in attendance were Fabol Hughes, Carol Adams, Larry Gore and Hank Schmidt. Texas Representative Bill Callegari was also in attendance.