

Share Wharton's Charm

2016 Visitors & Newcomers
Guide



Inside:

Events • City Landmarks
Calendar • Museums •
Historic Homes • Local
History & MORE!

whartontexas.com

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Welcome to Wharton!

You're very special. We love having you here, and Wharton wants to make you feel welcome.

Whether you're spending a few hours, a few days or a lifetime, Wharton is excited you're here. We are a community-oriented town where no one is a stranger. It's a great place in which to live, work, visit, learn and do business.

We're known far and wide for our famous barbecue, for our native sons like Horton Foote and Dan Rather, for the thousands who have attended our Wharton County Junior College, and for our regionally renowned medical facilities. We've restored our courthouse and charming Monterey Square, our downtown.

You'll be delighted by what you find in our shops, restaurants, museums and attractions. If you've never been here before, let us show you around. Our little guide will help you. We feel sure the people you meet will make you feel right at home.

Ron Sanders
Executive Director
 Wharton Chamber of
 Commerce & Agriculture



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar of Events 7
 Chamber of Commerce Business Directory 36
 County, city, school information..... 34
 Doc Blakely & the Java Jam Band..... 11
 Foote, Horton..... 33
 Historic Homes of Wharton 28
 Map of Downtown Wharton..... 24-25
 Monterey Square Wine & Arts Fair..... 9
 Morris Carriage House..... 17
 Museums..... 16
 Plaza Theatre..... 14
 Rather, Dan..... 32
 Tee Pee Motel 13
 Texas Gulf Coast Antique & Junkin' Trail 12
 Utility information 27
 Weekend in Wharton..... 20
 Welcome column by Billie Jones..... 6
 Wharton County Junior College..... 26
 Wharton Civic Center..... 22
 Wharton County Courthouse..... 19
 Wharton County Freedom Fest 8
 Wharton County Juneteenth Festival 10

WHERE WE ARE: Wharton is 46 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, 58 miles from Houston, 135 miles from Austin and 167 miles from San Antonio.





The Wharton County Courthouse on Monterey Square

Visitors & Newcomers Guide 2016

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Wharton Visitors & Newcomers Guide is an annual publication of the Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture produced in conjunction with the *Wharton Journal-Spectator*. The guide includes information on what to see and do in Wharton, Texas, along with a map, calendar of events and a business directory of Wharton Chamber of Commerce members.

For additional information, contact the Chamber at 979-532-1862.

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For information about advertising in next year's edition, contact the Wharton Journal-Spectator at 979-532-8840.

The heart and spirit of Wharton

By BILLIE JONES

Wharton is spirit. Like the wind, it cannot be seen but there is a refreshing spirit blowing for all.

Visitors and newcomers are welcome, we love an opportunity to share small town life with you.

I recently asked my daughter, who grew up here, to give me one word describing her hometown. She immediately said "heart." It is with a warm spirit and friendly heart, we invite you to be part of this community.

The heart of an early community was the county courthouse. Today we share the beautifully restored Wharton County Courthouse sitting in the middle of historic Monterey Square. Stroll the streets and enjoy shops, antiques, churches, restaurants or a short rest at the Milam Street Coffee Shop. Yes, if it happens to be on a certain Friday night, you just might find toe-tapping music.

Don't miss the Plaza Theatre where live performances are presented through the year. The Footliters, named for native son, Horton Foote, present a large variety of Broadway shows, mostly musicals which are fantastic. Yes, we have been host to world renowned Houston Grand Opera. Yes, the Wharton spirit reaches far and



wide as we love small town Texas living.

The Wharton spirit has extended to the international marketplace. We are home to Taiwan's Nan Ya Plastics and JM Eagle Pipe, Dorian Tool and Lamberti of Italy and numerous large international and longtime family ranches.

Located less than an hour from a famed medical center and large shopping malls, Wharton is the destination for safe neighbors, fine schools, Wharton County Junior College, medical care and a smile as we pass on the streets.

Yes, the spirit of Wharton is like the wind. It's difficult to explain but come, we will enjoy the warm heart together.

