



Welcome From The City of Wharton

Third Quarter 2019 Newsletter

What's the status of the Levee?

The City of Wharton received notice of their Flood Reduction Project being fully funded through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in July of 2018. Since that time the City has been working closely with USACE to move forward with the \$74 million dollar project.

The project's funding came as part of nearly \$5 billion in funding that was designated for disaster recovery projects in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Over the past 19 years the City has worked towards making the project shovel ready but tried to figure out ways to not place the multi-million dollar project on the backs of its citizens.

There are many questions that residents have on the construction of the levee and where the City has some answers, most will come from USACE, since it is their project. As answers become available, information will be placed on the City website's Levee landing page. To find out more information go to:

www.cityofwharton.com

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

New Homes Awarded Through HOME Program

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME Program or HOME) is funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the goal to expand the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) administers the HOME Program on behalf of the State of Texas, primarily in rural parts of the state.

In late 2017, City of Wharton residents Felix & Willie Formby applied for the HOME grant and after a several step process signed off on the grant paperwork in March of this year. The program will demolish their current

home and build them a new one in the upcoming months. There were over 73 applicants from throughout the City that submitted applications to participate in the program. Many of those whom applied are currently being notified of any outstanding paperwork for their applications

Mr. & Mrs. Formby will soon be enjoying new home ownership after the completion of their new home.



Community Development Director Gwyn Teves with Felix & Willie Formby, Jr. at their grant signing.

Upcoming City Holidays

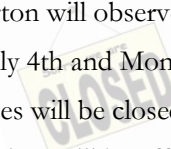
The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

Thursday, July 4th and Monday, September 2nd

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

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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:

July 13 – Plaza Theatre Character Breakfast
August 7 – WISD – Welcome Back Teachers
August 15 – The Rose Mobile Mammography Day
August 15 - 100 Club Banquet
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](#)

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.

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 February 1, 2019. Befco Engineering was awarded the engineering contract on May 13, 2019 and is in the process of preparing bid documents to go out for bid on equipment and installation.

HMGP – Riverfront Park Soil Stabilization

Application submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2018.

CDBG-DR – Infrastructure

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,650,172.00 for infrastructure projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project applications are in the process of being completed and submitted by GrantWorks for eligible projects. Applications will be submitted by Mid-June 2019.

HMGP – FEMA Shelter/Dome

HMGP Application submitted by WISD for FEMA Shelter/Dome. Project is under FEMA review and approval. There has been 1 request for information at this time.

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

Application has been submitted and we are awaiting a response.

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

The City of Wharton was notified that the Levee project was funded in the early part of 2018. City staff has been meeting with USACE staff monthly on items to be addressed. The current step is to contract an acquisition firm to start property acquisition for the first phase of the project. Once the firm is selected there will be a kickoff meeting, property owner meeting and citizen meeting. Acquisition is projected to be in progress by Mid-June and completed by January

2020. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready for construction beginning Mid-year 2020. USACE is also in the process of contracting design firms for the remaining portions of the levee and will be working concurrently on this while phase 1 is in progress.

Housing:

HMGP – Residential Elevation

Application completed and submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2019. One request for information has been received and responded to at this time.

HMGP – Reconstruction of 100 Homes

Application completed and submitted by GrantWorks Inc. in December 2019. One request for information has been received and responded to at this time.

HMGP – 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. There are currently 43 still working on applications. There are 7 applicants in title phase and 2 have been fully approved through TDHCA. 2 applicants have been awarded funding as of 2/16/19. 1 subject has declined the contract.

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.

Continued on Page 3.

Protecting Your Home and Family

A flood can happen at anytime, is your home and family protected?

You know flood insurance can help you recover from the financial consequences of flooding, but what do you need to know about flood insurance coverage? How do you know if you should purchase coverage for your structure, the contents of the home, or both? Like all insurance, flood insurance doesn't cover all items that could be damaged from a flood, so it's good to ask lots of questions.

