



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

What's in the Works?

- *Water Well Plant Project*
\$4,900,000
- *FM 1301 Overpass Project*
\$15 million
- *City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project – The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas*
WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT
\$74 million

The Gateway to the Gulf Coast



Food Trucks Roll into Wharton!

Food Truck Monday Lunch Series 1st & 3rd Mondays Starting March 16th, 2020

The City of Wharton's City Council approved Wharton's first-ever Food Truck Lunch Series every 1st and 3rd Monday from 11am – 2pm starting March 16th! The Food Truck Lunch Series debuted with the local and well-

FOOD TRUCK MONDAYS

Every 1st & 3rd Monday from 11a-2p
@ Guffey Park, 255 W. Caney St.

The City of Wharton invites you to eat with us at our new food truck lunch series featuring a rotating schedule of food trucks!

Starting Monday, March 16th



known Georgia Mae's Good Eats food truck serving up burgers, patty melts, their famous enchilada egg rolls, fish tacos, and boudin balls. Members of the community were out in full force to support this new endeavor and to experience the City's newest rotating lunch option. Almost 100 people come out to eat, making this 'the best lunch had anywhere' for Georgia Mae's! While the City had intended this to be a gathering opportunity for the community, it opted not to provide tables and chairs out of an abundance of caution and in recommendation by the CDC regarding gathering spaces and the COVID-19 virus. Permanent updates to this portion of the Guffey Park space are planned to begin soon, including replacing the spaces with a painted surface, installing permanent table seating options, and adding umbrellas. Hopes are that this small portion of the parking lot can be activated on a regular basis for anything from food trucks to live music or other events. Want to stay up to date on the changes happening at Guffey Park? [Click here to follow the City of Wharton—Community Development team on their new Facebook Page!](#)



COVID-19 Update

The City of Wharton was notified of the first reported confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in Wharton County on March 21, 2020. While the person was not a City resident this was the first case in our area. In a press release received from Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath it was announced that he and Wharton County Medical Officer Dr. Jeffrey Gubbels were notified of a person who tested positive in a screen test for COVID-19 virus in Wharton County. This person had been out of town and was tested after she returned to Wharton County. Judge Spenrath and Dr. Gubbels remind everyone to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines to limit the chances of the spread of this disease by continuing to practice safe social distancing and washing and disinfecting your hands. Wharton County stated that they want to keep its citizens well informed throughout this medical emergency and that they would continue to get information out through all local media outlets, their Wharton County website (co.wharton.tx.us), and their Facebook page of the Wharton County Office of Emergency Management. The risk to the community was considered minimal and the City of Wharton. The City has been preparing for the possibility of positive cases in the community and has been requesting residents practice social distancing and cooperate in taking steps to reduce the transmission of communicable diseases.



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

Phone: 979-532-2491
Fax: 979-532-0181

Helping pinpoint areas of need helps everyone! 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.

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.

City Meeting Schedule
All meetings held at City Hall at 120 E. Caney St. unless otherwise posted.

City Council
 Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7pm

Mayor's Committee On People With Disabilities
 Every 2nd Wednesday at 8a

Beautification Committee
 Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm



Update on Grants & Programs

I. GRANT PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE /CONSTRUCTION

HMGP – Warning System Mitigation (Siren Warning System)

Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4269. This project was awarded 02/26/2018 and was accepted by the City Council on 03/26/18. Scope change approval was received 02/01/2019. Befco Engineering was awarded the engineering contract on 05/13/19. The project was awarded for construction bid at the Council Meeting 02/10/2020. Signed agreements have been received and pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 23rd, 2020.

CDBG-DR – Infrastructure

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The City Staff met with the GLO for a kickoff meeting 02/17/2020 to review contracts and projects.

HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome

HMGP Application submitted by WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. The City received notification of Award on January 21, 2020. If the City Council accepted the award of the funding for Phase I on 02/10/2020 and the staff attended a kickoff meeting at the WISD Administration Building on 2/18/2020. Agreement with WISD has been reviewed and approved by the School Board. Signed agreement was submitted to the City and is filed with the project.

2019-2020 CDBG – South East Ave. Sanitary Sewer Repairs

Application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response.