Billie Jones is a longtime Wharton resident who is one of our city's unofficial ambassadors. She is a former executive director of the Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, and she writes a weekly column in the Wharton Journal-Spectator on items of interest about the Wharton community. She can be reached at bhJones6@sbcglobal.net.

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2016 calendar of events

- Jan. 16: MLK Freedom March, Monterey Square to Just Do it Now

- Jan. 27: Pilot Club Chili Supper, KC Hall

- * Feb. 6: Wharton Chamber Golf Tournament, Wharton Country Club

- Feb. 9: Wharton County Business Expo/Job Fair, Wharton Civic Center

- Feb. 13: East Wharton County Crime Stoppers Dinner and Dance, Wharton County Fairgrounds

- March 3: Lions Club Annual Pancake Supper, Wharton Civic Center

- March 4-5: Knights of Columbus Annual Cookoff, KC Hall

- March 5: Gourmet Guys, Wharton County Historical Museum

- March 10: Wharton Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Wharton Civic Center

- March 24: 100 Club Cookoff, Crescent Fairgrounds

- April 15-16: Wharton County Youth Fair BBQ Cookoff

- April 23-30: Wharton County Youth Fair

- May 6: Chamber Ambassadors Casino Night and Poke Tournament, Wharton Civic Center

- May 21: Wharton County Freedom Fest, downtown Wharton

- June 10-11: Seventh Annual Citywide Garage Sale

- June 11: 26th Annual Kolache-Klobase Festival, East Bernard

- June 18: Juneteenth Celebration, downtown Wharton

- August, TBA: Wharton County Football Coaches Luncheon

- Oct. 8: Monterey Square Wine

& Arts Fair, downtown Wharton

- Oct. 22: Wharton Chamber Golf Tournament, Wharton Country Club

- Nov. 22: Wharton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade, downtown Wharton

- Nov. 24: Wharton Feast of Sharing, Holy Family Catholic Church's Family Life Center

- Nov. 26: Small Business Saturday

Other regular events:

- First Friday Lunch at the Chamber (noon to 1 p.m. every first Friday)

- Java Jam, Milam Street Coffee Shop (live music, normally fourth Friday of each month)

- Wharton County SPOT pet adoptions at WCJC front parking lot (normally second Saturday of each month)

- Plaza Theatre productions (shows scheduled throughout the year)

- Wharton County Junior College Visual and Performing Arts Dept. (several theater productions, band and choir concerts throughout the year)

- Wharton County Farmers Market at WCJC front parking lot (Saturday mornings, late spring-early summer and late fall, dates TBA)

Note: All dates and events are subject to change. Other events are also planned that were not set or confirmed at the time of publication. To keep up with the latest listing, see the calendar on whartontexas.com.

Wharton County Freedom Fest



The Scott Taylor Band performed at the 2015 Wharton County Freedom Fest.

The 17th annual Freedom Fest is a patriotic festival fit for family fun. Located on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton, this festival honors veterans and first responders.

Originally planned for the Fourth of July, two years ago committee members decided to move the event to May since it's a cooler time of the year and precedes Memorial Day weekend. Because of its widespread popularity, the 2016 festival will be celebrated all weekend.

The barbeque cook-off is set for Friday, May 20 and the festival for Saturday, May 21.

The weekend event, sponsored by H-E-B, is held on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton features dozens of craft and food vendors, the timeless car show, live music, a bocce ball tournament, the return of the patriotic pet parade put on by Wharton County Stray Pet Outreach Team (SPOT), the celebrated barbecue cookoff and, if you are willing to get your hands dirty, lots of boiled crawfish hosted by H-E-B.

The festival will be equipped

with an outdoor dining area, hands-free hand washing stations, not to mention restroom trailers with air-conditioning.

Fulton Street hosts an area just for kids with games and fun things to do.

Just a block from the action, the Open Car Show at Guffey Park features numerous categories and gives awards to the most impressive cars, trucks, motorcycles or practically anything on wheels.

The focal point of the festival — the Veterans' Salute — commences as veterans march into the square and gather at the monument for a brief ceremony.

Though Freedom Fest promises fun, it's a celebration for another great cause.

