

GATEWAY

Webster
TEXAS

Spring 2009
Volume 17, Number 1



Ad Astra - To The Stars
Powering The Next Generation Of Rockets

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Calendar of Events

March

3	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
4	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
6	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
7	9 a.m.-noon	Pet Health Day, Webster Civic Center
10	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
17	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
18	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
20	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night

April

3	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
7	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
8	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
11	10 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt, Walnut Park
14	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
17	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
21	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
22	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
27		Early Voting in Person begins

May

1	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
5	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
6	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
9	7 a.m.-7 p.m.	General Election
12	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
15	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
19	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
20	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)

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We want to hear from you!
Please contact 281.316.4121 or email
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with questions or comments.
It is the editorial policy of the City to
publish community news that impacts
the constituency of Webster.

Rocket Man At WBA, March 12 | Mayor & Council Member



Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz
Keynote Speaker

In an effort to forge strong bonds between the City of Webster and its business community, the Webster Business Alliance (WBA) will feature keynote speaker Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz, former NASA Astronaut and President and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company, headquartered in Webster.

Lunch is generously sponsored by Las Haciendas. The bi-annual WBA is a free networking event for the City's commercial constituents – businesses, physicians, commercial property owners, brokers, regional partners – and all who have a stake in Webster's economy.

Reservations are required. The event is held at the Webster Civic Center, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue. Networking begins at 11 a.m., and the program ends at 1 p.m. For information and reservations, contact Karen Coglianese, Economic Development Specialist, at 281.316.4135 or kcoglianese@cityofwebster.com.

Achieve Top Honors

Texas Municipal League (TML) Institute recently awarded Mayor Floyd Myers and Council Member Beverly Gaines with top honors – that of “Certified Municipal Official.” Both Myers and Gaines completed the Institute's stringent number of educational programs within a 12-month period to earn this special recognition.



Council Member Gaines & Mayor Myers receive TML award

TML Institute's programs for elected city officials are designed to enhance policy-making and leadership skills, as well as provide information about legislation.

City of Webster – General Officers' Election

The City of Webster, Texas will hold a General Election for City Officers on May 9, 2009. Council Positions No. 1 and No. 2 will be on the May ballot. Current office holders respectively are Melvin Ellis and Beverly Gaines. Election packets for interested candidates will be available in the office of the City Secretary.

Important dates are as follows:

- Feb. 7 – First day to file an application for a place on the ballot. (Cannot file until the Election is called by Council.)
- Mar. 9 – Last day to file for a place on the ballot for the General Election, 5 p.m.

- Mar. 10 – First day to apply for a mail ballot.
- Mar. 10 – Drawing for order of names on ballot 4 p.m.
- Mar. 16 – Last day for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy, 5 p.m.
- Mar. 17 – Deadline for candidate to withdraw from an election, 5 p.m.
- Apr. 9 – Last day to submit voter registration application for May Election
- Apr. 24 – Last day to request an application for mail ballot in person.
- Apr. 27 – First day of early voting by personal appearance.
- May 1 – Last day to receive an application by mail for a ballot to be voted by mail.
- May 5 – Last day of early voting by personal appearance.
- May 9 – ELECTION DAY 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- May 19 – Canvass of Election at a Council Meeting. (Date may change.)

The Early Voting polling place will be in City Hall, 101 Pennsylvania, Webster, Texas, in the City Secretary's office. Voting on Election Day will be in the City Hall Lobby, 101 Pennsylvania. A voting device to assist disabled voters will be available during early voting and on Election Day.

For information or questions regarding the City Election process, please contact the City Secretary's office, 101 Pennsylvania, Webster, Texas, 281-332-1826.

Elección General de Oficiales de la Ciudad de Webster de 2009

La Ciudad de Webster, Texas, celebrará una Elección General para Oficiales de la Ciudad el 9 de mayo de 2009. La Posición para Concejal Núm. 1 y Núm. 2 aparecerán en la boleta de mayo. Los oficiales que actualmente ocupan las posiciones son respectivamente Melvin Ellis y Beverly Gaines. Los documentos de elección para candidatos interesados estarán disponibles en la oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad.

