# Webster Way

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

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Public Works Intern Megan Keaster operated the manlift with the help of Jasmin Armas

Get Connected @WEBSTERTEXAS

## Distracted Driving in Texas

### New Law in Effect September 1

A Texas Department of Transportation study recently reported that distracted driving causes 1 in 5 crashes in Texas.

As a way to diminish the number of deaths, injuries, and damages caused by the distracted drivers, beginning September 1, texting and driving is illegal statewide.

"It is our sincere hope that this new law and the subsequent enforcement actions will save thousands of lives," said Webster Police Chief Danny Presley. "The Webster Police Department is committed to enforcing this law just as we enforce all laws enacted by the Texas Legislature. We encourage people to put their cell phones away so they can devote all of their attention to driving safely."

Texting will be punishable by a fine of up to $99 for first-time offenders, and $200 for repeat offenses. Drivers can talk on the phone under the new law if they are using a hands-free device, and the new law does not impact GPS systems or music applications on cell phones.

Please help us keep Webster safe: Drive now, text later!

# Cops on Top

## Help Raise Money for Special Olympics Texas

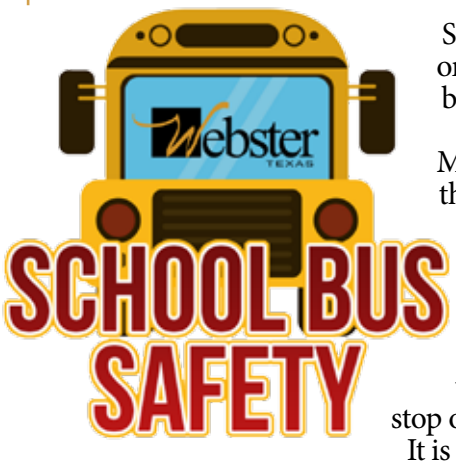
**Postponed**

On September 22, Webster Police Officers will be on the roof of Dunkin' Donuts on Bay Area Boulevard to raise money for Special Olympics Texas!

While Webster's first will be on top of the donut and coffee establishment, you can stop and buy a donut and coffee, and make a donation to the organization and it's athletes. If you're in a hurry, you can donate in the drive through lane as well.

Last year, the event raised $1,800! Help raise even more money on Friday, September 22 from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts located at 1525 Bay Area Boulevard, in Houston.

Share your photos with us at kstamy@cityofwebster.com. See you there!




School is back in session, which means lowered speed limits, and increased congestion on the roads. Kids are hopping on school buses, or racing down the street on their bicycles, while parents hurry to get their children to school before the bell rings.

Webster Police Department is continuously monitoring the school zone surrounding McWhirter Elementary School and Clear View High School, but it's ultimately up to the drivers to follow the law and make this community safe for everyone.

As a reminder, NASA Parkway is in a school zone, meaning that the speed limit is reduced to 20 miles per hour from 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and again from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Drivers must slow down and keep an eye out for children crossing the streets. If a driver is using their phone while in a school zone, they can be fined up to $200.

When driving behind a bus, the National Safety Council (NSC) advises motorists to leave a greater distance than if you were behind a car. This will allow more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.

It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. Never pass a bus from behind or either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children. If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.

The area 10-feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children, according to the NSC. Stay far enough back to allow them space to enter and exit the bus safely. Be alert, as children are often unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

If a bus stops to load or unload children when traveling down a divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation, only traffic following the bus must stop.

Help us keep our children safe this school year and pay attention while driving. If you have any questions regarding bus safety, please contact Webster Police Department at 281.332.2426.

**TIPS FOR PARENTS**

1. **If you're dropping off, do not double park, it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.**
2. **Do not load or unload children across the street from the school.**
3. **Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school.**

*Information from the NSC

*Art by Domenic Laurenzo*

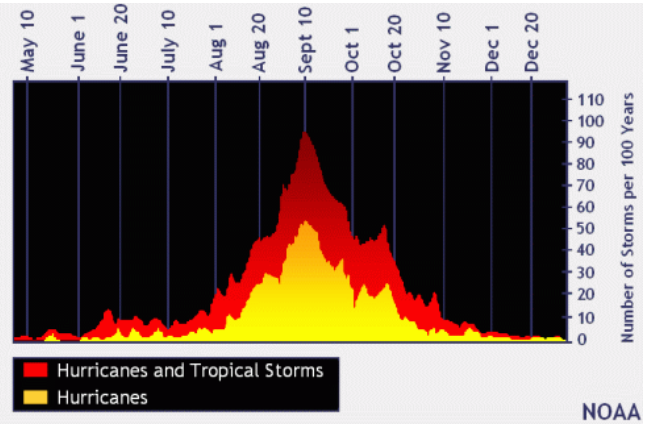
# Commercial Spotlight

After a long delay, the City is looking forward to El Tiempo Cantina opening its doors in Webster!

