

GATEWAY

Webster
TEXAS

Winter 2013
Volume 21, Number 3

1
CITY OF WEBSTER
FIRE STATION

Webster Fire Station #1

Setting new standards with state-of-the-art facility



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Calendar of Events

November 2013

5	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
6	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
8	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
11		City Offices Closed for Veterans Day
12	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
19	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
27	1:30 p.m.	City Offices Close for Thanksgiving
28-29		City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

December 2013

3	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
4	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
6	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
10	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
24-25		City Offices Closed for Christmas

January 2014

1		City Offices Closed for New Year's Day
7	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
8	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
10	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
14	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
20		City Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
21	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
24	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night

February 2014

4	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
5	6 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting (if needed)
11	6 p.m.	Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting
14	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night
18	6 p.m.	City Council Meeting
28	6 p.m.	Senior Game Night

Two-Minute Tuesdays

Two-Minute Tuesdays is a simple way to actively keep Webster beautiful. Want to help? Go outdoors for just two minutes each Tuesday, and pick up trash or debris and pull stray weeds. While outside, make a quick property assessment for any repairs that are needed.

For more information, contact the City of Webster Community Development Department at 281.316.4114.

Just two minutes each Tuesday CAN make a difference!

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Winter – 2013
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The City of Webster
101 Pennsylvania Ave.
Webster, TX 77598

City of Webster Main Line
281.332.1826
Fax: 281.332.5834
Toll Free Tourism Line
888.805.9000

Please contact 281.316.4121 or email ctrailkill@cityofwebster.com with questions or comments. It is the editorial policy of the City to publish community news that impacts the constituency of Webster.

Budget Message from the City Manager

On behalf of our staff, I am pleased to announce that the City Council has passed the Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2013 (FY 2013-14). This document identifies issues confronting the community and provides a plan for serving and meeting citizen expectations. The budget is balanced, shows a reduction in debt, cash funds several projects next year by using spendable Fund Balance, starts and ends with a surplus in the General Fund in excess of the requirement for a reserve, and is supported by a lower tax rate.

With cautious optimism, we see some positive signs in the local economy. Sales tax revenue for FY 2013-14 is expected to rise by 1.0% over the slight gain that is estimated for FY 2012-13. Nearly doubling the amount of retail space in each establishment, Golfsmith and Conn's Home Plus are just two of the premier retailers that are expanding their establishments in Webster. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center recently opened its \$92 million expansion and renovation project. Bay Area Regional Medical Center is scheduled for completion in early 2014. The Staff and the Webster Economic Development Corporation continue to promote a future "destination development" project that would greatly expand the City's sales tax base. The City's growth, however, is being tempered by uncertainty within the minds of consumers as a fragile national economy limps along.

The City strives for efficient and effective service delivery. As the budget was being developed, Staff went to great efforts to examine all expenditures and limit increases when possible. The FY 2013-14 Annual Budget includes total resources of \$34,639,260 and expenditures of \$34,634,020, including transfers and planned use of Fund Balance. With the certified rolls for property tax values increasing slightly, a reduced tax rate will still accumulate enough revenue to maintain programs and services for our citizens. While the Utility Fund budget raises the wastewater volumetric rate and the capital reserve fee necessary for a future replacement of the main water supply line, a 20% reduction to the drainage fee will help offset these increases.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Members of the City Council for their leadership and dedication to the citizens of Webster. I also wish to express my appreciation to City Staff, and in particular the Finance Department, who contributed many hours of hard work to bring this budget to fruition.



Wayne J. Sabo, City Manager



Michael Rodgers, Director of Finance

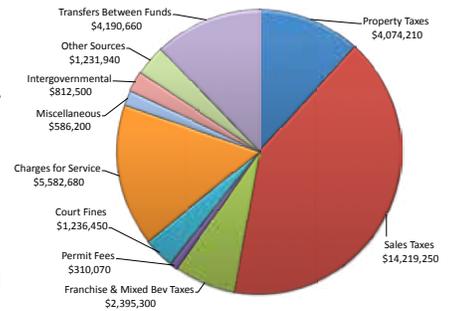
Focus on Finances

Webster City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Budget

After many months of preparation, City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Budget for the City of Webster on September 17, 2013. The annual budget estimates the amount of revenue the City will receive during the year and explains how that money will be spent. Much more than a set of numbers, the budget also provides an overview of City operations, communicates the priorities and issues considered while developing the budget, and describes both the financial and non-financial challenges facing the City.

