Webster Way

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018

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HARVEY: ONE YEAR LATER

One year after the devastion, we celebrate the restoration

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Registration begins August 20

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations, Officer Michael Foran

ABOUT THE COVER

Webster Summer Campers explored the Webster Fire Truck in July

@WEBSTERTEXAS

FIRE DEPARTMENT *Promotions*

Michael Bodak *Driver* Since August 2017, Michael Bodak has been serving the City of Webster. He was hired as a firefighter and in July was promoted to Driver. He has been in the fire service for 36 years.

David Merryman *Lieutenant* Since August 2017, David Merryman has been serving the City of Webster. In March, he was promoted to driver, and in less than a year, he has made his way to Lieutenant. He has been in the fire service for 22 years.

Jason Myers *Shift Commander* Since 2009, Jason Myers has been serving the City of Webster. He was promoted to Engineer in 2016 and Lieutenant in 2017. He has been in the fire service for 19 years.

Calling all Heroes and Chefs

Harrowing Hurricane Harvey rescue stories with a delicious twist

Harvey: One Year Later

From devastation to restoration through the eyes of Webster Code Enforcement Officer Susan Raeihle

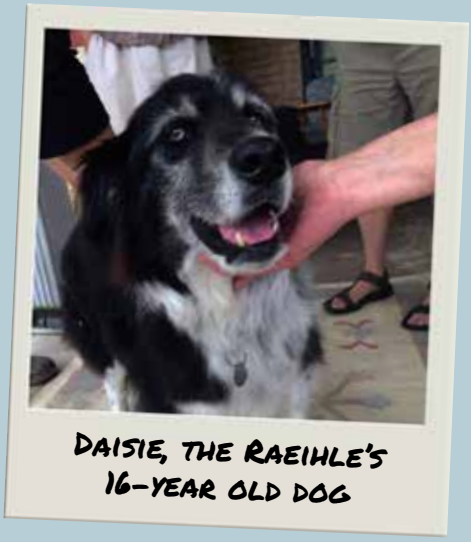
On the evening of Saturday, August 26, 2017, Susan and Scott Raeihle watched as water rushed into their Alvin home as Harvey rainfall poured down around them.

The couple began soaking up the water with towels and blankets, comforters, and quilts. But, they quickly realized they were no match for the floodwater. Through the night, Susan and Scott watched helplessly as the water rose and all their belongings began to float.

Susan is the City of Webster Code Enforcement Officer. She is originally from Ohio but moved to Houston in September 1990. Her first flooding experience came only after being in Texas a few weeks. The rate at which the streets had flooded was eyeopening to Susan, and it was then that she decided that no matter what, she would have flood insurance.

Fast forward 27 years, Harvey produced over 58 inches of rain in less than 12 hours in the Houston area. When day broke on Sunday, August 27, 2017, Susan and Scott were in total shock. After calling the insurance company to report the damage, Susan called the Alvin Fire Department, who came to the rescue two hours later. The two were given ten minutes to pack a duffle bag, and they then loaded onto the boat with the only belongings they had left, and their senior dog, Daisie. They were then brought to an Alvin rescue shelter to wait out the storm.

The Raeihle Home after hours of Harvey rainfall



Daisie, the Raeihle's 16-year old dog

The following weeks required a great deal of patience from Susan and Scott as they moved from storm shelter to finding a place to live until the interior of their home construction was completed. It was a 16-hour process to request a rental car and it took 2-weeks to receive.

Six days after abandoning their sunken home, Susan and Scott were able to return to their home to evaluate the damage. Neighbors worked together to clear out homes and remove the destroyed contents, which was everything, Susan stated.

"All we had left were the outside walls, roof, framing, and concrete floors," she said. "We immediately started the drying out process and we let our house dry out for four months."

Susan and Scott worked diligently with FEMA, their flood insurance company, and they were finally able to begin restoration in January 2018. All the while, Susan and Scott took residence in the Webster Budgetel Inn. Finding a place to live was tough, as apartments and hotels were inundated with victims of Harvey. Budgetel, however, allowed Susan and Scott to have a temporary home away from home, and the managers even allowed Susan and Scott to break their pet policy so Daisie could live with them. In total, Susan and her family stayed in the hotel for ten months.