Las fechas importantes son las siguientes:

- feb. 7 – Primer día para someter una solicitud para una posición en la boleta. (No se puede someter la solicitud para una posición en la boleta hasta que la Elección haya sido ordenada por el Consejo.)
- mar. 9 – Último día para someter una solicitud para una

- posición en la boleta para la Elección General, 5 p.m.
- mar. 10 – Primer día para solicitar una boleta por correo.
- mar. 10 – Sorteo para determinar el orden en que los nombres aparecerán en la boleta, 4 p.m.
- mar. 16 – Último día para que un candidato por inserción escrita declare su candidatura, 5 p.m.
- mar. 17 – Fecha plazo para que un candidato retire su candidatura de la elección, 5 p.m.
- abr. 9 – Último día para someter una solicitud para registro de votación para la Elección en mayo.
- abr. 24 – Último día para solicitar personalmente una aplicación para votar por correo.
- abr. 27 – Primer día para la votación temprana en persona.
- mayo 1 – Último día para recibir por correo una solicitud para votar por correo.
- mayo 5 – Último día para una votación anticipada en persona.
- mayo 9 – DÍA DE LA ELECCIÓN 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- mayo 19 – Escrutinio de la Elección en una reunión del Consejo de la Ciudad. (La fecha podrá cambiar.)

El Lugar de la Votación Adelantada será en la Alcaldía, 101 Pennsylvania, Webster, Texas, en la oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad. La votación el Día de la Elección será en el Vestíbulo de la Alcaldía, 101 Pennsylvania. Habrá un aparato especial de votación para asistir a votantes impedidos durante la Votación Adelantada y el Día de la Elección.

Para información o preguntas relacionadas con el proceso Electoral de la Ciudad, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de la Secretaria de la Ciudad, 101 Pennsylvania, Webster, Texas, 281-332-1826.

A Message From The WEDC President

A View From '99 To '09 And Beyond



Donna Rogers
WEDC President

Webster Greetings!

Since the Webster Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) was created in September 1999 to grow the City's commercial tax base, it has been an honor to serve as President, carry out the mission of enhancing Webster's commercial sectors, and convey the achievements that the development corporation has produced for this great City. Webster is known as a "4B City," which means that the WEDC was formed under the Texas Development Corporation Act of 1979 and governed by Section 4B of the Act, in authorizing a half-cent sales tax to promote initiatives designed to stimulate new and expanded commercial development. While more than 558 Texas municipalities have adopted the economic development sales tax, for Webster – a City whose 6.7 square miles is nearly 80% commercial – the WEDC has been a boon.

Webster's commercial strength, which is illustrated by its position as the medical center of the south, the retail, dining, and entertainment capital of Bay Area Houston, and the aerospace capital of the southwest, translates into economic vibrancy, ultra-low ad valorem taxes, unsurpassed public safety, and other benefits to residents and commercial constituents alike. In fact, sales tax funds 69% of the City's operating budget and enables the City's property tax rate to be just .20 per \$100 valuation.

One of WEDC's tenets has been to fund necessary infrastructure to foster commercial growth, and this principle is evidenced by the number of corridor projects undertaken by WEDC since its inception. NASA Parkway, Texas Avenue, Live Oak and Orchard Street Extensions, Rice Creek Lane, and Water Street constitute major roadway projects, while Magnolia Avenue Drainage, Bay Area Boulevard Mobility, and NASA Road One Bypass are additional projects that have served as catalysts for commercial development and economic sustainability.

While the cost to literally "pave the way" for commercial development is steep, but vital to regional mobility, as well as maintaining the City's competitive position, the return on the WEDC's investment is invaluable. During the past fiscal year WEDC collected over \$3.5M in sales tax revenue. As infrastructure has always been a prerequisite for development, WEDC was instrumental in partnering with Harris County Precinct 2 and Texas Department of Transportation on several large projects.

The NASA Parkway Project, which included widening, drainage improvements, landscaping, decorative lighting, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks, now sets the stage for the NASA Parkway Revitalization Plan that was funded by WEDC and recently adopted by Council, in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Texas Avenue, which spans from Interstate 45 south of NASA Parkway to Highway 3, has been the catalyst for remarkable medical, office, retail, and hospital development. This central corridor

serves as a vibrant, key artery for the medical service area population, an expanded workforce and clientele, consumers within the super-regional market, and tourists.

Certainly, the Live Oak and Orchard Extensions have proven their effectiveness in growing Webster's impressive medical center. St. Luke's Clear Lake Hospital's nine-story, 375,000 square foot world-class facility with six-story parking garage, which broke ground in February 2008, was dependent upon the WEDC's extending these corridors, which link to Highway 3, Bay Area Boulevard, Blossom, Texas Avenue, and Medical Center Boulevard. St. Luke's Clear Lake Hospital's modern campus is projected to double Webster's medical service area population from 1,500,000 to 3,000,000.

Rice Creek Lane will prove to be another vital corridor for growing Webster's commercial sector. This roadway, which encompasses over 3,000 linear feet of paving, connects the Interstate 45 feeder, south of the NASA Road One intersection, with Myrtle, adjoining Academy Sports & Outdoors, the proposed Bay Creek Class-A Office Project, and over 120 acres of prime, undeveloped commercial land.