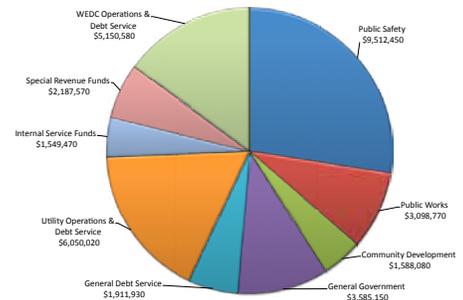
Where the Money Comes From

Revenues from all sources total \$34,639,260 in the FY 2013-14 Annual Budget. At 41%, the greatest share of revenue is derived from the local sales tax. Due to its high concentration of retailers and restaurants, Webster's sales tax revenue is 3½ times greater than the revenue generated from property taxes. While this ratio keeps property taxes low, it does add volatility to the City's revenue stream. For FY 2013-14, sales tax revenue is expected to increase by \$140,000. The property tax rate will decline. Charges for services such as water, wastewater, and drainage utilities comprise 16% of all revenue. Franchise and mixed beverage taxes make up 7% of total resources.



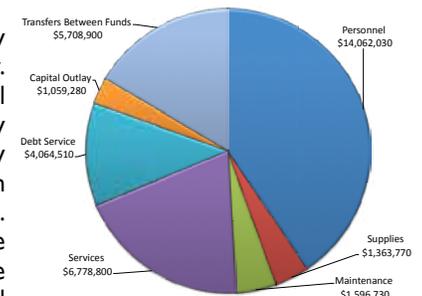
Where the Money Goes – By Function

The City provides many services to its constituents, including police and fire protection, park and infrastructure maintenance, and utility operations. Expenditures total \$34,634,020 in the FY 2013-14 Annual Budget. Separated by function, the costs for public safety account for 27% of the entire budget. Utility services make up 17%, and the Webster Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) totals 15%. General government and public works activities account for 10% and 9%, respectively.



Where the Money Goes – By Component

Charges are also broken down by component for proper accountability. Wages, taxes, benefits and other personnel components constitute 41% of all City expenditures. Costs for emergency medical services, electricity, information technology and other services comprise 20%. Approximately 12% applies to debt service on bonds issued by the City and WEDC. The 3% shown for capital expenditures includes \$690,000 to replace aged police, fire, and public works vehicles.



Conservative management and sound fiscal policies have placed the City of Webster in a strong financial position. Both the General Fund and the Utility Fund have healthy reserves even after planned expenditures. Property tax rates remain among the lowest in the area. Major projects have been identified, and necessary rate adjustments have been considered.

For more information about the budget, log onto the City's website at www.cityofwebster.com, or contact Michael Rodgers at 281.316.4102

Webster Opens New Fire Station

State-of-the-art Station Sets Standard for the Area



Located at 18300 Highway 3, the newest addition to the Webster Fire Department serves the community for the next half century.

Webster's new fire station on Highway 3 greatly augments the City's fire-fighting and emergency response prowess and keeps pace with incredible commercial and residential growth. For the past several years, plans have been underway to demolish the antiquated 4,000 square foot station on Texas Avenue, as it was built in 1973—decades before today's windstorm standards and well before the advent of considerable business development and Webster's booming medical center that now accommodates 1.8M patients annually.

As Webster's Fire Department provides services not only to the City—responding to structural fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical incidents, fire alarms, severe weather, natural disasters, and emergencies—but also

renders mutual aid to surrounding areas, as well as throughout the State, a new fire station that consolidates services and increases efficiency has been greatly needed.

Community service, fire prevention, and fire safety play an integral role in Webster's Fire Department, as workshops and fire prevention training are held for public and private schools, daycare facilities, nursing homes, Webster's medical sector, Johnson Space Center, and many other organizations and business sectors. The new station offers an optimal setting for community service outreach.

The City's new fire station is not only aesthetically pleasing but also enhances services. Ensnconced on Highway 3, adjacent to City Hall and in close proximity to the Police Department, Webster's 22,000 square foot station is an architectural marvel inside and out. With its six spacious bays, the new fire station can accommodate the ladder truck with its 105 foot aerial appendage and 2,000 gallons per minute pump; the rescue truck that is bigger than the ladder truck and dispenses 1,250 gallons of water per minute; and the mammoth fire engine that emits 2,000

gallons a minute.

The old fire station on Texas Avenue couldn't accommodate the ladder truck due to its low ceiling height. And, the old station wasn't hurricane rated. The new station is built to Miami-Dade Hurricane Standards—able to withstand winds of 146 miles per hour; and for this reason, the facility serves as a back-up Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Certified Training Facility

Webster's new fire station serves as a one-stop shop for fire operations, the fire marshal division, and fire administration, along with emergency medical services and emergency management. Additionally, Webster now has a modern fire training facility, with a tower and large pad,



Webster City Council joins Mayor Myers and Chief Shipp in cutting the ribbon of steel using the "Jaws of Life" to officially open the station.



R-14 and B-14 await "wetting down," a ceremonial tribute to the early days of fire fighting in which the trucks are sprayed with water and pushed into the station.

certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to enable in-house and regional training for up to 50 participants per session in areas such as rope rescue, repelling, confined space, water operations, standpipe training, and apparatus instruction. The state-of-the-art training facility is ideal for conducting disaster drills, as well as hands-on training that are required of Webster's 30 part-time firefighters, Fire Chief Patrick Shipp, Fire Marshal Ron Gaines, Assistant Fire Marshal Warren Chappel, and Fire Prevention Specialist Shawn Keesler who provide round-the-clock coverage.

