WebsterWay
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

CELEBRATING 315 YEARS OF SERVICE

Webster recognized 26 employees for their many years of hard work at the Service Awards Luncheon. Read more on page 4

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Clean Up Week will be from March 20-24

SPLASH PAD

The Webster Splash Pad to open on April 1

CITY HALL CONNECT

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Get Connected
@WEBSTERTEXAS

CATCH THE *wellness wave*

HEALTH FAIR SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28

Annually, the City of Webster sponsors a free Health and Wellness Fair designed to provide the local population with opportunities to meet with over 60 healthcare vendors. The 2017 Health and Wellness Fair is set for March 28 with a beach/ocean theme.

Attendees can consult with a variety of healthcare vendors, participate in screenings and exams, and gain awareness of new services, products, and technologies. Webster Public Safety (police, fire, emergency medical services) will join representatives from the healthcare industry to provide attendees with educational materials, product samples, and consultations.

The 2017 City of Webster Health and Wellness Fair is an opportune time to visit with experts from many fields- such as fitness, dentistry, sleep medicine, chiropractics, social services, assisted living, and much more.

The event will transpire on Tuesday, March 28, from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. at the Webster Civic Center, located at 311 Pennsylvania Avenue.

For more information, contact Human Resources Coordinator Lupe Estrada at 281.316.4145.

WE ARE WEBSTER

ESTHER GALBREATH

Webster Resident Esther Galbreath was born and raised in Pennsylvania, but she has spent the past 50 years in Webster.

Her story started in North Carolina when she was just 15 years old. She was visiting her sister and brother-in-law, who were in the U.S. Navy when they introduced her to a Texan named Buck.

She and Buck immediately clicked, however, he was in the Navy and was always traveling. They spent a year writing to each other, but he soon began visiting her in Pennsylvania every weekend. After she had graduated high school, the pair got married.

"Buck was in the service for twenty years, and the only thing that man ever said to me was that he wanted to live in Texas," said Esther.

The pair made 14 moves in 16 years before Buck's dream finally became a reality when he was offered a position at Ellington Field working on a NASA Aircraft.

When they came to Webster, the couple had four children, and they were looking for a place to settle down.

Webster was so small at the time that Esther did not need a drivers license or car until she was 40 years old. She would ride her bike around town while her youngest daughter rode in the basket.

Her fondest memories were at the city pool, where the Webster families would hang out in the summer for swim meets, and potluck dinners.

"Every family had two to four kids, and they were all close to the same age," Esther said. "There was a lot of open space back then. Kids rode their bikes, flew kites, and played baseball and football."

The Medical Center now stands where the children used to run around, and that has been the most notable change for Esther.

"There was no hospital when we got here, she said. "We had to drive to Texas City for a doctor, and to Dickinson for a dentist."

As the City began to grow, Esther decided she wanted to find a job. Her very first job was at the Baskin Robbins, working the 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. shift before the kids got out of school.

When Esther decided she wanted a full-time career, she visited a temp agency where she learned of an administrative position in Bayport. She loved the job and stayed with the company until she retired after 13 years of service.

Esther now spends a majority of her time with her youngest daughter who still lives in Webster. She has nine grandkids and nine great-grandkids who she enjoys spending time with as well.

She attends the City's Senior Game Night twice a month, and once a week plays dominos with friends at the Webster Civic Center. She also attends the Fourth of July Celebration every year at Texas Avenue Park and is in charge of Bingo at the popular event.

"It's home to me," Esther said with a smile. "Webster was a good place for my kids to grow up, and as long as I can stay in my home, I will."

CITY HALL CONNECT

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Director of Finance and Administration Mike Rodgers likes working for the City of Webster so much that he became a resident of Webster last year.

The ten-year employee says he moved to the City for the same reasons anyone would move to Webster.

"We have outstanding Police and Fre protection, and our Public Works staff is better than anywhere you will find," he said.

Mike had been living in League City before making the move to Webster, but he hasn't always been a Texas resident.

Mike grew up in Monroe, Louisiana where he attended and graduated from Northeast Louisiana University with a degree in Accounting. He said he has always been a 'numbers guy,' but it was his friend's father who was a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) that introduced him to the career path. After many months of studying and two and a half days of testing in 2002, he became a CPA.

