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Changes have been made to the pet adoption fee

### DON'T BE A VICTIM

A reminder from WPD as we step into the holiday season

### WE ARE WEBSTER

Meet residents Bobby and Betty Watkins

### ABOUT THE COVER

The 1937 Webster Firetruck visited Johnson Space Center in October

## 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget

### *Webster City Council Adopts Annual Budget and Sets Tax Rate*

After months of preparation, workshops, and public hearings, City Council has adopted the annual budget and property tax rate for fiscal year 2017-18 that begins on October 1, 2017. The budget for FY 2017-18 includes total resources of \$41,254,220 and expenditures of \$39,145,780, including the activity of the Webster Economic Development Corporation. Both of these amounts are less than the amended budget for FY 2016-17.

There will be both challenges and opportunities in the coming year. Sales tax revenue, the City's primary source of income, is expected to remain flat as the popularity of online sales and the expansion of Baybrook Mall have pushed consumer dollars away from local brick and mortar stores. All is not bleak, however. The City is literally paving the way for future commercial development by constructing roads and other public infrastructure. Several key international businesses have been recruited to Magnolia Business Park. Groundbreaking for the new Odyssey Business Park has also recently occurred.

**Webster continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates in the area**



## #WebsterEagles

Each year, Webster resident Paul White invites the community to follow the adventures of Mama and Papa Webster, two Bald Eagles who have called Webster home for the winter, for the past four years.

Paul has a surveillance camera installed above the bird's nest, and throughout the nesting season he will post an up-close look at the eagles and their chicks on Facebook.

The City of Webster will share footage on the Facebook page. Follow the City of Webster at @WebsterTexas.



## Updated Adoption Fee

Pet adoptions at Webster Animal Control are \$35, and that price now includes rabies vaccines, microchips, and the cost of spay and neutering.

Visit the Webster Animal Shelter at 855 Magnolia Ave. 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 home for the holidays.

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

## Property Taxes Offset Sales Tax Revenue

Fifty-five percent of General Fund revenue is derived from local sales tax collections. In fact, Webster's sales tax revenue is 2 1/2 times greater than the revenue generated from property taxes. After sales taxes declined nearly half a million dollars during 2017, property tax revenue had to increase to maintain city services.

The property tax rate rises from 28.450 to 31.725 cents per \$100 of taxable value to accumulate an additional \$645,000 for both operations and debt service. Yet, Webster continues to have one of the lowest property tax rates in the area. The taxes imposed on the average value of a single-family residence will be \$388.33. That amount equates to just over one dollar per day for police and fire protection, park and street maintenance, recreation and other programs.

## Expenditures Fall Three Percent

Thirty cents out of every dollar spent goes towards public safety. Being a service provider, it is not surprising that wages, taxes, and other personnel charges are the largest portion of City expenditures. Costs for insurance, electricity, information technology, and similar services comprise 22%. Debt service on bonds that have been issued by the City and WEDC total \$4 million or just over 9% of the budget. Capital expenditures include an outdoor sound system for Texas Avenue Park, an automated water meter reader, and the replacement of vehicles and equipment.

## Utility Rates Pay For Large Projects

Water rates rise, in part, to support a \$10 million debt issuance to replace the 42-inch water line that extends from the Southeast Water Purification Plant in Houston through the City of Webster. The plant, along with the line being replaced, provides the City with all of its water. Major maintenance projects also push the sewer rates upward. The typical residential customer who consumes 5,000 gallons of water can expect to see an increase of \$6 to their monthly utility bill. Like property taxes, the rates charged for utilities remain low compared to surrounding cities.

Conservative management has placed the City of Webster in a sound financial position. The General Fund and the Utility Fund have healthy reserves. The external threats to our sales tax base, however, cannot be overlooked. Revenues will be closely monitored during the coming year to determine whether adjustments must be made to the budget. For more information about the budget, log onto the City's website at [www.cityofwebster.com](http://www.cityofwebster.com).



