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## Webster Fire Dept. Goes Full-Time

*Transitioning from part-time to career staff*

Starting in September, the Webster Fire Department will shift from 21 part-time employees to 12 full-time employees. After a series of interviews and evaluations, Webster internally appointed 10 firefighters to full-time positions and hired two additional employees from outside of the City.

According to Webster Fire Chief Patrick Shipp, the drawback of having a large part-time staff was a lack of reliability when a disaster struck. Other fire departments in the area employed some of the same part-time staff as Webster, so in a crisis, the agencies were competing for the firefighters.

Once full-time, the employees will have ownership and pride in the Department. Webster will be their home and their service will improve, said Chief Shipp.

Another difficulty with having a large part-time staff was the sporadic scheduling. One crew may work together one day, but that same crew may not work together again for another year, said Shift Commander Todd Weidman. A smaller full-time staff will reduce crew fragmentation, and enable the delivery of training to be timely and efficient. It will enhance the service delivery and productivity by maintaining a consistent level of care.

Additionally, the new full-time employees will be required to become paramedics within three years, which will also improve the service in Webster.

The change to 12 full-time firefighters is expected to save the City money, as there will be fewer employees covered by insurance.

Webster Fire Department anticipates the new staff to begin on September 10.





# New law requires direct access to 9-1-1

*Kari's Law, effective September 1, 2016*

Everyone is taught at a young age to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. But what many people don't know is that simply dialing 9-1-1 does not always work from every phone.

In December 2013, Kari Hunt was murdered in a motel room in Marshall, Texas, as her 9-year-old daughter desperately called 9-1-1 four times to no avail. Her calls didn't go through because the hotel had a multi-line phone system (MLTS) that required users to dial a '9' before calling an outside line.

On May 15, 2015, Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill, approving of Kari's Law, making it a requirement for all businesses with MLTS to ensure their phone systems are capable of dialing 9-1-1 without a '9' or another number. On March 1, 2016, the Commission on State Emergency Communications adopted the law, and it will be effective throughout Texas starting September 1.

Tragedies such as this are preventable, which is why Kari's Law is so important, said Webster Emergency Management Coordinator Joe Ferro. For more information on Kari's Law, visit [Texas911.org/KarisLaw](http://Texas911.org/KarisLaw).



## Meet Carmen Williams

*Webster's new HR director*

Carmen A. Williams is a New Orleans native, a Loyola University Alumni, and the new Webster Human Resources Director. She started on August 1 and is excited about the opportunity.

According to Carmen, human resources is her passion. She loves to serve people, enjoys a good laugh, and keeps things positive and upbeat. She looks forward to serving the City of Webster for several years.

Welcome to Webster, Carmen!



## Happy Labor Day



City hall will be closed on Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day holiday. Trash routes will run as normally scheduled.

## Updated Texas Health Laws

*Webster welcomes new food handler law*

Starting on September 1, the Texas Department of State Health Services will require any employee working with unpackaged food, food equipment, utensils, or food-contact surfaces to obtain a food handler card or certificate. This could include hostesses, servers, bartenders, and kitchen staff.

Previously the food handler laws were left to local health departments. According to Webster Environmental Health Inspector Heather Furst, the new provision is another step in preventing foodborne illnesses and will increase the overall food service quality and knowledge of employees working in food establishments.

Current food employees must have the two-hour training completed by Sept. 1, and any employee hired following that date will have 60 days to take a class.

Other modifications made to the Food Establishment Rules include: food handler certificates to be located on site, Certified Food Protection Manager to be on site for each licensed establishment, and Certified Food Protection Manager certificates posted conspicuously at each location.

For more information on the new food handler laws, visit [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us).



## Yard of the Month: July

\*Yard judging takes place from April-October





# We Are Webster

## Meet residents Melvin and Jerry Lou Ellis

Their story started when Jerry Lou was only 15 years old. She met Melvin, who was 19 at the time, outside of a movie theater in Fort Worth, Texas. The two instantly had a connection, and 64 years later the pair is still together to tell the tale. Three children, many moves and even more occupations later, the couple found themselves in Webster with no plans of ever leaving.

Melvin Ellis started out in the U.S. Air Force, where he became an electronics and radar instructor and taught for four years in Mississippi. Following his Air Force career, the Ellises moved to Austin where Melvin received an engineering degree from the University of Texas. After graduation, the family moved first to Santa Monica, California, then to El Paso, to Clear Lake City and finally to Webster.