A place to call home

When it comes to fighting fires and battling emergencies, highly trained personnel, quick response time, modern, efficient equipment, and technology are vital. Webster's new fire station serves as the conduit for these essential components. The new facility's quarters, complete with spacious kitchen and workout room, ensure that emergency responders – fire and emergency medical personnel – are safe, comfortable, and poised to act, as the station is always staffed.

Webster's fire station even features a unique treatment room for walk-in medical emergencies. As all Webster fire fighters are certified by the Texas Department of Health as Emergency Medical Technicians, a walk-in patient can be evaluated rapidly, and an ambulance, which is housed within the station, can transport the patient quickly and efficiently.



Webster City Council and Fire Fighters gather in front of the new station.

Apparatus

The new facility accommodates modern fire-fighting apparatus that is essential to fire operations, such as Rescue 14 – the newest vehicle in the fleet, a 2012 Pierce Velocity heavy rescue truck that can be used as a command center; Engine 14 – a Pierce Quantum heavy duty rescue pumper with compressed air foam system that operates as the “first out” vehicle; Ladder 14 – a Pierce Quantum 105' ladder truck with compressed air foam system; two brush trucks; high-water rescue truck; and two boats.

Webster's Fire Department participates in the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS), operated by the Texas Forest Service, rendering volunteer services and emergency aid with its personnel and equipment to entities and agencies in need of assistance – like the devastating wild fires during the summer of 2011. Too, Webster's

Fire Department presides as one of the regional search and recovery dive teams, ready to respond to emergencies within waterways.

Automated Dispatch

One of the latest advancements in computer automated dispatch is a program called “First-In” that is incorporated into the new station. This alerting system provides quick and comprehensive dispatch information to emergency personnel – from visual and audio notification throughout areas of the fire station to call information, unit assignment, incident type, and address. As response time is of critical importance in dealing with emergencies, this top-notch alerting system is very advanced – not only does it turn on lights, open doors, identify type of emergency and incident address, call cell phones, send texts and emails but also it assigns units. In the middle of the night, especially, this automated, smart system accelerates emergency response and features a “turnout timer,” as every second counts.

Always Ready, Always There

As the motto of the Webster Fire Department is “always ready, always there, providing efficient and effective services to the public and each other,” this new station at 18300 Highway 3 ensures that its legacy of serving the City will continue. The new fire station is a tribute to the growing commercial and residential population that Webster serves, as well as the mutual aid the municipality renders to support the region.



Fire station #1 touts both classroom-style training rooms and specialized features, such as a manhole built into one of the stairwells – allowing specialized close-quarter drills. The spacious kitchen area offers plenty of room to accommodate a full contingency of fire fighters room to prepare meals during extended shifts.

Space Center Houston and Webster Showcase Leonardo da Vinci's Machines

As Space Center Houston's exclusive municipal partner, Webster is the sponsor of NASA's official visitors center's newest exhibit that illustrates the genius of Leonardo da Vinci – the 15th Century Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, musician, architect, engineer, inventor, and anatomist. While Leonardo da Vinci might be best known for his paintings, especially *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, his technological ingenuity – evident in his manuscripts – and unpublished during his life – was extraordinary and comes alive in this exhibit – *Machines in Motion*.

Renowned as the father of invention, innovation, and creativity, Leonardo conceptualized robots, swimming devices, flying machines, weaponry, and many more technological wonders. Forty of these designs are meticulously reproduced for the exhibit, *Machines in Motion*, in which life-sized, exquisitely crafted, fully-functional machines reveal some of the origins of contemporary science and engineering. While da Vinci was not a prolific painter, he was a prolific draftsman and journalist – recording 13,000 pages of notes and drawings that fuse art and natural philosophy. His seemingly unquenchable curiosity,



Visitors to *Machines in Motion* first encounter one of Leonardo da Vinci's most iconic drawings—the Vitruvian Man. Webster City Council Member Natalie Dolan stands next to da Vinci's concept of the ideal body that blends art and science and depicts the essential symmetry of the human body, and by extension, the universe.

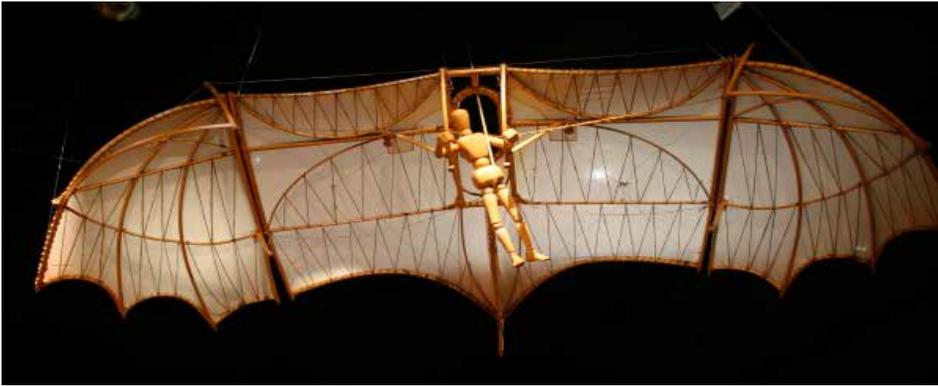
coupled with acute powers of observation, brilliant mind, and artistic talent, is evident in da Vinci's notebooks where designs for hang gliders, shoes for walking on water, bridges, hydraulic pumps, war machines, adding machines, and flying machines appear, along with studies of anatomy and physiology.

This native of Vinci, Italy who was born 561 years ago leaves a legacy

of visionary designs that can be experienced at Space Center Houston. Several facets of da Vinci's extraordinary life reveal his quest for knowledge and innovation. As a successful artist, da Vinci was retained as a military architect and engineer who created maps, which were rare at the time, to depict strategic defensive and offensive locations based on topography. He devised a system of moveable barricades to protect a city from attack, as well as temporary bridges that armies could erect and dismantle expeditiously. As da Vinci was fascinated by water and lived in a region surrounded by waterways, he designed a canal system that was largely constructed based on his system and still operable today. Too, he was given permission to dissect human corpses at various hospitals in his study of human anatomy, as da Vinci was intrigued by the human body, its organs, muscles, vascular system, mechanical functions, and forces, in addition to



40 machines, meticulously based on designs, materials and tools specified by the original Renaissance Man Leonardo da Vinci, are on exhibit at Space Center Houston.



The term, *Ornithopter*, derived from the Greek words *bird* and *wing*, is an aircraft that flies by flapping its wing – imitating the flapping wing flight of birds, bats, and insects. Da Vinci's machine was designed to be powered by the muscles of the pilot.

the physiological effects of aging, illness, and emotion.

The exhibit, *Machines in Motion*, is the work of a modern team of scientists and craftsmen in Florence, Italy, who have fashioned 40 full-scale machines based on da Vinci's designs. Most of the materials used in the construction of the functional machines were available during da Vinci's era and represent materials proposed by him in his codices, including wood, rope, and glue, as well as the prescribed tools. The hand-crafted machines are grouped into four sections, based on applications linked to the elements – air, water, earth, and fire – which held a strong allure for da Vinci.

Air

"A bird is an instrument working according to mathematical law."

Leonardo da Vinci was intrigued by the phenomenon of flight and produced many studies of the flight of birds, as well as plans for several flying machines, including a flapping ornithopter, hang glider, and a machine with a helical rotor. He may have been the first European interested in a practical solution to flight and, apparently, bought birds in local markets, studied their wing structure, movement, and shape, and set them free. Around 1485, da Vinci drew detailed plans for one of his most famous inventions – the ornithopter. Da Vinci's flight device, patterned after bats with its wing design, called for a wingspan

that exceeded 33 feet; a frame made of pine covered in raw silk to create a light but sturdy membrane; and a pilot who would lie face down in the center on a board. To power the wings, the pilot would pedal a crank connected to a rod and pulley system. The flying machine also had a hand crank for increased energy output and a head piece for steering. The pilot would spin the cranks with his hands and feet, causing the wings of the machine to flap and twist.

Da Vinci invented a glider and a parachute. Reminiscent of the modern hang glider, da Vinci's glider combines aspects of a boat that flies. Unlike the ornithopter, the glider featured fixed wings. The pilot would lie down in the machine with his waist inside a middle ring just below the wings, and his hands would propel and direct the craft via two sticks or oars protruding from the wings.

Too, da Vinci may have been the inventor of the parachute, as he sketched this device and penned the description: "If a man have a tent of linen of which the apertures have all been stopped up, and it be twelve braccia (about 23 feet) across and twelve in depth, he will be able to throw himself from any great height without suffering any injury." Da Vinci's parachute consisted of sealed linen cloth held open by a pyramid of wooden poles, about seven meters long. In the exhibit, *Machines in Motion*, da Vinci's parachute is



Da Vinci devised methods to move over, on, or through water, like the float and webbed-hand paddles.

compared to a NASA innovation – Orion's parachute.