Water Street, the central artery in Edgewater that consists of more than 6,000 linear feet joining NASA Parkway to Clear Creek, is viewed as integral to securing a minimum of 375,000 square feet of new retail development on a tract that formerly housed an unsightly, obsolete power plant located in the nucleus of the municipality and representing nearly



St. Luke's Hospital – Clear Lake



Heart and Vascular Hospital



251 & 253 Medical Center Boulevard

nine percent of the City's real estate.

Of special import, WEDC's Magnolia Avenue Drainage Project enabled new commercial developments to maximize their building footprints without sacrificing valuable land for detention. Cheddar's Casual Café, Main Event Entertainment, and the nearly completed SpringHill Suites are bringing a return on WEDC's investment.

Further, WEDC's business recruitment, retention, and expansion initiatives have greatly augmented the City's sales tax and property tax base. Certainly, Webster's position as the medical center of the south serves to stimulate and grow this vital industry sector. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center, as Webster's largest employer with a workforce of 1,800, is one of the top-rated hospitals in the nation year after year and continues to grow as evidenced by the world-class, 225,000 square foot Heart & Vascular Hospital, the area's first Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Emergency Department, and the largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the region.

The WEDC recognizes the powerful direct and indirect benefits from the City's medical workforce who command above average salaries, the patients and their families who travel to Webster, and those who conduct business within the medical center. The act of growing and promoting Webster's medical center means generating vital revenue for restaurants, retail, entertainment, and hotels, as well as augmenting the City's property tax base and fostering synergistic growth in complementary commercial sectors.

Webster, clearly, receives unprecedented acclaim from its reputation as the medical center of the south. One of the most prestigious additions to Webster's

medical center is the gold LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) twin facilities at 251 and 253 Medical Center Boulevard that won *Houston Business Journal's* 2008 Green Landmark of the Year Award and serves as an international model for sustainable building design and construction. As 253 Medical Center Boulevard is underway and will be home to IDEV Technologies, a company celebrated for its research, design, and development of medical devices, WEDC and City Council are responsible for paving the way for this project with their novel "Green Commercial Building Tax Abatement Program" in partnership with Harris County.

In the retail arena, Webster added two new centers in 2008, including Shops at the Bay, anchored by the City's first full-service hotel – Holiday Inn – and featuring exciting new restaurants – like Chipotle, Baba's Mediterranean Grill, Mooyah Burgers, Firehouse Subs, and Thai Lemongrass, as well as Webster Town Center, with Vegas Grill, McAlister's Deli, and Marble Slab.

Aerospace is another strong, targeted sector that WEDC grows. Certainly, Lockheed Martin's Exploration Development Laboratory for the Orion Project, Ad Astra Rocket Company's development of the plasma VASIMR™ rocket and recent Space Act Agreement with NASA, and Jacob's expansion into Galaxy II constitute remarkable new aerospace development for the City.

WEDC has made considerable strides in fostering a business-friendly credo. This philosophy, together with progressive activities in business recruitment, retention, expansion, and promotion, propels the City of Webster forward during both harsh and prosperous economic times.

New Service – Connect-CTY



The City of Webster has launched an emergency notification service that enables officials to record, send, and track personalized voice messages to thousands of residents and businesses extremely rapidly – through a single telephone call. Additionally, the City can send text messages to cell phones, email accounts, and other electronic devices. According to Ray Smiley, Webster's Police Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, "In the event of a hurricane or important matter of public interest when we need to communicate with residents and businesses quickly and efficiently, the Connect-CTY service will allow us to notify the community in a matter of minutes."

Residents and businesses are encouraged to register at their earliest convenience for this free, vitally important service that enables them to provide up to three phone numbers and two email addresses. Registration for Connect-CTY emergency notification is readily done by accessing the City of Webster's website's home page: www.cityofwebster.com and clicking on the link for Connect-CTY "sign up," or by calling 281.316.7377.

Smiley adds, "I strongly encourage constituents to register their contact information, including cell phones, private lines, and email addresses into the Connect-CTY service's secure database to ensure that they are ready to receive important notifications at any given time."



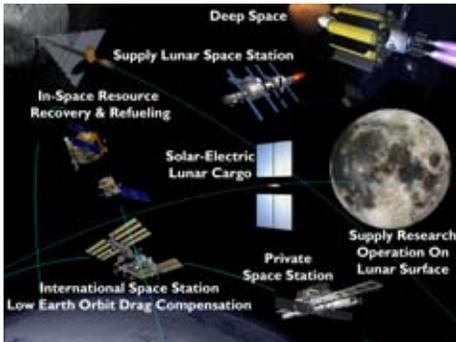
Cheddar's Casual Cafe



Academy Sports & Outdoors

Rocket Science Inside The Aerospace Capital

Ad Astra Rocket Company Propels the Way



Applications for VASIMR™ include deep space exploration & cargo transport

For the past two years, Webster has been home to one of the world's most innovative aerospace firms – Ad Astra Rocket Company. Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz, inventor of the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR™), founded Ad Astra Rocket Company in 2005, after serving for more than 25 years as a NASA astronaut. Indeed, Chang Díaz, as a veteran of seven Space Shuttle missions, holds the record for the most spaceflights and credits his years as an astronaut to inspiring his novel designs and ideas for revolutionizing space transportation and exploration.