Webster resident Kevin Gasher is working on a book to raise money for Hurricane Harvey and Santa Fe victims, but he needs your help.

Gasher's book will showcase harrowing stories from members of the community who helped during Harvey. In between the rescue stories, there will be a collection of recipes from local restaurants.

If you or someone you know played an integral part in any rescue, or if you have a recipe worth sharing, contact Kevin at Htownheroes2018@gmail.com.

"The Kalia Family, Arun, Meena, Pyria, Puja, and PK deserve the Hurricane Harvey Hero Award," Susan exclaimed. "They helped so many flood victims. They have golden hearts, and we do not know what we would have done without them."

Nearly a year after the devastating floods, Susan, Scott, and Daisie moved back into their home in July.

SUSAN RAEIHLE WITH THE BUDGETEL HOTEL MANAGERS

"The flooding event was devastating to us, but taught us many lessons at the same time," Susan said.

The Houston area has come so far in the past year, and although lives were altered and homes were destroyed in the process, we have been able to see how truly amazing the community is.

"Through this total devastation, our family has been expanded and many new friends added to our wonderful circle of life," Susan explained. "I highly encourage everyone to get flood insurance and carry the highest amount of coverage that is offered.

"We lost everything and we thank God we always have insurance on everything in case something happens to us. I hope we never have to go through this again. It was totally devastating. We thank our families, friends, co-workers, and the residents and businesses in the wonderful City of Webster. We could not have made it without your constant support."

THE RAEIHLE HOME AFTER MONTHS OF CONSTRUCTION

Preparedness Checklist

- **Water:** *one gallon of water per person for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation*
- **Food:** *at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food, and a manual can opener*
- *Flashlight, first aid kit, and extra batteries*
- *Whistle to signal for help*
- *Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation*
- *Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities*
- *Cellphone with chargers*
- **Prescription medications** *and non-prescription medications such as pain relievers and antacids*
- *Glasses, contact lenses and solution*
- *Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes*
- *Cash or traveler's checks*
- *Important family documents such as insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof portable container*
- *Pet food and extra water for your pet*

Welcome to Webster

July Business Update

Webster is excited to announce the newest businesses moving into the City!

Smoothie King is now located at 1041 W. Bay Area Blvd., offering the community quick-serve smoothies. Next door is the new James Avery location, and soon ***Pokeworks*** will operate inside the middle space.

Checkers, a fast food burger chain, is underway on NASA Pkwy., in conjunction with Dude Stop (gas/convenience store at 615 NASA Pkwy).

Warhammer Games Workshop, located at 20801 Gulf Fwy., is a UK based specialty gaming company. Webster represents the third Houston area location, where tournaments are hosted, models and books are sold, and clients of all ages interact.

Pho 17, located at 132 W. Bay Area Blvd., is a new Vietnamese restaurant that opened inside the former NAM Noodles and More, offering a variety of authentic dishes.

Zoom Car Wash is located at 475 Bay Area Blvd. The new carwash opened in March and is energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Each car wash utilizes approximately 21 gallons of water that is then recycled.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

June

Officer Michael Foran

Officer Foran was nominated by Detective Schilter for his outstanding work in helping a female senior citizen who was being defrauded out of her life savings by a ring of well-organized con-artists.

Officer Foran made a stop on a brand new truck for a minor traffic violation, and during the stop, he had good reason to become suspicious of the driver and occupants. One of the occupants was an elderly woman that didn't seem to fit with the group.

Foran was able, through thoughtful questioning, to determine the woman's diminished mental capacity. At the conclusion of the traffic stop, Officer Foran made appropriate arrests for on-view violations and then brought the woman, and the truck, to the station. He then found a person to take charge of the woman and parked her new truck at the station for safekeeping.

Webster CID, working in conjunction with detectives from the Houston Police Department, determined that the elderly woman was being scammed by a group of foreign nationals who had already had the woman unwittingly purchase two vehicles in her name, open credit card accounts, and distribute cash from her bank accounts to the thieves.

