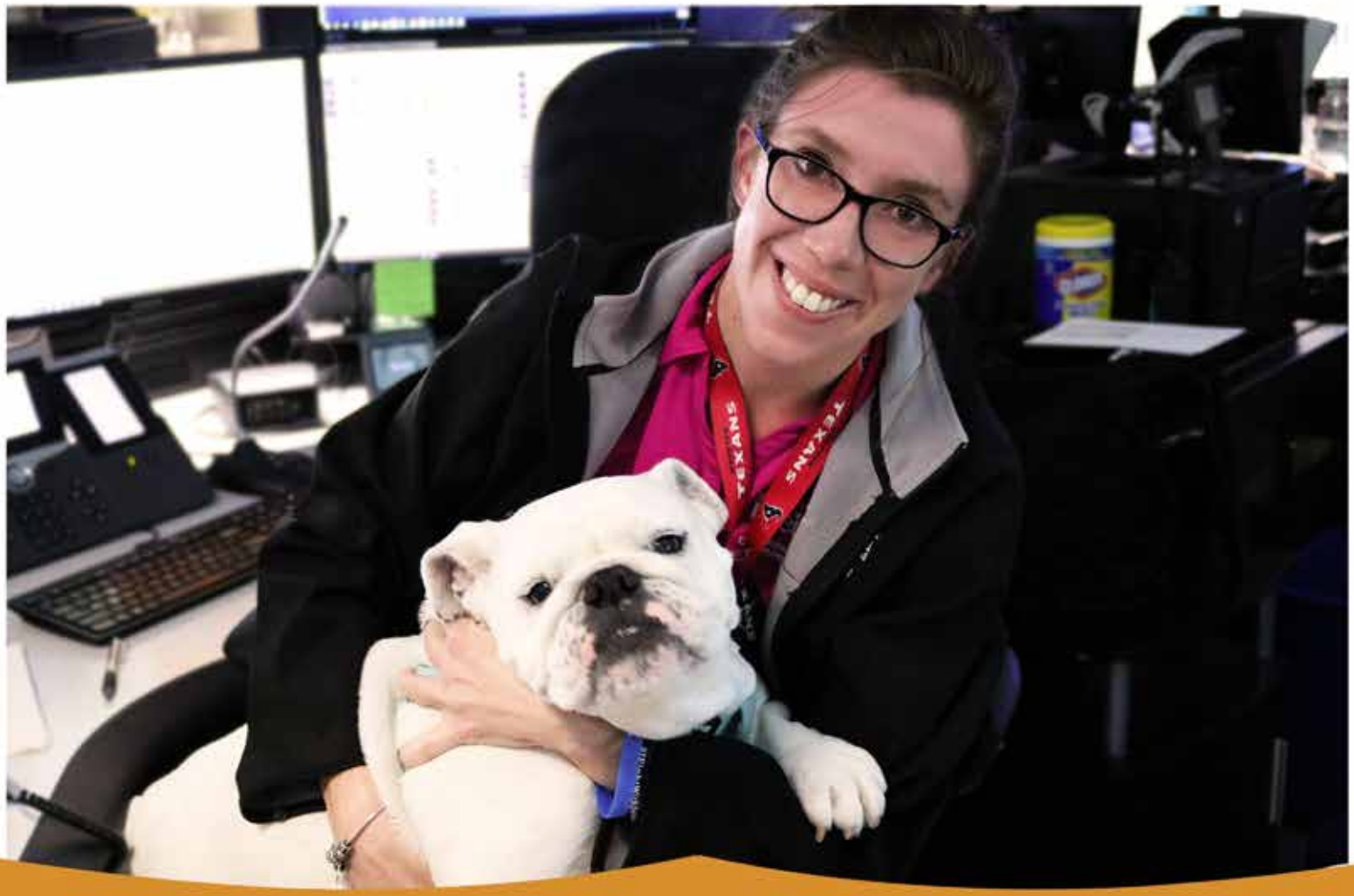
WebsterWay
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020



IN THIS EDITION:

1 *Save the date for the upcoming movies and concerts at Texas Avenue Park*

2 ***Webster celebrates 335 collective years of service from 25 employees***

3 *AARP Tax Aide offered for residents at the Webster Recreation Center*

ABOUT THE COVER: *TCO Jennifer Barrett pictured with WPD Support Dog, Bella.*

INTRODUCING THE DISPATCH SUPPORT DOG

Bella is a six-year-old Bulldog

A stressful call in an emergency call center can take a toll on telecommunications officers (TCO).

