



Welcome From The City of Wharton

Second Quarter 2018 Newsletter

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

Rules of Open Meetings

All meetings of the Wharton City Council are subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act. The purpose of the Open Meetings Act is to ensure that the public is notified when a governmental entity is meeting so that anyone may attend. The agenda is the listing of the items which will be addressed by the Council. It must be in writing and state the date, time, place and subject of each meeting.

The agendas of the Wharton City Council are posted at least 72 hours before a scheduled meeting, and may be found on the City's website as well as on the bulletin board outside City Hall. The agenda will list all items to be discussed and will also list whether or not the Council will go into executive session. Only the items listed on the agenda may be addressed by the councilmembers at the meeting.

-Provided by Assistant City Attorney Amy Rod.

City One Step Closer To Levee Project

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. presented testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs on January 29, 2018 at an Interim Hearing held at Wharton County Junior College. Senator Charles Perry, Chairman of the Committee along with Senator Jose Rodriguez, Senator Brandon Creighton, Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Senator Borris Miles and Senator Juan Hinojosa received testimony on how the City of Wharton needed funding for flood reduction that was developed to help mitigate flooding in the City. City Manager Garza informed the Committee that if the plan the City has had shovel ready, would of not been denied funding multiple times over the last decade, the City of Wharton would not of received the amount of damage that affected over 50% of the homes in the City. The Committee gathered testimony from other surrounding counties and cities, as well as several state agencies regarding the post-Harvey damages with the

hopes to better help examine opportunities for coordination between federal and state agencies to develop flood mitigation infrastructure projects.

The City of Wharton's Officials have applied for federal funds to pay for a proposed \$77 million project to build the series of levees along the Colorado River. The levees will protect the City from flooding that occurred during Hurricane Harvey.

Fifty percent of the proposed levee project has been designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and meets the criteria of recent federal legislation for funding, City Manager Andres Garza said. The federal funding decision for the project could be made as soon as late spring and completed in three years.



Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

Good Friday, Friday, March 30th
& Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th

All City offices will be closed on these holidays.

Garbage services will be affected on Memorial Day only.



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:

Comprehensive Planning Meeting
April 4th

Comprehensive Planning Meeting
April 11th

General Election Day Polling Place
May 5th

NOW AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

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

979-532-2491 ext. 603

Did you know?

The City of Wharton was home to the first lieutenant governor of Texas. Albert Clinton Horton served as the first lieutenant governor of Texas and governor pro tem from May to November 1846 during Governor James Pinckney Henderson's absence to deal with the Mexican War. Horton retired to his plantation on Caney Creek in Wharton prior to the Civil War.

City Awarded Class 9 Rating

The City of Wharton was recently awarded a Class 9 rating from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This is good news for the citizens of Wharton due to the rating allowing for lower cost flood insurance rates. According to the Department of Homeland Security, residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) can receive a 5% discount on their flood insurance premiums, just from the City taking extra efforts to engage in additional mitigation activities. This adds up to over \$21,000 in combined flood insurance premium savings for City residents in 2017 alone.

The program started in 1990 on a voluntary only basis to encourage communities to implement floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum standards. The City of Wharton is considered in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements and was able to join the CRS.

As a community gains additional mitigation activities, residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. The City of Wharton continues to strive to provide increased floodplain management activities with the hopes to provide enhanced public safety, reduced damage to property and public infrastructure, and avoidance of economic loss. Without the City's involvement in the program, just some of the downfalls would include residents not being able to purchase a flood insurance policy, existing flood insurance policies would not be renewed and there would not be any federal mortgage insurance or loan guarantees for properties identified as being in flood hazard areas.



Jerry Frye – FEMA Hazard-Flood Management presented Mayor Tim Barker with a plaque from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). Pictured Left to Right: Building Official Ronnie Bollom, City Manager Andres Garza, Jr., Jerry Frye with FEMA Hazard-Flood Management, Mayor Tim Barker and Assistant to the Building Official Claudia Velasquez.



FEMA

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.

Helping pinpoint areas of need helps everyone!

Working Together For Our Future

The City of Wharton has partnered with GrantWorks, Inc. to create a 2018-2028 Comprehensive Plan for the community. There will be two (2) surveys and four (4) public meetings to find out what residents would like to see Wharton become over the next ten years.

GrantWorks will gain input from Wharton ISD students and the general public regarding their assessment of current recreation and open space areas and facilities within the City and their desires/priorities for future recreation/open space development. Residents are able to complete digital surveys (in both English and Spanish) through SurveyMonkey.com to give their input as well as paper copies available at City Hall.