# Welcome to Webster

Webster is excited to announce the opening of new businesses in the City! In October, James Avery opened its new free-standing 3,500 square foot building at 1041-A W. Bay Area Boulevard. Formerly, James Avery operated in 2,400 square feet of inline space adjacent to La Madeleine. James Avery is one of the original tenants of Baybrook Gateway, which opened in 1997. The leading specialty retailer's Webster location is regarded as the top performer in Texas. The store designs, manufactures, markets, and sells over 1,100 designs with 14,000 separate jewelry items in an active product line.

Salons D'Allon opened its expansive salon at 18301 Egret Bay Blvd., Suite B, inside a 9,045 square foot second-floor space. Salons D'Allon features 35 individual suites for lease for beauty industry tenants. All salon suites include beautifully designed suites with contemporary finishes throughout the salon gallery, complimentary concierge service, secure 24/7 access, free Wi-Fi, and security cameras. Some of the current operators include full-service hair stylists, stylists who cater to men only, nail specialists, estheticians, and a boutique retailer.

Exclusive Furniture located at 21000 Gulf Freeway, has submitted plans for a 50,000 square foot showroom and two restaurant pads. Exclusive Furniture is big news for Webster in many ways, as this new business not only represents the creative recruitment work of the Economic Development Team but also constitutes blight eradication for a high exposure four-acre tract along I-45 just south of Clear Lake Center.

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!



## Ordinance Reminders

**SANITATION**, All premises should be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition, without litter, garbage, or waste.

**GRADING AND DRAINAGE**, All premises should be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water. This means the ground level should be smooth horizontal or gently sloping.

**SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS**, Sidewalks, driveways, walkways, stairs, parking spaces, and similar areas should be kept in a proper state of repair and maintained free from hazardous conditions. There should be no significant cracks in the pavement, broken areas, or uneven slabs creating a possible trip hazard.

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURES**, All accessory structures including detached garages, fences, and walls should be maintained structurally sound and in good repair. There should be no peeling or flaking paint, rusting surfaces, or missing or unsecured components.

## DON'T BE A VICTIM

*Message from Webster Police Department*

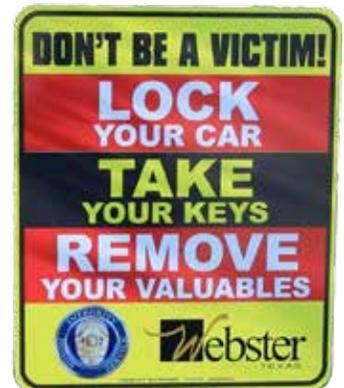
With Black Friday coming up this month and Christmas right around the corner, the Webster Police Department would like to remind residents to be cautious when holiday shopping.

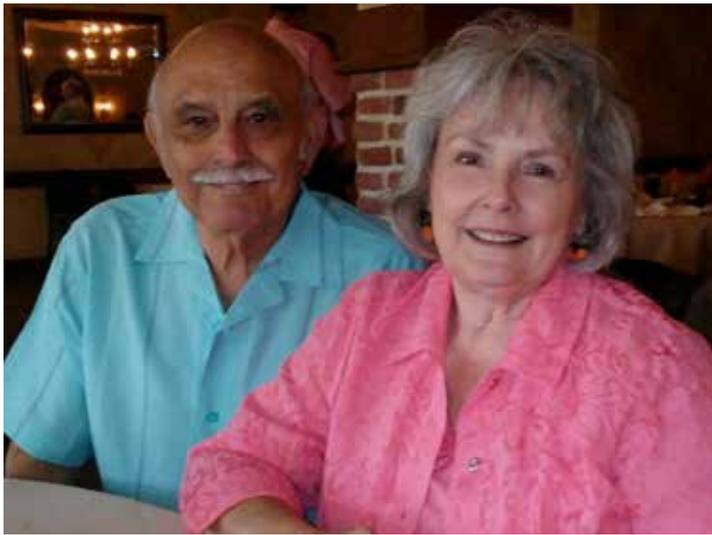
Drivers who are leaving laptops, cell phones, purses, and firearms in their vehicles, are setting themselves up for a smash and grab burglary.

