



# DISCOVER WHARTON

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.

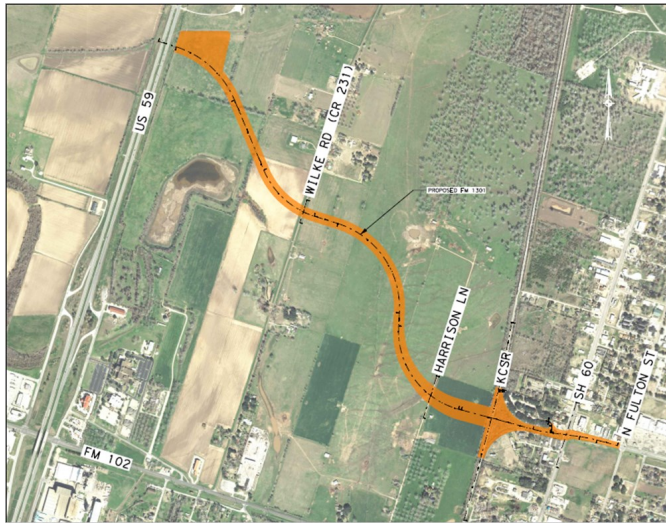
Wharton is the perfect place to grow your business and your family. I invite you to see just what Wharton has to offer.

- Mayor Tim Barker

**What's in the Works?**

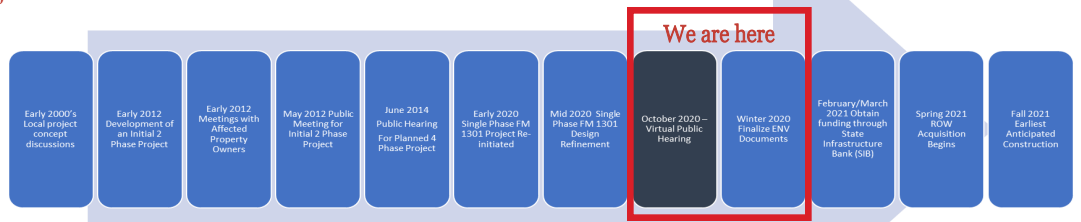
- 2019 Street Improvement Project \$800,000
- Water Well Plant Project \$4,900,000
- FM 1301 Extension Project \$16 million
- USACE Flood Risk Management Project \$74 million

## FM 1301 Extension Project Moves Forward



The FM 1301 Extension project pursued by City Council will establish a new 1.8 mile corridor from Highway 59/ I-69 into the City of Wharton. The project will connect to US Highway 59 at the western end and will extend toward the east/southeast through rural farmland, bridge over the existing railroad tracks, and connect to the existing Farm-to-Market Road 1301 at the State Highway 60 "T" intersection. Numerous meetings and discussions have been held with the community and stakeholders over many years, including a public meeting on May 8th, 2012, a public hearing on June 11, 2014, and a virtual public hearing October 26th, 2020. The City has been in contact with impacted property owners through these meetings. Property acquisition of approximately 45 acres of new right of way is anticipated to be underway starting in Spring of 2021. [More information about this project can be found](#)

**Project Timeline**



Estimated Project Cost: Approximately \$16 million

### Upcoming City Holidays



The City of Wharton will observe the following holidays:

- New Years - January 1st
- Martin Luther King Day - January 18th
- Good Friday - April 2nd



USACE Levee Updates



COVID Updates





City of Wharton  
120 E. Caney  
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

Planning Commission  
1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 4:30pm

Mayor's Committee On People With Disabilities  
Every 2nd Wednesday at 8a

Beautification Committee  
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:30pm

# Update on Grants

## I. GRANT PROJECTS

### Infrastructure/ Construction:

#### **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. Jones & Carter has completed surveys and staff is currently working on easement acquisition and project budget.

#### **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. WISD has selected Huckabee for architectural services and LTY Engineers & Kimley Horne for engineering on this project. WISD is moving forward with project.

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

Application has been submitted and City is awaiting a response. City was notified of funding and is pending agreement and kick-off meeting with Tx Dept. of Agriculture.

#### **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 State Side to provide relocation assistance. Impacted property owners started receiving offers and relocation support starting August 2020. USACE staff has indicated they will be ready to

begin work in Early 2021, dependent on the completion time for the relocation process.

Phase 2 Design Charette held virtually w/ USACE, Kenall, Inc., Freese & Nichols and City of Wharton staff Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Staff continues monthly coordination meetings and has begun receiving Phase 2 ROE's.

### Housing:

#### **TDHCA – HOME Reservation Participation**

5 applicants have been awarded funding as of 7/17/19. 1 subject has declined the contract. Construction on the three homes is complete and houses have been signed over to owners as of October 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 guidelines have been approved by the GLO and no public comment was received during the required posting period. Intake meetings continue with property owners and GrantWorks.

#### **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. 3 applications have been approved and are in home build selection phase. City issued notice of grant in utility billing, resulting in 12 new inquiries and a new total of 5 applicants, with 1 overall program applicant withdrawal. GrantWorks will be going out to bid for construction contractor within the next 60 days. GrantWorks is still taking applications at this time, but unofficial closing date was November 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **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 sub-

mitted the detailed application August 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. Status is still pending, response not expected until Spring of 2021.

### 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.

City Council approved expenditure requests by each City Department Head at the Council Meeting held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Departments are completing purchases and funds were expended by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

#### **HMGP – Critical Facility Generators**

HMGP Application was submitted on 9/11/18 and the City received notification of award by TDEM 02/18/2020. 1 RFI has been requested and responded to. Award has been made to City and kick-off meeting conducted with TEDM on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Engineering and design are currently underway.

