Webster Way
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

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Have your voice be heard on a board or commission

PROJECT GENESIS

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CITY HALL CONNECT

Meet Webster Fire Chief Patrick Shipp

ABOUT THE COVER

Webster City Council attended the premiere of **Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo** at Space Center Houston in April

Get Connected
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MISSION CONTROL RESTORATION

An out of this world project with Space Center Houston

The Apollo Mission Operations Control Room (MOCR) has been portrayed on the movie screen a number of times, but it's the Space Center Houston visitors that get to see what it was really like. Because of its rich history and popularity around the world, on April 4, the City of Webster committed $3.5 million to Space Center Houston (SCH) to restore the extraordinary facility.

During the 1960's, the MOCR at Johnson Space Center (JSC) was the site where NASA's flight control team planned, trained, and executed a series of human spaceflight missions whose goal was to land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth. On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 mission achieved that historic goal. Today, hundreds of thousands of visitors to SCH tour the JSC campus to get a close-up view of NASA's human spaceflight program. The Apollo MOCR is the most popular and revered site on the tour. Visitors can see and experience the actual room where NASA flight controllers made history.

The 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 mission will take place in 2019, and in preparation, SCH is working with JSC to contract a major restoration of the MOCR. As the City of Webster has had a highly fruitful and unique year-round partnership with SCH, it was approved that the City would support the restoration project using its Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund.

The Center still needs $1.5 million to complete the restoration, so the world is invited to help. Visit spacecenter.org/on-a-mission to donate and be a part of the out of this world project.

"The spirit and strength of the Webster community lie in the hands of the citizens who volunteer," said Webster Mayor Donna Rogers.

Here are five reasons why YOU should get involved and join a Webster board or commission this year.

1. Learn more about Webster: You will have a unique opportunity to learn about every aspect of city government, from parks and recreation to planning and zoning.

2. The work is rewarding: During two, three or five-year terms, you will make important decisions for the future of the City and see first hand how the decisions impact the community.

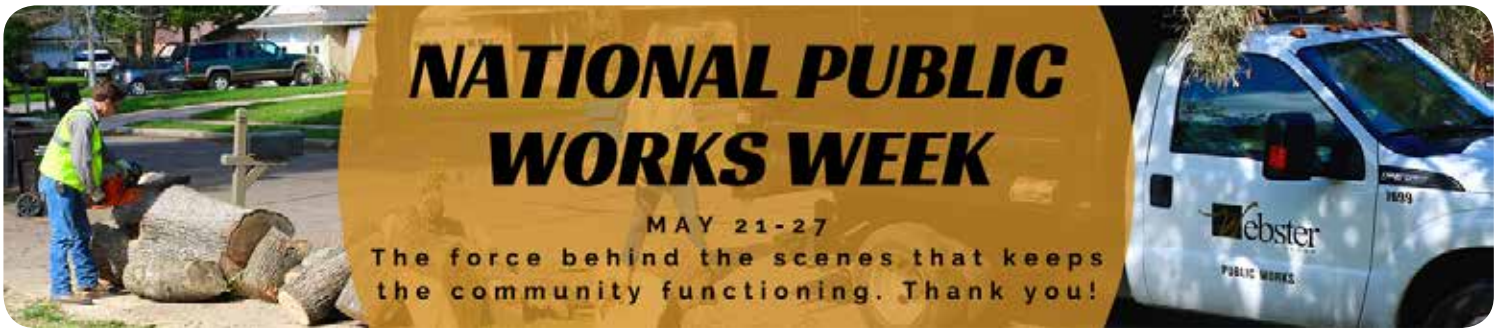
3. Meet new people: During board meetings that are typically held once per month on weeknights, you will meet others who share similar cares and concerns.

4. Gain leadership experience: By participating in a Webster board or commission, you hold the important role of being the voice for others in your community.

5. Be the change: By volunteering your time, experience, and knowledge, you will make Webster a better place to live, work, and play.

Members must be registered voters in the City and attendance of the regularly scheduled meetings is imperative. Visit cityofwebster.com to review the various summaries of responsibilities while looking for a board or two that pique your interest. Nomination applications are available on the website, or you may contact City Secretary Crystal Roan at 281.316.4101.

Webster's value and character are strengthened with every act of volunteerism. Make a difference and volunteer!



The Webster Police Department Financial Crime Division has seen an increase in both women and men being targets of online crimes in the past few months, and they want YOU to be on the lookout.

Most recently, the department has seen an increase in those who fall in love online and end up losing thousands of dollars. If you or someone you know is trying out an online dating site, keep these tips in mind.

According to the Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC), you could be a victim of an online romance scam if your relationship gets too close, too soon. If they are using pet names and talk of long-term relationships too early, this could be signs of a scam.

Phone calls also do not validate the connection in any way. If you have spoken to the person only by text or phone, you still need to be wary.