Had Officer Foran not acted on his intuition and gone above and beyond on this simple traffic stop, then Webster CID, Houston Police Department, Adult Protective Service, and the Elderly Victims Division of the HCDAO would not have been involved in the case until well after all of the victim's money, and property, had been transferred to the crooks. Thanks to Officer Foran, the victim's money and property are secure, and appropriate charges have been filed.

This case has also led to the discovery of other similar cases by these thieves who prey on our most vulnerable citizens. This is an example of excellent police work and intuition and proves that no traffic stop, however minor the violation may be, is ever routine. Outstanding work Officer Foran!

After-School Program

REGISTER ON AUGUST 20

As school supplies begin to refill our stores' shelves, the City of Webster is preparing for its After School Program. In an effort to support parents and students, the City of Webster has an after-school program at the Recreation Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave. Both residents and non-residents can register for the FREE program, which gives children from third to fifth grade the opportunity to both learn and play.

City staff encourage and lead 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 the children in the program.

Parents can register for the program on the first day of school, August 20, during the After-School Program hours at the Recreation Center. Contact Recreation Manager Bryan Morgan at 281.316.4137 for more information.

SUPPORTING MISSION CONTROL

In 2017, Webster City Council approved a $3.5 million commitment as a lead gift to its longtime partner Space Center Houston to help fund the restoration of Mission Control.

Construction of the new facility is already underway, and recently author Manfred "Dutch" von Ehrenfried II wrote a book detailing the history of the iconic room, which represents America's space program.

Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff were featured in the book for The Webster Challenge, which helped to garner more than $500,000 to the project.

"The City of Webster, its hoteliers, and hospitality partners are dedicated to sustaining and enhancing the community," the Mayor is quoted in the book. "This donation is one way to provide exceptional learning opportunities that attract people from around the world."

The book can be found on Dutch-Von-Ehrenfried.com.

4th of July Celebration Recap

Although the festivities prior to the Fourth of July Fireworks Show were canceled due to rain, the event was still a success!

More photos and videos of the show are available on the City of Webster, Texas - Government Facebook page!

TEXAS POWER SWITCH

Lower your electricity bills

The City of Webster is partnering with energy broker iChoosr to offer its residents the opportunity to benefit from group buying power in order to lower individual monthly electric bills. There is no cost to register and no obligation associated with the program. Visit cityofwebster.com to learn more and register!

LET'S BE *Social*

Follow us on our new social media pages!

FACEBOOK: *@WebsterTexas*
INSTAGRAM: *@WebsterTexas*
TWITTER: *@WebsterTexas_*

YARD OF THE MONTH

First Place

Residential:
19514 Old Galveston Rd.

Commercial:
Oral Surgery Associates

Second Place

Residential:
625 San Madina Ct.

Commercial:
Krist Law Firm

Honorable Mention

Residential:
610 Pedernales St.

Commercial:
Scott Orthodontics

ON THE RADAR

WHAT'S COMING UP IN *September* IN WEBSTER, TX

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

WELCOME, AUTUMN

Sunday, September 23 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 and Instagram using #WebsterTX.

WEBSTER*RESCUES*

The best things in life are rescued! Visit Webster Animal Shelter at 855 Magnolia Ave., 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.

LABOR DAY

The City of Webster Offices will be closed on Monday, September 3 for Labor Day.

Offices will reopen on Tuesday, September 4. Trash routes will run as normally scheduled.

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All officials and offices can be reached using the main number
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Position 3: Larry Tosto .....ltosto@cityofwebster.com
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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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AUGUST 2018

*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!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 **Webster Martial Arts** *Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday*	7 **City Council Meeting*** *6 p.m.*	8 **Webster Aerobics** *Every Monday & Wednesday 6 p.m.-7 p.m*	9	10 **Senior Game Night** *6-9:30 p.m.*	11 **Webster Aerobics** *Every Saturday 8 a.m.-9 a.m.*
12	13	14 **Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting*** *6 p.m.*	15 **Planning and Zoning Commission Public Hearing** *6 p.m.*	16	17	18
19	20	21 **City Council Meeting*** *6 p.m.*	22	23	24 **Senior Game Night** *6-9:30 p.m.*	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	