Coverage for your building is designed to pay for the necessary repair or replacement of flood damaged structural components—for example, walls, floors, heating and cooling systems, large appliances, cabinets and or attached bookcases. The maximum building property coverage you can purchase is \$250,000.

Flood insurance contents coverage protects

your personal property, such as clothing, furniture, small appliances, bedding and other items in the home. The maximum contents coverage you can purchase is \$100,000.

To better understand how claims are paid, ask your agent to go over what is and is not covered, and discuss how your insurer estimates the value of your property.

For example, you will have limited building and personal contents coverage for your basement and for enclosures below some elevated buildings. This is an important topic to discuss with your insurer.

For a complete list of what is covered and not covered by flood insurance policies or for more information on the different types of policies available through the National Flood Insurance Program, visit floodsmart.gov or call your insurance agent today.

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!](#)

The City of Wharton welcomes our newly elected

City Councilmember Clifford W. Jackson

who was sworn in May 13th to represent District 1.

What's in the Works?

- 2019 Street Improvement Project \$800,000
- Water Well Plant Project \$4,900,000
- FM 1301 Overpass Project Phase I \$9.5 million
- 5 Year Street Improvement Program \$1.5 million

UPDATE ON GRANTS continued from Page 2.

CDBG-DR – Buyouts/Acquisitions

Method of Distribution approved by GLO and HUD. City is designated to receive \$1,693,784.00 for buyout/acquisition projects related to Hurricane Harvey. Project applications will be completed and submitted by GrantWorks for eligible projects. The application for buyouts will be submitted by June 1st.

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. GrantWorks is currently working with City staff and the GLO to develop criteria and applications.

Studies:

Other:

HMGP – Critical Facility Generators

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we are awaiting a response.

FEMA – Temporary Housing Units

City staff is currently aware of 16 THU still in the City. Of those, 7 are working with the WLTRT for repairs or new housing and 2 are back in their homes waiting on FEMA to remove the units. The remaining 7 have unknown statuses at this time.

Rebuild Texas – 2019 Preparedness Grant

Pre-Application was submitted on February 13, 2019 for AED Units for Public Facilities and Patrol Units and portable and mobile radios for the Public Works department. Project was awarded and City staff is in process of implementing.



2019 ATLANTIC HURRICANES

Andrea	Karen
Barry	Lorenzo
Chantal	Melissa
Dorian	Nestor
Erin	Olga
Fernand	Pablo
Gabrielle	Rebekah
Humberto	Sebastien
Imelda	Tanya
Jerry	Van
	Wendy



John A. Plaia

Public Works Director

(979) 532-2491 x 800

The City of Wharton welcomes our new Public Works Director John Plaia!

Expert in Every Office

Time employed with the City of Wharton: John joined the City in April 2019.

Education: John graduated in 1978 from S.R. Butler High School in Alabama and majored in Drafting and Mathematics with the Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Services. He has attended courses in Public Works Construction Inspection and Supervisory, Uniform Traffic Control & Safety Devices and Safe Handling of Traffic in Con-

struction & Maintenance Zones.

History: John has worked in Public Works Inspection for Cities of San Antonio and Austin from 1978-1988, Consultant for Engineering firm, FEMA Consultant for Earthquakes, District Superintendent for Colorado River Municipal Water District, Civil Superintendent for private construction firms and Public Works Superintendent running Streets, Drainage and Sanita-

tion Departments for City of Lake Jackson

Job Description: As the Public Works Director, John will direct and review the activities and operations of the Public Works Department. The department is responsible for all the streets in the City, water and sewer services, drainage and many other services that keep the City running.

Fun Fact:

The Public Works Department includes Streets & Drainage, Utilities, Sewer and Garage which is staffed by over 25 employees.

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 a project this year to benefit the Hesed House in Dinosaur Park. The grant allowed for the landscaping at the Hesed House which is used by First United Methodist Church of Wharton. Without the assistance of LCRA employees projects like this would not be possible.



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.

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!