



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



City of Wharton Outdoor Warning Sirens System

The City of Wharton's updates to the Outdoor Warning Siren System were completed just in time for the start of hurricane season. There is now a total of 5 outdoor warning sirens to alert residents during emergencies. The sirens not only send out an audible pre-recorded warning but they can also broadcast live voice messages. The intent of warning sirens is to alert residents who are outside that an imminent danger is approaching; they are not designed to be heard within a home or other building.



The project was funded primarily with grant funds through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The total equipment, operation and engineering costs were approximately \$186,954.00 of which \$140,215 was grant funded and \$46,739 was matched by the City. Additional costs to be incurred by the City could include: maintenance, operation and insurance costs, which are undetermined at this time.



The newly installed replacements and additional outdoor warning sirens were tested on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020 and will begin being tested regularly on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. respectively.

Please remember the outdoor warning sirens that will be tested regularly will only be a test. There is not a need to call the Wharton Police Department or 9-1-1, as it could overwhelm dispatching services. For questions about the system, please call the City of Wharton at 979-532-2491 Ext. 238.

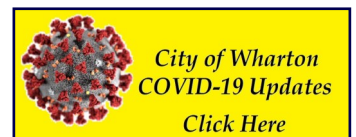
City of Wharton COVID-19 Updates

After months of COVID-19 causing business in Texas to come to a halt, Governor Abbott issued orders to help "Open Texas" which allowed more people to ease back into their normal lives. Wharton County's positive cases of the virus continued to grow with the reopening and City Officials stressed the need to continue to keep residents safe from COVID-19.

Mayor Tim Barker encouraged residents to continue to practice good hygiene habits but most importantly when out in public or around others to wear a mask. Messages were sent to residents through the City's Smart 9-1-1 alert system, with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for wearing a cloth face covering in public settings like grocery stores and pharmacies. Social distancing was also stressed and the message "When in doubt, don't go out" was promoted help slow the spread of the virus.

Businesses in the City of Wharton stepped up to the challenge of continuing to serve residents. Many restaurants made modifications to how they served food adding drive thru service and even delivery. Local stores began to offer curbside pickup and made modifications with rapidly changing requirements handed down from the Governor's Office.

The City continues to ease back into a new normal with the hopes that numbers of positive COVID-19 residents will decline. Information is readily available through the City of Wharton's website at: <http://www.cityofwharton.com/page/COVID-19> for local COVID-19 updates or by clicking this button on the front page of the website.





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

- Provide close and constant attention to children you are supervising in or near water.
- Fence pools and spas with adequate barriers, including four-sided fencing.
- Learn swimming and water-safety survival skills.
- Children, inexperienced swimmers, and all boaters should wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Always swim in a lifeguarded area

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. Sirens are on order and are anticipated to be in for installation by May 1st. Construction is underway and the siren system is anticipated to be fully functional by June 1st, 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. 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. WISD is responsible for all grant activities with the City Staff providing cursory review.

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.

Phase 2 Design Charette held virtually w/ USACE, Kenall, Inc., Freese & Nichols and City of Wharton staff Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

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. The 3rd approved home to be signed on May 26th, 2020.

CDBG-DR – Buyouts/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. The guidelines have been approved by the GLO and are out for public comment on the City of Wharton website. Their will also be a public hearing for the guideline comments on the June 8th, 2020 Council Meeting.

Summer Swim Safety

As temperatures rise and swimming becomes the go-to activity to cool down, it's important to be safe. Whether you have a an above-ground or below-ground pool, you're at the river, a swim park, or any other source of swimming, water safety is key to prevent drowning! Check out these water safety tips from the American Red Cross:

- Provide close and constant attention to children you are supervising in or near water.
- Fence pools and spas with adequate barriers, including four-sided fencing.
- Learn swimming and water-safety survival skills.
- Children, inexperienced swimmers, and all boaters should wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Always swim in a lifeguarded area. Circle of Drowning Prevention Layers of protection are essential to help prevent drowning. Plan ahead for aquatic activities:

American Red Cross Water Safety Tips

Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.

Always swim with a buddy.

If you go boating, wear a life jacket!

Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub.

Actively supervise children whenever around the water.

Reach or throw aid to distressed swimmers - don't go!

Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions.

Keep toys not in use away from the pool and out of sight.

Be water smart! Learn how at redcross.org/watersafety

Hurricane Preparedness Tips

Follow local officials for directions and latest updates.

Ready ✓

Build A Kit
Have enough food, water and other supplies to support your needs for several days.

Ready ✓

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A POWER OUTAGE?

Ready ✓

Flood water is dangerous

Ready ✓

Community Calendar

June

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

6/7, 6/14, 6/21 & 6/28 -
Farmers Market
9a-12p @ Guffey Park

July

7/6 & 7/20 - Food Truck Monday
11a-2p @ Guffey Park

7/5, 7/12, 7/19 & 7/26 -
Farmers Market
9a-12p @ Guffey Park

Aug

8/3 & 8/17 - Food Truck
Monday 11a-2p @ Guffey Park

8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23 & 8/30 -
Farmers Market
9a-12p @ Guffey Park

*Want to feature your community event?
Send details to
KHasselmeier@cityofwharton.com*

Update on Grants & Projects

(Continued from Page 2)

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. 6 applicants have submitted applications and 4 are in the state processing, 2 are still pending additional paperwork and proof occupancy at time of disaster.