It only takes seconds for a person to break into your car, open your door, and grab your valuables. Hiding your items under your seat or in your center console is not going to keep them safe, thieves know all your hiding places.

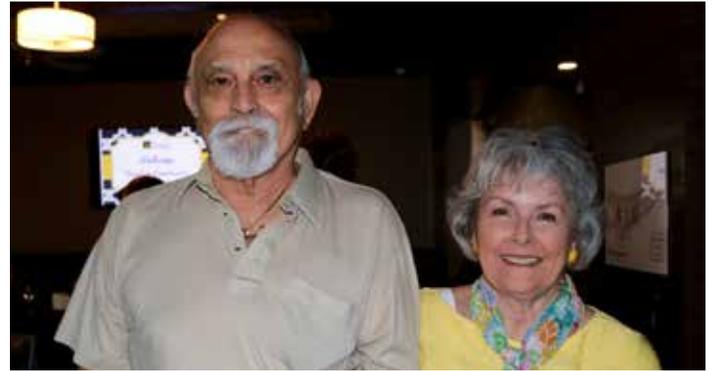
Webster Police Department suggests shoppers take purchases home before going to the next store or restaurant, and always take your keys and lock your doors.

Car burglaries are far too common and on the rise. Don't be a victim, and if you see suspicious behavior while you are out shopping this holiday season, call the police.





*Below: Bobby and Betty Watkins at the 2017 Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner.*



## WE ARE **WEBSTER** BOBBY AND BETTY WATKINS

Nearly 46 years ago, Bobby and Betty Watkins made Webster their home. The pair had just gotten married when they moved into an apartment in Webster for three months before moving into their current home on Linda Lane.

He was a teacher and a coach in Texas City. She was a teacher and a coach in Pasadena. Neither had ever heard of Webster before, but it was halfway between both of their jobs, so they settled in.

When they moved into their home, the neighborhood was quiet and hidden. The Watkins would sometimes forget that they were even living in town, they explained.

It overlooked a vast pasture where children would play, deer would wander, and hot air balloons would take off. Bobby recalled a small pond that was on the land that was home to an alligator for a period of time.

However, the grassy field eventually developed and became what is now the medical center.

“When we first moved here, they were dedicating the Clear Lake Regional Medical Center,” said Betty. “It was just one round building. Look at it now, it’s huge!”

As the City continued to grow, so did the Watkins family. Jason and Wendy Watkins were born in Webster and attended McWhirter Elementary, Webster Intermediate School and Clear Creek High School.

Bobby and Betty continued to teach in the area, and Betty ultimately became the assistant principal in Santa Fe, while Bobby taught physical science and coached in Texas City.

Bobby taught for 36 years before retiring from Texas City High School.

Betty retired in 1999, after spending 18 years as

assistant principal in Santa Fe.

In her time off, she became active in the City programs. She managed the aerobics class at the Webster Recreation Center, and she joined the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Board.

“I’ve managed the aerobics class since City Hall was renovated to become the recreation building,” she explained. “It’s just a few of us now. We have our own equipment that we bring with us onto the old stage area.”

The couple stays busy spending time with their children, who still live in the area. Jason is a nurse at South East Memorial, and Wendy is a Medical Imaging Technician at Kelsey Seybold on the outskirts of Webster city limits.

According to Betty, the medical center was one of the best things to happen to Webster.

“You can’t ask for better facilities,” she said. “Especially now that we are older, it’s nice to be surrounded by medical facilities.”

Ten years ago, Bobby had a heart attack, but Betty was able to get him to the hospital immediately and he was quickly nursed back to health.

The Watkins spend many long weekends in Nacogdoches, at the farm Betty inherited from her parents. When they are not in Nacogdoches, Betty enjoys clogging, a combination of square and tap dancing, which she performs at local churches during the holidays. Bobby enjoys water aerobics at the Clear Lake recreation building.

