



**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
2017 FOURTH OF JULY  
CELEBRATION!**

Learn more on page 6

**INSIDE THIS EDITION:**

**REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**

Get the facts on what you can and can't recycle in Webster

**FOURTH OF JULY**

Get ready to celebrate with Webster at the annual event

**CITY HALL CONNECT**

Meet Webster Emergency Management Director Joe Ferro

**ABOUT THE COVER**

Social Media Contest Winner!  
Kelli McMullen captured her daughter Penelope running through the hills at Texas Avenue Park

## IT ONLY TAKES ONE STORM TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE

*Message from Webster Emergency Management Director Joe Ferro*

Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Their impacts can be felt hundreds of miles inland. It's easy to forget the damage a hurricane is capable of doing. It's important you learn what types of wind and water hazards could occur where you live, and start preparing now for how to handle them.

You're going to need enough supplies to get through the storm and for the potentially lengthy aftermath. You could be without electricity and water services for days or weeks. Have enough non-perishable food, water, and medicines to provide each person and each pet in your family a minimum of one week. You'll need extra cash and battery-powered radios and flashlights. It is a good idea to purchase fresh batteries as hurricane season begins. If you have a cell phone, you're going to need a portable, crank, or solar powered USB charger.

Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have sufficient homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. Don't forget coverage for your car or boat. Remember, standard homeowners insurance does not cover flooding. Whether you're a homeowner or renter, you'll need a separate policy for flood damage, and it's available through the National Flood Insurance Program at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Act now, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period! **Continue story on page 2...**

## *Hurricane Preparedness continued from page 1...*

If you plan to ride out the storm in your home, have the proper plywood, steel, or aluminum panels to board up windows and doors. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand high winds.

Many rely on their neighbors after a disaster, but there are also many ways you can help your neighbors before a hurricane approaches. Learn about all the different actions you and your neighbors can take to prepare and recover from the hazards associated with hurricanes. Start the conversation now in regards to "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" strategies.

The time to prepare for a hurricane is before the season begins, when you are not under pressure. If you wait until a hurricane is on your doorstep, the odds are that you will be under duress and will make the wrong decisions. You don't want to be standing in long lines at a retailer when a hurricane warning is issued. The supplies that you need could be sold out by the time you reach the front of the line. An essential resource for help is at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Take the time now to write your hurricane plan. Know where you will ride out the storm, get your supplies now, and when a storm threatens, you can simply follow the steps. Being prepared beforehand makes you resilient to the hurricane impacts of wind, water, and long-time recovery. It will mean the difference between being a hurricane victim and a hurricane survivor.



## **GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK**

Recycling can significantly reduce reliance on landfills and help conserve natural resources. Republic Services offers recycling to residents and is devoted to making saving the planet effortless for you.

### *A complete guide to recycling*

Paper products such as newspapers, envelopes, junk mail, phone books, brochures, and magazines are all recyclable. Cardboard items such as file folders, poster boards, frozen food boxes, cardboard boxes, and milk cartons can be recycled as well.

Plastic water bottles, take out containers, soda bottles, and bagged film plastics can be put into the recycling bin, along with aluminum beverage cans, pots and pans, tins and utensils, and scrap metal. Glass recycling is available but varies by location, contact Republic Services for more information. It should be noted that when recycling, please make sure your recyclables are empty, clean, and dry.

Nonrecyclable items include aerosol cans, aluminum foil, batteries, clothing, food waste, napkins, mirrors, ceramics, styrofoam, paper towels, glass windows, Pyrex, plastic bags, shredded paper, stickers/address labels, and tissues.

Recyclable items that require special handling include incandescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, computers or electronics, needles or syringes, hazardous waste, paint, and toxic material containers.

Republic Services makes it easy for you to go green and recycle! Recycling is picked up every Thursday. To receive a recycling bin, you must contact Republic Services at 713.726.7300 or visit [republicservices.com](http://republicservices.com).



# Put the neighbor in neighborly

Busy schedules make it easy for us to isolate ourselves from neighbors, however, fostering a relationship with them can be beneficial on various levels.

The truth is, life is easier when your neighbors are also your friends. Neighbors are good for more than just the cliché “cup of sugar” routine. Once you know your neighbors, your house will seem more like a home and your neighborhood will become a community.