Every year, proceeds from Freedom Fest go to charitable organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans Van Club in El Campo, a free transportation service for area veterans.

For updated information, visit whartonfreedomfest.org.

Monterey Square Wine & Arts Fair



Customers sip, shop and stroll during last year's Monterey Square Wine and Art Fair.

Culture is on every corner of downtown Wharton at the Monterey Square Wine and Arts Fair, held each year on the second Saturday of October.

The event is a fantastic night to sip, shop and stroll. The 2016 event is set for Saturday, Oct. 8 in downtown Wharton.

Begun in 2009, the event is sponsored by the downtown merchants, Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and the Monterey Square Merchants Committee and is a wonderful way to highlight stores while offering some unique opportunities to the public.

Each year, different Texas wineries provide the samples, in both whites and reds. Wine is also for sale by the glass or bottle. Participating merchants offer the various vintages to sample.

In addition, there is beer sampling at the Plaza Theatre.

Art is another feature of the festival. Local artists display their work in

several sites, with the Painted Poodle Art Studio, usually exhibiting dozens of paintings and sketches.

The art doesn't just sit on an easel, though — it drives down the streets.

Members of the Houston Art Car Klub set up their unusual vehicles on Fulton Street, near the Wharton County District Court Building. Cars have included one with a fighter jet on the roof and one decorated with hundreds of glass bottles.

No festival is complete without music, and there's a full venue to check out at the fair. Musicians set up shop in front of several businesses, playing acoustic favorites, while the local favorite, the Java Jam Band, takes its familiar stage inside Milam Street Coffee.

Anyone wishing to participate in the wine sampling must pay a minimal admission fee.

For more information, visit montereysquarewinefair.com.

Wharton County Juneteeth Festival



The Temptations Revue with Dennis Edwards performed at the 2015 festival.

The James Simmons Jr. Wharton County Juneteeth Festival became the largest festival in Wharton County when it was born six years ago.

The festival attracted an estimated 15,000 people two years ago. Last year's event was expected to attract just as many folks, but rain hampered the event last year. Still, festival-goers keep wondering how the event will be topped each year.

With the drive of Paul Kearney and the support of James Simmons Jr., the event is coordinated by Kearney and supported by Simmons' Total Premier Service and J. Simmons Group Inc.

The event was the reconnecting of lifelong friends for the revival observances, celebrating June 19, 1865 when the former slaves of Texas found they had been declared free through President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclama-

tion signed on Jan. 1, 1863.

Celebrated in Texas on or near June 19, each year afterward, the celebration began to wane in the 1950s here.

Now the James Simmons Jr. Wharton County Juneteeth Festival will be the place to be on Saturday, June 18 on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton.

A parade kicks off the event at 10 a.m. The festival runs until midnight. Admission is free.

The festival features plenty of activities for children, including carnival rides. And as always, there is plenty of live music, as well as a Hometown Heroes Program that honors local citizens for their accomplishments.

For more information about the Juneteenth Festival, call 979-532-1468.

Doc Blakely & the Java Jam Band

The Java Jam, one of Wharton's most unique entertainment events, has been growing in popularity since the first show in September 2010.

Headed up by popular Wharton musician and professional speaker, Doc Blakely, and the Java Jam Band, the monthly show also features a guest artist, along with food and drinks at the Milam Street Coffee Shop on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton.

Each month, the guest performers will play the first set at 6 p.m., and after a break at 7 p.m. for the buffet, the guest artists will join the Java Jam Band at 8 p.m. for an hour-long jam session.

Members of the Java Jam Band are as varied as their talents. They include: Doc Blakely, fiddle, professional speaker; Ron Sanders, drums, executive director, Wharton Chamber of Commerce; Rick Quijas, bass guitar, a state employee; and Mickey Reynolds, guitar/vocals, pastor of Caney Creek Church.

Several other local musicians sit in with the band whenever the spirit moves them.

Those who attend the events are asked to bring a covered dish to share for the buffet, along with a \$15 cover charge to help pay for the guest musicians.

Java Jam is normally held on the fourth Friday of each month, but sometimes the date may vary.