In the past, the couple enjoyed walking their two chihuahua dogs throughout the neighborhood and Walnut Park. The dogs have since passed on, but Betty and Bobby still walk in the park and stay active in the community.

“Webster has really grown, but we like its small-town atmosphere,” said Betty. “We love living in Webster. If we didn’t love it, we wouldn’t have lived here this long.”



*Below: Debbie Pinkston was honored for 35 years of service in 2016 alongside Mayor Donna Rogers and City Manager Wayne Sabo.*



## CITY HALL CONNECT DEBBIE PINKSTON

On September 15, 1980, Debbie Pinkston walked into Webster City Hall for her very first day of work as a building clerk. She had just moved to the area from Baton Rouge after her husband got a job in aerospace and she was looking forward to working for a local municipality. In Louisiana, she had gained experience working for the Louisiana Municipal Association paying the bills and reviewing the payroll.

Her position for the City of Webster began as a building clerk, but with her interest in accounting, she looked forward to ultimately transitioning into the finance department.

“At the time, City Hall staff was much smaller,” Debbie explained.

Debbie now holds the position of Accounting Technician and helps with the bills and utility billing.

Since she began at the City, Debbie has raised her two daughters in Friendswood. The girls went to Dian’s Daycare on Walnut Street and visited the Webster pool all the time.

“It was an awesome pool,” Debbie reminisced. “It got to the point where it needed so much work, so the solution was to fill it in. My kids still come to town and are sad about that.”

According to Debbie, when she first began working in Webster, Bay Area Boulevard was lined with trees that the Mayor at the time had planted

to beautify the area. But due to commercial growth in Webster, the trees are no longer there.

Her fondest memories in Webster are of the holiday decorations and celebrations in Webster.

“Many years ago, when it was a smaller town, Public Works made these plywood storefronts and put them up at Christmas. There would be the Presbyterian Church, the grocery store, and a couple of other buildings that were prominent, and they would put lights on the outside. It was a nice way to honor the little city that used to be here.”

Debbie also recalled dressing up for Halloween when there were just 15 people working at City Hall.

“One year, I dressed up as a witch,” Debbie recalled.

Although the times have changed and there are now over 40 employees at City Hall, Debbie says she still loves working for this City.

“I’ve always said it’s a great City to work for,” she explained. “The people are nice, the customers are nice. It’s great seeing the same people coming in to pay their water bills each month.”

In her spare time, Debbie can be found reading, traveling with her husband Walt, or playing with her grandkids.

Her oldest daughter is a school teacher in the Austin area and her youngest daughter lives in Katy with her two kids, Connor, 3 years old, and Allie, a newborn.

For 37 years, Debbie Pinkston has been dedicated to serving the Webster citizens, and we are grateful for her service.

“Webster has really grown,” Debbie began, “but I still love working here.”

# Honoring all who served

The City of Webster thanks all the veterans who bravely fought for our country.

Veterans Day is on Saturday, November 11, and the City of Webster offices will close on Thursday, November 9 at 12:30 p.m. and will remain closed on Friday, November 10 for the holiday. Offices will reopen on Monday, November 13.



# give thanks!

CITY OF WEBSTER OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT 1:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 FOR THANKSGIVING AND OFFICES WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

RESIDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE TRASH PICK-UP ON THANKSGIVING DAY. REPUBLIC SERVICES WILL RESUME TRASH PICK-UP ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28.



## Fall Back

Get an extra hour of sleep when Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5 at 2 a.m.! Don't forget to change your clocks!

## SALUTE TO MILITARY SERVICE AND FIRST RESPONDERS



The Webster Police Department will be attending the Salute to Military Service and First Responders at the Kemah Boardwalk on November 4 and 5.

Webster Police will have a booth and display and event-goers can also enjoy other police, fire, and EMT vehicle displays, training demonstrations, historical artifacts, and more! For more information, visit [kemahboardwalk.com](http://kemahboardwalk.com).