So, the Webster Police Department adopted a dog in late 2019 to comfort TCOs while they are on the job.

The idea for a support animal came up in 2017 following Hurricane Harvey. *(Continued on page 3)*

CITY COUNCIL

Donna Rogers
Mayor

Jennifer Heidt
Council Member Position 1

Andrea Wilson
Mayor Pro Tem
Council Member Position 2

Larry Tosto
Council Member Position 3

Beverly Gaines
Council Member Position 4

Edward Lapeyre
Council Member Position 5

Martin Graves
Council Member Position 6

City Hall Main Number
281.332.1826

EMERGENCY
9-1-1

Fire (Non-emergency)
281.332.2711

Police (Non-emergency)
281.332.2426

Public Works
281.316.3700

Webster Way Editor
281.316.3764

CITY OF WEBSTER, TEXAS GOVERNMENT

2020 ELECTION INFO

SATURDAY, MAY 2

The City of Webster will conduct a General Election on **May 2, 2020.** The filing period to apply for a place on the ballot is **January 15 through February 14, 2020**. Mayor and Council Position 6 will be on the May ballot.

Incumbents respectively are Donna Rogers and Martin 'Marty' Graves. Election packets for interested candidates are available on the City website at cityofwebster.com.

REGISTER TO VOTE — BY APRIL 2

Voter registration cards are available at the Harris County Clerk's Office. Don't forget to bring your picture ID to vote.

VOTING BY MAIL DEADLINE — APRIL 20

Last day to apply for a ballot by mail is April 20. Submit an application for a single election starting January 1.

EARLY VOTING — BEGINNING APRIL 20 ENDING APRIL 28

Early voting will be conducted in the City Secretary's Office at City Hall, 101 Pennsylvania Ave. from April 20-April 28. ***Voters can stop by from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. on Friday. On April 27-28 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.***

ELECTION DAY — MAY 2

Voting will be conducted at Webster City Hall from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

A voting device to assist voters with a disability will be available during Early Voting and on Election Day. For more information, contact the City Secretary's Office at 281.332.1826.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Calls were coming in a mile a minute, and stress levels were high as the water was rising in the Webster area. A support dog was brought in to calm the nerves of all first responders and staff on the clock. According to TCO Tiffany Swanson, the dog brightened everyone's day.

Following the storm, the department talked about getting a support dog. But, the call center isn't cut out for just any dog. It takes a special animal to handle the noise in all situations. So when Animal Control Officer Amanda Trover came across the six-year-old, calm, affectionate, and most notably, deaf, Bulldog, she knew it was a perfect fit.

Dispatch immediately fell in love with the dog and named her Bella after Webster Officer Ron Bellnoski.

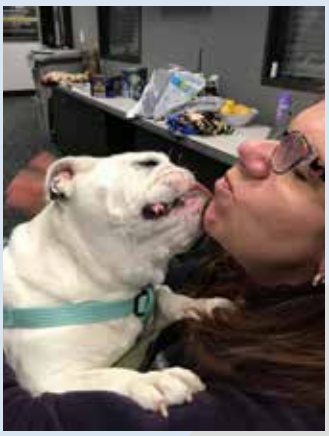
"She makes the environment way better," TCO Swanson explained. "You can't stay upset when you're petting a dog."

Bella has made several friends since moving into the police department. Officers, firefighters, and paramedics visit the call center frequently to visit with TCOs and Bella. If anyone is having a bad day, Bella is there to help.

"I can't imagine having any other dog in here," said TCO Swanson. "She is the perfect fit."

In between stressful calls, TCOs play, pet and walk Bella.

Bella doing what Bella does best, sleeping through calls.



Lead TCO Deborah Cooley getting some love from Bella.

Bella and her namesake, Officer Ron Bellnoski.

