



Welcome From The City of Wharton

First Quarter 2018 Newsletter

Team Work

During Hurricane Harvey and the resulting flooding caused by the storm, the City of Wharton employees rose above the everyday service provided to help out the community. Where it is a part of every City of Wharton Employee's job to serve during times of disaster, all employees are thanked for their endless hours of work and determination to make sure services and the safety of residents was met.

Many of the City Employees were experiencing flooding and damage to their own homes and continued to work without wavering.

We are more than grateful to have an excellent team of people that are dedicated to serve this City and proud to have them!

On behalf of our citizens, let me welcome you to the City of Wharton, Texas. As the Gateway to the Texas Gulf Coast, Wharton has many thriving businesses and industries that secure a stable tax base. Founded in 1846, the City of Wharton is located along the I-69 corridor just 50 miles southwest of Houston.

Wharton is the perfect place to grow your business and your family. I invite you to see just what Wharton has to offer.

-Mayor Tim Barker

The HOME Program Builds Hope For Some City Residents

Some of the residents of the City of Wharton were able to recently apply for the HOME Program funded by Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. This program will assist low income homeowners with disaster recovery from the flooding of 2015, 2016 and 2017 as well as low income homeowners throughout the City in need of home rehabilitation or rebuilding.

The initial round of funding under the program will be for 10 homes and the City will be able to continuously apply for more. The HOME Program is the largest federal block grant to the state and local governments which is designed to help assist in creating affordable housing for low-income residents. One of the many benefits of the program is the zero cost to home owners.

Residents who are approved will have to relocate for several months while construction takes place and are responsible for their relocation during that time. As the City of Wharton continues to apply for and search for grants and opportunities that would help benefit citizens as a whole, we are excited to be a part of a program that was designed to reinforce several important values and principles of community development.

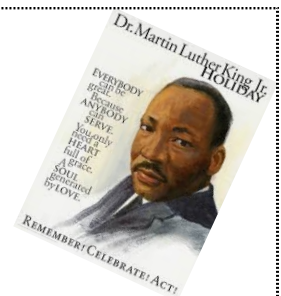
Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

Monday, January 1st & Monday, January 15th

All City offices will be closed on these holidays.

When the normal residential pick-up falls on a recognized holiday, the pick-up for that residential service will be the next regular business day.



City of Wharton
120 E. Caney St.
Wharton, TX 77488



Phone: 979-532-2491
Fax: 979-532-0181
E-mail: pfavors@cityofwharton.com

Public comments on any of the City's projects is encouraged and anyone wishing to do so may attend one of the regularly scheduled City Council meetings. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at City Hall - 120 E. Caney St.— unless otherwise posted.

We're On the Web!

Pay your Utility Bill or Ticket Online

If you have never been to the City of Wharton website, now is the time to check it out! One of the many useful things you will find is the ability to pay your utility bill or ticket online.

[Simply Click Here](#)

Have your next event at the Wharton Civic Center.



Upcoming Events:

New Year's Eve Party—December 31st

Wharton Senior Serve—February 3rd

John McCain 100th B-Day—February 24th

NOW AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

Big or small event, make sure and book your room today by calling:

979-532-2491 ext. 603

To find out more about available room rentals:

[Click Here](#)

Did you know?

The Plaza Theatre started out as the Plaza Hotel in 1904. In 1941, it was converted to a movie theatre. In the early 1990's it changed hands again and now is home to live performances by local citizens.

Construction:

TxCDBG 7216489 Alabama Sanitary Sewer Improvements: Construction in completed.

FEMA – Integrated Flood Protection System: Application submitted 12/20/16 under the DR-4266/4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review.

FEMA – Sewer Infrastructure Mitigation: Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4266/4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review

FEMA – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System): Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4266/4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review.

FEMA – Integrated Flood Protection System: Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

FEMA – Sewer Infrastructure Mitigation: Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

FEMA – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System): Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

Housing:

FEMA – Residential Mitigation (Elevation/Reconstruction of Homes): Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4266/4269 and we are awaiting a response.

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Submitted on 1/20/17 under a second funding opportunity for DR 4272 and we are awaiting a response.

TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation : Applications were started on November 7, 2017 at JDIN. Over 60 applicants filled out applications and returned that afternoon and next day to submit them to GrantWorks and get assistance on paperwork that was still required. The deadline has passed and applications are being processed by GrantWorks.

GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program: The City Council procured GrantWorks, Inc. for administration and Jones & Carter for engineering. The applications are being processed by GrantWorks.

FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant: Call for application was made on August 11, 2017. The application was submitted 10/30/17 and we are awaiting a response.