The four meetings will be held at the Wharton Civic Center on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Now is the opportunity to give input on what residents would like to preserve, eliminate or gain for the City by 2028. What is the City's greatest challenge and what major improvement or change would you like to see? Make your voice heard. Click Button to Complete Survey Now:



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 is your elected official. 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 – Flood Reduction
\$77 million
- City of Wharton Comprehensive Plan
\$115,389
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I
\$9.5 million
- 5 Year Street Improvement Program
\$1.5 million

Congressman Blake Farenthold's office has caseworkers that have mobile office hours in Port Lavaca, Bay City, Wharton and Edna. The caseworkers assist residents that are having issues with the federal government cut through the red tape. For additional assistance, contact Congressman Farenthold's office at (361) 884-2222.

City General Election News

The City of Wharton General Election will be held on May 5th, 2018. Each year City Council seats are up for election. On the even numbered years the even numbered seats and the Mayors position are on the ballot and on the odd numbered years the odd numbered seats are on the ballot.

In the future, if you are interested in running for the City Council, it is important to learn just what some of the requirements are.

- ⇒ You must be a qualified voter of the City of Wharton.
- ⇒ You must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- ⇒ You must be in compliance with all of the eligibility requirements for public office set out in the Texas *Election Code*.
- ⇒ You must not at the same time hold any other *elected* or appointed public office.
- ⇒ You must not have been convicted of a felony.

Texas law prohibits any person convicted of a felo-

ny from being a candidate for public office or holding any public office position. Felons who receive a full pardon are eligible to run for office.



Along with other requirements the one that is the simplest of all is the requirement to be registered to vote. Click on the button above to get all the information on registering to vote.

Early voting starts April 23, 2018 and continues through April 27, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday, April 30th and Tuesday, May 1st at the County Annex D, Suite 115 located at 315 E. Milam in Wharton. Voters can cast their ballots on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Wharton Community Civic Center—Duncan Auditorium located at 1924 N. Fulton Street in Wharton.

Expert in Every Office



Steve Johnson

Emergency Management Coordinator

(979) 532-2491 ext. 570

Time employed with the City of Wharton: Steve started his career with the City of Wharton in October of 1992.

Education: Steve graduated Needville High School in 1989 and attended Victoria Police Department Law Enforcement Academy. He received his Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Wharton County Junior College and has obtained numerous certificates from FEMA Emergency Management Institute as well as

Basic Emergency Management Certification over his career.

History: Steve has been in Law Enforcement for 40 years. His career began with Goliad County Sheriff's Office in 1977 as a dispatcher and Field Deputy, moving on to Palacios PD in 1978, West Columbia Police Department in 1980 as patrolman, patrol Sergeant and Emergency Management before joining the Wharton Police Department in 1992. Officer Johnson served in Patrol, as a

DARE Officer, Detective, and now Emergency Management Coordinator since 2013.

Recent Training: Steve serves on the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Council for Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government comprising 13 county region in and around Harris County, TX and he is a member of the Regional Interoperability Radio Council and the Regional Catastrophic Planning Committee.

The City of Wharton Beautification Commission and WCA will be holding the Annual City-Wide 2018 Spring Sweep on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 8am to 1pm at the WCJC parking lot.

No batteries, paint or chemicals will be allowed.



The Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state and serves as Texas's signature event for the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program. The Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off is part of TxDOT's litter prevention program, which includes Don't mess with Texas, Adopt-a-Highway, and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful.

Wharton Beautification Commission is also seeking volunteers to participate in the **KEEP WHARTON BEAUTIFUL TRASH-OFF**. To participate contact the City of Wharton at 979-532-2491 ext. 235.

The hurricane season will officially begin on June 1, 2018, and end on November 30, 2018. Check out the next quarterly City of Wharton Newsletter for more on the upcoming season.

Stay Informed

There is only one way to receive timely notifications in times of emergency. If you have not signed up for the City of Wharton's Smart911.com program you could be missing a very important call! The City issues callouts to alert citizens of emergencies, hazards and even water line breaks when needed. It is just one simple click on the link below to sign up today!

Plan For Any Emergency

Smart911 is a trusted national service allowing residents to give 9-1-1 and first responders any information they would want them to know in an emergency, **before** any emergency occurs.



Smart911.com

Sign up today. Because every second counts.