WebsterWay
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

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Webster's After School Program

REGISTER AUGUST 21

As we reach the end of the summer, teachers at Clear View High School and McWhirter Elementary School are stepping back into their classrooms and getting ready for a new school year.

Parents are strolling through store aisles browsing the back-to-school selections and students are soaking up every last bit of summer.

In an effort to support parents and students, the City of Webster has an after school program at the Recreation Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, in Webster.

Parents can register for the FREE program, which gives third to fifth grade children the opportunity to both learn and play after the school day.

City staff encourages and leads the children to after school success. Monday through Friday from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., students can use the computers to access Microsoft Excel, Word, and Powerpoint. They also have the ability to practice their typing, work on homework, or participate in interactive activities. The City also provides a box meal for all the children in the program.

Parents can register for the program on the first day of school, August 21, during the after school program hours at the Recreation Center. Contact Recreation Manager Bryan Morgan at 281.316.4137 for more information.

FOURTH OF JULY RECAP

The Fourth of July Celebration was a wild success! The weather was sunny, the festivities were excellent, and the fireworks show was spectacular!

Thank you to all who attended. More photos and videos of the show are available on the City of Webster, Texas-Government Facebook Page!

Changing Tires & Saving Lives

Meet the Webster Public Works Intern

When Clear View High School Student, Megan Keaster, was chosen as the winner of the 2017 Public Works T-Shirt Contest, she had no idea what was in store for her.

Her artwork was not only printed onto a T-Shirt and given to every Councilmember and Public Works employee to wear during Public Works Week, but she also won a summer internship with the department, and she has been busy ever since.

She has learned everything from mechanics to engineering, and animal control. Learning problem-solving skills, and valuable knowledge that she can bring back into the real world. Megan learned how to change a tire, right after she changed the brake pads and rotors on this Public Works vehicle with Senior Mechanic Dan Zombory and Fleet Mechanic Billy Beran.

When Megan spent a week with Animal Control Officer Amanda Trover, she saved 12 ducklings found trapped in a storm drain. She was able to reunite them with their parents, who she named Harriet and Frank, and watched as they waddled away together as a family.

The City enjoys watching her grow and learn more every single day. Public Works is an excellent place to start a career, and Megan Keaster is certainly one step ahead with this internship on her resume. Webster is thrilled to have her on board for the summer.

WELCOME TO WEBSTER

Meet the City's Newest Commercial Residents

The Economic Development Department has been busy recruiting and expanding the City of Webster commercial base. Here is what's new and what's coming soon:

Alamo Subs is located at 100 East NASA Parkway (NASA One Business Center) and is a new quick serve sandwich shop that is open daily. For Patrick Mancini, this is his first restaurant operation, and he looks forward to offering catering and delivery services in the future.

Also inside NASA One Business Center, Black Rifle (gunsmith operation) has signed a lease, as well as a renal physician, according to Doug Byerly who handles the leasing for the center. Byerly also reports that NAPA Auto Parts already seeks to expand its footprint by another 1,000 square feet, if feasible.

Bay Area Imaging, now open at 16910 Texas Avenue, is an established large format graphics, signage, photo, and art production company that utilizes state-of-the-art digital printing technology.

NOLA Po'boys recently opened and is located at 300 West Bay Area Boulevard. It is a new, fast-casual restaurant that took over space formerly tenanted by Slices and Ices. NOLA Po'boys as its name connotes provides authentic, New Orleans-style sub sandwiches made with light and crispy po'boy loaves, along with traditional fares, like gumbo, red beans and rice, crawfish bisque, seafood baskets, and hot and cold po'boys.

Pub Level Grill & Lounge is located at 18301 Egret Bay Boulevard and is a new entertainment venue that not only is positioned above Scout Bar, but also is operated by Scout Bar's Owners Thomas and Elaine Wilson. Pub Level offers a wide array of burgers, chicken, tacos, wings, pizza, and appetizers, along with a full bar and 53 beers on tap, amid pool tables, video games, darts, and TVs.

Tune Up the Manly Salon, located at 304 West Bay Area Boulevard, is a new business that took over space formerly tenanted by Radio Shack. This franchise, full-service salon caters to men seeking haircuts, beard trims, manicures, pedicures, facials, and eyebrow waxing while enjoying beer, mixed drinks, and entertainment, including a bar, TV, shuffleboard, and video games.

District Theatres, located at 1020 NASA Parkway, opened on Friday, July 7 and is a new dine-in movie concept that is a part of the Star Cinema Grill Company. While Star Cinema Grill was born in Webster, at this Point NASA locale where it achieved inordinate success, a much larger, free-standing venue was built at Baybrook Mall. When the Point NASA Star Cinema Grill closed, the company worked on completely renovating this venue-the Point NASA theatre space-and invigorated it with an innovative, new, phenomenal concept.