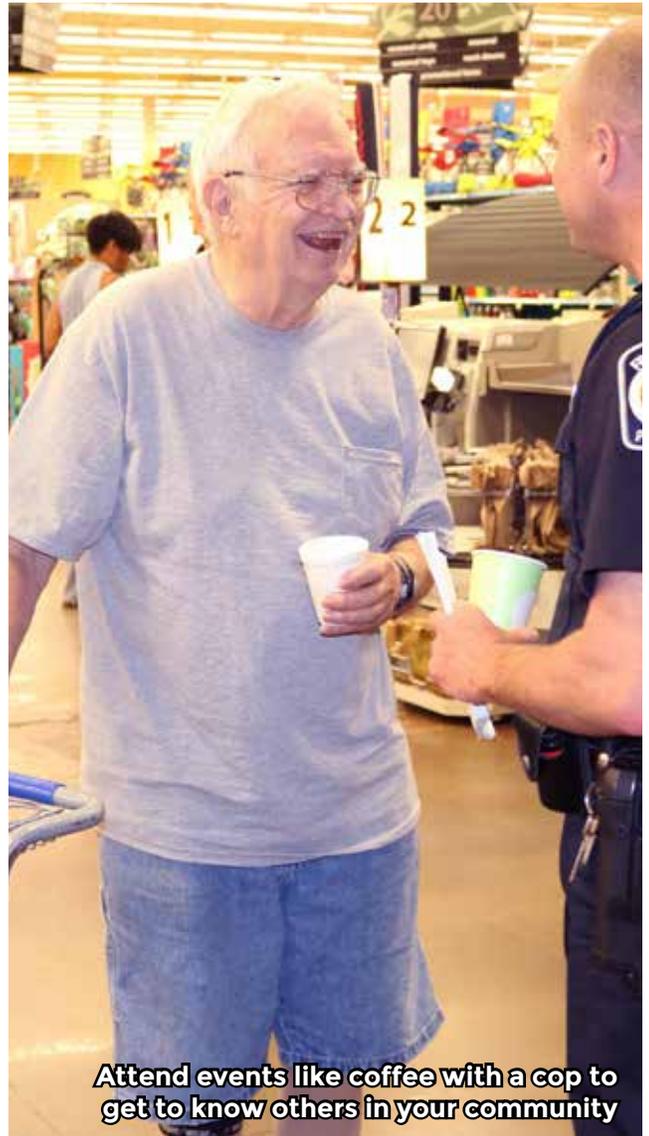
You will be informed of what is going on around the neighborhood, your social circle will broaden, and you will feel safer.

In case of an emergency, you will have immediate access to people who can help, and when you go on a vacation, you will have people looking after your home.

But how can you get the friendship started? A wave and a smile is a good place to start, but that alone will not suffice. When you see a neighbor outside, take the time to stop by and ask how they are doing. Making the first move can be intimidating, and getting the conversation started can seem difficult, so find an opportunity when they are already outside to introduce yourself.

The City of Webster’s residential population is growing at a rapid pace, so when new neighbors move in, bring them cookies and make them feel welcome.

In February, Webster City Council initiated a Welcome to Webster program where Council Members hand-deliver bags filled with Webster goodies to residents who have just moved into the City. Its purpose was to lead new residents to become involved in the community. The City encourages all of its residents to do the same, and make an effort to get to know the ones that live nearby. Have a block party, start a private group on Facebook with those in your neighborhood to keep in touch, and get involved. Put the neighbor in neighborly and initiate the friendship today!



**Attend events like coffee with a cop to get to know others in your community**

## *Everything You Need to Know About the 42” Waterline Project*

When the Southeast Water Purification Plant has lines rupture and pipes burst, our community has to ration water and refer to emergency back-up wells. The 42” waterline which supplies the City of Webster with every drop of water, has exceeded its life expectancy and has had numerous leaks recently.

In order to replace the waterline, water rates for the City will be elevated beginning in 2018. The base water rates have not changed since 2012, and the new rates are adjusted to 2018 service levels and will rise each year modestly after that. A residential customer with a 5/8” meter would see an increase from \$5.31 to \$6.07 in 2018.

