



Why won't the City tear down that house?

It is frustrating when there is a house in your neighborhood that is in disrepair and it seems like nothing is being done about it. The Supreme Court of Texas held in the case *City of Dallas v. Stewart*, that the owners of these structures have a right to constitutional protections. So, before a building can be ordered to be demolished, the City must follow very specific procedures to make sure the property owner's rights are protected. These procedures include the preparation of a written report and recommendation, the property owner receiving written notice, a public hearing, an order being issued to repair or demolish, and the opportunity for the owner to appeal to the District Court. Although these procedures can be time consuming, because property rights are so important, the City of Wharton makes sure that it follows the law before ordering that a building be torn down. If a property owner does not demolish a structure after an order is issued, the City may do it, but the property owner is still responsible for the costs of the demolition. *-Provided by Assistant City Attorney Amy Rod.*

The Gateway to the Gulf Coast



Welcome From The City of Wharton

Second Quarter 2017 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 1838, 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

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

The City of Wharton is applying for funding through the HOME-DR and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs in an effort to assist our low income citizens improve their housing and reduce unsafe living conditions through replacement of substandard dwellings with new site-built homes. The City has not been approved for this program yet and is not accepting applications at this time. The City will be fully advertising and notifying eligible applicants as soon as the application process can begin. The program requires applicants to currently own and occupy their home. The HOME-DR would apply to the homes that were affected by the flooding during 2016. The HOME program would be open to all City of Wharton residents that meet the requirements. Once accepted to the program home owners would be required to find alternative living arrangements for the construction period, approximately 5-6 months, and after construction would be required to live in the newly built home for a certain period of time for fund for-



Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

Good Friday, Friday, April 14th
& Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th

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.



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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:

Wharton ISD Prom April 8th

Pennington Peddler Show May 12-14th

Plaza Character Breakfast July 15th

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?

At different times the community had a cotton oil mill, a sugar cane factory, grist-mills, cotton gins, a milk processing plant and dairy, an ice plant, and numerous other industries.

The City of Wharton has applied to FEMA for multiple types of assistance under two separate funding opportunities. We are currently working with FEMA to provide additional information on all applications in order to get all areas of assistance approved and moved forward. The review process is timely and we are cooperating fully with all requests. As information becomes available from FEMA we will be notifying citizens.

Painting of Curbs Downtown

The Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities proposed a project to City Council after being advised by several citizens at different venues about the curbs and steps in the downtown area being hard to navigate and visibility of the multiple step heights being limited. The Committee researched painting a 2" strip on the top plate of the top step to help with visibility of the steps. After consulting the Downtown Merchants and Historic Committee it was determined that a color that would coordinate with the downtown area would be more aesthetically pleasing as well as also provide the necessary color differentiation. There will also be painting on the ramps around the square to avoid vehicular and pedestrian traffic from having difficulty seeing them.



This project is currently underway. The City staff has already begun pressure washing and then will begin the painting dependent upon the weather.

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.

Downtown Sidewalks Coming to Completion

The Wharton Sidewalk Accessibility & Historic Streetscape Project Phase II is nearing completion. The City of Wharton applied and was granted funds to restore sidewalks in the downtown area. This allowed the City to bring sidewalks up to current ADA standards and renovate sidewalks that were in extremely poor condition allowing pedestrians to have a much safer way to travel. The current project is approximately 90% complete and is anticipated to complete the project near June 2017. The City is anticipating to apply for a new round of funding to continue to repair and add sidewalks to the City.

City of Wharton Levee Project



The City of Wharton City Council has moved forward with the plans to begin the Levee Project for the citizens on the West End of Wharton. The City is currently applying to the Texas Water Development Board for a loan to begin Phase 1 of the Levee project which will provide flood gates and a ledge to help alleviate some of the flooding that occurs on the West End from the Colorado River.

City Cancels General Election

The City of Wharton City Council canceled the May 13th, 2017 General Election after all candidates were unopposed. The final deadline for filing for place on the ballot was Friday, February 17th and when that date came and went the City Council took action to cancel the unneeded election. 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 able to be sought after. 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 felony 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 below to get all the information on registering to vote.



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
- Old Lane City Road Overlay Project
\$147,920
- Alabama Rd. Sanitary Sewer Improvements
\$420,000
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I
\$9.5 million
- Phase II Sidewalk Enhancement Project
\$1.2 million
- 5 Year Street Improvement Program
\$1.5 million

**Wade Wendt****Public Works Director****(979) 532-2491 ext. 800**

Expert in Every Office

Time employed with the City of Wharton: Wade started his career with the City of Wharton in November of 2015.

Education: Wade graduated Needville High School in 1989.

History: After graduating he went to work for the City of Richmond as a water department maintenance worker. Over the years he received training from TEEX (Texas

A&M) which allowed him to move up to a water plant operator. After additional training and on the job experience, he moved to Crew Chief, and eventually Foreman of the water dept. After 14 years in the Water Dept., Wade became the Wastewater Superintendent where he worked for an additional 7 years. Wade says, "I have been very blessed in my career to have always been surrounded by wonderful people to work with and there is no difference here in Wharton." Wade added that he has been

treated GREAT in his short tenure here and look forward to many more years to come with the City of Wharton.

The Public Works Department consists of 26 employees and oversees the water/sewer, streets and garage for the City of Wharton.



The City of Wharton Beautification Commission and WCA will be holding the annual city-wide 2017 Spring Sweep on Saturday,

April 8, 2017 from 8am to 1pm at the WCJC parking lot.

No batteries, paint or chemicals will be allowed.

Don't mess with Texas

TRASH-OFF

APRIL 8, 2017

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.



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.