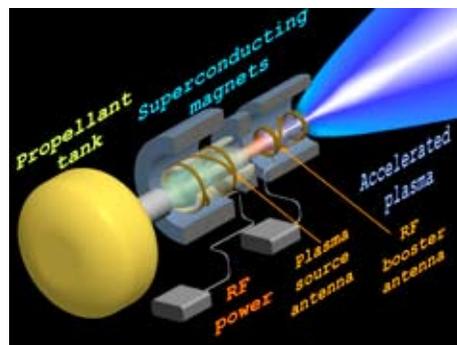
“Ad Astra,” which is Latin for “to the stars,” is a privately owned and privately funded corporation established to develop, test, and commercialize the technology of the VASIMR™ engine, a plasma propulsion system that is much more fuel-efficient than traditional chemical rockets. Whereas today's chemical rockets require extensive amounts of propellant that constitute most of the ship's mass because they eject fuel very rapidly at low velocity, thereby eliminating cargo space, the VASIMR™, whose plasma exhaust is much hotter, consumes its propellant far more frugally. Plasmas are super-hot gases at temperatures in excess of 10,000°C. Such extreme temperatures cannot be contained by known materials. Fortunately, plasmas respond to



the presence of electric and magnetic fields, and VASIMR™ makes use of this property to contain and guide the super-hot gas in an invisible “duct” called a “magnetic nozzle,” so the rocket components are not directly exposed to extreme temperatures. Too, the plasma is heated by electromagnetic waves in a manner similar to that of microwave ovens. The result is that the VASIMR™ engine ejects its propellant ten to a hundred times faster than chemical rockets.

Another important feature of the VASIMR™ system is its ability to vary the plasma characteristics – exhaust speed and thrust – to precisely match the requirements of the flight trajectory, which is accomplished without the need to adjust the engine power level. This technique is called “constant power throttling” and is similar to what an automobile driver does by shifting gears while driving in hilly terrain. For the VASIMR™, the end result is increased payload mass and faster travel.

The ramifications of Ad Astra Rocket Company's technology are profound as human travel time to Mars and beyond must be as rapid as possible to reduce the crew's exposure to weightlessness and space radiation. To contrast today's chemical rockets with



VASIMR™ system components



VASIMR™ configured as a lunar cargo tug for deployment in low Earth orbit

the VASIMR™ propulsion system powered by a nuclear-electric generator, a chemical rocket round-trip to Mars would take over two years with much of the time spent waiting for the right planetary alignment for the return trip; whereas, the VASIMR™ powered by just 12 megawatts of electrical power could result in a ship reaching Mars in less than four months, with a return trip of similar duration.

Ad Astra Rocket Company's VASIMR™ invention harnesses the power of plasma. Plasma, known as the fourth state of matter, is formed when a gas is heated to more than 10,000°C. Electrons are stripped from the neutral atoms of the gas resulting in a cloud of electrons, which have a negative charge, and ions, which have a positive charge. The result is an electrically neutral mix of charged particles called “plasma.” While the plasma state occurs naturally as evidenced in the sun, stars, and flames, examples of manufactured plasma are fluorescent lights and plasma televisions. The VASIMR™ technology utilizes plasma's properties as an electrical conductor that can be contained by strong magnetic fields and heated by electromagnetic waves to produce rocket thrust with a plasma exhaust.

Whereas the link between aerospace research and development and most other disciplines or fields – medicine,



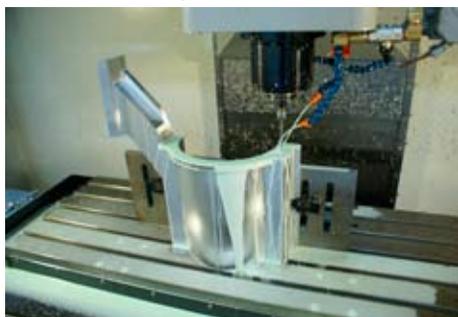
Inside Ad Astra, a huge vacuum chamber simulates space conditions for testing VASIMR™

defense, environmental science, information technology, biotechnology, and engineering – has always been significant, today the implications are even more profound and visible. For instance, Ad Astra Rocket Company's development of a highly efficient helicon plasma source could contribute to the effort to generate energy on Earth by controlled thermonuclear fusion. Other plasma technologies that Ad Astra is marketing provide highly effective destruction of toxic chemical and medical waste. Further, Ad Astra's plans to provide high power propulsion in low Earth orbit to achieve orbit maintenance for large space structures for commerce, tourism, and satellite operations, along with delivery of large payloads to the lunar surface, recovery of space resources from asteroids and comets, fast ejection of scientific probes to the outer solar system, and human and cargo missions to Mars and beyond, carry highly beneficial applications for humanity.