City staff worked closely with Nelisa Heddin Consulting, LLC to create a rate structure that is fair and equitable among customer classes and provides sufficient revenue to recover expected costs over the next five years. During the May 2 City Council Meeting, a rate structure was approved with a minimum water bill based on meter size. Residential customers will receive 2,000 gallons for domestic usage with their minimum bill.

The City of Webster strives to exceed the public’s expectations with efficient and effective processes. The replacement of the waterline was inevitable and will benefit the City in the long run.



## WE ARE WEBSTER

### DAVID AND TAYLOR BIDDLE

David and Taylor Biddle moved to Webster in 2014, and they wasted no time at all turning the small but mighty town into their home.

Taylor grew up in the Webster area and attended Clear Lake High School before graduating and moving to Lubbock to attend Texas Tech University.

David grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi and attended the University of Mississippi before moving around to Denver, CO, Birmingham, AL, Savannah, GA, and ultimately, Lubbock, TX.

While Taylor worked as a bartender in the college town, she met David. He repeatedly asked her to go to lunch with him, but she would politely decline. Eventually, when David once again petitioned a lunch-date, she finally decided to give him a chance, and about a year later in 2012, the two were married in Las Vegas.

The pair wanted to be closer to family, so in 2014, David accepted a job in the area, and they moved to Webster.

David is a financial advisor with Edward Jones and owns and operates the office in Seabrook on NASA Road 1. He is passionate about helping others manage their finances, all while overlooking Clear Lake from the business' front entrance.

David became involved in the community when he joined the Citizens Police Academy, which he graduated from in May. After learning about the Webster Police Department's roles and responsibilities, and getting the opportunity to go on

a ride-along, he looks forward to joining the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. He is also a chairperson for the Clear Creek Ducks Unlimited Group, which raises money to conserve wetlands.

Taylor is a paralegal at a law firm in downtown Houston. She is on the Webster Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board, a member of the Junior League of Galveston County, and an advocate and board member for CASA of Galveston County.

"I saw that there was an opening on the parks board and I knew that was something that I would be interested in," she explained. "The City of Webster has some of the nicest public parks. I enjoy serving on the board because I have met many great people in our area and love being in the know."

When they aren't busy working, David and Taylor can usually be found outdoors. A typical day off is spent at the San Luis Pass with the couple's dogs. David fishes while the dogs run about and Taylor captures the moments on camera.

David also loves watching college sports, specifically the Ole Miss Rebels during football season.

"If you hear screaming and shouting from our house during football season, do not be alarmed," Taylor joked. "That is just David coaching them through the TV."

Their love for the outdoors, and Taylor's position on the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board led them to devise a creative 2017 new year's resolution. This year they are venturing to visit 15 of the Texas State Parks. Four down, 11 to go.

The active couple has made the City their home and has made an effort to make a difference in the community.

"We absolutely love our neighborhood," Taylor said. "We have the best neighbors, we feel safe, and we love the location."

# CITY HALL CONNECT

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR JOE FERRO

At eighteen years old, Joe Ferro accepted a job with the City of Webster mowing grass at the wastewater treatment plant and scrubbing sewer tanks. Thirty-four years later, he has a bachelor's degree, numerous certifications, and is the Director of Emergency Management for the City of Webster. "It hasn't always been easy," Joe said.

He was born in upstate New York into a large Italian family, who moved to Florida one year after he was born. His family built homes and businesses and was involved in the solid waste industry. In 1982, they purchased a solid waste company in Houston, and Joe decided to move to Texas to see what it was all about. He got a job working at Bennigan's Restaurant, which was once located on Bay Area Boulevard in Webster, and then at Gallagher's Restaurant, also located in Webster. While working at Gallagher's, he was introduced to the Webster Director of Public Works. In 1983, after three interviews, he was offered a job with the City, and he hasn't looked back since.

After Joe had been employed with Webster only a few months, Hurricane Alicia hit the city. "It devastated the area," Joe remembered. "Recovery was a long process, but I stuck it out, and I'm glad I did," he stated. Public Works crews had to work 12-14 hour days clearing the debris around Webster.

During that first year, Joe was provided opportunities to further his education, and he quickly became a licensed wastewater operator for the City. That winter, the City endured a record freeze that broke water mains and busted pipes in apartments and homes. "We worked tirelessly repairing things. At one point, I thought I didn't want to do this anymore because I was cold, tired, and wet," Joe explained. But once again, he decided to stick it out, and it was the right decision for him.

