



Welcome From The City of Wharton

First 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 south 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

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.

CITY OF WHARTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The City of Wharton will begin putting together a Comprehensive Plan beginning January 2017. We hope to fully involve the citizens of the entire City for input on what citizens expect of their city and its future growth. The City has contracted with GrantWorks, Inc. of Austin, TX to assist in creating our plan and will be holding several public meetings and workshops to get input on what areas of the city people would like to see improved or updated along with how the city would like to see future growth happen. We will be utilizing multiple contact methods to get everyone involved.



working with the

GrantWorks to develop a plan that we will be able to utilize and enhance the City of Wharton. Please watch the City of Wharton website at cityofwharton.com for updates on upcoming meetings and workshops. It is also recommended to sign up with the Smart911.com system for callouts the city will be implementing. We will be utilizing multiple contact methods to get everyone involved.



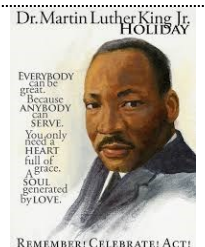
Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

New Years Day (Observation), January 2nd and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16th.

All City offices will be closed on these holidays.

Garbage services will not be affected by these holidays.



The Gateway to the Gulf Coast

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

Phone: 979-532-2491
Fax: 979-532-0181
E-mail: 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.

The April and May 2016 Floods have taken a toll on area homes, churches and businesses in Wharton. The City of Wharton has applied to FEMA for multiple types of assistance. We are currently in the process of working with FEMA to provide additional information requested on all applications in order to get all areas of assistance approved. As we hear more from FEMA we will be notifying citizens effected.



FEMA

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](#)



Upcoming Events:

- Hospice Support Gala January 13th.
- Wharton Chamber Gala February 9th.
- Lions Club Pancake Supper March 2nd.
- Pennington Peddler Show March 25-26th.

Have your next event at the Wharton Civic Center.

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](#)

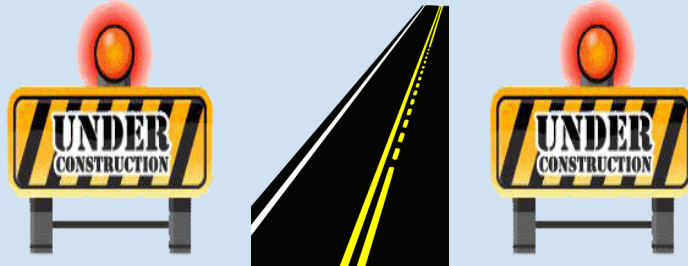
Did you know?

The area now known as Wharton was part of the Caney Run mail route established by the Republic of Texas in 1838.

OLD LANE CITY ROAD OVERLAY

OVERLAY WORK TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 2017

The City has contracted with CornerStone Paving and Construction to begin work on Old Lane City Road beginning approximately February 2017. The construction will extend from SH 60 to Old Caney Rd on Old Lane City Rd. Please remember to observe ALL posted speed limits, so as to avoid any damage to your vehicles.



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.

Waste Water Treatment Plant No. 1 Improvements

City Manager Andres Garza, Jr. presented a pay request No. 6 from B-5 Construction for the Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1 Improvement Project in the amount of \$48,205.37 and the Construction Progress Report No. 6 that covered construction for the period of March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016. Carlos Cotton, P.E. with Jones and Carter, Inc. stated that the project was moving along smoothly. After some discussion, Councilmember Al Bryant moved to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1 Improvements for the City of Wharton in the amount of \$48,205.37. Councilmember Vincent Huerta seconded the motion.



Part of the 2015 Bond

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?

Upcoming City Projects

- 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
- Waste Water Treatment Plant No. 1 Improvements \$1.9 million

Colorado River Bridge Renovations



TxDOT has proposed a plan for rehabilitating the historic Wharton river bridge. Constructed in 1930 by the Austin Bridge Company, it remains one of the few still standing spans and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge was closed to all traffic in

2013. TxDOT plans to renovate the bridge to an operating status while maintaining the historic looks. The proposed project includes:

- ◆ Replacing rail posts and rail members.
- ◆ Repairing damaged concrete and abutment rails.
- ◆ Cleaning and sealing bridge joint.

- ◆ Repairing and replacing steel elements of the bridges.
- ◆ Replacing some areas with a concrete bridge. Existing truss members in this area would be attached to the new slab to keep the appearance authentic.

Bridge construction has been delayed due to flooding in 2015 & 2016. TxDOT is ready to resume and has received permission from the City to shut down West Colorado to begin work.

The road will be closed during construction.

The Wharton Chamber also approached TxDOT to include a bicycle lane on the bridge. TxDOT has been very cooperative and is proposing to include a bicycle lane on the southbound lane of the bridge that will continue out of town and possibly later be extended in town.



Joan Andel

Finance Director

(979) 532-2491 ext. 223

Expert in Every Office

Time employed with the City of Wharton: Joan has been with the City of Wharton since September 2010.

Education: Joan attended Wharton High School and received her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Houston-Victoria. She has also been a certified public accountant for 16 years.

Recent Training & Work History: Joan attends the Government Finance Officers

Association of Texas (GFOAT) Seminars annually and is an active member in GFOAT, the Gulf Coast Chapter of GFOAT, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and has been employed with The City of Wharton as the Finance Director for 6 years.

Job Description: Joan oversees the Finance Department which includes financial policy and administration, accounting, tax, purchasing, central collections, cash management, debt,

budget, and management information systems. She coordinates assigned activities with other city departments and outside agencies; and provides highly responsible and complex administrative support to the City Manager.

The 2016-2017 overall budget for the City of Wharton is \$14,405,549.

COLD WEATHER - PROTECT THE 4 "P"'S!

When temperatures drop, it's important to take all the necessary steps to help keep yourself and your family safe. Follow these tips to help protect the 4 "P"s:

 **People**

Check on the elderly and those who may have functional or access needs to make sure that they have sufficient warmth to get them through the cold weather

Outdoor Activities
If you have to be outdoors, dress in several thin layers rather than one thick layer, cover your head to reduce heat loss, cover your mouth using scarf or mask to help warm the air before your breath it.

Heaters
Be sure that space heaters are properly tested and are placed a safe distance from flammable materials. If using a kerosene or propane-powered heater, be sure to maintain ventilation to prevent the build-up of toxic fumes. Never refuel canisters inside.
Ovens and stoves should never be used to heat your home, and they pose a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
Keep children and pets away from space heaters at all times.

Driving
When driving, be sure to remember that cold weather may cause highway overpasses and bridges to freeze. Take extra precautions when driving during cold weather.

 **Pets**

During extremely cold weather, pets should be kept indoors.
Don't shave your pet's coat all the way down during winter, exposed skin can easily lead to hypothermia and frostbite. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater for the winter weather.
Never leave your animal in a car during the winter. They can act as refrigerators and can result in hypothermia.

 **Pipes**

While pipes generally do not freeze until the temperature drops into the 20s, pipes exposed to windy areas could experience cracking.
Be sure that pipes are properly insulated, wrap newspaper or clothes around outside faucets, or in cold areas of homes. Let sensitive faucets run at a slow drip to allow for water to move, which helps prevent freezing.

 **Plants**

Plants should be covered on cold nights with fabric to help keep them somewhat insulated during a freeze.
You can also create windbreaks around sensitive plants to keep the cold air from "burning" them.
Keep your plants hydrated, which helps fight off drying due to cold winds.