Mike says he got to Texas as fast as he could after graduating from college. He found a job at an oil and gas company in Dallas. It was there that he met his wife Monica, who was working at the same oil and gas company while teaching an aerobics class at the YMCA in her spare time.

"She was voted the best aerobics instructor in Dallas, and I would go to her class two times a day," Mike said. "After marrying the instructor twenty years ago, I have not been anywhere near an aerobics class!"

A decade of ups and downs in the oil and gas industry made Mike leap at the chance to work for a local government. Public service runs in his family. His father retired from the State of Louisiana after thirty years, and his brother works for the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office. Mike's career in government began as a Utility Accountant at the City of Denton. Within six years, he moved up through the ranks to City Controller.

Years earlier during a day trip from Denton to Galveston, Mike and Monica wandered down a street named NASA Road One just to see where it would take them. Little did they know, it would soon be called home.

Denton's former City Manager Michael Jez moved to Webster first, and when the Webster was looking for a new Finance Director, Jez told Mike of the opportunity.

The choice was simple, Monica had lived in the Houston area for a number of years, and this was a job that Mike wanted. So, in 2006, the couple joined the Webster family.

His responsibilities at the City include reviewing accounts receivable/payable, utility billing, payroll, financial recording, budget preparation, as well as overseeing the Municipal Court.

"None of this would be possible without the fantastic staff that I have here," he said. "We have bright people who are dedicated to the citizens of this City, and you don't find that everywhere."

Mike is also an active member of the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas, an organization of more than 1,000 government finance officials throughout the State of Texas. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the organization as Immediate Past President. In between that and working on budget reports, he spends his time with his wife and their three-year-old Morkie (Maltese-Yorkie Mix) dog, Boudreaux.

COUNCIL CONNECT

Webster City Council Member and INEOS employee Marty Graves, Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Tosto and Council Member Jennifer Heidt volunteered at the second annual INEOS Go Run for Fun event at McWhirter Elementary School in February.

The Go Run for Fun event inspires children to be more active and to go outside. Students cheered and jumped around in excitement after the run!

Celebrating 315 years of service

Above: 25 year recipient, Dan Zambory with Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Tosto, and Council Members Beverly Gaines and Jennifer Heidt.

The City of Webster takes pride in the many employees who have spent multiple years serving the community. During the 2017 Service Awards Luncheon 26 employees were recognized for their dedication and drive.

5 YEAR RECIPIENTS: Michelle Alexander, Court • William Beale, Public Works • Heather Furst, Community Development • Shawn Keesler, Fire

10 YEAR RECIPIENTS: Jesus Espinoza, Public Works • David Glasco, Public Works • Shannon Hicks, Public Works • Susan Hopkins, Police • Nathan Hughes, Police • David Locascio, Police • Clyde Pray, Police • Sylvia Quintana, Police • Mike Rodgers, Finance • Michael Rodriguez, IT • Erica Sallier, Police • Ryan Sprinkle, Police • John Vaughn, Police

15 YEAR RECIPIENTS: Arturo Ayala, Public Works • Nancy Ludlow, Police • Richard Parkin, Community Development • Helen Warren, Community Development

20 YEAR RECIPIENTS: Billy Beran, Public Works • Mary Fox, Community Development • Deborah Cooley, Police • James "Rusty" Lovel, Police

25 YEAR RECIPIENT: Dan Zambory, Public Works

NEW RESIDENTS WELCOMED TO WEBSTER WITH A NEW PROGRAM

Webster's small residential population generates a sense of togetherness among neighbors and makes Webster more than just a City, but a community.

As a way of welcoming new residents into the community, City Council initiated a Welcome to Webster program. In February, Mayor Donna Rogers rolled out the new program by hand-delivering bags filled with Webster goodies to 15 residents who had moved in following the new year.

The City plans to continue the Welcome to Webster program in the future, visiting and welcoming all its new residents throughout the year.

Council hopes the program will lead residents to become involved in the community and discover all that the City of Webster has to offer.

WALNUT PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT

Just in time for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Walnut Park, the playground equipment is being replaced!

The equipment is expected to be open to the public by the beginning of March.

Post your photos from your Webster park adventures on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #WebsterTx.

POLICE CHIEF CHOSEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAM

The 2017 Class of Presidential Leadership Scholars were announced, and Webster Police Chief Danny Presley was selected to participate in the prestigious program.