If you attempt to meet up with the individual and an odd situation prevents you from connecting, the ITRC says this is a major red flag.

"Many common romance scams involve individuals who are not near a computer during their jobs," the ITRC website reads. "Jobs like off-shore oil rig worker, long distance truck driver, and even worse, U.S. soldiers deployed overseas are all common tactics for scammers."

This is an excuse for the crooks needing time to keep all of their victims straight. Be very careful when dealing with someone who does not contact you for days at a time.

One last tip is to ALWAYS watch out for the individuals that request money. They may say the money is to be used to visit you or help them out of a bind, but the chances are that it is a scam. If this happens to you, the Webster Police Department Financial Crime Division is here to help.

Online dating sites can be very beneficial and romances may work out for you, but the Webster Police Department wants to keep you and your finances out of harm's way. Be smart when dealing with others over the internet, and if you have any doubts, contact WPD Financial Crime Division at 281.316.4178. For more information visit idtheftcenter.org.

INTRODUCING ODYSSEY BUSINESS PARK

The scenery on NASA Parkway/FM 528 has certainly changed in the past few months as construction on Project Genesis and Odyssey Business Park moves forward.

The business park is a 24-acre development planned by Wycoff Development and Construction on land purchased in June 2016.

Toward the end of 2016, construction began on the land, and the City is excited to announce the businesses that have already signed contracts for spots at the business center.

Wycoff Development, the developer of Odyssey Business Park, will be moving into a 6,000 square foot facility in October 2017. The company is currently located at Magnolia Court Business Park in Webster. The company has developed over 1,100 acres of land and constructed approximately 4,500,000 square feet of commercial space throughout Webster, Pasadena, and Converse, Texas.

ProSurve Technical Services is moving into the business park as well. ProSurve offers the Texas Gulf Coast area advanced non-destructive testing and inspection services. The company is moving to Webster from League City.

Victory Chiropractic, Pink Bee Studio, and EmbroidMe from the Bayway Village II in Webster are relocating to Odyssey Park as well. Victory Chiropractic Owner Dr. Jeremiah Le Holzbach offers patients multiple non-invasive conservative therapies. Pink Bee Studio is a Mary Kay Cosmetic retailer, and EmbroidMe provides embroidery, screen printing, and promotional products to its customers around Webster.

The MASTRRR Company is moving in from Friendswood, manufacturing a variety of chemical induction ultra high rate flash mixers and gas cylinder heating blankets for the municipal water and wastewater industry.

Molly Maids, an international house cleaning and maid service franchise is also moving into Webster.

The City of Webster is looking forward to these new businesses making Odyssey Business Park their new home. Welcome to Webster!

WE *ARE* WEBSTER

TOM AND MERRY WILKS

Tom Wilks is known in Webster for his involvement in the City, his fascinating career at NASA, and his impressive knowledge of everything snakes. His reverence for snakes has given him opportunities with police departments, animal control officers, and it was a key element in how he met his wife, Merry.

It all started for Tom after he graduated high school in San Antonio. He began working for the San Antonio Zoo in the reptile department and created a Snake Sense class that he taught to students visiting the zoo.

The class lived on with Tom long after he left the zoo, and it is now a certified class under the State Health Department. He has taught the class to Webster area Animal Control Officers, and police departments have requested him to snake proof K-9s. Clear View High School students and girl and boy scout troops have had the chance to hang out with the snakes as well.

During a trip to teach the Dickinson Garden Club Snake Sense, he met Merry and the rest is history.

Merry lived in New Mexico as a child, where her father was a geologist who would bring snakes in from the desert that would become the family pets. The couple's mutual interest in snakes, photography, writing, and the outdoors brought them together in 2010.

Merry moved to Houston when she was in third grade and lived there until she moved to Webster. She is a Research Technician in the Molecular Virology and Microbiology Department at Baylor College of Medicine. The department's role is to investigate emerging infectious diseases like Zika and Norwalk to develop treatment strategies and vaccines and possible antibiotic resistance. She has worked there for 17 years, and when she isn't at work, she enjoys crafting and making art of any kind.

Although Merry moved to Webster only seven years ago, the City has been home to Tom since 1969. In 1964, he moved to Houston with his first wife Peggy and son Glenn, to begin his career at Johnson Space Center (JSC) in the Crew and Thermal Systems Division.

"We tested and evaluated Apollo astronaut life support systems," he explained.

"The crews would wear the space suits and PLSS backpacks in vacuum chambers and the centrifuge. The astronauts trained in the same vacuum chambers and centrifuge prior to their missions."

Five years into his space career, the family decided to move closer to JSC and Webster was their first choice.

His son, Glenn, graduated from Clear Creek in 1980 and attended the University of Texas and then later worked as a software development engineer in Austin. He sadly passed away in 2001 of a brain aneurysm.