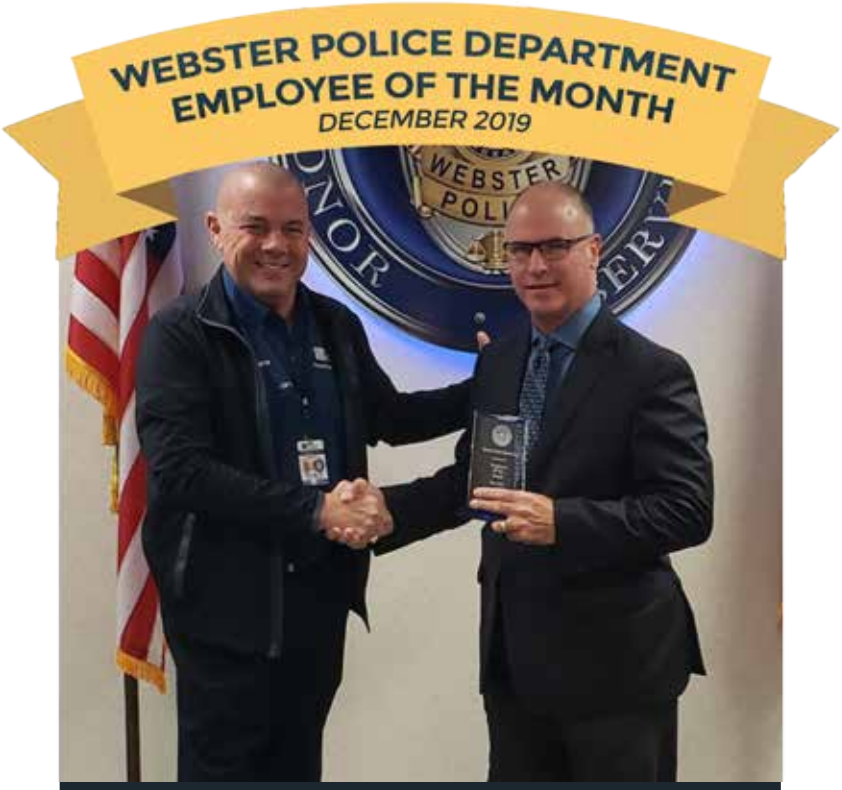
2020 EVENT CALENDAR

CONCERT AND MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 JOIN US AT TEXAS AVENUE PARK, 17100 TEXAS AVE., FOR A CONCERT IN THE PARK FEATURING THE FUSE FROM 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, JOIN US FOR ANOTHER CONCERT IN THE PARK AT TEXAS AVENUE PARK, FEATURING RAPTURE FROM 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, KICK OFF THE END OF SUMMER WITH A MOVIE IN THE PARK AT TEXAS AVENUE PARK FROM 8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. MOVIE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON.



Congratulations to the December Employee of the Month, Detective Alan Bracher!

Detective Bracher was nominated after going above and beyond for an auto theft victim.

While following up on the case, Detective Bracher learned that the victim had not claimed her vehicle from the impound lot because she did not have the money to pay the storage fees.

In addition, the car had mechanical problems that the victim could not pay to repair. Detective Bracher then worked with the wrecker company to have the storage fees dropped, and the vehicle towed to a repair shop.

He used his own money to have it repaired before returning it to its rightful owner.

This was a selfless act and one in which Detective Bracher did not expect nor seek attention. It was just something that he felt compelled to do to help a citizen during the Christmas Season.

Congratulations, Detective Bracher, and thank you for being a dedicated and compassionate public servant – well done!

Monarch Butterflies at Texas Avenue Park

For the past few years, Clear Lake resident John Harris has been helping the Monarch butterfly population as they move through Webster on their way to Mexico for the winter.

He first became interested in Monarch butterflies because of his grandaughter's interest in insects. To teach her about caterpillars and butterflies, he began raising them in his back yard, and it soon became a hobby for him. He realized how challenging it was to keep up with the caterpillar's need for milkweed and turned to Nextdoor to see if other citizens could help.

Through Nextdoor, he learned of others who worked with the butterflies in the area, and he read that there was milkweed planted at Texas Avenue Park. He began taking the caterpillars to the park where they thrived. If you visit the park, you can see the caterpillars feasting on what is left of the milkweed.

The Public Works Department learned about what John was doing and plan on planting more milkweed in the future.

It takes several generations of butterflies to travel from the north to the south for winter. But, we are happy to have people helping the butterflies as they pass through our city each year.

**Photos taken at Texas Avenue Park*

CELEBRATING 335 YEARS OF SERVICE

HONORING THE 2020 SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

We take pride in the many employees who have spent multiple years serving the community. During the 2020 Service Awards Luncheon, 25 employees were recognized for their dedication.