City of Wharton Flood Reduction Project – The Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas WHARTON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The City of Wharton was notified that the Flood Reduction Project was funded in the early part of 2018. City staff has been meeting with USACE staff monthly on items to be addressed. HDR was selected by the City Council on 06/14/19. The acquisition progress has started and HDR is working with the surveyors and appraisers. Impacted property owners can expect to start receiving appraisals in the next couple of months. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready for as early as Fall 2020. USACE is still in the process of contracting design firms for the remaining portions of the Flood Reduction Project and will be working concurrently on this while phase 1 is in progress.

HOUSING

TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation

There were 73 applicants from throughout the city that submitted applications to participate in the program. There are currently 43 still working on applications. There are 7 applicants in title phase and 5 have been fully approved through TDHCA. 5 applicants have been awarded funding as of 7/17/19. 1 subject has declined the contract. Construction on the first home is complete and signed over and the

2nd homeowner signed closing documents 01/2020 and construction is anticipated to start this quarter.

GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program

The City Council procured GrantWorks, Inc. for administration and Jones & Carter for engineering. Notice of Funding Opportunities have not yet been published or advertised.

CDBG-DR – Buy-outs/Acquisitions

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City has received an award of \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. The City Staff met with the GLO for a kickoff meeting 02/17/2020 to review contracts and projects. No changes

2016 CDBG-DR – Housing Elevation/Reconstruction

Notification of \$2,000,000 funding was received by city staff on February 4, 2019. This funding will assist homeowners with elevation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of homes to address existing damage and mitigate future damage. 5 applicants have submitted applications and 3 are in the state processing, 2 are still pending additional paperwork.

TxDOT – Safe Routes to School

The City submitted the Preliminary Application in April 2019. City staff was notified that the preliminary application had been selected for review and City staff met with TxDOT Representative on May 10th. City Staff submitted the de-

Clean Sweep



The City of Wharton's Beautification Committee in partnership with Keep Wharton Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Texas Beautiful, is ready to get to work with this year's Spring Clean Sweep. Date and time to be announced. Anyone living in the city can bring heavy trash (including furniture, construction debris, etc.), and tires (only auto & pickup, no oversized). Participants must provide proof of residence in the City of Wharton to participate. Proof of residence documentation includes: water bill at a City address or event postcard flyer, and matching driver's license.

Remember! Batteries, paint, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, lawn products or oversized tractor/big truck tires will not be accepted!

For more information, please contact Jimmy Nickolyn, Code Enforcement at 979-532-2491 x235 or by email at JNickolyn@cityofwharton.com

Hurricane Season is Coming Soon!

Hurricane Season runs June 1st to November 30th, don't get caught unprepared!

Sign up for City alerts at Smart911.com and visit Ready.gov for more information on preparing for disasters. Remember, if you received FEMA or other federal assistance, you're required to obtain and maintain flood insurance on your home! [Click here for more information on flood insurance!](#)



Community Calendar



April

- 4/3 - Wharton County Youth Fair BBQ Cook-Off 4p-6p @ Wharton County Fair Grounds **POSTPONED**
- 4/6 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park
- 4/17-26 - 'Red, White and Tuna' Times Vary @ Plaza Theater **POSTPONED**
- 4/20 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park
- 4/25 - 3rd Annual Cops N' Rodders Car Show 8a-2p @ Wharton Civic Center



May

- 5/4 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park
- 5/18 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park



June

- 6/1 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park
- 6/15 - Food Truck Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park

Want to feature your community event?

Send details to

KHasselmeier@cityofwharton.com

Update on Grants & Projects

(Continued from Page 2)

tailed application August 15th, 2019. The City was not selected in the initial round of funding issued in 01/2020. There will be a second round of funding awards announced in 04/2020. We are currently awaiting the 2nd round award announcements to see if our initial application will be approved.

Disaster Recovery (non-infrastructure or housing):

HMGP – Critical Facility Generators

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. We are currently awaiting FEMA approval.

FEMA – Temporary Housing Units

City staff is currently aware of 1 THU still in the City.