The popular Houston restaurant is expected to open before Christmas 2017. News of the Webster location broke in spring 2013, and the project was delayed multiple times before a lawsuit was filed in September 2014.

El Tiempo Cantina will be located at 20235 Gulf Freeway in Webster.

# *National Preparedness Month*




With today's technology, there are more ways than ever to stay in contact with family and friends in an emergency.

As we enter the peak of hurricane season, the City of Webster and Ready.gov would like to give you some technology tips and tricks, so in the event of an emergency, you are prepped and primed.

An easy way to store important documents in a secure, dry location is by using a cell phone camera. Capture electronic versions of important documents such as insurance policies, identification documents, and medical records by using your phone and backing up the images on your computer. Residents should also backup their computers to protect photos and other personally relevant electronic documents. Remember to include information about pets.

During an emergency, use text messages and social media to connect with family and friends, as mobile networks can become overwhelmed, making it difficult to place and receive calls. Facebook's Safety Check Feature allows users to easily post a status update indicating that they are safe during a time of disaster.

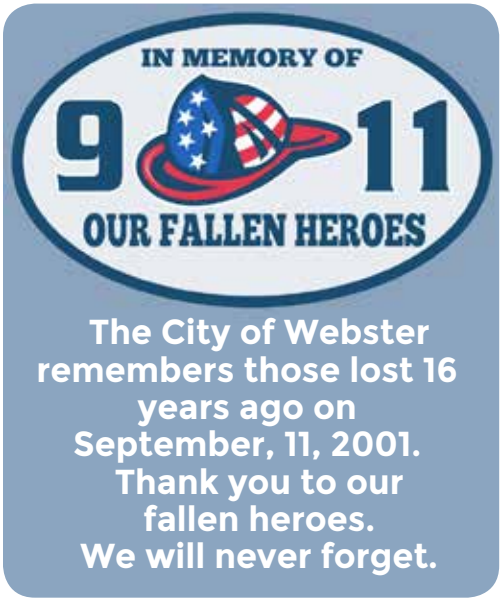
Webster strongly urges its residents to sign up for Regroup Mass Notifications to stay in the know about any impending disaster or emergency situation.

So that you do not miss any critical alerts or warnings, keep a backup power source on hand to recharge your phone so that you can stay connected even during an extended power outage.

Make a plan, create a kit, and make sure you are tech ready for any emergency all year round. Learn how to sign up for Regroup Mass Notifications on page 6!

# DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can check out the availability of the Webster Civic Center and Texas Avenue Park Pavilion online? Next time you are looking to make arrangements at a Webster facility, visit cityofwebster.com/Facilities to view the calendars. Also on the website are the reservation agreements and rental rates. The calendar fills up quickly, so if you are interested in reserving an open weekend, contact Community Development Administrative Coordinator Heather Cherry at 281.316.4108.



# *Webster Tae Kwon Do*

It's been another successful year for Davenport's ATA Martial Arts in Webster. This year the group collected 27 medals, including 15 U.S. District South Champion titles at the World Championship.

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday Laura Davenport, a 5th-degree black belt teaches Martial Arts to children and adults in the Webster Recreation Building. Recently, Davenport and students participated in the World Champion Competition where she and her students Venkat Basetti, Melissa Torgerson, Giri Basetti, Yvonne Barineau, Shay Pitts, and Daniel Fortenberry received several medals and titles in numerous events.

Congratulations to all the winners! Visit the City of Webster website to learn more about how to sign up for Webster ATA Martial Arts.

