Webster Way
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

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Webster Holiday Events

Senior Holiday Luncheon and Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

It's the most wonderful time of the year, homes are adorned with bright lights and the community is bustling as shoppers are out looking for that perfect gift. Meanwhile, the City of Webster is getting ready for the annual Christmas Yard Decorating Contest and Senior Holiday Luncheon.

Senior Holiday Luncheon

The City of Webster will celebrate the senior citizens at the annual Senior Holiday Luncheon on December 6 at 11:30 a.m. The event will take place at the Recreation Building, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, and all senior residents are welcome to attend. There will be delicious food and wonderful company.

Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

Judges will make their rounds to the Webster neighborhoods on December 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. A first, second, third, and honorable mention will be chosen for both the east and west side of Highway 3. Criteria includes the use of color, creativity, aesthetic beauty, and variety of decorations used.

THE WOMEN OF PUBLIC WORKS

Webster Public Works Department is full of hardworking employees, working tirelessly to keep the City functioning and maintained. Within the group of 39 employees, five women are making themselves known within the department and making a difference in the community on a daily basis.

PAMELA GUILLORY

In July 2000, Pamela Guillory began working for the City of Webster as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Public Works and the City Planner. She now holds the position of Administrative Coordinator to the Director of Public Works, Shannon Hicks, assisting with the department's annual budget preparation and preparing weekly departmental expenditure reports. Other responsibilities include, but are not limited to, researching and preparing the annual reports, managing the Fuel Master Program and working in concert with staff, assisting with permits, purchase orders, in addition to answering phone calls and greeting guests.

In an effort to gain a detailed understanding of the wastewater process she obtained the "D" Wastewater Operator License and attended the Basic Water training. Pamela is also an International Association of Administrative Professionals Certified Administrative Professional and is a Notary Public.

"I feel that it is my responsibility to be prepared every day and to try to anticipate what is needed from me before being asked," she explained. "I feel so very fortunate to spend each day in a career that I love, working for and with such great people."

JENNIFER TOBEY

After Pamela Guillory was promoted to Administrative Coordinator in 2007, the Public Works Department added a Staff Assistant position, and in 2012, Jennifer Tobey filled the position. Jennifer had previously worked for the City of La Porte Public Works Department, but had taken time off after having her son, Quinn.

When she was ready to go back to work, she browsed the internet and discovered the open position with Webster, and the rest is history. Jennifer handles incoming calls, processes invoices and receipts, dispatches work requests and reports as needed, and welcomes guests into the Service Center.

"My favorite thing is the customer service, and dealing with the public," she said. "It is mostly men, but I am used to that from La Porte, and you get to the point where you joke around with the guys. It's a nice and close-knit group. I always tell everyone how happy I've been here. It worked out great!"

Welcome to Webster Business Update November 2017

Pluckers Wing Bar, located at 20821 Gulf Freeway is now open as the third Houston-area location. The Austin-based sports bar and chicken wing restaurant serves famous wings and homemade sauces and fan favorites like Holy Macaroni and the Bypass Burger.

Auto Exam, Vision Warranty Corporation, and Jett Vehicle Finance are now open in Webster to inspect vehicles, offer consumers vehicle service contracts, and assist members with financing options. Located at 17555 El Camino Real, the three complementary businesses relocated and expanded from Houston to Webster several months ago.

Leidos, located at 555 Forge River Road, is a Fortune 500 science and technology solutions and services leader headquartered in Reston, Virginia. The Webster facility provides low earth orbit (LEO) commercial services.

Plato's Closet and **Once Upon a Child** are now located at 1013 West Bay Area Boulevard offering a huge selection of trendy, designer styles at 70 percent off mall retail prices.

Delta Blues Smokehouse is now open at 19901 Gulf Freeway and is a part of the Pappas family. The restaurant serves Roy's Chicken Fried Prime Ribeye to Delta Fried Catfish to Smoked Berkshire Pork Belly, and so much more.

Fitness Connection will be transforming the former Blast Fitness facility at 20761 Gulf Freeway and is projecting to open in April of 2018.

Noon and Mirch (Cuisine of India) is slated to open around the first week of December in the brand new Lumbini Plaza, at 505 NASA Parkway.

AMANDA TROVER

After Amanda moved from Colorado to Texas for her husband's job, she was visiting Galveston when she drove past the animal shelter and was intrigued. According to Amanda, Colorado did not have many shelters, let alone many stray animals. Amanda had a history of training and showing dogs, so her love for animals drove her to visit the shelter. She immediately wanted to help.

She began her animal control career at the Texas City Police Department in the Animal Control Division, but in December of 2013, she made the move to Webster. Since joining Webster, Amanda has dramatically increased the number of animals being adopted and made herself known in the area with various community outreach programs, focusing on educating children on proper interactions with dogs and cats.

Amanda works around the clock for the animals, regularly bringing the strays to her home to socialize them and turn them into adoptable pets. She is an Advanced Animal Control Officer, and is a Certified Texas Animal Cruelty Investigator and recently received her National Animal Control License. Amanda says one of her greatest accomplishments has been receiving the American Public Works Association Texas Chapter Award for Exceptional Performance - Adversity for 2017.