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## II. STUDIES

#### **City of Wharton, Texas Community Wayfinding Program**

City of Wharton working in partnership with the Wharton Down-

# COVID Update



Wharton County Office of Emergency Management received reports from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Houston office, that we have **one hundred twenty-three (123)** new positive cases of COVID-19, and **one hundred forty-one (141)** recoveries. The number of confirmed fatalities remains at **sixty-seven (67)**. Our fourteen day total of new confirmed cases is now at **two hundred eighty-six (286)**, that does NOT include any probables. Our regional hospitalization rate is currently **15.17 percent**.

Cities:	Cf/Pr	Active	Deaths	Gender	Ages	Cf/Pr	Active
Boling	105	9	3	Male	1,036	0-9 89	4
Danevang	13	0	0	Female	1,315	10-19 251	41
Eagle Lake	4	0	0	UNK	39	20-29 385	29
East Bernard	220	20	4		2,390	30-39 352	24
El Campo	1,163	43	35			40-49 360	18
Egypt	4	1	0			50-59 349	22
Glen Flora	5	0	0			60-69 293	11
Hungerford	35	15	0			70-79 172	9
Lane City	11	2	0			80-89 84	2
Lissie	1	0	0			90+ 36	2
Louise	62	7	0			UNK 19	0
Pierce	4	0	0				
Wharton	763	65	25				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>67</b>			<b>2,390</b>	<b>162</b>

Wharton County OEM will provide updates at [www.co.wharton.tx.us](http://www.co.wharton.tx.us) and on Facebook.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JANUARY



- 1/4 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-2 @ Guffey Park
- 1/15 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-2 @ Guffey Park
- 1/23 - Wharton Market Days 8-5 @ Guffey Park

### FEBRUARY



- 2/1 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-2 @ Guffey Park
- 2/15 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-2 @ Guffey Park

### MARCH



- 3/1 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-2 @ Guffey Park
- 3/15 - [Food Truck Lunch](#) 11-12 @ Guffey Park

### COVID-19 Notice!

Events listed may or may not be possible during this difficult time and are subject to cancellations. Please contact event host directly for updates!



# Update on Grants

(Continued from Page 2)

town Business Association (WDBA), Wharton Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), and the Wharton Chamber of Commerce to complete a wayfinding study. The wayfinding study started in June with community input meetings to develop preliminary ideas. Logo design has been finalized and proposed wayfinding signage designs are currently in final stages of review with proposed implementation plan.

### III. OTHER PROJECTS & EVENTS

#### Mini Mural Art Park – Cultural Arts

Community Development department was not selected for an application to AARP for funding to establish a mini mural art park in the space adjacent to City Hall. City Staff is currently exploring alternative grant opportunities and partnerships to complete this project.

#### City of Wharton “Discover Wharton” Community Marketing Campaign

City has developed “Discover Wharton” community marketing campaign in response to “Tourism Assessment” completed in Spring of 2020 by Wharton Downtown Business Association (WDBA) and approved for incorporation into Comprehensive Plan by City Council at Council meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Community Development Dept. is currently working with contributing partners in updating the City website to incorporate community marketing campaign. City staff anticipates public marketing campaign to launch upon adoption of new community logo from wayfinding study currently underway.

#### Guffey Park Improvements

City Council approved Community Development Dept. to retain David Bucek as architect to design proposed improvements to Guffey

Park in Council Meeting held on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Improvement designs are currently underway, and anticipated to be complete by December 2020, with construction planned for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

[Click here for more Project & Grant info!](#)





# Department Highlight

## CITY MANAGER

**City Manager**  
Andres Garza Jr.

**Assistant to City Manager**  
Brandi Jimenez

120 E Caney  
Wharton, Texas 77488

(979) 532-2491

The City of Wharton's City Manager is the Administrator's Office for the City. This office manages all departments and serves the City Council. The City Manager's office plans, directs, manages and oversees the activities and operations of the City of Wharton including the departments of General Administration, Community Services, Emergency Medical Services, Finance, Fire, Facilities Maintenance, Police, Public Utilities, and Public Works. The department coordinates activities among and between city departments and outside agencies and to provide highly responsible and complex administrative and policy development and implementation support to the City Council. The City Manager also manages the development and implementation of the city's goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for each assigned service area. The City Manager receives policy direction from the City Council and exercises direct supervision over management, supervisory, professional, technical and clerical staff.

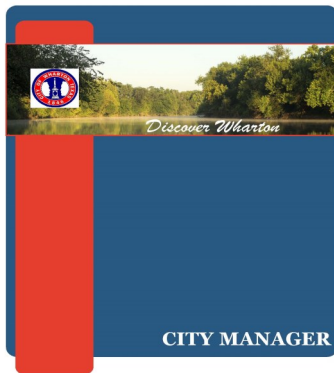
City Manager, Andres Garza, JR. has served Wharton since 1994 and has recently announced his retirement in January of 2021. The search for a new City Manager is currently underway. For more information, contact 979-532-2491!

We're on the web! Stay up to date with City Information and services at [www.cityofwharton.com](http://www.cityofwharton.com)

# New City Manager Search Underway

The search for a new City Manager began in November of 2020 following the announcement of retirement from the current City Manager, Andres Garza, Sr. City Secretary, Paula Favors has received over 50 applications for the position and City Council has currently web-interviewed 6 of the applicants. City Council is still in the preliminary interview stages at this time. Once initial web-interviews are completed, City Council will select applicants from the first-round web-interviews that will be scheduled for in-person interviews.

[Click here to see the City Manager Recruitment Brochure!](#)



## 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!](http://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](http://Smart911.com)