In 1991, Jim Williams was hired as the new Public Works and Community Development Director. He encouraged employees to continue advancing their education, and soon Joe received the highest level of licensing for water and wastewater that the state offered. Joe helped build lift stations, sewer stations, water plants, and public works facilities during this time, and he facilitated in the construction of the police department, city hall, and the fire station. Joe then became the Superintendent of Public Works and oversaw 34 employees and millions of dollars worth of equipment and infrastructure.

After Hurricane Ike hit in 2008, Joe realized that he wanted to do more for the City, and since he had never obtained a degree, he went to school and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Columbia Southern University while working full time and raising four children. Leading up to his graduation, City staff and City Council created the Emergency Management Coordinator role. Joe applied, and was offered the position. In this position, Joe has created mitigation plans and multiple responses and recovery plans for all hazards, whether man-made or natural. "We constantly review our daily operations to protect our community, our infrastructure, and our employees, and to better respond to local and regional needs," Joe said.

In 2009, as Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe had the opportunity to help plan the move of the space shuttle to Space Center Houston. Joe worked with local law enforcement agencies, the Coast Guard, Texas



Department of Transportation, and several other organizations to successfully move the shuttle. He received the Texas Municipal League's Award of Excellence for the move.

Then, in 2014, Joe worked with Space Center Houston again for "The Big Move." Along with a myriad of agencies and businesses, the Boeing 747 plane was moved from Ellington Airport to Space Center Houston, where it now resides. "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Joe recalled.

Over the years, Joe has realized that, although it was ultimately up to him to make the right decisions, he was only successful because of the people surrounding him. Joe firmly stated, "It's the citizens, the employees, the mayors and councils, and all the people that I have been fortunate enough to work with up until this very moment." He said there had been many challenges throughout his career, but he never quit, and he has always worked through the obstacles that were attempting to set him back.

On his days off, Joe enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, hiking, and traveling with his wife, Misty, who is the driving force behind everything he does. Joe and Misty have four children, Alexandra, Victoria, Joseph, and Olivia. "This community has been good to my family and me," Joe said, and reemphasized, "I've only had success in my career because of the people I have worked for and with, and I feel very blessed to have had this great opportunity and look forward to my future with the City of Webster and its citizens."



## DONATING BLOOD SAVES LIVES

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Donor Coach will be at the Webster Fire Station 1, 18300 Highway 3, on Wednesday, June 21.

From 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. stop by to donate blood. Remember to eat, drink, and bring an I.D.



**Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center**

[www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org)

713-790-1200 • 1-888-482-5663

*Commit for Life.*<sup>®</sup>

## 2017 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

*Bigger and better than ever*

Another mesmerizing fireworks show will end a day full of entertainment and festivities at the 2017 City of Webster Fourth of July Celebration. The Celebration Committee has been meeting since March to make arrangements for this year's bash to be bigger and better than ever.

The celebration will begin at 5 p.m. at Texas Avenue Park on Tuesday, July 4. Guests can try their chances at a prize during a round of Bingo or check out the Webster Police Department's K-9 demonstration. The U.S. Coast Guard will stop by for a visit, as well as a PHI helicopter that will be open for viewing.

Vendors from around the City will be there for guests to enjoy a delicious meal or a sweet dessert. Free, refreshing slices of watermelon, and tasty snow cones will be handed out, as well!

Kids can have fun at the Texas-themed playground, the baseball-themed splash pad, on inflatables, or at the petting zoo.

A Salute to Veterans program will begin around 8 p.m. when U.S. Veterans and servicemen and women are invited on stage to be acknowledged and given a token of appreciation from the City.

Following the National Anthem, the riveting fireworks show by the Webster Fire Department will begin.

As the City of Webster's largest annual event, the Celebration Committee, City Council, and City Staff are looking forward to another successful event. Texas Avenue Park is located at 17100 Texas Avenue in Webster. Follow the City of Webster Facebook and Instagram page for updates on the upcoming event. Share your photos from the event on social media using #WebsterTX, and you could be featured on our page.