In Clear Lake, Melvin worked for TRW Systems, before becoming employed with Lockheed Martin. It was then that the duo decided to open their own sewing machine business in Webster. Jerry Lou would teach classes and sell the machines, while Melvin would spend his evenings repairing machines and maintaining the property.

It all came to a stop when Melvin woke up one morning with a headache. He was rushed to a hospital in Houston where they learned of his brain aneurysm. The next thing Melvin remembers is waking up over two months later in a hospital bed. It was a five-month process where Jerry Lou was caring for Melvin and driving to and from Houston.

From then on, the sewing machine business became too much to handle and soon closed. Melvin retired, but both he and Jerry Lou have remained very active in the community. Melvin was on Webster City Council for six years and is still on the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Jerry Lou is on the Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board, as well as on the Celebration Committee. Since January 1976, Melvin and Jerry Lou have seen Webster grow and change. The medical center has been one of the biggest changes, said Jerry Lou. Melvin recalled making decisions on council for the expansion of the hospital, Edgewater, and Texas Avenue Park.

The couple attends the July 4th Celebration each year and what started out as around 50 families at the Webster Civic Center for a potluck, has turned into a huge event at Texas Avenue Park with thousands of visitors, outstanding fireworks, and dozens of vendors.

Thank you Melvin and Jerry Lou Ellis for helping to make this city what it is today!



# Council Connect

## Meet Larry Tosto, Council Member Position 3, Mayor Pro Tem

Known for his dedication to the City of Webster, his active lifestyle, and his strong New York accent, the City is proud to have Larry Tosto as Council Member Position 3 and Mayor Pro Tem.

It all started when Larry joined the Webster Citizens Police Academy and became president of the Alumni Association. He's always been passionate about law enforcement and even attempted to become a police officer when he was 21 years old. Although he passed the written portion of the test in the top ten percent, New York City Police Department did not accept him as he was a half an inch shy of the height requirement. So, after he moved to Webster in 2006, he joined the Citizens Police Academy and began volunteering in his spare time. It

was then that Larry learned about City Council and was encouraged to run and make a difference in the community. According to him, since being elected, his biggest accomplishment was seeing a training simulator approved by Council and installed at the Webster Police Department.

He worked for several years as an engineer for multiple companies such as General Electric Jet Engine Division in Ohio, Grumman Aircraft Company in Long Island, Grumman Space Station Division in Virginia, and Boeing Space Station Division in Houston.

When Larry is not busy with council, he is exercising and walking around the City. He is especially proud of the work that Webster Public Works does to make the streets incredibly clean, and the parks well-maintained. He also enjoys cooking Italian food for his friends and family, reading, and spending time with his wife of 36 years, Vera, the five children he raised, and his eight grandchildren.

Larry's \experience, passion, and love for the City of Webster have made him a valuable member of the Webster City Council.

**City Hall Main Number .....281.332.1826**

*All officials and offices can be reached using the main number*

### City Officials

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




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September 2016

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                                      | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|          | * Meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items. Check the City website for meeting information! |   |   | 1   | 2   | 3  |
| 4   | 5<br>                   | 6<br>City Council Meeting<br>6 p.m.                               | 7<br>Planning and Zoning Meeting<br>6 p.m.  | 8   | 9<br>Senior Game Night<br>6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  | 10   |
| 11<br> | 12  | 13<br>Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting*<br>6 p.m. | 14  | 15<br>Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board Mtg.<br>5:30 p.m.  | 16  | 17<br><br>Rain Barrel Workshop<br>9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.              |
| 18  | 19<br>Building Board Meeting<br>6 p.m.  | 20<br>City Council Meeting<br>6 p.m.                              | 21<br>Webster Aerobics<br>Mon. & Wed.<br>6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.<br> | 22<br><br>First day of autumn   | 23<br>Senior Game Night<br>6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | 24<br>Webster Aerobics<br>Every Saturday<br>7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.<br> |
| 25  | 26<br>Webster Tae Kwon Do<br>Every Monday Tuesday and Thursday  | 27  | 28  | 29<br><br>Coffee with a Cop<br>8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. at Nationwide Insurance<br>17625 El Camino | 30  |   |

 Sign up for the Rain Barrel Workshop! Spots are running out for the Sept. 17 Webster Rain Barrel Workshop! Register now and reserve your spot at [www.galvbay.org/rainbarrel](http://www.galvbay.org/rainbarrel).

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