



## Welcome From The City of Wharton

*Third Quarter 2018 Newsletter*

### Lawn Cutting 101

Now that summer is here, many in the City of Wharton are busy with a common outdoor chore - mowing the grass. Although all residents are entitled to design their personal landscape however they choose, the City has certain rules which must be followed to ensure that these outdoor spaces do not pose a fire hazard or present other dangers to the health of the citizens.

Section 34.51 of the Wharton Code of Ordinances sets out the rules for the accumulation of weeds or brush as well as the specific requirements for property to be used for hay production. This section is commonly known as the "Weedy Lot" ordinance, and is enforced both within the city limits and outside the city limits for a distance of 5,000 feet. Unless a landowner has a hay permit, grass, weeds, or other plants must be no taller than ten inches.

**See Weedy Lots, Page 3**

View the City of Wharton annual water quality report on-line [HERE](#).

This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please call 979-532-2491 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.

***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.***

### 2018 Street Improvement Program Underway

The City of Wharton's Street Improvement Program had a delayed start due to Hurricane Harvey but is currently in full swing. The program is expected to cost over \$500,000 and will reconstruct over 2.81 miles of the City's roads and sealcoat over 5.40 miles. Public Works Director Wade Wendt said, "The Program began on the West Side of the City and it will continue moving to the area of Stavena Rd. then to the North Side of town."

Yearly, the City allocates for street improvements in its budget and attempts to work through each of the City's districts tackling streets that are most in need of repair. The Public

Works Department Street's crew handle a lot of the prep work of the roadways, from preparing edges, ripping up roadway and prepping the base of the road. The City contracted with James Construction out of Richmond, TX to complete the streets with a seal coat application.

As the City Council begins the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget process, they will map out the 2019 Street Program and work it much of the same way. Each street that has not been repaired will be assessed and those that do not make the cut will be added to the list for repair.

### Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

Wednesday, July 4th and Monday, September 4th

All City offices will be closed on these holidays.

Garbage services will be affected on both days.

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](mailto: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:

- July 21 – Plaza Theatre Character Breakfast
- July 25 – Texana Prom
- August 6 – WISD – Welcome Back Teachers
- August 13 – The Rose Mobile Mammography Day
- September 28 – Rotary Gala

#### NOW AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK

Big or small event, make sure and book your room today by calling: 979-532-2491 ext. 603

Or: [Click Here](#)

#### Did you know?

The land where the City of Wharton is now located was originally part of a league granted to William Kincheloe and his family in 1824. Located on the east bank of the Colorado River in what was known as the "Great Prairie Canebrake" of "Bay Prairie" this rich flood plain was covered with a dense stand of 20' tall switch cane through which flowed Caney Creek, originally a bed of the Colorado River.

#### Construction:

##### FEMA – Integrated Flood Protection System

Application submitted 12/20/16 under the DR-4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review. City staff has responded to 3 RFI's on this project to date.

##### FEMA – Sewer Infrastructure Mitigation

Application submitted 10/13/16 under the DR-4269. On 10/17/17 the City staff received notification that the project has been selected for FEMA review. City staff has responded to 3 RFI's on this project to date. City staff received a 4th RFI May 22, 2018 and is in the process of completing the response.

##### FEMA – 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. The City staff will have a kick off meeting May 29, 2018.

##### HMGP – Residential Buyout for Drainage Project

Notice of Intent filed on May 17, 2018. Awaiting a response from Texas Department of Emergency Management on eligibility to apply.

#### Housing:

##### HMGP – Residential Elevation/Reconstruction of 100 Homes

Notice of Intent filed on May 8, 2018. Texas Department of Emergency Management responded

on May 22, 2018 and advised to submit 2 separate applications for the program.

##### FEMA – Residential Mitigation (Elevation/Reconstruction of Homes)

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

##### TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation

Applicants are currently being notified of any outstanding paperwork for their applications and are being asked to send this information in to finalize their applications. There were 73 applicants from throughout the city that submitted applications to participate in the program.

##### GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program

The City Council procured GrantWorks, Inc. for administration and Jones & Carter for engineering.

##### FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

Call for application was made on August 11, 2017. The application was submitted 10/30/17 for the Nan Ya Lift Station and we are awaiting a response.

#### Studies:

##### TxCDBG 7216124 Planning & Capacity Building Fund (Comprehensive Plan)

The City and GrantWorks, Inc. have completed the interactive public meetings. General Surveys closed for comment on April 22, 2018 and the Parks Survey has been posted for the community and sent to the schools to be completed. Project 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.**

If a premises becomes overgrown, the property owner is subject to being given a citation and fined. It is a separate offense each day the property is out of compliance, and each citation carries a fine of up to \$2,000. In addition, if it is determined that overgrowth poses a hazard, the City may mow the property and then charge the property owner for the cost; this assessment can lead to a lien against the property.

Property owners who have lots of five acres or more may apply for a permit to grow and harvest hay. If a hay permit is issued, the land is not subject to the ten-inch growth requirement, but must meet other specifications. First, the permit costs the landowner \$20.00 per contiguous five-acre tract annually, and must be obtained prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. If the permit is not obtained by the deadline, the land may not be used for hay until the next year.