***Left:*** *David Compton in front of Webster City Hall.*

***Below:*** *David Compton and his wife Ginger at Webster Presbyterian Church.*

# WE ARE *WEBSTER*

## DAVID COMPTON

As David Compton served on the City of Webster's very first jury, the group was asked if they knew the defendant who was in court for a traffic ticket. One by one, each juror raised their hand. In Webster, everyone knew everyone.

David Compton was originally from Seabrook and took a 13-mile bus ride on the shell road to Webster High School. He graduated from the high school's last graduating class in 1956.

On September 21, 1956, David married his wife Ginger at Webster Presbyterian Church. The two were married for 56 years until she sadly passed away in 2012, from lymphoma cancer. The couple had two children and spent most of their years in Webster.

David was a member of the Webster Volunteer Fire Department, but his job as a field service supervisor often resulted in him being away when he was needed.

He accepted a job as superintendent of an industrial repair shop in Houston, so the family moved out of Webster and into Houston for ten years to avoid the 40-mile commute. He and Ginger then moved to Sweeny for a couple of years before returning to Webster in 1985.

After returning to Webster, David managed a pump repair shop in Houston. Ginger enjoyed being an activist and served on several committees, once chairing the Celebration Committee. She was also twice named citizen of the year.

In 2000, David retired but continued to work as a consultant and project manager for a few years. When he finally retired altogether, he and Ginger traveled around the United States visiting libraries, court houses, and cemeteries, as Ginger was an avid Genealogist. Her favorite library was the Mormon Genealogy Library in Salt Lake City. Her research found over 1,200 of David's Norris relatives.

Before Ginger passed in 2012, their daughter Holly had moved back home to begin a new career. Holly continues to live with him and they have developed a strong interest in wood working.

David has enjoyed working with his hands since he was young. During World War II, his father built a three room home using material from an old house he bought in Seabrook for $10. So, at the age of 6, he was learning how to build things alongside his father.

He has used his experience with carpentry to build two, T-14 Purple Martin bird houses, designed by the Amish. Every year in March, the Martins travel from Brazil to Texas to raise their young.

He once built a barrister's bookcases for a friends doll collection. He and Holly have built over 150 folding camp stools and other camping furniture which she sells to her Society for Creative Anachronism friends. David also volunteers at the Alvin Historical Museum, restoring old pieces and doing odd jobs around the Marguerite Rogers House.

He starts each day by talking on his Amateur (ham) Radio to friends around Texas and Louisiana. He has a tower and antenna that stands behind his home.

When he isn't working with his hands, David roams around town in a car he built himself in 1978. Underneath, it is a 1968 Volkswagen, but on the outside, it is a replica of a 1952 MG-TD from England.

Webster has changed and grown, but the small town feel and his close group of neighbors and friends has remained the same.

It's been 60 years since David Compton first moved to Webster, and although he moved away for a period of time, he always came back, because Webster will always be home.

# CITY HALL CONNECT

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SHANNON HICKS

Shannon Hicks, Webster Public Works Director, has served in the U.S. Army, lived and worked in Iraq, and built himself an airplane. He is a problem-solving engineer who has overseen the water, maintenance, and infrastructure responsibilities in Webster since 2006, and who has a passion for flying in his spare time.

After Shannon completed a three-year assignment with the U.S. Army in 1994, he began attending the University of New Orleans. Working during the day and attending classes at night and on weekends, he ultimately graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He began working in highway construction as a contractor in Louisiana, moved to several states to further his career and experience, and eventually ended up in Houston, Texas.

In 2003, the opportunity of a lifetime arose for him to spend a year in Iraq as a Site Manager at Camp Taji for the Halliburton Company. Shannon, who is always looking for an adventure, accepted the position, and according to him, it was an incredible experience. He led the construction of building the base infrastructure and facilities including dining, laundry, moral, welfare, and recreation facilities, as well as the living and restroom facilities. This included operations to feed and provide potable water to over 75,000 people which included all soldiers and civilians on base.

Upon returning home, Shannon decided to venture into the municipal side of the industry after working for years as a contractor. His history of working on the contractor side gave him a unique perspective, Shannon explained.

His experience in municipal government started as the Assistant City Engineer in Deer Park, then in 2006, he began his career in our city as the Director of Public Works.

Every day is different for the Director of Public Works, but the problem-solving aspect of the position is Shannon's favorite. Whether it's a task concerning the water, roads, or buildings in Webster, finding a solution that no one has thought of yet is his passion.