Dr. Jared Squire opens the vacuum chamber to reveal a full-scale prototype of the VX-200

In December 2008, NASA and Ad Astra Rocket Company signed a Space Act Agreement for flight test of the 200-kilowatt VASIMR™ rocket engine aboard the International Space Station. While this recent, highly significant Space Act Agreement between NASA and Ad Astra Rocket Company represents the fourth consecutive year in which the two entities have partnered, this new agreement is especially noteworthy for its unique, unprecedented collaboration between the federal government and a private entity. Under the terms of this recent pact, the VASIMR™ will be launched to the International Space Station where the

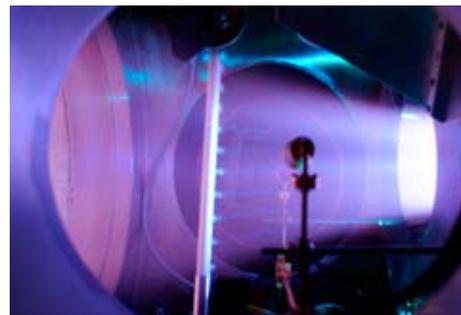


The Haas VF-4 milling machine is used to create unique parts for VASIMR™

rocket can be tested in outer space.

Recently, Ad Astra Rocket Company decided to invest in its own high precision, specialty machine shop to expedite the creation of one-of-a-kind, complex components used in the VASIMR™. Ad Astra Rocket Company offers its high-precision, aerospace machine shop expertise and services to external customers who require machining of unique, small quantity, intricate parts.

Another service that Ad Astra Rocket Company can provide to external customers is its vacuum chamber facility. Inside Ad Astra's laboratory is an enormous 150-cubic meter vacuum chamber (14 feet in diameter, 35 feet in length) for testing high power plasma rockets. Large enough to accommodate a school bus and capable of base pressures similar to the vacuum of space (10^{-7} torr), the vacuum chamber is an invaluable resource in



VX-100 engine is tested, as ion flow rate is measured.

the Webster region for component and system testing, as well as helium leak checks of enclosed systems that must be gas tight. In addition, a four-cubic meter chamber is available for rapid vacuum testing of smaller items.

Ad Astra Rocket Company, located at 141 West Bay Area Boulevard, just off of Highway 3, is developing plasma technology and advanced electric propulsion systems that are revolutionizing space exploration and understanding of the multiverse or meta-universe. Further, this innovative company, led by renowned NASA astronaut Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz and physicists Dr. Jared Squire and Dr. Tim Glover, is implementing its vision of operating novel, longer life, high-power plasma rockets in space with efficiencies and capabilities far beyond those of today's rockets. Through the recent agreement with NASA to test a VASIMR™ engine on the International Space Station, Ad Astra is poised to make this vision a reality.



Dr. Franklin Chang Díaz, flanked by Dr. Tim Glover and Dr. Jared Squire, signs the Space Act Agreement

2008 Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Tree Lighting



Melvin & Jerry Ellis



Santa Arrives at Texas Ave. Park



Floyd Myers & Wayne Sabo



Ricky Small, Beverly Gaines, Andy Kerstens, & Pauline Small



Christmas Tree at Texas Avenue Park



Georgie Benavides & Santa Helpers



Santa & His Helper Elves



John Warnement, Beverly Gaines, & Jerry Ellis

Yards Of The Month



November - Commercial
501 N Sarah Deel
The Landings



November - Residential
18300 Anne Drive
Barry & Susan Schlueter

Holiday Senior Luncheon



Betty Gaines, Gail Myers, & Mary Carlisle



Windell & Larna Smith, & Carol Waggett



Gail Myers, Majorie Dorrington, Bob & Joan Caperton



Marie & Joe Meyer



Pat Beckman & DeEtta Fryday



Jay & Carolyn Corbin

Pet Health Day

Pet Health Day will be held on March 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at the City of Webster Civic



Center located at 311 Pennsylvania Avenue. Pet resource providers will offer information about services, general pet care, and health issues. Further, the City of Webster's Animal Control Division will be on hand, and a veterinarian will provide vaccinations at a reduced rate of \$15.