## SHOP WEBSTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

· SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES ·



## ▼ HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Christmas is on a Monday this year, so the City of Webster Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26. Offices will reopen on Wednesday, December 27.

New Years Eve is on Sunday, December 31. Offices will be closed for the holiday on Monday, January 1 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Trash services will be impacted and customers will receive services on the following day.

## ▼ RESIDENTIAL TRASH INFO

Trash pick-up service is provided by Republic Services at no cost to residential customers. Pick-up service is scheduled Monday and Thursday. Trash containers on wheels are available to residents by contacting Republic Services at 713.726.7300.

Residents may also contact Republic Services to receive a recycling bin. Recycling is picked up every Thursday.

For more information on trash pick-up or recycling services visit republicservices.com.

## ▼ ATTENTION SENIORS

Are you looking for a way to get involved in the City? Join your neighbors for a light meal, conversation, and fun at Senior Game Night!

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.

There will also be a Senior Luncheon in December. Information forthcoming in the December edition.

## ▼ MEETINGS

The Webster City Council will have a regular meeting on **Tuesday, December 5 and December 19 at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, 101 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Webster Economic Development Corporation will meet on **Tuesday, December 12 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.

## ▼ HOLIDAY YARD JUDGING

Judging for Christmas decorations (residential only) is coming up in December! A 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention will be chosen for both the east and west side of Highway 3.

Criteria will be the use of color, creativity, aesthetic, beauty, and variety of decorations used. Check out the December edition for more information on the date and time of the judging!



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

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

### **Elected Officials**

Mayor Donna Rogers ..... [mayorrogers@cityofwebster.com](mailto:mayorrogers@cityofwebster.com)

Position 1: Jennifer Heidt ..... [jheidt@cityofwebster.com](mailto:jheidt@cityofwebster.com)

Position 2: Andrea Wilson ..... [awilson@cityofwebster.com](mailto:awilson@cityofwebster.com)

Position 3: Larry Tosto ..... [ltosto@cityofwebster.com](mailto:ltosto@cityofwebster.com)

Position 4: Beverly Gaines ..... [bgaines@cityofwebster.com](mailto:bgaines@cityofwebster.com)

Position 5: Edward Lapeyre ..... [elapeyre@cityofwebster.com](mailto:elapeyre@cityofwebster.com)

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)

### **Community Relations and Webster Way**

Editor Katie Stamy ..... [kstamy@cityofwebster.com](mailto:kstamy@cityofwebster.com)

Economic Development Director .. [bjusto@cityofwebster.com](mailto:bjusto@cityofwebster.com)

Emergency Management Director .... [jferro@cityofwebster.com](mailto:jferro@cityofwebster.com)

Finance Director ..... [mrodgers@cityofwebster.com](mailto:mrodgers@cityofwebster.com)

Marketing and Tourism ..... [cthraikill@cityofwebster.com](mailto:cthraikill@cityofwebster.com)

Recreation ..... [bmorgan@cityofwebster.com](mailto:bmorgan@cityofwebster.com)

Fire Dept. (Non-emergency) ..... [sricicar@websterfd.com](mailto:sricicar@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



# November 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 for meeting information!



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 2  
 3  
 Salute to Military Service and First Responders  
 Information on Page 4  
 4

Daylight Saving Time Ends  
 5

6

City Council Meeting  
 6 p.m.  
 7

8

City Offices close at 12:30 p.m. for Veterans Day  
 9

City Offices closed for Veterans Day  
 Senior Game Night 6-9:30 p.m.  
 10

Happy Veterans Day!  
 11

12

Webster Aerobics Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m.-7 p.m.  
 13

Webster Economic Development Corporation Meeting\* 6 p.m.  
 14

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17

Webster Aerobics Every Saturday 8 a.m.-9 a.m.  
 18

19

20

City Council Meeting 6 p.m.  
 21

City Offices Close at 1:30 p.m.  
 22

Happy Thanksgiving!  
 23

City Offices Closed  
 24

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