5-year recipients: Daniel Presley, City Manager · Gelacio Torres, Public Works Department · Amber Crumpler, City Manager's Office · Sandra Ricicar, Fire Department · Eric D'Agostino, Police Department · Timothy Torno, IT Division · Richard Wilkinson, Public Works Department.
10-year recipients: Andrew Brooks, Police Department · Jeremy Edge, Police Department · Kathryn Hamm, Police Department · Jason Myers, Fire Department · Anthony Pineiro, Public Works Department ·Nicholas Sedunov, Police Department.
15-year recipients: Alan Bracher, Police Department · Felix Espinoza, Public Works Department.
20-year recipients: Gerardo Arredondo, Public Works Department · Pete Bacon, Police Department · Tony Phan, Police Department · Mark Rawls, Police Department · George Schilter, Police Department.

25 YEARS
J.C. RINCONES
POLICE DEPARTMENT

25 YEARS
RAY GRAHAM
POLICE DEPARTMENT

25 YEARS
ERICH PEN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

30 YEARS
TOMMY RIEHL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BIOLOGICS. BIG MOLECULES. BIG CURE.

Featured in Bay Area Houston Magazine

Mayor Donna Rogers welcomes MaSTherCell's CEO Darren Head to Webster. MaSTherCell's magnificent facility, located at 253 Medical Center Boulevard, represents the global company's US headquarters for cell and gene therapies. Capital letters in the company's name stand for "Manufacturing Synergies for Therapeutic Cells."

MaSTherCell's Innovative Cell Soldiers Infiltrate Webster

NEW ADVANCES IN CELL and gene therapies are transforming and revolutionizing medicines for treating and curing critical diseases, like leukemia, diabetes, and blood cancers. Since 2011, MaSTherCell, a renowned, global cell and gene therapy Contract Development Manufacturing Organization (CDMO), based in Belgium, has been pioneering and advancing sustainable and affordable therapies for intractable diseases by extracting cells from patients or donors, altering those specimens in highly controlled laboratories that are many times cleaner than a surgical lab, and re-injecting the new cells into patients to combat diseased or compromised cells. Cell and gene therapy works. "Soldier" cells and "soldier" genes are developed, manufactured, and tested by MaSTherCell to attack cancer and other maladies.

MaSTherCell opened its United States headquarters in Webster at 253 Medical Center Boulevard in August 2019 to expand its world presence and provide direct, fast, and comprehensive interaction, consulting, and collaboration with key American-based cell and gene therapy companies—many of which conduct clinical trials in the nearby Texas Medical Center—the largest medical complex on the globe. Webster's central location within the United States enables time-sensitive cell therapy products to reach any mainland destination quite rapidly—ensuring excellent logistics for live cells. Too, Webster's proximity to growing life science and biotechnology industries is highly beneficial for ensuring access to a highly skilled workforce and top-notch support services.

MaSTherCell represents the "D" (development) in "R & D" (research and development). When therapy discovery companies seek to develop their process for manufacturing, in accordance with the FDA's Good Manufacturing Practice standards—and, ultimately, launch their products more rapidly and effectively, they contract with MaSTherCell, as the steps from research to development or concept to manufacturing are fraught with rigorous, regulatory, and complex processes. MaSTherCell's team of industrial, scientific, and operational experts with credentials in industrial biotechnology, biochemistry, molecular biology, and biomedical science provide technology transfer, process and analytical development, clinical manufacturing, regulatory support, and quality oversight to customers.

A tour of MaSTherCell's magnificent, state of the art Webster facility illuminates some of the extraordinary processes that the company undergoes to manufacture its customers' cell and gene therapies. Inside the 32,000 square foot facility, the entire second floor features a suite of labs, including the process development/technology transfer laboratories, quality control, microbiology and cell culture laboratories, and multiple manufacturing suites. All of these labs and cleanrooms, designed under the most exacting and precise standards to support both autologous (utilizing the patient's own cells) and allogenic cells (utilizing cell sources unrelated to the patient) are continually controlled and monitored, as part of MaSTherCell's robust Quality Management System, in conjunction with approximately 1,000 pieces of equipment. The eight manufacturing cleanrooms, clustered with their expansive glass exteriors, are surrounded by a spacious walkway that allows clients and visitors the opportunity to view activity—activity that leads to saving lives.