In addition to his normal responsibilities, he is currently focused on the Destination Development, Genesis Blvd., and the NASA Bypass Extension projects.

In 2010, Shannon began on an endeavor to build a plane in his spare time. After five years of arduous labor, he and a close friend completed the aircraft that can seat four plus luggage. He has flown as far as Wisconsin, but he most often uses the plane for shorter trips to visit family with his wife, Elisca. He says the usual 4.5-hour drive can take just 1.5 hours by air.

He and Elisca met in college and have been married for almost 20 years. She is an instructor at NASA, and like Shannon, she enjoys spending her spare time traveling. Together, the two have been to seven different countries and look forward to the opportunity to travel more.

Shannon's skills, experience, and leadership help to make the Public Works department successful, but according to him, the staff at Public Works is what makes the department so exceptional.

"Things just get done at Public Works without much direction needed," he explained. "The employees are all professionals that I trust to know what needs to be done and they make my job a joy."

# Ordinance Reminders

***CURFEW***- Curfew in Webster is 11 p.m. on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday until 6 a.m. of the following day. Curfew is from 12:01 a.m. until 6 a.m. on any Friday or Saturday. A minor commits an offense if he remains in or on the premises of any public establishment within the city during curfew hours. A parent or guardian of a minor commits an offense if he knowingly permits, or by insufficient control allows the minor to remain in any public place during curfew hours.

***PARKS AND RECREATION***- It is unlawful for any person to bring any animal into any park, except for an assistance dog. A person also cannot ride or lead a horse, donkey or mule onto the park grounds.

***BIRD SANCTUARY***- It is unlawful for any person to shoot or attempt to shoot or kill with any firearm, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, or other apparatus or to trap, snare, or otherwise catch any wild bird, regardless of age, within the city.

## ▼ RECORDS MANAGEMENT DAY

While state and federal offices, post offices, and banks will be closed in observance of Columbus Day on Monday, October 9, the City of Webster will take the day to manage departmental records. All employees will report to work as usual, but city offices will be closed to take advantage of an uninterrupted day to sort through paperwork and process records in compliance with state and federal guidelines. Emergency Services will operate as usual. For more information, contact Rose Hamidian, Records Manager for the City at 281.316.4136.

## ▼ CLEAN UP WEEK

Beginning on Monday, October 16, the City of Webster will provide FREE curbside pickup of household trash, furniture, appliances, tree limbs, etc. for residents. Curbside pickup will continue until Friday, October 20.

The City of Webster also declared Saturday, October 21 as City-wide Garage Sale Day. Check out the October edition of Webster Way Newsletter to learn more!

## ▼ MEDICATION TAKE BACK

Bay Area Medication Take Back Day will be at Webster Fire Station, 18300 Highway 3, on Saturday, October 28.

From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. you can participate by driving through the drop-off site where law enforcement will take your medications for proper off-site disposal.

All unused or expired prescription or over-the-counter medications are accepted. No sharps!

## ▼ MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have a regular meeting on ***Tuesday, October 3 and October 17 at 6 p.m.*** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on ***Tuesday, October 10 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.

## ▼ HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Halloween is on a Tuesday this year, and the City of Webster would like to wish you all a super spooky holiday. Keep in mind that if you send your trick or treat photos to the City of Webster Facebook page, you could be featured on our social medias! Happy Halloween!

WebsterWay MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

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

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

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Position 2: Andrea Wilson .....awilson@cityofwebster.com
Position 3: Larry Tosto.....ltosto@cityofwebster.com
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Public Works Service Center .....jtobey@cityofwebster.com

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Animal Control.....281.316.3700
City Trash Hauling .....281.316.3700
Civic Center Rental .....281.316.4108
Police (Non-emergency).....281.332.2426
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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# September 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! | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Happy Labor Day! City Hall Closed | 5 **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* | 6 | 7 **Webster Tae Kwon Do** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday* | 8 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.* | 9 |
| 10 | 11 REMEMBER 9-11 | 12 **Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting** *6 p.m.* | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 **Webster Aerobics** *Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m.-7 p.m* | 19 **City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* | 20 | 21 | 22 **Senior Game Night** *6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.* First Day of Autumn | 23 **Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday 8 a.m.-9 a.m.* |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |