



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE CITY OF WEBSTER

# 4th of July

CELEBRATION

Where: Texas Avenue Park  
17100 Texas Ave., Webster, Tx

When: Monday, July 4  
starting at 5p.m.

See you there!

## WebsterWay

Monthly Newsletter

July 2016

### Inside this edition:

#### New businesses in Webster

Get an inside look at the stores and restaurants coming to Webster soon!

#### Coffee with a Cop

Have any questions or concerns for Webster Police? Now is your chance to ask!

#### Webster born and raised

Meet Martha Kagawa Griffith, 82, who's parents came to Webster in 1919

## Bay Area Blvd. construction update

### IH-45 and Bay Area Blvd. interchange expected to open soon

Prior to the demolition of the Bay Area Boulevard overpass, traffic was congested and crowded, as it is a main Harris County roadway accommodating 100,000 drivers daily. In February 2016, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) closed the overpass, and for those in and around Webster, routes became long and complicated. But, the interchange is expected to open by July and once open, travel on Bay Area Blvd. will flow smoother than ever and the past four months won't seem quite as long and inconvenient.

The construction is a part of the widening project of IH-45 from Dixie Farm Road to Medical Center Boulevard. Once finished, the highway will have five lanes in each direction to facilitate smoother main lane mobility. On and off connections will be reconfigured, and the feeder roads both north and southbound will be enhanced.

This project is expected to help in the mobility of over 250,000 vehicles on a daily basis, and since IH-45 is a primary evacuation route for Galveston County, the widening project will be beneficial in case of an emergency. According to Webster Manager of Engineering and Construction David Glasco, this is the last intersection in this section of the TxDOT project. The next phase will be widening IH-45 from NASA 1 to FM 1764.

When Bay Area Blvd. reopens, there will still be continued construction on the interchange and access roads. This phase of the widening project is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2016.



 [Facebook.com/WebsterTexas](https://www.facebook.com/WebsterTexas)

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

# Welcome to Webster

## *New dining and entertainment venues enter the City*

Webster is excited to announce the opening of new businesses in the City. The highly anticipated, Austin-based taco joint, Torchy's Tacos, is here. The fun new restaurant has plans to open its doors to the public at the end of August. The Webster location, 19431 Gatebrook Dr., is one of eight Torchy's Tacos locations in the Houston area. The company prides itself on having a taco for every appetite.

Churrasacos, another Texas-based restaurant, will be opening its newest location in Webster in October 2016. This South-American inspired restaurant will be located at 1039 W. Bay Area Blvd., serving everything from chimichurri marinated tenderloin to its famous tres leches.

Preamble Lounge and Craft House recently opened, serving craft cocktails, craft beer, and spirits. Visitors can enjoy happy hour every day, and on Wednesday's and Friday's, there is live music. The lounge and craft house is located at 20801 Gulf Fwy.

Beers Looking At You is a craft beer store that recently opened in Webster, located at 17074 Hwy. 3. Patrons can choose from 39 different beers on tap.

The City of Webster is excited to have the new businesses open for residents and visitors. Be sure to check them out, and always shop, dine and play the Webster way!



Sergeant Jeremy Edge and Sergeant Richard Horbach enjoy donuts during the first Coffee with a Cop.

## Coffee with a cop

### *Chat with an officer over a cup of coffee on July 18*

What better way to get to know the Webster Police Department (WPD) than by having breakfast and a cup of coffee with the officers?

In June, the Webster Police Department had their first Coffee with a Cop event at Rudy's Country Store & BBQ, 21361 Gulf Fwy. in Webster. On Monday, July 18 they will be there again from 7:30 a.m.- 9 a.m. WPD invites members of the community to meet and exchange ideas and information in a casual, comfortable environment.

According to Lieutenant Pete Bacon, this is a chance to network with others in the community while fostering stronger working relationships with the police.

Grab a breakfast taco and a cup of coffee on July 18 and again on August 19 and get to know some of the officers on a more personal level.

## Webster born and raised

### *Citizen Spotlight: Martha Kagawa Griffith*

Nearly 100 years ago, the Kagawas settled in Webster. Yonekichi Kagawa moved from Japan to teach people how to grow rice. Yonekichi met his wife, Kich, through a friend, and in 1919, at the age of 17, Kich moved to Webster from Japan to start her life in America.

Martha Kagawa Griffith, 82, of Webster is one of twelve children in the Kagawa family. Just west of IH-45, the family farmed 65 acres of land. Webster School House, now Clear View High School, taught children from elementary until high school. In 1953, Martha graduated in a class of 50 students.

On a bus that picked up at Hwy. 3, Martha moved to Houston after graduating high school, where she and four roommates rented a house at \$10 a month. She began her education at the University of Houston, but managed to get a job at Prudential Financial in Houston without finishing her degree. She met her husband, William Griffith while working there and together the two moved to West Texas. Martha spent days crying, as the area was bare, and far from the rest of her family. After only a month in West Texas, the couple moved to Martha's hometown, Webster.

The two eventually expanded their family and had four children, two boys and two girls. Yonekichi and Kich Kagawa sold their farm, and Webster soon began to flourish. The shell road that was NASA Rd. 1 became a main roadway in the town. Commercial and residential property slowly moved its way into the area. Small shops like Mitchell's Place, where Martha recalled buying hamburger meat for 25 cents, were replaced with bigger stores.

As the City grew Martha became more involved. She joined the city's celebration committee, which is something she is still a part of today. Once a week she worked at McWhirter Elementary School, and she spent her spare time making memories and playing bunco above the old Webster Police Station.

Things have changed and people have come and gone, but Martha remained in Webster because it is her home and the town she loves.



Martha Griffith at the 1996 Fourth of July Celebration.

# Modernizing Webster communications

## Webster begins renovations

Webster Telecommunications Officers (TCOs) dispatch for multiple different police, fire, and EMS agencies, so a reliable communications system is essential for the region.

Currently the TCOs work in an environment that has not been updated since 2003. As the technology has changed and the equipment that once worked no longer provides the employees with what they need, the facility improvements are vitally needed.

In May 2016, council approved purchasing new consoles for the communications center that will increase ergonomics and efficiency. The current, outdated consoles will be replaced with new models which allow operators the option of standing up during their 12-hour shifts, increasing employee wellness. The new streamlined consoles will also consolidate the various screens used by the operators into one defined work area.

The center has a raised sub-flooring where console cables and wiring are located. Over the years, the flooring has weakened and has come to be a hazard. The renovation will improve the sub-flooring with a more robust grid system. These improvements are projected to be completed in August 2016.

In an effort to improve communications with our first responders locally and regionally, a new communications tower is currently being constructed behind the police station. Webster partnered with Harris County, and First Net public safety broadband LTE to install communication equipment available only to public safety. The new tower will support the equipment and have capabilities of constant communication. The tower will be completed in early July 2016.



The new tower stands behind the Webster Police Department.

## Connect CTY

### Receive emergency notifications

It's hurricane season, and it's time to prepare in case of an emergency.

Take the time to visit the City of Webster's website and register for Connect CTY. The emergency notification service enables officials to rapidly contact thousands of residents and businesses quickly.



Sign up by visiting the Emergency Management page on the City's website or by calling 281.332.1826.

## Council connect

### Meet Councilmember Position 1 Jennifer Heidt

Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association President, Councilmember Position 1, and mother of two, Jennifer Heidt works hard and takes pride in the Webster community.

Jennifer and her husband of 30 years first moved to Webster in 2011 after her parents had resided in Webster for over 15 years. It was then that she was introduced to city government by her neighbor and former council member Natalie Dolan. However, it was not until 2015 that she decided to seek office and was elected to her current position.

It has been one year since Jennifer was installed as a council member and since, she has learned more about the city and government than she ever thought possible.

Jennifer has been involved in Webster's continued growth and is especially excited about the recruitment of new entertainment venues, like TopGolf. As an animal lover, she hopes to propel the idea of a larger, more accommodating animal shelter in the near future.



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

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

### City Officials

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### 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

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Stay Connected



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Instagram: @CityofWebster

July 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!				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Fourth of July Celebration 5 p.m. at Texas Avenue Park	<b>5</b> City Council Meeting 6 p.m. <b>CANCELLED</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Senior Game Night 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Webster Aerobics Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting* 6 p.m.	<b>13</b> Planning and Zoning Meeting* 6 p.m.	<b>14</b> Parks Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Webster Aerobics Every Saturday 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Coffee with a cop 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. at Rudy's BBQ	<b>19</b> City Council Meeting 6 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Webster Tae Kwon Do Every Monday Tuesday and Thursday	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Planning and Zoning Meeting* 6 p.m.	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						



Follow the City of Webster on Instagram!  
 @CityofWebster

Get involved *with Webster Way*  
 Send in stories, recipes, ideas, and opinions to be put in the next edition of Webster Way!  
 Send information to [kstamy@cityofwebster.com](mailto:kstamy@cityofwebster.com)