Success stories for cell therapy include toddlers diagnosed with pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia, middle-aged men with chronic lymphocytic leukemia or young women with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Patients who have blood cancer provide T-cells (workhorses of the immune system) that MaSTherCell isolates in the manufacturing site and inserts chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) and grows the cells—"soldier" cells or new CAR-T cells—to combat the disease. Those new cells, known as chimeric immunoreceptors, have been engineered to give T-cells the ability to target a specific protein and act as a "living drug" against cancer cells when they are infused back into the patient following a four-to-twelve week process that includes the most rigorous testing and validations. With CAR-T-cell therapy, cells can be derived from a patient's own blood (autologous) or derived from the T-cells of another healthy donor (allogeneic). CAR-T cells are genetically engineered to target and destroy cancer cells.

MaSTherCell is part of an explosive, fast growing industry focused on biologic treatment derived from living cells, DNA, and "natural" sources, in contrast to pharmaceuticals derived from chemical synthesis. Too, the potential applications for cell and gene therapy—immunotherapy—continue to unfold. While CAR-T therapy has proven to be life-changing for patients with blood cancers, inroads are being made for solid tumors, like breast, colorectal, and lung cancer. Currently, two CAR-T-cell therapies have been approved by the FDA, while there are 1,000 potential therapies in labs, right now.

MaSTherCell Webster is positioned for this growth with its focus on agility, transparency, engagement, team spirit, and innovation, amid a culture that is directly tied to the company's mission, "Saving Lives." Inside the Webster facility, patients' photographs, with their diagnoses and successful cell therapy, are in the spotlight with MaSTherCell's slogan, "Every Second Counts!"

Inside MaSTherCell's training laboratory, Cell Culture Specialist Austin Head demonstrates some of the science behind adoptive cell transfer—engineering immune cells to treat cancer by using patients' T cells, engineering and harvesting those T cells, and infusing the soldier cells back into patients where they search out and destroy malignant cells.

AARP TAX AIDE

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 - APRIL 15, 2020

Hours:
Mondays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesdays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesdays: 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Webster Recreation Center
311 Pennsylvania Ave.

AS SEEN ON INSTAGRAM

Meet King Jarvis: a large Russian blue cat looking for a new kingdom to call home.

Inspired by Meghan and Harry, his royal highness is hoping to leave the Webster Animal Kingdom. He is 4 years old and fully vetted. He loves to be around people, but prefers a home without dogs, as they are too slobbery.

Jarvis is patiently waiting for his perfect family to walk through the door. If you are interested in adoption, contact Animal Control Officer Amanda Trover at 281.316.3700.

FOLLOW US @WEBSTERTEXAS

WEBSTER EAGLETS HAVE ARRIVED

In January, the Webster eagle watchers followed on Facebook as Webster Eaglets, Wrangler and Maverick hatched from their eggs.

This is the sixth nesting cycle that Resident Paul White has monitored from his Webster home.

Residents can follow the birds on the Webster Texas Eagle Watchers Facebook group. Highlights are also posted on the Webster Facebook page.

THE CITY OF WEBSTER
101 Pennsylvania Ave.
Webster, TX 77598

www.cityofwebster.com
281.332.1826

CITY OF WEBSTER, TEXAS GOVERNMENT

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 119
Webster, TX

FEBRUARY

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

01 AARP TAX AIDE BEGINS
Information on page 7

PET HEALTH SAFETY DAY
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

04 CITY COUNCIL MEETING*
6 p.m. at City Hall

11 WEBSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEETING*
6 p.m. at City Hall.

14 *Last day to file an application to be placed on the general election ballot. Ends at 5 p.m.*

SENIOR GAME NIGHT
6 p.m. at the Recreation Center

18 CITY COUNCIL MEETING*
6 p.m. at City Hall

28 SENIOR GAME NIGHT
6 p.m. at the Recreation Center

*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.

COMING UP...

WEBSTER CLEAN UP WEEKS

MONDAY, MARCH 16 UNTIL FRIDAY, MARCH 20

MONDAY,OCTOBER 19 UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

MORE INFORMATION IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER

CONCERT AT THE PARK

Featuring: The Fuse

03.13.20

Save the Date: Friday, March 13 from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Texas Avenue Park, 17100 Texas Ave.

COME BY FOR FOOD AND MUSIC!