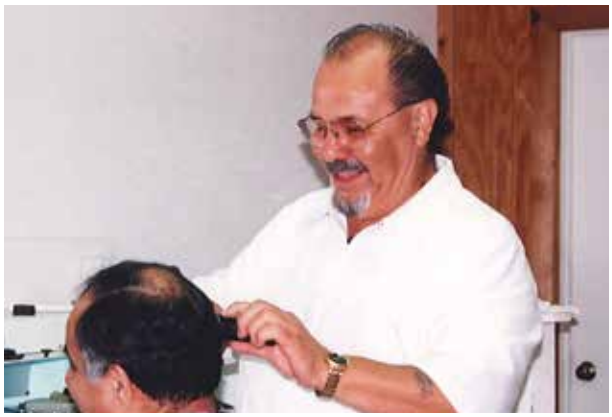
The southeast corner of I-45 and Bay Area Boulevard is welcoming new businesses, including Plato's Closet, Blue Lion Salon Studios, and Escalante's. Construction of the new 3,500 square foot James Avery store is nearly completed, and interior build out will take several months to enable the business, one of the City's leading specialty retailers, to move in this fall.

Construction is also being completed on Pluckers Wing Bar Restaurant. The Austin based restaurant will be located off of the Gulf Freeway next to Cavender's Boot City.

The City of Webster is excited to have these new businesses open for residents and visitors. Be sure to check them out, and always shop, dine, and play the Webster way!

Left: *Carlos Villagomez stands in front of his favorite photos in the barber shop.*

Below: *In April, 1999, Carlos Villagomez uses his skills on a regular customer at the barber shop.*



WE *ARE* WEBSTER

CARLOS VILLAGOMEZ

The walls of Carlos Villagomez's Barber Shop are adorned with historical relics and notable photos of distinguished NASA explorers that the barber could spend hours recounting.

Most noticeably, in the middle of the wall hangs a photoshopped picture of six astronauts donning fiesta attire over their bright orange space suits. Carlos says every Mexican food restaurant in the space city has their eye on this one portrait.

The small barber shop to the right of Carlos' Beer Garden, in Webster, is abounding with memories, and the man in charge has heard enough stories from astronauts and other prominent community members to last a lifetime.

It all started when Carlos decided, by a leap of faith, to open a small barber shop on the outskirts of Houston. He had been working as a barber near the Galleria, but wanted to open his own shop.

"One day I passed by this property and the house next door was for sale," he explained. "I had the idea that I would make the downstairs to open my shop and I would make the upstairs an apartment and bring my family from Houston."

So, on April Fools Day, 1969, he moved to the small City of Webster to open his own business.

After nine successful years, Webster was growing, and so was the hairdresser's resume. In 1978, he decided to use the property next door to his home and barber shop to build a beer garden.

"I went to City Council regarding the beer garden and boy, did I sweat," Carlos laughed, recalling the memory. "I didn't know if they were going to give me a permit."

During this time, Webster was experiencing exponential growth, and the citizens were apprehensive about Webster's transition from small town to a developing metropolis.

At a 4 to 3 vote, Council approved Carlos' business idea, and and it turned out to be for the best.

Carlos realized that if he wanted to be in business here, he should become involved with the municipality, but he had no idea how local government worked.

So, he first joined the Webster Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board, and enrolled in a small city government class at College of the Mainland.

"After the class, I thought I was a professional, so I ran for council and won," he said proudly.

Carlos served twice on city council before deciding to run for mayor. After a close race, he lost by four votes, but Carlos says it wasn't all for naught.

"I'm happy I tried it because it is on record, and my grandkids will someday see my name and know that I ran for mayor."

In the following years, he became involved in the Webster Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). He says his biggest WEDC accomplishment was the approval of 4B sales tax, which led to great infrastructure projects that grew and enhanced business enterprise.

Since then, Carlos has torn down the original barber shop and apartment, built a small barber shop to the right of the beer garden, and his son now runs the restaurant.

He has cut the hair of astronauts and has held gatherings for historical figures such as John Glenn after he landed from his last journey into space.

Carlos is a husband, father, and grandfather, with three children, seven grandchildren, and is the owner of a rabbit with six baby bunnies.

Although Carlos can often be found in the beer garden helping, chatting, and having fun with the employees and customers, his barber shop is still open.

"I love Webster, I've been very successful in Webster, and it has changed a lot," Carlos stated.

The history inside of the small barber shop and beer garden is fascinating, and the photos on the walls tell a story themselves, but we can promise you, Carlos can tell the story even better.

CITY HALL CONNECT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR BETSY GIUSTO

For nearly two decades, Betsy Giusto has presided as Economic Development Director for the City of Webster, and she has made an impressive impact on Webster's commercial population.

The Economic Development Team fosters the creation of new and expanding business development and retention of existing industry. Strong growth in the aerospace, medical, hospitality, retail, office, and entertainment sectors make Webster "the perfect climate for business."