Peggy became the Finance Director for the City of Webster in 1975 and retired in 1998. She passed away in 2006 after a long bout with breast cancer. Peggy and Tom were married for 45 years.

Tom began making an impact in the City by 1970 and has since been involved in several different boards and commissions while continuing his career at JSC.

He has served on the Recycling Study Committee, Police Training Advisory Board, Webster Centennial Celebration Committee, and the Webster Historical Committee. He has held a position on the Animal Control Board since its inception in 1993 and was the first president of the Webster Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. Merry joined Tom on the Animal Control Board in 2015.

Tom also designed the first logo for the City of Webster that was adopted by Mayor and Council in 1980.

For the past thirty years, Tom has answered calls from Webster Animal Contol regarding injured or orphaned birds and animals and calls about snakes. He has responded to over 400 calls in Webster and other Bay Area communities.

In 2005, Tom retired as the Space Environment Activities Training Coordinator, so now in his spare time, he enjoys spending time with Merry hiking at Challenger Park, photographing nature, or attending car shows around Houston.

The City has certainly changed since Tom first moved here, but he says that he and Merry enjoy the wonderful benefits that the City offers.

"I could move and retire somewhere else," said Tom. "But we love Webster."

CITY HALL CONNECT

FIRE CHIEF PATRICK SHIPP

As the Laneville, Texas fire truck roared down the street, sirens blaring, six-year-old Patrick Shipp ran toward the very edges of the sidewalk to catch a glimpse of the excitement. There was a 50/50 chance that whenever there was an emergency, the fire truck would head down the street that Patrick lived on. So, after some time, the firefighters caught on to his habit and would pick him up on the truck to join them.

They taught him the ins and outs of firefighting, and once he was able to see over the steering wheel, they let him drive the truck. It was then that Webster Fire Chief Patrick Shipp knew that he wanted a career helping others.

He thought law enforcement was his calling, but after a year in school studying criminal justice, he realized that his home was at the fire department. He became a paramedic, and from 1988 until 1990, he worked in fire and EMS.

Wanting to move forward in public service, Patrick signed up for four years in the Coast Guard and moved to Astoria, Oregon.

"I was there for two years," he said. "I learned the true meaning of brotherhood and taking care of each other, which is what the fire service is built on."

In the Coast Guard, he worked on the boats, and after four years of working on the water, he signed up for three more years in the Coast Guard where he worked on the helicopters. After several years of serving, Patrick had the opportunity to be released early as long as he had a job lined up. So, from his Captain's desk, he called up to the Laneville Fire Department and was immediately hired back on as a firefighter.

After two months back in his hometown, the Laneville Fire Chief resigned, and Patrick became the new Chief. Under his leadership, the department grew from two stations to seven.

"We started the first Basic Life Support service for our county, so we responded every time the ambulance received calls," Patrick explained. "Then we started Advanced Life Support, and we could do anything that you could do in the hospital."

His next move was to the Jacksonville Fire Department, where he worked for six years. One day while dropping off a victim at the emergency room, he saw a Lufkin Firefighter named Stacy, and it was love at first sight. Only four months after their first date, the pair got married.

During his time at Laneville Fire Department, Patrick had received his Chief Officer Certification, a prestigious credential that less than 500 others had. So when College Place, Washington was looking for a Fire Chief, they headhunted Patrick, and he soon moved with Stacy up to Washington for three years.

When his timely contract with College Place was up, Patrick began looking for other open Fire Chief positions and interviewed at various departments before landing a job in Webster in 2008.

When Stacy and Patrick relocated to Texas, Stacy chose to pursue a career as a nurse. She now works as the ER Lead Nurse

at the Bay Area Regional Medical Center, while Patrick leads the Webster Fire Department.

When he began at WFD, it was a volunteer fire department, but after only seven months of his leadership, the department created a day crew that would take city vehicles home at night to drive to the fire department if there was a call. Their average response time was 12 minutes.

Patrick soon added a night crew, but the firefighters were not full time. So, to create continuity, he got the support of City Manager Wayne Sabo and City Council to go to a full-time fire department, which began in October 2016.

Patrick also oversaw the construction of the new, award-winning fire station in Webster with modernized equipment, improved department quality from an ISO-2 rating to an ISO-1. He has fostered collaboration with regional and statewide safety partners, developing plans to facilitate interoperability between public safety agencies and procedures defining communications and command in response to disasters.

Patrick is a Chief EMS Officer and has completed the Chief Fire Officer and Executive Fire Officer program, an accomplishment that only a few in the world have achieved.

The Fire Chief has also received his second bachelor's degree since moving to Webster, and six months ago, he received his master's degree.

He currently serves as the Vice President of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association and will serve as President next session. He is the second in command of Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System and responds all over the state when there are hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, or any other disasters.