## ▼ PREVENT THE BITE

It's up to you to #PreventTheBite when it comes to #mosquitoes. Reduce sources of standing water around your home (buckets, planters, bird baths, tires), install or repair screens on windows and doors and keep lawn clippings away from storm drains.

Learn what you need to know on mosquito-borne diseases at: [www.hcph.tx.org/zika](http://www.hcph.tx.org/zika).

## ▼ SENIOR GAME NIGHT

The City of Webster invites seniors in the community to a night of fun and games. Join your neighbors for a light meal and conversation.

Game nights are held on the second and fourth Friday of every month from 6 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. at the Webster Recreation Center, 311 Pennsylvania Ave.

## ▼ MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have a regular meeting on **Tuesday, July 18 at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The regular council meeting on **July 4** is scheduled to be canceled due to the holiday. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on **Tuesday, July 11 at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers.

Special meetings may be added, and meetings may be canceled if there are no agenda items. Check [cityofwebster.com](http://cityofwebster.com) for meeting information.

## ▼ RAIN BARREL UPDATE

Last August, the City of Webster hosted a Galveston Bay Foundation Rain Barrel Workshop.

We would like to hear an update on how the residents of Webster decorated their rain barrels and how the barrels helped conserve water in our City! Send your photos and information to [kstamy@cityofwebster.com](mailto:kstamy@cityofwebster.com).

## ▼ #WEBSTERRESCUES

The best things in life are rescued! Visit the Webster Animal Shelter at 855 Magnolia Avenue Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m.- 11 a.m. to check out the Webster animals looking for a forever home.

If your pet goes missing, visit the Webster Facebook Page. Animals found in the City are regularly posted.

Contact Webster Animal Control Officer Amanda Trover at 281.316.3700 for more information.



**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](mailto:mayorrogers@cityofwebster.com)  
Position 1: Jennifer Heidt ..... [jheidt@cityofwebster.com](mailto:jheidt@cityofwebster.com)  
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Position 6: Martin Graves ..... [mgraves@cityofwebster.com](mailto:mgraves@cityofwebster.com)

### City Offices

EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1  
City Manager Wayne Sabo ..... [wsabo@cityofwebster.com](mailto:wsabo@cityofwebster.com)  
City Secretary Crystal Roan ..... [croan@cityofwebster.com](mailto:croan@cityofwebster.com)  
Community Development Director ..... [dhebert@cityofwebster.com](mailto:dhebert@cityofwebster.com)  
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Emergency Management Director .... [jferro@cityofwebster.com](mailto:jferro@cityofwebster.com)  
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Marketing and Tourism ..... [cthraikill@cityofwebster.com](mailto:cthraikill@cityofwebster.com)  
Recreation ..... [bmorgan@cityofwebster.com](mailto:bmorgan@cityofwebster.com)  
Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... [srcicar@websterfd.com](mailto:srcicar@websterfd.com)  
Municipal Court ..... [court2@cityofwebster.com](mailto:court2@cityofwebster.com)  
Police Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... [vkeener@websterpd.com](mailto:vkeener@websterpd.com)  
Public Works Service Center ..... [jtbey@cityofwebster.com](mailto:jtbey@cityofwebster.com)

### City Services

Animal Control ..... 281.316.3700  
City Trash Hauling ..... 281.316.3700  
Civic Center Rental ..... 281.316.4108  
Police (Non-emergency) ..... 281.332.2426  
Republic Services (Residential) ..... 281.446.2030  
Tickets-To Pay By Credit Card ..... 281.338.6702  
Utility Billing ..... 281.316.4120  
Water/Sewer Line Breaks ..... 281.316.3700

The City of Webster  
 101 Pennsylvania Avenue  
 Webster, Tx 77598

www.cityofwebster.com  
 281.332.1826

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# June 2017

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



\*Special meetings may be added and meetings may be canceled if there are no agenda items. Check the City website at [cityofwebster.com](http://cityofwebster.com) for meeting information!

				1	2	3
4	5	6 City Council Meeting 6 p.m.	7	8	9 Senior Game Night 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	10
11	12 Webster Tae Kwon Do Every Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday	13 Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting* 6 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day! 	19  Webster Aerobics Mon. & Wed. 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	20 City Council Meeting 6 p.m.	21 First Day of Summer! 	22	23 Senior Game Night 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	24  Webster Aerobics Every Saturday 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	