Giusto's educational background includes a Ph.D. from the University of Houston, a Master of Arts and Master of Science from the University of Houston Clear Lake, and Bachelor of Arts from Tulane University.

She credits her immersion into retail at a very young age based on her grandparents' department store, where she worked until college, and numerous years of teaching a variety of English courses at Alvin Community College, instilling ingredients for economic development success. Skills in communication, presentation, and marketing are essential components.

Some of Giusto's favorite success stories include the Destination Development Project, Topgolf, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Project Genesis, Odyssey Park, Magnolia Business Park (ARI-Armaturen, Olympus, Saloon Door Brewing), Exclusive Furniture, Main Event, Springhill Suites, Fry's Electronics, and Conn's HomePlus.

Certainly, Giusto relishes both the challenges and successes in growing the City's commercial tax base.

"This is a team effort, and the City's Economic Development Team is unsurpassed," Giusto said. "Karen Coglianese and Chris Thrailkill are invaluable to the mission. Webster, with its compact 6.7 square mile footprint, has always faced obstacles and competition—but the Economic Development Team strives to be the best—as it is people who make great developments happen."

The Economic Development Department's reputation is excellent—as it's built on many years of being business and development friendly, responsive, proactive, and creative. Accolades, like these, however, require the support of the Webster Economic Development Corporation, City Council, City Manager, and other departments, Giusto explained.

Betsy's passion for Webster businesses and her enthusiasm for their success is contagious and is the reason why the City's commercial base is so strong.

Her list of commercial wins goes on and on: Bay Area Regional Medical Center, Post Acute Medical Rehabilitation Hospital of Clear Lake, Remington College, Harbor Freight, James Avery, Pluckers, Escalante's, Chuy's, United Fire Group, Batavia, and Allometrics all hold a special place in her heart.

Webster has an impressive list of thriving businesses thanks to Economic Development Director Betsy Giusto, and she is just getting started!

Let's Go For a Walk

Have you visited the Webster walking path? It's complete with obstacles that the Police and Fire Department can use to perform fitness assessments, and residents use to exercise!

The path is next to Webster Fire Station 1, which is located at 18300 Highway 3, and it is open now!

LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM MOVES TO ELLINGTON AIRPORT

On September 2, the Lone Star Flight Museum opens to the public at its new facility at Ellington Airport.

The museum is moving from Galveston into a new 130,000 square foot building and will feature interactive, educational exhibits that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math concepts essential to flight while allowing visitors to explore Texas' rich aviation heritage.

In the new facility, there is a Flight Academy, introducing visitors to the foundations of flight and aircraft design with hands-on exhibits. There will be a Texas Aviation Heritage Gallery, with a chronological walk through the history of aviation in Texas. LSFM will also house an Aircraft Collection in two 30,000 square foot hangars. It will feature more than 20 beautifully restored, historic aircraft including Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, North American B-25 Mitchell, and Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, amongst others.

The new museum is located at 11551 Aerospace Avenue in Houston and will be open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Webster is eager to see the impact it will make in our community!

FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the four Webster Firefighters who were promoted in July!

On July 10, Engineer Jeremy Falcone, Engineer Ryan McMahon, Lieutenant Brennan Briggs and Lieutenant Jason Myers were recognized for their advancements and presented new helmets.

Great job, Webster Fire Department!

Engineer Jeremy Falcone

Engineer Ryan McMahon

Lieutenant Brennan Briggs

Lieutenant Jason Myers

HAPPY LABOR DAY

The City of Webster Offices will be closed on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 5. Trash routes will run as normally scheduled.

HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS

On September 2, there will be a Hunter Education Class from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Webster Police Department, 217 Pennsylvania Ave.

This course is designed for novice or young hunters, ages 9 years and above. The course covers the core competencies of firearm and hunting safety, hunting ethics, and wildlife conservation.

Students will receive a Hunter Education Certification, which is good for life in all 50 states and all U.S. Territories, Canada, Mexico, Austria, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

All Texas residents, even if born before September 2, 1971, must have a Hunter Education Certification to hunt outside of Texas.

The class is $15 a person, and the community can sign up at tpwd.elementlms.com. For more information call 832.474.8977 or email HunterEducationClasses@yahoo.com.

MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have a regular meeting on ***Tuesday, September 5 and September 19 at 6 p.m.*** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on ***Tuesday, September 12 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.

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN

Friday, September 22 is the first day of Autumn! The City of Webster wishes you a happy Fall filled with lots of pumpkin spice and everything nice!

Visit the Webster Splash Pad while it's still hot, take photos and share them with us on Facebook using #WebsterTX.

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Civic Center Rental 281.316.4108
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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

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August 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*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!		**City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* 1	**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting** *6 p.m.* 2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	**Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.* 11	12
13	**Webster Tae Kwon Do** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday* 14	**City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* 15	16	17	18	19
20	**Webster Aerobics** *Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m* 21	22	23	24	**Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.* 25	**Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday 7:30-8:30 a.m.* 26
27	28	29	30	31		