The Presidential Leadership Scholars program, a unique leadership development initiative that draws upon the resources of the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson, announced that Danny Presley had been selected to participate. Danny is one of 60 Scholars chosen for the program's third annual class.

The third cohort was selected after a rigorous application and review process. Scholars were selected based on their leadership growth potential and the strength of their personal leadership projects aimed at improving the civic or social good by addressing a problem or need in a community, profession, or organization.

Over the course of several months, Scholars will travel to each participating presidential center to learn from former presidents, key administration officials, and leading academics. They will study and put into practice varying approaches to leadership, develop a network of peers, and exchange ideas with mentors and others who can help them make an impact in their communities.

The program kicked off in Washington, D.C. on February 7th, where Scholars visited the National Archives and Records Administration, Mount Vernon, and the White House Historical Association and explored personal and professional development areas including core values and civility.

The latest class joins the alumni network of 121 Scholars in the program. They include individuals from diverse backgrounds and geographies, coming from a variety of sectors, including private, public, non-profit, military, and academia.

WEBSTER STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

Clear Creek ISD High School Students got an inside look at City of Webster government.

City employees welcomed the students for an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of municipal government. During the day, they had the chance to tour the City, shadow department directors, have a Q & A with City Council Members, and attend a City Council meeting.

THE WEBSTER SPLASH PAD SCHEDULED TO OPEN ON APRIL 1

Batter up and bring your little slugger to the Webster Splash Pad located at Texas Avenue Park, 17100 Texas Avenue.

The splash pad offers residents a fun atmosphere to let kids run around and cool off from the Texas heat.

Shade structures alongside the splash pad also provide a comfortable area for guardians to watch their children.

Visitors can cool off from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. all week long starting in April.

**Date subject to change. Visit the City of Webster website for updates.*

MARCH 17

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

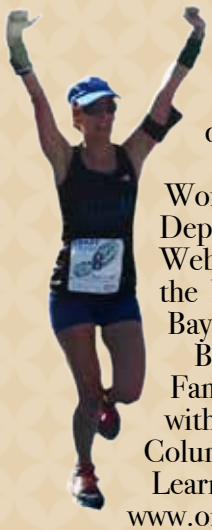
MAY YOUR DAY BE TOUCHED BY A BIT OF IRISH LUCK

CAMP COUNSELORS WANTED

It's time to jump into summer fun with the Ultimate Slammin' Summer Camp! The City of Webster is seeking qualified counselors to lead campers during four sessions, from June 13 to August 5.

Find an application on line by visiting www.cityofwebster.com or contact Recreation Manager Bryan Morgan at 281.316.4137 or bmorgan@cityofwebster.com for more information.

ON THE ROAD FOR A REASON 5K FUN RUN



On Saturday, March 4, the Bay Area Alliance for Youth & Families will be On the Road for a Reason during their annual 5K Run/Walk.

With the help of Webster Public Works, Police Department and Fire Department, runners run throughout Webster, including a sprint up and over the NASA Bypass. Proceeds benefit the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families.

Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families will be kicking off the weekend with a Car Show at CCISD Challenger Columbia Stadium!

Learn more and register for the event at www.ontheroadforareason.net.

2017 SPRING CLEANING

March 20-24

Beginning Monday, March 20 the City will provide FREE curbside pickup of trash, furniture, appliances, tree limbs, etc. Curbside pickup will continue through Friday, March 24.

Discarded items may also be disposed of at these designated dumpsters:

855 Magnolia Ave.- Public Works Service Center
311 Pennsylvania Ave.- Civic Center Complex
901 Whitehall St.- Green Acres Park

Please do not dispose of items such as tires, paint in containers, and unknown chemicals in containers. No heavy items over 250 lbs., vehicle engines, trailers, or chemicals.

PRO TIP: REGISTER FOR REGROUP

When a crisis threatens the community and every second counts, it is critical that the residents are quickly alerted of danger. Webster officials can issue evacuation orders, instruct people to shelter-in-place and more from the new Regroup Mass Notification program.

"This program saves time and ensures that citizens have the ability to take steps to get out of harm's way," said Webster Emergency Management Director Joe Ferro. By visiting the City's website, cityofwebster.com you can register for the emergency notifications. By registering you can receive notifications by e-mail, text message, or phone call. Residents are urged to sign up as soon as possible.

IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS UNDER OUR PREVIOUS SERVICE, YOU MUST SIGN UP AGAIN!

spring FORWARD

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD ON MARCH 12

AARP TAX AIDE

Don't let the numbers frustrate you! AARP Tax-Aide is here to help!

Until April 17, AARP representatives will be offering FREE tax-aide at the Webster Recreation Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave, during the following hours:

Mondays – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesdays – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesdays 12 p.m. – 7 p.m., and Saturdays – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Join the Webster Recreation Department for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Walnut Park!

The hunt begins promptly at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 15, at Walnut Park, 400 N. Walnut St.

This event is free for children up to 10 years of age, and there is also a seniors division.

Following the hunt, Peter Cottontail will be at the Park Gazebo for children to visit and take photos. Call 281-316-4137 for information.

Webster Way
Monthly Newsletter
March 2017

GET E-MAIL AND TEXT UPDATES WHEN THE LATEST ISSUE OF WEBSTER WAY NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ONLINE! SIGN UP BY VISITING THE PUBLICATION PAGE OF CITYOFWEBSTER.COM.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

City of Webster offices will close at 12:30 on Thursday, April 13 for the Good Friday and Easter holiday.

City offices will reopen on Monday, April 17.

MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have regular meetings on **Tuesday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 18 at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Ave. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on **Tuesday, April 11 at 6 p.m**. in the Council Chambers.

Special meetings may be added, and meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items. Check www.cityofwebster.com for meeting information.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Summer isn't summer without the Ultimate Slammin' Summer Camp! During four two-week sessions, children have the opportunity to learn and have fun all summer long.

From April 1- April 30, residents can register their children, ages 6-12, for the summer camp that meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Webster Recreation building and Texas Avenue Park. Registration per session for residents is $75 for the first child and $65 for each additional child.

City Hall Main Number 281.332.1826
All officials and offices can be reached using the main number

City Officials
Mayor Donna Rogers ..... mayorrogers@cityofwebster.com
Position 1: Jennifer Heidt ..... jheidt@cityofwebster.com
Position 2: Andrea Wilson ..... awilson@cityofwebster.com
Position 3: Larry Tosto ..... ltosto@cityofwebster.com
Position 4: Beverly Gaines ..... bgaines@cityofwebster.com
Position 5: Edward Lapeyre ..... elapeyre@cityofwebster.com
Position 6: Martin Graves ..... mgraves@cityofwebster.com

City Offices
EMERGENCY 9-1-1
City Manager Wayne Sabo ..... wsabo@cityofwebster.com
City Secretary Crystal Roan ..... croan@cityofwebster.com

Community Relations and Webster Way Editor Katie Stamy ..... kstamy@cityofwebster.com
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Emergency Management Director .... jferro@cityofwebster.com
Finance Director ..... mrodgers@cityofwebster.com
Marketing and Tourism ..... cthrailkill@cityofwebster.com
Recreation ..... bmorgan@cityofwebster.com
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... sricicar@websterfd.com
Municipial Court ..... court2@cityofwebster.com
Police Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... vkeener@websterpd.com
Public Works Service Center ..... jtobey@cityofwebster.com

City Services
Animal Control 281.316.3700
City Trash Hauling 281.316.3700
Civic Center Rental 281.316.4108
Republic Services (Residential) 281.446.2030
Tickets–To Pay By Credit Card 281.338.6702
Utility Billing 281.316.4120
Water/Sewer Line Breaks 281.316.3700

The City of Webster
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www.cityofwebster.com
281.332.1826

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Instagram: @CityofWebster

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March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	*Special meetings may be added and meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items. Check the City website at cityofwebster.com for meeting information!		1	2	3	4 **On the Road for a Reason 5K Fun Run** *Clear View HS* *6:30 a.m.-10 a.m.*
5	6 **Webster Aerobics** *Mon. & Wed.* *6:30 p.m..-7:30 p.m*	7 **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.*	8	9	10 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.*	11 **Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday* *7:30-8:30 a.m.*
12 **Daylight Saving Time Begins**	13	14 **Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting*** *6 p.m.*	15	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
19	20 First Day of Spring!	21 **Special WEDC Mtg.** *5:30 p.m.* **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.*	22	23	24 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.*	25
26	27 **Webster Tae Kwon Do** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday*	28 **Health and Wellness Fair** *1 p.m.-4p.m.* *at the Webster Civic Center*	29	30	31	