Water

Da Vinci described water as the vehicle of nature – analogous to blood in a body. However, he was very aware of the paradoxical nature of water – as water could destroy or nourish, poison or heal. As a cartographer, he studied the motions of water and devised a scheme for diverting the flow of the Arno River. Da Vinci's journals include inventions for machines that employ water to relay energy or devices that aid passage through waterways, such as a pump for lifting water from wells or draining water from streams, called the "water lifter;" or equipment devised for soldiers who needed to cross moats and rivers – "walking on water;" or temporary bridges that armies could erect and dismantle quickly – "spanning the river;" or a hand paddle modeled after ducks to aid swimming – the "webbed



Not only did da Vinci invent new machines but also he improved older designs, such as Archimedes' Screw, used to move water to a higher elevation.

glove.” Since da Vinci lived during a turbulent age, in a country that featured an abundance of waterways, many of his inventions that deal with water reflect his contention that mobility was one of the most important aspects of warfare. Da Vinci sought to control water with his inventions. In the exhibit, da Vinci’s webbed glove and preserver is compared to self-contained underwater breathing apparatus and gear used in NASA’s astronaut training.

Earth

An avid inventor, da Vinci’s interests seem boundless, as he devised many machines for improving daily life – like a crane, hydraulic saw, odometer, printing press, and olive oil press. It is probable that da Vinci designed the first humanoid robot attired in a functional suit of armor that could open and close its jaw, wave its arms, and move its head – centuries before the technological revolution. Since the Renaissance era was full of building activity inspired by new architecture, da Vinci designed a method for lifting heavy pillars from the ground to a new building by using gearwheels, lantern pinions, and worm screws. Whereas da Vinci’s twin cranes were designed for quarrying, his traveling crane, mounted on a small trolley and balanced with guide wires, was devised for the construction of



The pillar lifter was designed to efficiently move and accurately place stone columns. This machine was one of many designs da Vinci perfected.



Da Vinci designed the predecessor to the modern tank – the angled sides would deflect enemy shots as eight soldiers would “drive” the vehicle while firing multiple cannons arranged around the circular platform.

tall buildings. A wheelbarrow-like machine for measuring distances that da Vinci designed is on display, as well as an advanced printing press, oil press, revolving crane, and machine for lifting pillars. Within the Earth section of the exhibit, da Vinci’s robot, which is compared to NASA’s Robonaut, demonstrates the creativity and range of this remarkable 15th Century artist, engineer, and anatomist.

Fire

As da Vinci experienced first-hand the Second Italian War in 1499, in which he fled Milan for Venice and was employed as a military architect and engineer, he conceived many methods and machines for defense and offense. Da Vinci’s designs included battleships, armored tanks, cannons, and catapults. Machines in Motion features da Vinci’s mobile machine gun that was designed to fire upon a wide swath of enemy soldiers and could be readily towed and manipulated – the forerunner of the modern machine gun. Da Vinci’s cannon, also on display, reveals the inventor’s research in physics. Whereas a typical cannon in the early

15th Century was made of cast iron or bronze with a short barrel and, consequently, had a short firing range, da Vinci designed a breech-loading cannon, rather than a muzzle-loading weapon – which greatly reduced reloading time, and he experimented with various projectiles, ignition systems, and trajectory. On display, too, is da Vinci’s armored tank that was designed to be operated from the interior by eight soldiers who would load and fire cannons and turn cranks attached to trundle wheels, which were attached to driving wheels. While da Vinci wrote about the nature of fire – its constant movement and its ability to destroy, and was often commissioned to design machines of war that utilized fire’s destructive power, he called war a “brutal insanity.”

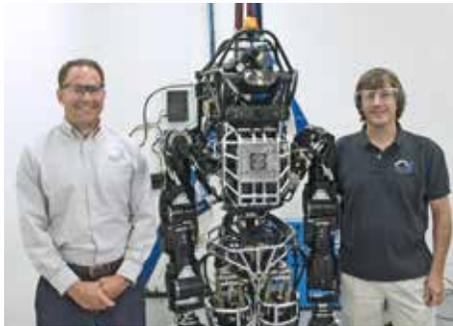
Visitors to Machines in Motion, sponsored by the City of Webster, are afforded the opportunity to enjoy a very small part of the extraordinary legacy that Leonardo da Vinci leaves. The 15th Century Italian’s insatiable curiosity and brilliant mind are revealed in this fascinating and compelling exhibit.

Remarkable Robotics Inside Webster

Inside the Engineering Capital, which is Webster, and home to innovative aerospace, high-tech, and biomedical companies, TRAC Labs is building an autonomous first-responder humanoid robot. Named "Hercules," the robot under development, will accomplish feats that have never before been done – like drive a vehicle through an obstacle course, climb an industrial ladder, traverse a muddy, uneven, rubble-strewn field, open and close valves, and perform highly complex tasks just like a human emergency first-responder.

TRAC Labs, headquartered in Webster, with over two decades of experience in the field of robotics and automation, has advanced to the second round of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Robotics Challenge. What is especially remarkable is that TRAC Labs, a small company with a full-time workforce of 13, is competing successfully with huge, international companies and universities with large workforces, facilities, and budgets – and winning.

First, in December 2012, TRAC Labs was one of eleven institutions worldwide that was selected by DARPA for the Robotics Challenge. Next, in June 2013, TRAC Labs was one of six companies that advanced to the second round of the competition by developing software necessary for a humanoid bot to accomplish three arduous tasks – driving an all-terrain four-wheel vehicle while avoiding numerous hurdles, navigating (on foot) an obstacle-laden, rocky field, and walking up to a hose, attaching a spigot, and turning the valve for water flow. Now, in preparation for the third round of the Robotics Challenge, which will transpire in December 2013, TRAC Labs has received the use of a \$2 million Atlas humanoid robot from DARPA and must integrate the



TRAC Labs' President and CEO Dr. David Kortenkamp and Senior Scientist and Project Manager Dr. Robert Burrige are instilling the "brains" and "brawn" software in Hercules – the agile anthropomorphic "first-responder" robot.

layered artificial intelligence software it developed with the hardware.

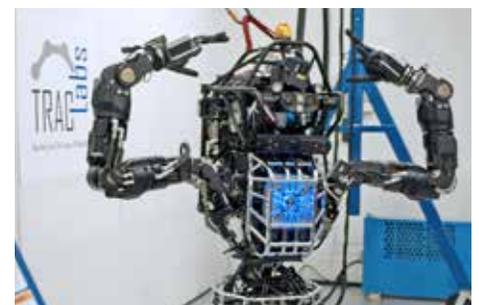
In response to deadly, devastating crises, like the worst nuclear power plant disasters in history – Fukushima Daiichin in 2011 or Chernobyl in 1986, or the largest offshore oil spill in the United States, Deepwater Horizon in 2010, or the Chilean Copiapo mine collapse in 2010, DARPA recognizes that intelligent, dexterous robots that are capable of executing complex tasks in dangerous, degraded environments are urgently needed. In the case of many disasters, human response is not an option, so an emergency response team of ground robots that contain, mitigate, monitor, and clean up horrific damage is the solution.

The Department of Defense's Robotics Challenge, issued in 2012, enabled eleven companies and organizations, out of more than 100 international applicants, the opportunity to develop the hardware and software necessary to create a first responder humanoid bot and receive grant funding to accomplish this mission. Now, TRAC Labs is among the six contenders that will compete in the live simulation in December 2013. Only three finalists will be chosen during that time to proceed to the culminating event scheduled for December 2014.

For this third round of the Robotics Challenge, TRAC Labs is integrating its artificial intelligence technologies into the Atlas robot. The six-foot-two, \$2 Million robot designed by Boston Dynamics weighs 330 pounds and is a strong, high mobility, coordinated humanoid robot designed to walk, climb, lift, carry, and negotiate rough terrain.

Hercules "sees" through an articulated sensor head with stereo cameras and spinning laser range finder. While the Atlas robot has no neck, its waist readily rotates, and it has articulated, sensate hands that can handle tools designed for humans. Hercules features 28 hydraulically-actuated degrees of freedom, powered by an off-board, electric power supply via a flexible tether.

Under TRAC Labs' tutelage, Hercules is receiving the brains, balance, dexterity, and maneuvers necessary to turn the intricate composite or shell of stainless steel and other materials into a first responder bot that will win the next round in the Robotics Challenge. According to TRAC Labs' President and CEO Dr. David Kortenkamp, the company's "multi-layered approach to artificial intelligence is uniquely suited to this challenge and the ultimate goal of developing highly effective, advanced robots for roles specific to disaster response and other hazardous activities."



TRAC Labs and Hercules are "going for the gold" in the DARPA Robotics Challenge.

Big Brands Bound for Webster

Inside the retail, dining, and entertainment capital, exciting, highly successful retailers will launch their Webster location very soon.

First, Sears Outlet will open inside nearly 34,000 square feet at the Clear Lake Center in December 2013, as this established retailer with stores nationwide joins co-anchors Burlington Coat Factory and Garden Ridge. Renowned for its appliances, the store also features sporting goods, fitness equipment, mattresses, furniture, electronics, tools, tool storage, grills, patio furniture, and lawn equipment.



Next, El Tiempo Cantina is building its sixth location, between Honda of Clear Lake and Salt Grass Steakhouse.



Known for its 55-year legacy of serving exquisite Tex-Mex cuisine, El Tiempo and the Laurenzo family will launch their 15,000+ square foot restaurant, complete with wrap around bar, covered and open air patios, tortilla station, and festive atmosphere. El Tiempo Cantina projects February 2014 for its opening date.

Finally, the military-themed restaurant and sports bar, Bombshells, chose Webster to open its first Houston-area dining and entertainment venue.



As its name connotes, Bombshells features terrific memorabilia, along with the latest technology, amenities, and menu offerings – like 70 large TVs for sports fans, outdoor patio, expansive bar, first-class cuisine, and great music from 11 am to 2 am seven days a week. Bombshells will join Big Texas and IHOP at Challenger Plaza by the end of January 2014.