Studies:

TxCDBG 7216124 Planning & Capacity Building Fund (Comprehensive Plan): GrantWorks, Inc. conducted field assessments on June 6-8, 2017. They will begin working with Committees and Departments Heads in the early part of November. To be completed by December 12, 2018. Total grant awarded: \$115,389.



A sign down, street lights out, or even too many mosquitos can all be issues that affect our residents. The City of Wharton wants to hear from you. Reporting issues that need attention is as simple as calling City Hall at: 979-532-2491.

The City of Wharton has applied to FEMA for multiple types of assistance under two separate funding opportunities. As of October 17, 2017, the Integrated Flood Protection System, Warning System Mitigation and Sewer Infrastructure Mitigation applications were selected by Texas Department of Emergency Management and have been forwarded to FEMA for final approval. We are currently working with FEMA to provide additional information on these applications in order to complete the approval process. The review process is timely and we are cooperating fully with all requests.



FEMA



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of



Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your house.**

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **6** reported **home fires** and **1** in every **5** home fire deaths.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



Keep anything that can burn at least

3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/ and www.nfpa.org/winter/



How do I know which district I'm in?

From the City of Wharton website you can become familiar with the district you are in and who your elected official is. Elections are held every May so to stay up to date residents can view photos, bios and a map of who is serving their district.

[Click Here For More Information!](#)

What's in the Works?

- Water Well Plant Project \$3,765,000
- Wharton Levee Project Phase I \$6,871,265
- City of Wharton Comprehensive Plan \$115,389
- Alabama Rd. Sanitary Sewer Improvements \$420,000
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I \$9.5 million
- 5 Year Street Improvement Program \$1.5 million



Expert in Every Office

Andres Garza, Jr.
City Manager



Mr. Garza receiving his 40 year public service award.

Time employed with the City of Wharton: City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. began his career in public service in 1977 as an Administrative Assistant in Pearsall, Texas. In 1979, he was promoted to Assistant City Manager in charge of Finance. He began serving as Pearsall City Manager in 1980 and served until May 1994. He is currently serving as the City

of Wharton City Manager and has done so since 1994. Mr. Garza currently serves as a Board of Trustee on the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TML-IRP). He served as a chairman of TML-IRP board from 1994 to 1996. He also serves on the TML Small Cities Advisory Council.

Education: He received a BBA Degree from Southwest Texas State University (Texas State University) and is a member of the Texas City Manager

Association and International City Manager Association. His wife is Adeline Garza and they have two children, Andrew III and Adam. He enjoys all outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, camping and golf.

Mr. Garza was honored at the International City Manager's Association during their 103rd Annual Conference in San Antonio for his 40 years of public service.

Winter Weather Tips

for your four-legged friends!

It's a common belief that dogs and cats are resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia.

- 1. Keep Pets Inside**
 Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.
- 2. Provide Choices**
 Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.
- 3. Make Some NOISE!**
 A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.
- 4. Play Dress Up!**
 If your dog has a short coat or seems bothered by the cold weather, consider a sweater or dog coat. Have several on hand, so you can use a dry sweater or coat each time your dog goes outside. Wet sweaters or coats can actually make your dog colder. Some pet owners also use booties to protect their dog's feet; if you choose to use them, make sure they fit properly.
- 5. Provide Shelter**
 We don't recommend keeping any pet outside for long periods of time, but if you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide them with a warm, dry, solid shelter against wind. If you're able to, consider providing shelters for stray cats in the neighborhood.
- 6. Be Prepared**
 Cold weather also brings the risks of severe winter weather, blizzards and power outages. Prepare a disaster/emergency kit, and include your pet in your plans. Have enough food, water and medicine (including any prescription medications as well as heartworm and flea/tick preventives) on hand to get through at least 5 days.

Information provided by the AVMA at <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Cold-weather-pet-safety.aspx>

Want to be kept up to date during emergency situations in the City of Wharton?



Click to sign up.



Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Smart.

Smart911™

Smart 911 is a service the City of Wharton uses to send out a mass communication message to citizens. The notification system enables us to reach anyone, anytime, for more effective emergency notification and community outreach.

Here's how to sign-up:

- Step 1**
 Go to www.cityofwharton.com, Scroll down and click on
- Step 2**
 Click SIGN UP TODAY
- Step 3**
 Fill out form to create an account.
- Step 4**
 You will need to confirm address and phone number. Once confirmed, select **Contacts** to receive notifications and check **City of Wharton Notifications. CLICK SAVE.** This creates your profile to begin receiving your City of Wharton notifications.

FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL 979-532-2491.
 Keep this paper for your login information.

USER NAME: _____ PASSWORD: _____