Hay meadows must be cut and harvested a minimum of two times per year and must be

mowed within ten days following the first frost. Hay cannot be stored on a parcel if it is adjacent to developed property and harvested hay must be removed within seven days. Finally, hay meadows are subject to the same ten inch growth requirement as other properties in the City when it is not harvesting season, and property owners must mow a ten-foot boundary when land is adjacent to developed property. If a permit holder does not follow these rules, the permit may be revoked and the noncompliance considered in future permit applications.

The Code Enforcement Department of the City of Wharton is charged with enforcing this ordinance. If you have questions about this topic, you may contact Code Enforcement in person at City Hall or by calling (979)532-2491.

*Special Thank You to Assistant City Attorney Amy Rod for her contribution of this article.*

**How do I know which district I'm in?**

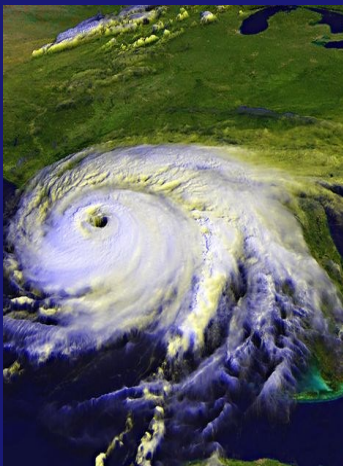
From the City of Wharton website you can become familiar with the district you are in and who your elected official is. Elections are held every May so to stay up to date residents can view photos, bios and a map of who is serving their district.

[Click Here For More Information!](#)

**What's in the Works?**

- 2018 Street Improvement Project \$500,000
- Water Well Plant Project \$4,900,000
- Wharton Levee Project Phase I
- City of Wharton Comprehensive Plan \$115,389
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I \$9.5 million
- 5 Year Street Improvement Program \$1.5 million

**Hurricane Season—Be Prepared**



**2018 ATLANTIC HURRICANES**

Alberto	Helene	Oscar
Beryl	Isaac	Patty
Chris	Joyce	Rafael
Debby	Kirk	Sara
Ernesto	Leslie	Tony
Florence	Michael	Valerie
Gordon	Nadine	William

While continuing recovery efforts to fully rebound from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, it is difficult to believe that as of June 1, another hurricane season has arrived. Focusing efforts on the recovery process remains a top priority, but it should not be done at the expense of future preparedness. This community knows firsthand the devastation that hurricane season can bring, so we should mitigate as much of this devastation as possible by following basic preparedness guidelines.

Preparing for this hurricane season means more than just ensuring that your flashlights have good batteries, and that you have stocked nonperishable food in your pantry. While these steps are extremely important, other steps such as updating your flood insurance policy, making sure that your house is safe and having an evacuation plan in place will help reduce the damage that hurricane season can bring.

This year has been predicted to be “above average” in terms of hurricane activity, which includes an increased chance that storms will make landfall on the continental United States (Lardieri, 2018). As we know, it only takes one hurricane or storm to produce damage, so preparedness is the best defense.

Protecting property is important in preparing for a hurricane but protecting yourself and your family is the priority. Before this hurricane season reaches its peak, remember to sign up for the City of Wharton’s Smart911.com, this will allow you to receive notifications with information in times of emergency. Watching the news and staying updated on the weather this hurricane season is another important aspect to being prepared.

By clicking [here](#), you will be directed to the steps you should take before, during and after a hurricane.



## Expert in Every Office



**Makyla Monroe**

**Wharton Civic Center  
Manager**



**(979) 532-2491 x 603**

The City of Wharton welcomes our new Civic Center Manager Makyla Monroe!

**Time employed with the City of Wharton:** Makyla joined the City at the end of May 2018.

**Education:** Makyla graduated in 2000 from Wharton High School and then received her Associates in Applied Science in Office Administration from

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC).

**History:** Over the past 4 years, Makyla has worked for the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and has really enjoyed her time there helping to make Wharton a better place to live, work, learn, visit and do business.

**Job Description:** As the Civic Center Manager, Makyla will direct and review the activities and operations of the City's

Civic Center Department and recreation programs. She will maintain all of the bookings at the Civic Center and also at all City Parks and the City Swimming Pool.

**The Staff:** Along with Makyla, the Civic Center has one other full time employee and two part time employees.

**Fun Fact:**

The Wharton Civic Center was once Caney Valley Memorial Hospital. The City acquired the facility and turned it into what it is today.

### State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

The State of Texas gives residents the option to register with the STEAR Program, a free registry that provides local emergency planners and responders with additional information on the needs of their community.

#### Who Should Register?

- People with Disabilities
- People with access and functional needs such as:
  - \* People who have limited mobility
  - \* People who have communication barriers
  - \* People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
  - \* People who require transportation assistance
  - \* People who require personal care assistance

#### How to register:

- <https://STEAR.dps.texas.gov>
- Dial 2-1-1 or use your video phone relay option of choice to contact 211
- Printed or electronic forms (Contact your local government)

A special thank you to the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Steps Forward Program. Over 650 LCRA employees volunteer their time each year on more than 40 projects that will help benefit communities they serve. The City of Wharton was chosen to receive assistance with two projects this year. The City received a grant for the landscaping at City Hall and assistance from LCRA employees for the installation of drought resistant plants. Also, LCRA employees helped clean up and mow the Wharton Hispanic Cemetery.

## It's Hurricane 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.