While the City of Webster requires annual registration for dogs and cats at a fee of \$10, if pets are registered at Pet Health Day, the fee is waived. Proof of vaccination is required to register pets. Upon registration, animals will be issued a City identification tag. The City requires a City license tag and rabies tag on the pet's collar.

For more information about Pet Health Day, contact Animal Control at 281.316.3700.

Waste Services Change, Stay The Same

While Republic Services, Inc. and Allied Waste Industries, Inc. announced in early December 2008 that they have completed their historic merger to create a top waste and environmental services company called "Republic Services, Incorporated," Republic continues to serve the residential and commercial constituents of Webster. According to Steve Carroll, Republic Services' Manager of Municipal Services, "Webster should expect the same drivers and schedules; the only change that might be evident is in the equipment for residential collection – as most of those trucks will bear the Allied Waste graphics."

The merger of the two companies is projected to be seamless for customers, and contact information remains constant: for residential service – 281.446.2030 and for commercial service – 713.849.0400.

Fight Pollution - Keep Storm Drains Clear

As most rainfall is absorbed by soil or utilized by plants and trees, in developed areas with impermeable surfaces like roofs, parking lots, and streets, rainwater often travels through concrete storm drains. In Webster, storm water flows, untreated, into waterways such as Clear Creek, where it flows to Clear Lake and, ultimately, to Galveston Bay.

Small amounts of pollutants from

roads, parking lots, and sidewalks are unavoidably transported with storm water. However, pollution from more common debris – grass clippings, leaves, and other yard debris, is preventable with a little effort. Avoid sweeping and dumping grass clippings into streets or storm drains.

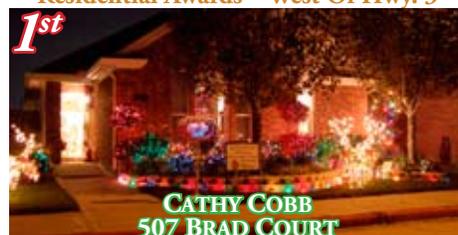
Intentionally polluting waterways is dangerous to the environment and illegal – fines can be as high as \$250,000.

2008 Christmas Decoration Winners

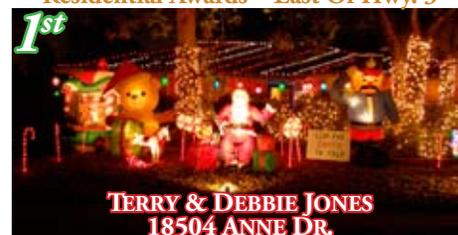
Commercial Awards



Residential Awards – West Of Hwy. 3



Residential Awards – East Of Hwy. 3



Webster Receives Water Award



Shannon Hicks presents Water Quality Award to Harry Bookout and Mike Norman

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) chose the City of Webster to receive the TCEQ 2008 Public Drinking Water Award. The award is given to operators of public water systems for compliance with the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) requirements.

The award program recognizes the effort, dedication, and contribution public water suppliers make to the State, in conjunction with protecting public health. To be eligible to receive the TCR award, a public water system must have no TCR violations and be an active public water system for 60 consecutive months.

The City of Webster was recognized for the preceding five years spanning 2003 to 2007. At the City Council meeting on January 20, Public Works Water Operators, Mike Norman and Harry Bookout were acknowledged for this outstanding accomplishment.

Two-Year Old Joins Webster PD



Officer Rebolledo and his new partner, Igor.

One of the Webster Police Department's newest and youngest members was born in Czechoslovakia. Igor moved to the Texas Hill Country to hone his natural skills and for specific

training in tracking and narcotics detection at Worldwide Canine.

The two year old German Shepherd is trained to find marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, Xanax and a variety of other drugs. After graduation from the Worldwide Canine program, Igor moved to the City of Webster, where he joined his new partner, Officer Daniel Rebolledo.

Since the implementation of the Canine Program, Officer Rebolledo and Igor have made over a dozen narcotics-related arrests and have assisted in numerous other cases, both in Webster and nearby cities.

In January, Officer Rebolledo and Igor assisted the League City Police Department by conducting a narcotics search on a vehicle. During the course of this search Igor "alerted on" \$18,000 that was hidden inside of the vehicle.

Faces Behind The City



Deborah Cooley, Telecommunications Operator, City of Webster Police Department

Many people talk to Deborah Cooley during the worst 15 minutes of their lives. Cooley's number is 9-1-1.