II. STUDIES:

Community Tourism Assessment

City Staff supported the Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA) in a site visit with the Office of the Governor Economic Development and Tourism staff. The WDBA, with the help of the Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) hosted the

group, taking them on an extensive tour of Wharton's highlights to better identify ways to increase and promote tourism. A final tourism report will be published and provided to the WDBA and then presented for City Council to review for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program

Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), and Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) are working in partnership with the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wharton complete a wayfinding study. The wayfinding study is anticipated to take place in May following the release of the Tourism Report. Study is anticipated to identify a phased-implementation plan outlining with which types of signs should go where around the City, and at what point in time.

III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:

LCRA – Steps Forward

City Staff is working with LCRA and Habitat for Humanity to provide landscaping for the Habitat homes on Cedar Circle during the April volunteer day for LCRA and

\$1000 funding.

Mini Mural Art Park – Cultural Arts

Community Development department has submitted an application to AARP for funding to establish a mini mural art park in the space adjacent to City Hall. Application is pending response, with an update expected by end of May 2020.

Food Truck Mondays – Community Development

Community Development department has launched a Food Truck Lunch Series starting March 16th at Guffey Park from 11a-2p on every 1st and 3rd Mondays. Staff is working on recruiting area food truck owners to participate but has confirmed first truck Georgia Mae's Good Eats. First event to be held March 16th, 2020.

City Department Facebook Page – Community Development

Community Development department has established a new Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WhartonCD) has a new outlet to announce events designed to improve quality of life, bring the community together, and encourage economic development.



Department Highlight

Community Development Department

120 E. Caney
Wharton, Texas 77488
www.cityofwharton.com
979-532-2491

Director

Gwyneth Teves x238

Assistant

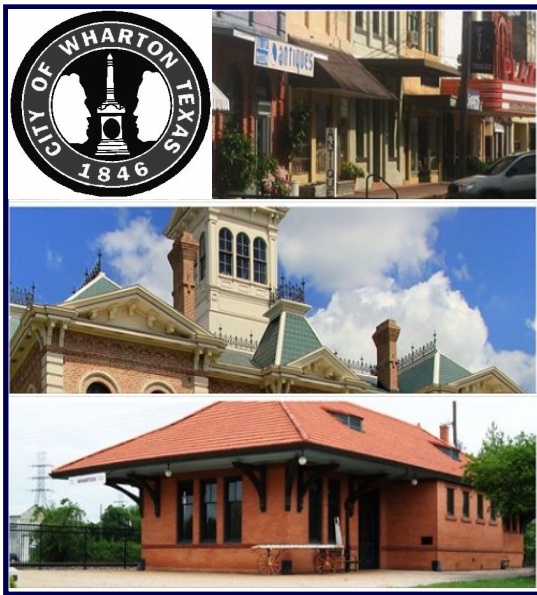
Krystal Hasselmeier x239

The City of Wharton's Community Development is responsible for helping to make Wharton an equitable and quality place to live, work, and play. This Department supports and promotes economic growth through supporting small businesses and working with local groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association, and WEDC. The Department is also working to attract and encourage housing development opportunities, promote infrastructure needs, and encourage mixed use development. In this City's time of need, the Community Development Department works to support disaster recovery responses by seeking funding assistance and programs to for families in need. This department is looking forward to bringing new and exciting opportunities to the City, including the food truck lunch series, a mini-mural park, and the future levee green space overlay—a series of hike and bike trails connecting local parks and recreation opportunities along the Colorado River.

[Click here to follow the Community Development Department's projects and events on our NEW Facebook Page!](#)

We're On the Web! Stay up to date with City Information and services at www.cityofwharton.com

Announcing New 'City of Wharton -



Community Development' Facebook Page



We are excited to announce the new City of Wharton – Community Development Facebook Page! The Community Development Team will be posting updates on current projects, announcements for new ones, share grant information, and provide opportunities for you to share what you'd like to see in our community. [Please click here to like, follow, and share our page to stay up to date on what's happening in Wharton!](#)

The City of Wharton Sends a Warm 'Welcome Home' to the Formby Family! The Formby's are recipients of a new home through the GLO's HOME Grant program administered through the City. We congratulate the family both in their resilience, but also in making this huge step towards recovery!



Smart 911

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.

Receive timely notifications on your cellphone, telephone or email by signing up now at Smart911.com!

Sign up for Smart911



A free service:
Provided by your community



Private and secure:
You control your information



Saves time in an emergency:
When seconds count

Smart911.com™