Webster Yards of the Month



Commercial – June
Mill Forest Dental Plaza
 17240 Mill Forest



Residential – June
Carl & Ruth Heeder
 618 W. Fork



Commercial – July
Super 8 Houston NASA/Webster Hotel
 18103 Kings Row



Residential – July
Esther Galbreath
 615 N. Walnut



Commercial – August
Camino Park HOA
 17409 El Camino Real, Suite 100



Residential – August
Giancarlo & Rita Farinelli
 18607 Kings Row



Commercial – September
Peggy Levin, DDS
 17209 Glenmount Park Dr.



Residential – September
Cathy Cobb
 507 Brad Court

Public Meeting Notes

May 7, 2013, City Council Meeting

- Mayor Floyd H. Myers read a proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2013 as Motorcycle Awareness Month.
- Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Ferro presented a plaque for State recognition of Stephen Shen's contribution to the Emergency Management Performance Grant Steering Committee.
- Leo Waltz, Executive Committee Member of the Senior Learning Center, announced that the Center was moving to Upper Bay Road due to the demolition of their building.
- Accepted the Investment Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2013. (For: Myers, Newland, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan, and Jones).
- Postponed setting a date for the City Council workshop to discuss, review, and consider the City of Webster's Capital Improvements Program for 2014-2018. (For: Myers, Newland, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan, and Jones).
- Held an Executive Session to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
- Held an Executive Session to deliberate economic development negotiations regarding a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to locate in the City of Webster.
- Directed the City Manager and Staff to continue negotiations discussed in Executive Session and bring back information to Council for consideration. (For: Myers, Newland, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan, and Jones).
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2013. (For: Myers, Newland, Donehue, Waltz, Dolan, and Jones)
- Excused the absence of Alexandra Dietrich. (For: Myers, Newland, Donehue, Dolan, and Jones. Abstain: Waltz).

May 21, 2013, City Council Meeting

- Approved a resolution canvassing the returns of the General Election held in the City of Webster on May 11, 2013. (Unanimous).
- Installed the Newly Elected Officers.
- Set a date for the City Council workshop to discuss, review, and consider the City of Webster Capital Improvements Program for 2014-2018 and items discussed at the March 23, 2013 Planning Session. (Unanimous).
- Elected Alexandra Dietrich as Mayor Pro Tem for a one-year term. (Unanimous).
- Appointed Maria Morales to Position No. 8 and Javier Morales to Position 9 of the Board of Directors of the City of Webster Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1 for two year terms expiring May 31, 2015. (Unanimous).
- Denied to keep the evaluation form the same for appointed officials, City Manager, and City Secretary. (For: Myers, Newland, Dietrich, Tosto. Against: North, Dolan, Jones.)
- Denied to change the evaluation form to a five-point system for appointed officials, City Manager, and City Secretary. (For: Myers, North, Dolan, Jones. Against: Newland, Dietrich, Tosto).
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2013. (Unanimous).

June 4, 2013, City Council Meeting

- John Pasquali stated that he feels the Webster Police Department should be reorganized.
- Approved an agreement for the Gulf Coast Region Information and Dispatch System (GRID) with League City. (For: Newland, Dietrich, Tosto, North, Dolan, and Jones. Against: Myers).

- Approved funding to participate in a focused, summer advertising campaign with Space Center Houston and Moody Gardens with Space Center Houston as Webster's agent utilizing hotel occupancy tax funds. (Unanimous).
- Appointed Diana Newland, by acclamation, to the Webster Economic Development Corporation for an unexpired term ending August 31, 2013. (Unanimous).
- Received a report, held a discussion, and provided direction to Staff regarding the Preliminary 2014-2018 Capital Improvements Program for the City of Webster and items discussed at the March 23, 2013 Strategic Planning Session.
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 21, 2013. (Unanimous).

June 18, 2013, City Council Meeting

- Approved a request from Houston Symphony League-Bay Area for funding from the City's General Fund for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. (Unanimous).
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute the Plan Documents with Discovery Benefits to serve as third party administrator for the City of Webster's Section 125 Flexible Spending Employee Benefit effective October 1, 2013. (Unanimous).
- Approved a resolution confirming the acceptance of a five-year utility rate design structure, implemented to achieve financial stability for the Utility Fund. (Unanimous).
- Reappointed Dr. Todd McCoy and Debbie Oglesby, two regular members for terms expiring 06-30-2016 to the Animal Control Board. (Unanimous).
- Reappointed Susan Levy, regular member for a term expiring 06-30-2018 to the Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals. (Unanimous).
- Reappointed Jerry Ellis and Barry Dietrich, regular members for terms expiring 06-30-2016 to the Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board. (For: Myers, Newland, Tosto, North, Dolan, Jones. Abstain: Dietrich).
- Reappointed Leo Waltz, Frank Moreno, and Troy Stewart, regular members for terms expiring 06-30-2015 to the Planning and Zoning Commission. (Unanimous).
- Reappointed David Painter, Klaus Oglesby, and James Wilson, regular members for terms expiring 06-30-2015 to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals and Russell Newland, alternate member for a term expiring 06-30-2015 to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals. (For: Myers, Dietrich, Tosto, North, Dolan, Jones. Abstain: Newland).
- Held an Executive Session to deliberate the purchase of real property.
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute a contract and any other related documents for the purchase of a 5.32 acre tract of land situated in the Robert Wilson Survey being a portion of the Webster Outlots, a subdivision recorded in Volume 3, Page 73, Harris County Map Records. (For: Newland, Dietrich, Tosto, North, Dolan, Jones. Against: Myers).
- Approved an ordinance adopting Amendment No. 1 to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. (Unanimous).
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2013 with corrections. (Unanimous).