As an Advanced Telecommunications Operator for the City of Webster, she is charged with helping people in distress, dispatching first responders to an emergency scene, and providing police officers with needed information from the Texas Crime Information Center and the National Crime Information Center. When she began with the City of Webster in 1996, those first responders consisted of Webster Police, Fire, and EMS plus the Forest Bend Fire Dept. Today, Nassau Bay Police, Fire, and EMS; Southeast Fire and EMS; and Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps have been added to the list of first responders she is responsible for aiding.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education certifies Cooley as an Advanced Telecommunicator; she is also certified in child passenger safety seat inspection and installation.

Cooley enjoys cooking, and as a member of the essential personnel team, she was able to show off her skills during Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

In addition to cooking, Cooley likes to spend time camping with her husband Steve of 16 years, as well as friends and granddaughters – Kylie Cole and Addison Mae.

Easter Bunny Hops To Webster

EGG-CITING fun in Walnut Park

The annual Webster Easter Egg Hunt will kick off at 10 a.m. on April 11, with "hunting areas" designated for ages 0-4, 5-7, 8-10, and senior citizens. Prize eggs will be hidden in each category, and the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures. This event is FREE and open to Webster residents.



Public Meeting Notes

October 7, 2008, Regular Council Meeting

- Ken Magidson, Harris County District Attorney, presented Webster Police Department with a check in the amount of \$81,241 from the District Attorney's Seized Funds Account.

- Lindsay Davis, Development Director for Bay Area Turning Point, was presented a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

- Held a Public Hearing on Designation of Webster Reinvestment Zone "Zone Green A" located at 253 Medical Center Boulevard, for Cheyenne III Development Group, LTD. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- Approved accepting the high bid for Lot 55, Green Acres Subdivision, Harris County Texas, from bids received September 2, 2008, provide the title policy, but not pay for it and if the bidder does not accept this, reject all bids. (For: Ellis, Gaines, Dolan, Rogers. Against: Myers, Waltz)

- Authorized the purchase of eleven (11) vehicles for the Public Works Department, two (2) vehicles for the Community Development Department, one (1) vehicle for the Police Department, and one (1) vehicle for the Information Technology Division. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance establishing guidelines and criteria for granting Green Commercial Building Tax Abatement pursuant to Resolution No. 08-10. (For: Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers. Against: Myers)

- Established a proposed ad valorem tax rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 (2008 tax year) for adoption on October 21, 2008. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- Approved a resolution requesting funding for Bay Area Regional Transportation Corridor Projects due to their critical impacts with regard to national security, mobility, and emergency evacuation needs, including hurricane evacuation. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- Approved minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2008 and the Special Meeting of September 16, 2008. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- Excused Councilmember Mel Donehue's absence. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Dolan, Rogers. Abstain: Waltz)

October 21, 2008, Regular Council Meeting

- Presented a proclamation declaring October 23-31, 2008, as Texas Red Ribbon Week in support of a drug free State.

- Approved the second reading of an ordinance establishing guidelines and criteria for granting Green Commercial Building Tax Abatement pursuant to Resolution No. 08-10. (For: Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers. Against: Myers)

- Approved the first and only reading of an ordinance setting the debt service rate of \$0.13265 and the maintenance and operations rate of \$0.07335 for a total of \$0.20600. (Unanimous)

- Approved a resolution authorizing a Green Commercial Building Tax Abatement agreement with the owner of the property, Cheyenne III Development Group LTD. (For: Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers. Against: Myers, Donehue)

- Received a report, held a discussion, and directed Staff to bring back options regarding selling alcoholic beverages and the distance requirements for schools and day cares, and the impact on economic development.

- Approved a resolution authorizing the Cities Aggregation Power Project (CAPP) to negotiate an electric supply agreement. (Unanimous)

- Approved a resolution establishing a facility rental agreement for the Civic Center. (Unanimous)

- Approved a resolution amending certain charges for miscellaneous fees within the City for the Civic Center. (Unanimous)

- Held an Executive Session regarding Economic Development Negotiations regarding Edgewater Development. (Unanimous)

- No action was taken on the item discussed in Executive Session.

- Approved minutes of the Special Meeting of September 30, 2008, and the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2008. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers. Abstain: Donehue)

November 4, 2008, Regular Council Meeting

- Approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 62, Parks and Recreation, of the Code of Ordinances by amending Article I, Sec. 62-2 Unlawful Acts. (Unanimous)

- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement between Horizon Health EAP and City of Webster for Horizon Health EAP to continue providing counseling and referral services for the employees of the City of Webster and their dependents. (Unanimous)

- Approved a resolution establishing a general fund distribution policy for external programs and special events. (Unanimous)

- Accepted completion and released the retainage for the installation of a 12-inch water line from Bay Area Boulevard to Plumley Water Plant. (Unanimous)

- Accepted the Investment Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. (Unanimous)

- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2008. (Unanimous)

November 18, 2008, Regular Council Meeting

- Approved the second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 62, Parks and Recreation, of

the Code of Ordinances by amending Article I, Sec. 62-2 Unlawful Acts. (Unanimous)

- Approved participation in the Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership Initiative to fund a study of Interstate 10, U.S. 190, and other corridors for purposes of mobility, military transportation, and emergency evacuation. (Unanimous)

- Held an Executive Session to consult with the City Attorney regarding contemplated litigation, currently in a complaint before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and a proposed settlement offer. (For: Ellis, Gaines, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers)

- No action was taken on the item discussed in Executive Session.

