



# WebsterWay

Monthly Newsletter November 2016

*Inside this edition:*

**Bald Eagles in Webster**  
*Keep up with two of Webster's flying friends on Facebook*

**Meet Edward Lapeyre**  
*Newly elected Council Member Position 5 Edward Lapeyre*

**Show Me the Money**  
*Get the inside scoop on the 2016-2017 budget*

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 [@CityofWebster](https://www.instagram.com/CityofWebster)

## 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget

*The City of Webster in a sound financial position*

After months of calculations and workshops to put together the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Annual Budget for the City of Webster, as of October 1, the budget has been adopted and implemented. With the new budget, residents are paying less than \$9 a day for all city services, including public safety. The total resources for the budget are \$39,975,890, while expenditures equal only \$35,668,450.

Fifty-eight percent of the general fund revenue is derived from sales taxes. While this fiscal year budget anticipates sales tax revenue to fall one percent to \$12 million, the Webster Economic Development Corporation has aggressively ramped up its business recruitment and retention efforts, and are optimistic there may actually be an increase in revenue in the coming years.

The fiscal year budget reflects a property tax rate of \$0.28450 per \$100 of valuation. Although the tax rate went up, the increase is only \$38 increase to a home valued at \$100,000 for an entire year of city services.

Of the \$11 million budgeted for public safety, \$8 million is included for police protection.

Personnel costs increase in the fire department as it converts from a part-time/hybrid department to one with full-time professional firefighters. Constituents benefit with crew continuity and adequate shift coverage.

City Council created the Department of Emergency Management in June 2016. Operating with existing staff, its \$325,940 budget is derived from realigning other departments.

*Continue story on page 2...*

**Residents are paying less than \$9 a day for all city services, including public safety.**

## 2016-2017 Budget... continued from page 1

Within the Community Development budget, two seasonal Computer Lab Counselor positions were added to the budget for \$12,050 to provide an after-school program for students.

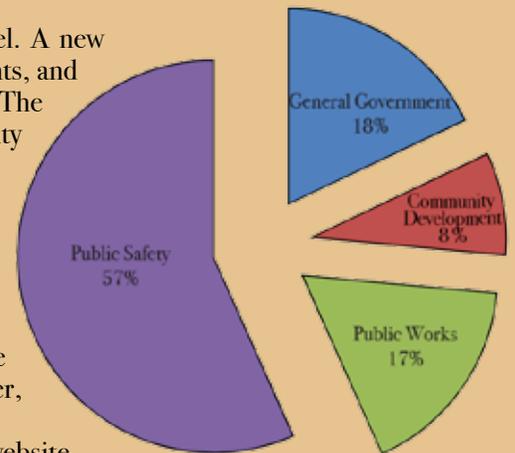
Sewer rates and drainage fees increase to provide funds for additional personnel. A new Utility Operator will allow for more frequent inspections of grease traps at restaurants, and a dedicated equipment operator for the street sweeper will keep our roadways clean. The utility bill for a resident who consumes 5,000 gallons of water will rise less than eighty cents per month for these service enhancements.

Payments on tax-supported debt comprise only six percent of all appropriations included in the annual budget. Payments over the next five years will average over \$2 million.

Conservative management has placed the City of Webster in a sound financial position, City Manager Wayne Sabo said. The General Fund and Utility Fund have healthy reserves. The external threats to our sales tax base, however, cannot be overlooked, which may have an impact on future property tax rates. Webster, however, still maintains one of the lowest property tax rates in the region.

The entire 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget can be found on the city website, [www.cityofwebster.com](http://www.cityofwebster.com).

## EXPENDITURES



WISHING THIS

# THANKSGIVING

FINDS YOU WITH PLENTY OF REASONS TO GIVE THANKS!

## Bald Eagles in Webster

*Keep up with two of Webster's flying friends*

The City of Webster is a bird sanctuary, meaning that the shooting and capturing of birds is prohibited. However, the watching and monitoring of birds in the community is very much legal, and the City recently became involved with the observance of two bald eagles that have called Webster home for the past three years.

It started in December 2013, when Paul and Elsie White saw two large birds perched on a tree near their Webster residence. When the birds began to build a nest in a tree next to the White's home, it became apparent that these were not ordinary birds, but two beautiful bald eagles. In the following months, the birds spent most of their time in the area, and in Spring of 2014, the couple watched as one chick ventured out onto the edge of the nest.

The birds eventually left for summer, but in November of 2014, the parents returned and began refurbishing their Webster nest. The White's then watched from below as two chicks ventured out to the edge of the nest.