When he isn't at the fire department, Patrick and his wife, Stacy enjoy water skiing, snow skiing, and spending time with family on the farm. He hunts and fishes, and enjoys traveling, but he still finds his job fun and enjoys coming to work.

"This is a full-time job, my phone goes off every time they go out on a call," Patrick said. "It's a passion, and I'm glad to come to work in the morning.

"I love my job, and you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone over here that doesn't. The best-kept secret in the fire service is that we would all do this for free."

THANK YOU POLICE OFFICERS!

National Police Week is from May 14-20 with Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15. The Texas Police Officers Memorial is to be held on May 1 in Austin, and the Webster Honor Guard will be in attendance, supporting the friends and families of fallen officers.

The Honor Guard is made up of Officer Sarah Elliott, Officer Nathan Varner, Detective Alan Bracher, Sergeant Jeremy Edge, Corporal Jamie Sherrill, and Sergeant/ Commander Rusty Lovel.

"The Webster Police Department Honor Guard is a team of dedicated officers that take on the extra duties involving ceremonial responsibilities," said Sergeant Lovel.

Police officers have a difficult, often thankless job. We appreciate the unsung heroes of our community for risking their lives daily and making the City of Webster a safer place for residents and visitors.

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," explained 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.

Regroup Mass Notification

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

Gun CHARITY RAFFLE

Raising money for Webster Police Officer Gilbert Jimenez

On Tuesday, October 25, 2016, a vehicle struck Webster Police Officer Gilbert Jimenez while he was directing traffic in a school zone on FM 517. Officer Jimenez was in full uniform and wearing a highly reflective traffic vest at the time of the injury.

The officer had to be transported by ambulance to the hospital with injuries to his head, arms, and legs. He underwent two surgeries to repair a broken left tibia and fibula and to remove glass particles from his right hand, and had to have staples put in the back of his head. Officer Jimenez has been with the City of Webster since 1988 and is a husband and father of two girls.

The City of Webster Police Department would like to raise money for the deserving police officer with a Gun Charity Raffle. First prize is a Defender AR-15 Semi Auto Rifle .223, and second prize is a Smith & Wesson Shield.

For $20 a ticket, Texas residents that meet federal and state firearms requirements can purchase a ticket to win. The drawing will take place on Wednesday, May 10, and winners do not need to be present during the drawing. The Webster Police Officers Association and the Battle Rifle Company are sponsoring the raffle. Call 832.767.8535 for more information.

HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season begins in June, so make sure you have a plan and a kit, says Webster Emergency Management Director Joe Ferro. The first step is to have a plan and know the steps you'll need to take. The next step is to build a kit that has everything from water and food to financial and personal information.

Find more information on Hurricane Preparedness on readyhoustontx.gov or in the June edition of Webster Way!

FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is Sunday, June 18. Take your dad out on an adventure in Webster at one of our several entertainment venues.

Post your Webster Father's Day photos on Facebook using the hashtag #WebsterWeekend, and you could be featured on one of our social media pages!

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MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have regular meetings on ***Tuesday, June 6 and Tuesday, June 20 at 6 p.m.*** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on ***Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m.*** in the Council Chambers.

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

TEXAS AVENUE SPLASH PAD

The first day of summer is June 21, but the weather is already hot! Cool off with your little ones at the Texas Avenue Park Splash Pad at 17100 Texas Avenue in Webster.

The baseball themed splash pad has recently been resurfaced, and shade structures were added for guardians to sit under and avoid the sun. Share your photos with us using #WebsterTX.

#WEBSTER*RESCUES*

The best things in life are rescued! Visit the Webster Animal Shelter at 855 Magnolia Avenue Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m to check out the Webster animals looking for a forever home.

If your pet goes missing, visit the Webster Facebook Page. Animals found in the City are regularly posted.

Contact Webster Animal Control Officer Amanda Trover at 281.316.3700 for more information.

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Civic Center Rental 281.316.4108
Republic Services (Residential) 281.446.2030
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Utility Billing 281.316.4120
Water/Sewer Line Breaks.....281.316.3700

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May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.*	3	4 **Coffee with a Cop** *10 a.m. at ACU inside Kroger on FM 528*	5	6
7	8	9 **Celebration Committee Meeting** *1:30 p.m.* **WEDC Meeting*** *6 p.m.*	10	11	12 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.*	13
14 *Mother's Day!* 	15 **Webster Tae Kwon Do** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday*	16 **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.*	17	18	19	20
21	22 **Webster Aerobics** *Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m..-7:30 p.m*	23	24	25	26 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.*	27 **Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday 7:30-8:30 a.m.*
28	29 **Memorial Day!** *City Offices Closed* 	30	31			

Webster TEXAS

*Special meetings may be added and meetings may be canceled if there are no agenda items. Check the City website at cityofwebster.com for meeting information!