- Additional citizen hearing to allow former employee the opportunity to publicly address the City's termination of his employment.

- Denied an ordinance approving an electric power contract with Cities Aggregation Power Project (CAPP) for electric capacity and energy. (For: Myers, Ellis, Gaines, Waltz, Dolan, Rogers. Against: Donehue)

- Accepted Edgewater Lift Station #1 to serve the Edgewater Development within the City of Webster and authorized the Mayor to execute a Utility Conveyance and Security Agreement with the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 481. (Unanimous)

- Accepted the completion and released the final payment for the installation of concrete sidewalks along Bay Area Boulevard from Live Oak Street to Gatebrook Drive. (Unanimous)

- Cancelled the second scheduled City Council Meeting for December 16, 2008. (Unanimous)

- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2008. (Unanimous)

December 2, 2008, Regular Council Meeting

- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. (Unanimous)

- Approved a resolution requesting approval to participate in the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Cooperative Purchasing Program. (Unanimous)

- Denied approval of Mayor and City Council's annual cost of living stipend increase. (For: Myers, Rogers. Against: Ellis, Gaines, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan)

- Held an Executive Session regarding Economic Development Negotiations regarding Edgewater Development. (Unanimous)

- No action was taken on the item discussed in Executive Session.

- Approved minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2008. (Unanimous)

City Council

Standing – From Left

Mel Donehue
Council Position 3

Melvin Ellis
Council Position 1

Beverly Gaines
Council Position 2

Natalie Dolan
Council Position 5

Donna Rogers
Council Position 6

Steve Waltz
Council Position 4

Seated
Floyd H. Myers
Mayor



City Officials

Mayor: Floyd Myers.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 1: Melvin Ellis.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 2: Beverly Gaines.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 3: Mel Donehue.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 4: Steve Waltz.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 5: Natalie Dolan	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 6: Donna Rogers	281.332.1826

City Offices – 101 Pennsylvania Ave.

City Hall Main Switchboard.....	281.332.1826
EMERGENCY Ambulance-Fire-Police	9-1-1
Police Department (Non-Emergency) 217 Pennsylvania Ave.....	281.332.2426
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	281.332.2711
Fire Station #1 17100 Texas Avenue	281.332.2711
Fire Station #2 18208 Egret Bay Blvd.....	281.332.2711
Fire Marshal 18208 Egret Bay Blvd.....	281.332.2711
City Manager	281.332.1826
City Secretary.....	281.332.1826
City Planner.....	281.316.4122
Community Development Director	281.316.4113
Economic Development Director.....	281.316.4116
Economic Development Specialist.....	281.316.4135
Human Resources (Personnel).....	281.332.1826
Municipal Court	281.338.6702
Marketing and Tourism.....	281.316.4121
Public Works Service Center	281.316.3700

City Services

Animal Control.....	281.316.3700
Building Permits.....	281.338.2925
City Trash Hauling.....	281.316.3700
Civic Center Rental.....	281.316.4114
Code Enforcement	281.316.4106
Republic Services (residential)	281.446.2030
Republic Services (commercial).....	713.849.0400
Tickets - To Pay By Credit Card	281.338.6702
Utility Billing	281.316.4120
Water/Sewer Line Breaks	281.316.3700

Government Services

Clear Lake City Water Authority	281.488.1164
Clear Lake Courthouse Annex.....	281.486.7250
Harris County Tax Office	713.224.1919
Harris County Public Health	713.439.6000
Poison Control (UTMB).....	800.222.1222
Texas Dept. of Public Safety (Drivers License).....	281.486.8242
U.S. Post Office, 17077 Texas Avenue	281.316.0379

Telephone & Utility Services

AT&T.....	800.464.7928
CenterPoint Energy.....	281.534.4569
Comcast.....	800.776.9993
Reliant Energy	713.207.7777
Verizon.....	800.483.4000

Community Services

Bay Area Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau	281.338.0333
Bay Area Turning Point Hotline	281.286.2525
Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce	281.488.7676
Clear Lake City-County Freeman Branch Library.....	281.488.1906
Innovative Alternatives.....	832.864.6000
Interfaith Caring Ministries	281.332.3881



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