Once again, the birds left for summer, but this time, the Webster residents took action and installed a video camera to get an up-close look at the birds.

When the parents returned in November 2015, Paul and Elsie watched on a television in their home and recorded video clips and captured photos of the bald eagle's daily activities to post on Facebook. The couple referred to the birds as Mama and Papa Webster, and they quickly gathered a following.

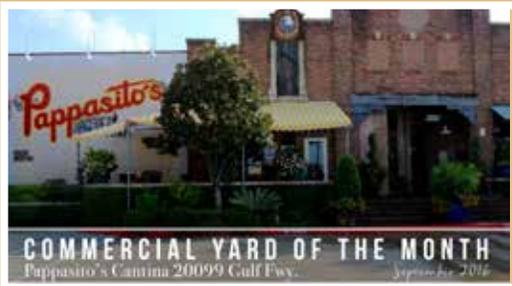
In October, the White's came to Webster City Council to request the help of Webster Public Works Crews to take the camera down to do service work before the next nesting cycle. The council unanimously approved the request.

Paul White invites the community to keep up with the flying friends by following him on Facebook for regular video and photo updates. According to him, the nesting cycle will begin in early November.

Visit the City of Webster Facebook page to find shared posts of the bald eagles from Paul White's Facebook page.



## Yard of the Month: September



## Holiday Yard Judging

Judging for Christmas decorations (residential only) will be on Monday, December 19th, beginning at 6 p.m. A 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention will be chosen for both the east and west side. Criteria will be use of color, creativity, aesthetic beauty, and variety of decorations used.





# We Are Webster

## Meet resident Bill Jones

An actor, a singer, and a former council member, Bill Jones has been a resident since 2004, and his affinity for the City and its many residents is apparent.

It began for Bill after his mother moved to Webster, and he started taking her to the City's senior events. He got to know former Mayor Floyd Myers, and soon found himself running for a position on Council. He was then elected and served as Council Member Position 6 until 2014. Currently, he serves on the Webster Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board, but also served on the 2015 Charter Review Commission.

Aside from his enthusiasm for city government, Bill has always had a passion for performing, spending countless nights singing karaoke with friends. In December of 2010, he decided to give acting a try and starred in his first musical at a local playhouse.

In the past six years, he has played a part in 25 shows and expects that number to reach 29 by the end of 2016. In the past, he has grown a beard, memorized confusing Shakespear lines, and spent 45 minutes in a casket for performance, and he would do it all again. Most recently, he played a part in Hot Bed Hotel at Franca's Real Italian Restaurant and Dinner Theatre and said it was one of his favorite roles.

When preparing for a show, he spends four days a week for three to four weeks practicing lines. Once it gets closer to the day of the show, rehearsal becomes more intense. Typically a show will run for a few weeks with three performances every weekend. The dedicated actors spend all this time preparing, but not for pay. The applause and reactions from the audience are what Bill says makes all the practice and rehearsal time worth it.

He encourages those in the community to step out of their comfort zones and join the acting world. According to him, it has been a great experience and has given him the opportunity to become more involved and meet fascinating people in the community.

# Council Connect

## Meet Edward Lapeyre, Council Member Position 5



Moving to Webster in 2006 was a no-brainer for Council Member Position 5 Edward Lapeyre. His decision was prompted by a conversation with Council Member Beverly Gaines where she informed him that Webster's low tax rate, along with the quality of services provided by the City were superior to surrounding areas. He agreed, settled on a home in Webster, and quickly became involved in the City before being elected as Council Member Position 5 in May 2016.

He started on the Webster Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in 2009. Since then, he has completed the Citizens Police Academy and served on the 2015 Charter Review Commission. He ran for council in 2012 and wound up in a tied race that was settled via a dice roll, in which he lost.

While serving on the WEDC, Lapeyre was particularly proud of voting to move forward with the incentives for Top-Golf and the Genesis project. In the future, he is confident that he and the Council will continue to support the top performance, training, and professionalization of the Police and Fire Departments. "Their performance is exemplified by short response times, and an ISO-1 rating among other measures," he said.

Since moving to Webster, Lapeyre has noticed rapid growth after several infrastructure projects were completed such as the W. Texas Avenue extension, the Texas Avenue Park expansion, and the addition to Clear Lake Regional Hospital.

Outside of his position on council, Lapeyre is a Vice President/Loan Adjustor at Wells Fargo Bank, and business/commercial banking has been his career for the past 18 years. He is also an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran after a total of 21 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. Lapeyre has two teenage daughters, Vivian and Emma, who attend high school in Fayetteville, Tx.