Her husband quickly recognized Amanda's passion for her job and the animals in the community and he soon joined her on her career path. The two now both run their own shelters, with a mission to make the world a better place for the animals.

JASMIN ARMAS

Growing up, Jasmin worked for her family's landscaping business, mowing lawns, trimming trees and maintaining yards. She put all that experience to good use in 2014 when she began working for the City of Webster, as a Parks Maintenance Crewman. In less than nine months, she was promoted to Equipment Operator, and soon after, she was promoted to her current position as Crew Leader.

Jasmin's position allows her to use her past experience to landscape different areas throughout the City. With the help of her crew and temporary hires, she recently completed the landscaping at the Police Department and along FM-270. Since joining the Webster team, Jasmin has also enhanced her list of certifications, which includes Animal Control, Backhoe Operations, Pest Control, Certified Pool Operator, and most recently, Licensed Irrigator. Her next goal is to earn her Arborist Certificate. Jasmin is one of two female Crew Leaders in the Department, but says her key to success is working together with all Crewmembers.

"I listen to their opinions and ideas, and we decide as a group," she explained. "After listening to others' input, I confer with our Parks Maintenance Foreman, and together, we make the final decision that is best for the City and the community."

TRACEY SWINDLE

The day after her high school graduation, Tracey Swindle left Kingsville, Texas to explore the country. She lived in California, Florida, and Virginia, before she ended up back in Texas and at Webster Public Works one year and five months ago.

While she was traveling around the United States, she joined the Navy in 1994, spent time in Waukegan, Illinois and was a boiler technician on a steamship. After that, Tracey worked for Public Works Departments in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake City with no intentions of moving back to Texas. But, when a good friend began battling her fourth bout of cancer, Tracey decided to come home.

Since beginning in Webster she has received three water and wastewater licenses and is working hard to receive her fourth license in the near future. She was recently promoted to Crew Leader and a big part of her job has been overseeing projects such as replacing fire hydrants and boring into NASA Parkway to make way for trees. Tracey says the most important part of her job is overseeing the crewmembers and making sure they are safe every step of the way. She explained that she has learned that it is better to do something once and take longer, than go back and do it twice to revamp what you should have done initially.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT 101

Have you ever thought about what happens to the water you run down the sink or flush down the toilet? Every day the employees at the Webster Wastewater Treatment Plant make rounds, take readings, and check levels to make sure the discharged, treated water exceeds state and federal standards, in order to protect the health of the community and the environment.

Sewage from the Webster homes enters the treatment plant and air is pumped through the water to begin the treatment process. The water then mixes with bacteria which begins to eat away at the organic matter, which settles to the bottom of the tank. The water is then moved into a clarifier where the clear water comes to the top of the tank and reseeds the plant.

The water is then sent through sand filters which work to take out nearly all of the total suspended solids and dissolved oxygen and makes the water clean and clear. Chlorine is added to the water to disinfect and then the chlorine is removed before being discharged into local streams.

The process is complex but essential to keep the community and environment safe. Residents are asked to help improve the process by refraining from putting grease down the sink. Always pour or scrape cooled fats, oils and grease into a covered, disposable container and throw it into your garbage. Never pour fats, oils or grease down sink drains or toilets. For more information about how to prevent water pollution, visit cityofwebster.com.

WE ARE *WEBSTER*

FRAN GORDON

Fran Gordon has not always lived in Webster, but since making the City her home, she has made the most of it. She has joined the Planning and Zoning Commission and is the Chairman of the Celebration Committee, attends the Senior Game Nights, and is a member of the First Baptist Church in Webster.

She grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Jackson, Mississippi, and attended the University of Mississippi. When she was a junior in college, she met her husband and the two moved to Chicago for his career.

The pair then moved to New Orleans before moving to the Houston area where they had two children and made Texas their new home.

Fran lived in Galveston for a period of time before moving to Webster five years ago with her son.

She now leads the Celebration Committee and takes pride in the Fourth of July Celebration success.

"The Celebration brings people together," she said. "Everyone is having a good time, laughing together, and talking to everyone."

"My job as the chairman is the easiest job. The people are so dedicated and are such an inspiration to work with."

When she isn't busy working on the boards and in the community, Fran spends time with her son who lives in Webster and owns an insurance company on El Dorado. She also spends time with her daughter in Galveston and her grandchildren who live in the area as well.

"This is my home now," Fran said. "The people in Webster have been so nice to me, I've made a lot of friends here and I've put roots down here. All I have in Texas is good memories."

Court News

James W. Woltz appointed as Presiding Judge

On Tuesday, October 31, the City of Webster's Honorable Judge Glenn Chaney sadly passed away. He was a dedicated part of the Webster community, serving as presiding judge in Webster for the past 30 years.

During the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 7, James W. Woltz was appointed as new presiding judge and David J. Salinski and Kerri M. Foley were appointed as associate judges.

