



300 Country Club Road,
Wylie, Texas 75098
Collin County
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie
Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Craig Kelly
972-516-6016
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

Judy Truesdell
972-516-6017
judy.truesdell@wylietexas.gov

Local Scouts Raise Funds for Dog-Friendly Fountain
Wylie Mayor, Council Recognize Troop for Doggone Good Job

Wylie, TX, Aug. 13, 2014 – When members of Girl Scout Troop 3343 recall the dog days of summer 2014, they won't just think of the heat; they'll remember a goal they set, met and exceeded and that was celebrated by Wylie city officials.

About this time last year, the girls began to plan their Bronze Award project, a Scout honor given for a community project that is long lasting and sustainable. The girls all had dogs, so they brainstormed about dog-related ideas. "We talked about a time when I walked my dog and had to lift him up to drink from the fountain last summer," said Morgan Heard, a member of the troop.

They contacted City of Wylie Parks Manager Shohn Rodgers to see what it would take to install a dog-friendly drinking fountain in a park.

"I said, 'Great! Let's do it!'" Rodgers recalled, adding that the fountain in Wylie's Friendship Park was "on its last legs" and would be a likely candidate for replacement. He secured the vendor information and said the city would install it if the girls could raise the \$3,010 to purchase a fountain with an integral pet bowl – quite a challenge for the seven-member troop.

"Although we didn't have the advantage of having 14 to 25 girls in one troop to raise the amount, I believe we all have the heart and determination of 100 Girl Scouts if we set our mind to something we care about," said troop member Bethany McCloud.

Local Scouts Raise Funds for Dog-Friendly Fountain

Aug. 14, 2014

Page 2

They began fundraising in earnest; efforts included garage sales, two IHOP fundraising nights, a “live, laugh, love” workshop for younger Girl Scouts, group fundraising site gofundme ... and of course cookie sales. They used Facebook to spread the word, as well as a YouTube video they created and promoted. (Search for “Troop 3343 Bronze Project” on YouTube to see it.)

They not only met their goal, they exceeded it, raising a total of \$3,200. On Aug. 12, the girls and their leaders visited Wylie City Hall, shared a pizza dinner with Mayor Eric Hogue, and were recognized during the city council meeting.

“What these young ladies did was amazing,” Hogue said. “Lots of times, people tell us what we should be doing. Y’all didn’t do that – you got out there and did it yourself.”

Rodgers said, “I could not be any more impressed with the job these girls have done. They really know how to make things happen.”

Bethany said the girls have learned a lesson about determination. “Us being a smaller troop, I think achieving this immense project shows others just because you’re small doesn’t mean you can’t achieve something if you put your mind to it.”

In addition to Bethany and Morgan, troop members include Brianna Beamer, Alejah Evans, Moya Schell, Alyssa Janson and Makayla Johannsen. Their leader is Sandy Heard and assistant leader is Julie Janson. All the girls are 11, and they will all be in sixth grade this year. Wylie ISD students include Moya, Morgan and Alejah, who go to Draper Intermediate; Makayla, Davis Intermediate; and Brianna, Harrison Intermediate. Alyssa attends school in Community ISD; and Bethany is home-schooled.

Thanks to the Scouts of Troop 3343, Wylie’s dogs can now paws for refreshment.

-more-

Local Scouts Raise Funds for Dog-Friendly Fountain

Aug. 14, 2014

Page 3

Cutlines:

1 – by Craig Kelly

Members of Girl Scout Troop 3343 watch their YouTube video shown during the Wylie City Council meeting. They created the video to help raise funds for a dog drinking fountain. From left are Makayla Johannsen, Alejah Evans, Morgan Heard, Brianna Beamer, Alyssa Janson and Moya Schell.

2 – by Craig Kelly

Morgan Heard, left, shakes Mayor Eric Hogue's hand at the Aug. 12 Wylie City Council meeting. She and her fellow members of Girl Scout Troop 3343 were honored for raising funds for a doggy drinking fountain. Behind her, Alyssa Janson shakes hands with City Manager Mindy Manson, Moya Schell is greeted by Councilman Todd Wintters, and Brianna Beamer and Alejah Evans are next in line.

3 – by Sandy Heard

Posing at Wylie's Friendship Park with the new dog-friendly fountain they funded are, from left, Brianna Beamer, Bethany McCloud, Makayla Johannsen, Moya Schell, Alyssa Janson and Morgan Heard. In the front are Jack and Charlie.

###

About Wylie -- Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 192% increase since 2000.