July 2, 2013, City Council Meeting

- Denied the request by Clear Lake Honda/Mazda/Preowned and National Signs for a proposed sign ordinance amendment, to allow 50% of the signage as Reader Board/LED Graphic on I-45 Corridor for a single business sign. (For: Myers, Newland, Dietrich, Dolan. Against: Tosto, North, Jones).
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Webster and Clear Lake Regional Medical Center. (Unanimous).
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Johnson Space Center for Emergency Response. (Unanimous).
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Webster (as part of Bay Area Emergency Responders) and NASA/Johnson Space Center. (Unanimous).
- Reappointed Fran Gordon, alternate member for a term expiring 06-30-2015 to the Planning and Zoning Commission. (Unanimous).
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute a contract with the City of Nassau Bay for detention and dispatching services. (Unanimous).
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2013. (Unanimous).

July 16, 2013, City Council Meeting

- Held a Public Hearing to receive all comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 98).
- Received a report, held a discussion, and gave direction to Staff regarding the proposal from Bay Area Regional Medical Center (Medistar) to use aluminum wiring instead of copper as feeders at the existing building located at 200 Blossom Street, Webster, Texas.
- Approved and authorized the Mayor to execute an agreement with USCA Municipal Advisors LLC to serve as Financial Advisor with respect to certificates of obligation, bonds, and other debt obligations that the City of Webster may issue in the future. (Unanimous).
- Approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Code of Ordinances, Chapter 98. (For: Dietrich, Tosto, North, Dolan, Jones. Against: Myers, Newland).
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Budget for the Webster Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). (Unanimous).
- Approved to create a Citizens Advisory Committee for the Comprehensive Plan Update with Councilmembers North and Jones, elected by acclamation, representing Council and the other members to be determined at another meeting. (Unanimous).
- Received presentation of the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Annual Budget for the City of Webster.
- Set the date for City Council workshops to discuss, review, and consider Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Annual Budget for the City of Webster. (Unanimous).
- Held an Executive Session regarding consultation with the City Attorney.
- Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 2, 2013. (Unanimous).

July 30, 2013, City Council Special Meeting

- Received a report, held a discussion, and provided direction to Staff regarding the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Proposed Annual Budget for the City of Webster.

City Officials

Mayor: Floyd Myers.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 1: Diana Newland.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 2: Alexandra Dietrich.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 3: Larry Tosto.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 4: Doug North.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 5: Natalie Dolan.....	281.332.1826
Council Position No. 6: Bill Jones.....	281.332.1826

City Offices – 101 Pennsylvania Ave.

EMERGENCY Ambulance-Fire-Police.....	9-1-1
City Hall Main Switchboard.....	281.332.1826
Building Permits.....	281.338.2925
Chief Building Official.....	281.316.4138
City Manager.....	281.332.1826
City Secretary.....	281.332.1826
City Planner.....	281.316.4122
Code Enforcement.....	281.316.4106
Community Development Director.....	281.316.4129
Economic Development Director.....	281.316.4116
Economic Development Specialist.....	281.316.4135
Emergency Management.....	281.316.3712
Environmental Health Inspector.....	281.316.4133
Finance Director.....	281.316.4102
Fire Department (Non-Emergency).....	281.332.2711
Fire Station #1 – 17100 Texas Avenue.....	281.332.2711
Fire Station #2 & Fire Marshal – 18208 Egret Bay Blvd.....	281.332.2711
Human Resources (Personnel).....	281.332.1826
Marketing & Tourism.....	281.316.4121
Municipal Court.....	281.338.6702
Police Department (Non-Emergency) 217 Pennsylvania Ave.....	281.332.2426
Public Works Service Center.....	281.316.3700
Recreation.....	281.316.4137
Webmaster.....	281.316.4121

City Services

Animal Control.....	281.316.3700
City Trash Hauling.....	281.316.3700
Civic Center Rental.....	281.316.4114
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

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

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

Community Services

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.....	832.536.3255
Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership.....	832.771.0773
Bay Area Turning Point Hotline (domestic violence, sexual assault, homeless).....	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

City Council



Diana Newland
Council Position 1



Alexandra Dietrich
Council Position 2



Larry Tosto
Council Position 3



Floyd H. Myers
Mayor



Doug North
Council Position 4



Natalie Dolan
Council Position 5



Bill Jones
Council Position 6