Below: *Carol Fontenot during her first year working for the City of Webster in 1980.*

CITY HALL *CONNECT*

CAROL FONTENOT

Growing up with a father who worked as an aeronautical engineer for NASA meant that Carol was more than familiar with Webster. Her neighbors were astronauts, and she attended Webster Intermediate School. The community has always been home to Carol, so after she left her job as an interior designer she took a trip down memory lane. She drove past the intermediate school and turned down Pennsylvania Avenue in Webster. As she made her way down the street she came across Webster City Hall and decided to see what her chances were of getting a job at the City.

"I just walked in and got the job," explained Carol. "I didn't even know about the job beforehand, but I had worked for a municipality before and thought I would see if they were hiring."

Her first day on the job was June 16, 1980, at the old City Hall across from McWhirter Elementary School.

"When I first came here, the City did not have a Human Resources Department, so my job duties included HR, payroll, and utility billing," she said.

When the City began to grow, Carol was the first employee to be given a computer to make her job easier. She continued to do payroll using it, but was still overwhelmed by the workload of HR.

So, after 13 years of managing all three departments, the City hired someone to take over the Human Resources Department.

Today, Carol's main job duties consist of utility billing and payroll. Her fondest memories of Webster have been the holiday festivities including a white elephant gift exchange at Christmas, dressing up for Halloween, and making a celebration out of every birthday.

"Everyone in Webster became my family," she said. "My favorite thing has been coming to work every day and seeing everyone with a smile on their face."

When she isn't at work, Carol spends time with her husband Scott, and her two children, Shannon and Chase. She also has five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren that live in the Webster area that she loves spending time with.

She recently built a home in Danbury with her husband, and the two live there with their Husky, Lobo, and African Spurred Tortoise, Ziggy.

Though Carol never pursued interior design after beginning in Webster, she still dabbles in it and has found other ways to be creative. She enjoys making jewelry, painting, woodworking, and creating floral arrangements. However, one hobby Carol particularly loves is creating ornamental gourds.

She dries out the gourds and sands them into different shapes and sizes then paints and decorates their exterior. She competes with her gourds and has even won a People's Choice Award for her giraffe gourd.

"It's an excellent stress reliever," she said.

Carol has worked for the City of Webster for nearly 40 years and has remained a loyal and dedicated member of the Finance Department.

"I have been in this position for so long and I've met a lot of nice people," Carol said. "I love what I am doing and I like helping customers. I thought I would only stay here for about a year, but everyone here ended up becoming my family."

Shop Webster

THE CITY OF WEBSTER OFFERS THE ULTIMATE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPERIENCE WITH OVER 30 RETAIL CENTERS TO CHOOSE FROM.
MAKE YOUR FAMILY HAPPY AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL BUSINESSES BY SHOPPING IN WEBSTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Christmas Tree Removal

Following the holiday season, Republic Services offers residential customers Christmas Tree Removal. Republic will collect Christmas trees on regularly scheduled collection days during the first two weeks of January. Please remove all tree bags, ornaments, tinsel, and stands. Cut all trees taller than six feet in half. Find your local service details to understand exceptions or restrictions at republicservices.com.

IF YOU NEED TO REPORT STREETLIGHT OUTAGES IN WEBSTER, VISIT THE CENTERPOINT WEBSITE AT CenterpointEnergy.com. BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A POLE NUMBER FOR THE NON-FUNCTIONING LIGHT.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WEBSTER CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 FOR CHRISTMAS. OFFICES WILL REOPEN ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27.

▼ NEW YEAR'S DAY

The City of Webster offices will be closed on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Trash services will be impacted and customers will receive services on the following day.

▼ WEBSTER'S BIRTHDAY

The City of Webster was incorporated on January 27, 1958, making it 60 years old! With a population of over 200 people, it was first a Village and later incorporated as a City.

Help us celebrate the momentous occasion by sharing your photos with us! Photos will be put in the January - Birthday Edition of the Webster Way Newsletter! Share your stories and memories with Katie Stamy at kstamy@cityofwebster.com or 281.316.3764.

▼ WEBSTER*RESCUES*

The best things in life are rescued! Visit the Webster Animal Shelter at 855 Magnlia Avenue, Monday - Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. - 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.

▼ MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have a regular meeting on ***Tuesday, January 2 and January 16 at 6 p.m.*** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on ***Tuesday, January 9 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.

▼ MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Honoring the legacy, engaging the dream. The City of Webster offices will be closed on Monday, January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 16. Trash pickup will run as normally scheduled.

WebsterWay MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

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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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December 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	**City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* 5	**Senior Holiday Luncheon** 11:30 a.m. at the Recreation Building 6	7	**Senior Game Night** *6-9:30 p.m.* 8	9
10	**Webster Aerobics** *Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m.-7 p.m* 11	**Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting*** *6 p.m.* 12	**First Day of Hanukkah** 13	14	15	**Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday 8 a.m.-9 a.m.* 16
17	**Christmas Yard Decorating Contest 6:30 p.m.** 18	**City Council Meeting** *6 p.m.* 19	20	**First Day of Winter** 21	22	23
24	Merry Christmas! 25	**City offices Closed** 26	27	28	29	30
New Years Eve! City offices closed on Jan. 1 31						