Councilmember Lapeyre has chosen to stay in Webster because of it's central location to great entertainment and shopping venues, as well as Walnut Park's calm atmosphere.

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

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

### City Officials

- Mayor Donna Rogers.....mayorrogers@cityofwebster.com
- Position 1: Jennifer Heidt .....jheidt@cityofwebster.com
- Position 2: Andrea Wilson .....awilson@cityofwebster.com
- Position 3: Larry Tosto .....ltosto@cityofwebster.com
- Position 4: Beverly Gaines.....bgaines@cityofwebster.com
- Position 5: Edward Lapeyre.....elapeyre@cityofwebster.com
- Position 6: Martin Graves.....mgraves@cityofwebster.com

### City Offices

- EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1
- City Manager Wayne Sabo ..... wsabo@cityofwebster.com
- City Secretary Crystal Roan ..... croan@cityofwebster.com

### Community Relations and Webster Way

- Editor Katie Stamy ..... kstamy@cityofwebster.com**
- Community Development Director ..... dhebert@cityofwebster.com
- Economic Development Director ..... bgjusto@cityofwebster.com
- Emergency Management Director ..... jferro@cityofwebster.com
- Finance Director ..... mrodgers@cityofwebster.com
- Marketing and Tourism ..... cthraillkill@cityofwebster.com
- Recreation..... bmorgan@cityofwebster.com
- Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... sricicar@websterfd.com
- Municipal Court..... court2@cityofwebster.com
- Police Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... vkeener@websterpd.com
- Public Works Service Center..... jtobey@cityofwebster.com

### City Services

- Animal Control ..... 281.316.3700



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# November 2016

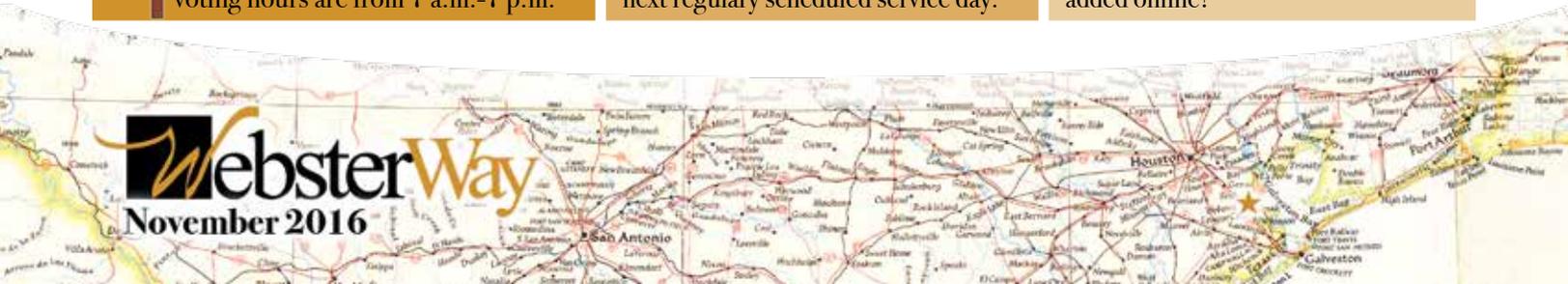
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 City Council Meeting 6 p.m.	2 Planning and Zoning Meeting 6 p.m.	3	4	5
*Meetings may be cancelled if there are no agenda items. Check the City website for meeting information!						
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	7 Municipal Clerks Week 	8  Election Day! WEDC Meeting* 6 p.m.	9	10 City offices close at 12:30 p.m.	11 Senior Game Night 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. City offices closed for Veterans Day	12
13	14 Webster Tae Kwon Do Every Monday Tuesday and Thursday	15	16	17	18 Senior Game Night 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	19
20	21	22 City Council Meeting 6 p.m.	23 City offices close at 1:30 p.m.	24  Happy Thanksgiving!	25 City offices closed	26
27	28	29	30 Webster Aerobics Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 	 <b>Adopt a Webster Animal</b> Webster Animal Control open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. & Friday 7 a.m.-11 a.m.		

**Election Day is November 8**  
 The City of Webster is not a polling location, so visit [www.harrisvotes.org](http://www.harrisvotes.org) to find a location nearest you. Election Day voting hours are from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.



**Thanksgiving Day Trash Pick-up**  
 There will be no trash service on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24. Customers normally scheduled to receive service on this day will be serviced on their next regular scheduled service day.

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**Webster Way**  
 November 2016