Fourth Quarter 2015
Newsletter

The Gateway to the Gulf Coast

Welcome From The City of Wharton

Fourth Quarter 2015 Newsletter

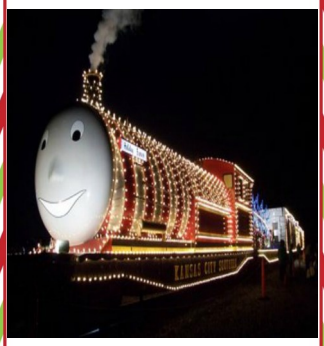
On behalf of our citizens, let me welcome you to the City of Wharton, Texas. Wharton is a very progressive city located 55 miles southwest of Houston, Texas and we are open for business. The City is here to help current and future needs of the citizens.

When you visit our city, you will find a variety of shops and restaurants to keep you busy. Our museums contain many "one of a kind" displays, and our restored courthouse is the poster child for restored Texas Courthouses. I am certain you will enjoy your visit and find friendly and helpful citizens.

-Mayor Domingo Montalvo, Jr.

Holiday Express!

All Aboard the Kansas City Southern



at the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot

(100 N. Sunset St.)

December 3, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

The Quiet Zone - Get Ready To Hear the Difference

While new rail lines are built far from City centers most existing lines tend to be right in the center of town. The City of Wharton has heard the outcry from citizens on the issues with Kansas City Southern trains coming through the once quiet railway that was put back into operation after twenty years. In June of 2009, KCS went into service operating daily trains from Rosenberg to Victoria. Citizens along the railway and surrounding areas hear numerous train horns throughout the day and night and complain of their homes being affected by the vibration of the trains which can run a max speed of 49 miles per hour. KCS reports that the route could see as many as 18 trains a day

and with three crossings located in the City limits, some citizens feel that is too much of the intrusive noise. Texas has a statutory requirement for trains approaching an intersection from a quarter of a mile distance to sound a horn and the issue for the City of Wharton is that there are the three crossings which are located within close proximity to each other. Up until June of 2005 cities did not have a say in how locomotive horns were used when passing through their towns but a federal statute was passed that gives exceptions to the rule. The City of Wharton has listened to citizens and moved forward in an effort to seek relief for those that are affected by the automatic sounding of horns at intersec-

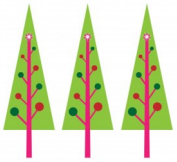
See Quiet Zone - Page 3

Upcoming City Holidays

The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays: Veteran's Day, November 11th, Thanksgiving, November 26th and 27th, Christmas Eve, December 24th and Christmas Day , December 25th.

All City offices will be closed during the holidays.

Garbage pickup will only be affected on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



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.

We're On the Web!

www.cityofwharton.com

Did you know?

Wharton was incorporated in 1902, when most of the structures were of wood construction. A major fire on December 30 of that year destroyed a number of wood frame business buildings.

Have your next event at the Wharton Civic Center.

The Civic Center can host your next banquet for up to 700 people or can accommodate your smallest gathering in our meeting rooms.

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

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:

Click Here

Wharton Police Department

Date: October 06, 2015

Time: 6:00 P.M. till 9:00 P.M.

Contact Information:

Sgt. Ben Guanajuato, Sgt. Donna Guanajuato or Sgt. Ariel Soltura

(979) 532-3131

National Night Out is an Annual Community Building Campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhoods camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer and better place to live. National Night Out provides a great opportunity to bring police and communities together under positive circumstances. National Night Out promotes involvement in various police and community programs such as Crime Prevention programs, Child Safety programs and Drug Prevention programs. National Night Out also sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods and businesses are organizing and fighting back.

This years National Night Out is Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 6pm to 9pm at WCJC Lot #1. A centralized location in town which will make this event more accessible for all to attend.

Hotdogs, Drinks, Moonwalks, Goodies
&
Fun for the Kids!

The Wharton Police Department started a community outreach program along with the Bay Area Council on Drugs & Alcohol (BACODA). The program allows for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals. The Drug Drop Box is located in the WPD lobby which is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. This program allows residents to safely dispose of medications. WPD is located at 1407 N Richmond Rd.

Quiet Zone cont. from page 1

tions and has made strides along with KCS by making an application for a waiver to the horn requirement. The City will now have some relief from the noise of the horns. Although, it has been found that sometimes it is not possible to have a Quiet Zone that is really quiet, there has been an effort made regarding the intersections in town. The City does not have control over those intersections in the County, which means those close to the tracks will still hear the sound of the horn as the train enters and exits the City. On June 22, 2015 the City received notice that the zone establishment was approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) pending the City of Wharton's action. The City approved the Quiet Zone implementation for October 1, 2015. The Public Works Department has installed the necessary materials for the Quiet Zone. The effective date for the zone was October 1, 2015. Residents can now rest easy in knowing that train horns will not disrupt their day or night. New signs alerting motorists of the Quiet Zone are placed at each intersection.

Wharton Proud

Several projects have been taken on in the recent months to improve the quality of life in the City of Wharton. Residents can now enjoy new playground equipment, pavilions and a new observation deck on the Colorado River. Residents can look forward to seeing changes as the City will continue to make improvements in the local parks and other areas of town.

Croom Park #2
New Pavilion

Croom Park #2
New Playground
Equipment

Guadalupe Park
New Pavilion

Port of Wharton
New
Observation Deck

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

- 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

Expert in Every Office

John Kowalik

EMS Director

(979) 532-2491 ext. 701

Time employed with the City of Wharton: John has been with the City of Wharton for 28 years.

Education: John attended Rockport High School and received his Paramedic's License from Aransas County Medical Emergency Services.

Recent Training & Work History: John is the chair of the Southeast Texas Regional Area Council EMS Advisory Board (SETRAC) pre-hospital committee and the secretary of the executive SETRAC board. He has also served in the past as an instructor with the Wharton County Junior College EMS Division.

Job Description: John among other duties also plans, directs and reviews the activities and operations of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department involving pre-hospital care for patients; to coordinate assigned activities with other city departments and outside agencies including disaster planning and training; and to provide highly responsible and complex administrative support to the City Manager.

Wharton EMS has 5 ambulances with 3 that are fully staffed 7 days a week. Ambulances always have a minimum of 1 Paramedic and 1 EMT.

Holiday Safety Tips

Halloween

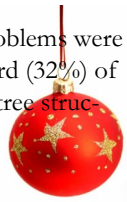
Planning ahead can help make this Halloween a fire-safe one. Taking simple fire safety precautions, like making sure fabrics for costumes and decorative materials are flame-resistant, can prevent fires. During the five-year-period of 2006-2010, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 1,000 reported home structure fires per year. These fires caused an estimated average of 6 civilian deaths, 53 civilian injuries and $16 million in direct property damage per year.

Thanksgiving.

- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

Christmas

- Between 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 230 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 6 deaths, 22 injuries, and $18.3 million in direct property damage annually.
- On average, one of every 40 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.
- Electrical problems were factors in one-third (32%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.



A sign down, street lights out, or even too many mosquitos can all be issues that affect all 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.

CLICK HERE FOR ONE-STEP NOTIFICATION

Receive timely notifications by telephone, cell phone and e-mail.

SIGN UP NOW

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