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 10, 2019. City Staff submitted the detailed application August 15th, 2019. The City was not selected during the 2019-2020 funding. The City was notified that the project will be recommended for the 2020-2021 funding cycle under the SRTS program.

Disaster Recovery (non-infrastructure or housing)

TDEM - Coronavirus Relief Funds: Funds made available for reimbursement of medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures. Expenses

associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency. And any other COVID-19 – related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the fund’s eligibility criteria including possible economic assistance funding.

HMGP – Critical Facility Generators: HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and we received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. 1 RFI has been requested and responded to.

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. Final report was presented to the City Council and approved for inclusion into the Comprehensive Plan on May 11, 2020.

City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA), and Wharton Economic Development Corpo-

ration (WEDC) are working in partnership with the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wharton complete a wayfinding study. The wayfinding study is set to begin in June with a stakeholder meeting.

III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS:

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.

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.

City of Wharton “Back in Business” Campaign: Over 400 letters went out to local businesses the first 2 weeks of April giving businesses COVID 19 funding and recovery resources. Community Development has been collaborating with the WEDC, Chamber and WDBA on a weekly basis to assist in coordinating a recovery effort for local businesses. We have reached out to BCL to collaborate with them on funding for small businesses and are working with them on plans to begin implementation.



Department Highlight

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Office of Emergency Management

1924 N. Fulton
Wharton, Texas 77488
www.cityofwharton.com
979-532-2491 x570

Coordinator
Steve Johnson

The City of Wharton's Office of Emergency Management is responsible for managing response for natural disasters and other emergency events, such as the pandemic caused by COVID-19. This department manages circumstances in real time to help shape the local response and keep citizens informed.

The Emergency Management Coordinator is appointed by the Mayor and must be confirmed by the city council. He serves as a liaison to the City of Wharton Mayor and as a staff advisor to the City Manager on emergency matters. As the City's liaison on emergency preparedness issues, he works closely with the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State of Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), Regional Offices of Emergency Management, Wharton County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and other local municipalities.

The Coordinator manages, operates and maintains the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during times of activation. The EOC serves as a central location for emergency response and dissemination of information.

To keep informed on emergency situations in the City of Wharton follow the Office of Emergency Management on Facebook

[Follow the Office of Emergency Management HERE on Facebook](#)

Hurricane Season is Here

Planning for disaster amidst a pandemic will be one few of us have ever experienced. It's critical to stay informed this hurricane season - know where to find information, resources and help. The City of Wharton's Office of Emergency Management posts storm tracking updates and details frequently on the [Office of Emergency Management Facebook Page](#). All residents can [sign up for Smart911 service](#) to receive emergency notifications, evacuation needs, and other information direct from the City of Wharton. City residency is not required, nearby County residents are also encouraged to sign up for the alert system. Here's some tips from The Red Cross that can help you:

How do I make a disaster plan during a pandemic?

Plan what you will do before, during, and after each type of disaster. Different emergencies require different actions to stay safe.

- Review the Red Cross Emergency Library for safety checklists and information.
- Download the free Red Cross Emergency App for safety tips, severe weather alerts and more.
- Get accurate information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 from the CDC at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html) and the Red Cross at [redcross.org/coronavirus](https://www.redcross.org/coronavirus).

Be sure that you can find out quickly about a hazard. Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.

- Register to receive free emergency alerts that your community may offer. Consider purchasing a battery-powered radio or downloading the free Red Cross Emergency App.
- Know the types of notifications to expect and what to do when you receive them. For example, a "watch" means you should be ready to act; a "warning" means you should take action immediately.
- Learn the natural warning signs of a hazard — you may not always receive an official alert.
- Because of COVID-19, stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities.

Stay or Go? Some disasters require you to stay in place to stay safe. Other disasters require you to go somewhere else to stay safe. If you need to go somewhere else, think through these questions:

- Where will I go? .• How will I get there?
- Where will I stay? .• How can I help protect myself from COVID-19?
- What will I bring with me?

For example, in a hurricane or a wildfire, you may need to leave your home quickly and travel to a safe place outside the affected area. If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit ("go bag" of emergency supplies).

- Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.
- Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you would be able to stay with them. Check and see if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or people at higher risk in their home, make other arrangements. Check with hotels, motels, and campgrounds to see if they are open. Find out if your local emergency management agency has adapted its sheltering plans.
- If you have to evacuate, have a plan for where you'll go (relatives, friends) and know what sheltering resources are available in your community through emergency apps or messaging from local emergency management officials.

[Visit The Red Cross Website here for more information on hurricane preparedness!](#)

City Alerts with 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!](https://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