For example, the January show will be on the fifth Friday of the month. In December, there is also expected to be a Christmas Show on Dec. 9



Doc Blakely

Acts lined up for 2016 are:

- Jan. 29: Shannie
- Feb. 26: Jim Cathcart
- March 25: Gig Masters
- April 22: River Ramblers
- May 27: John Arthur Martinez
- June 24: Bosque Eastman
- July 22: Border Buttermilk
- Aug. 26: The Line Riders
- Sept. 23: Duke Davis
- Oct. 28: Back Country Cowboys
- Nov. 25: The Sharecroppers
- Dec. 9: Annual Christmas Show

Performance schedules are subject to change. To verify dates prior to performances, call the Milam Street Coffee Shop at 979-282-9771 or visit milamstcoffee.com.

Gulf Coast Antique & Junkin' Trail

As part of the Texas Gulf Coast Antique and Junkin' Trail, Wharton is home to some of the best antique shopping. Antiquing has become quite the trend today, and people from all over the area travel to Wharton to visit its antique shops, thrift stores and wholesale stores. Whether you're on your next treasure hunt to find a one of a kind item, searching for a piece of history to bring you closer to your past or if you're an avid collector, the Wharton County trail is one to follow.

There are also some great stops along the way that are perfect for your next do-it-yourself project. Here are the ones in Wharton County:

- **Bohemian Rhapsody II:** Start your trip here, 134 W. Milam St., Wharton. With more than 32 vendors, this is a great spot to find furniture, home décor, chalk paint and knobs for your next DIY project and more. Phone: 832-434-8374. Email: boh_rhap2@att.net. Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m.

- **Miss Hatties Place:** 129 S. Fulton St., Wharton. You can find antiques and vintage furniture, jewelry, crystal china, pottery, linens and more. Phone: 979-531-1175. Email: misshattiesplace@aol.com. Website: misshattiesplaceantiques.com. Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **JT's This & That:** 232 W. Milam St., Wharton. Dig through their high volume of vintage salt and pepper shakers, doors and windows, furniture, knick-knacks and more to find the treasure piece you're looking for. Phone: 979-532-0977. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Montgomery Gallery and Frame:** 110 S. Houston St., Wharton. Visit Margaret Montgomery for a vintage look, ready-made and custom made frames for your next project. Oil paintings restoration, photo restoration and frame restoration services available. Phone: 979-532-3929. Email: mogie@sbcglobal.net. Website: montgomerygalleryandframe.net. Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Nonna's Emporium:** 246 W. Milam St., Wharton. With two floors of antiques, decor, collectibles, consignments, jewelry and more, you're bound for a treasure hunt. There is even a café inside with sandwiches, soups and salads to refuel for the next stop. Phone: 979-531-3103. Email: ladyevonne1@hotmail.com. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Burr Trading Company:** 411 County Road 123, Wharton. Whether you're buying or selling repurposed junk, this is your spot! You can find their collectibles on the trail in other stores. Call for an appointment for personal picks! Phone: 979-453-0860. Website: thegalleryin-wharton@gmail.com. Find them on Facebook as Burr Trading Co.

- **Polak Petals:** 635 Main St., East Bernard. Venture to Wharton's sister city for more antiquing. This store has 8,000 sq. ft. of antiques, junk, boutique items and flowers. Phone: 979-335-4444. Email: polakpetals@yahoo.com. Website: polakpetals.com. Hours: Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat. noon to 5 p.m.

- **Junk & Stuff:** 709 Main St., East Bernard. Neon signs, old truck doors, antiques and collectibles, this is the place for avid antique collectors and those who are trying to build a mancave. Open Saturdays or by appointment. Phone: 281-450-6219. Email: jamescollector@aol.com

- **Glen Flora Emporium:** 103 S. Bridge Ave., Glen Flora. Just seven miles from downtown Wharton, this is the last stop on the trail but certainly not the least. Dealers who want to rent their spaces to sell merchandise and consignments may do so with this venue. Find them on Facebook as The Glen Flora Emporium. Phone: 979-677-3249. Email: emporium@glenflora.com. Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sun. noon to 5 p.m.

Visit whartontexas.com to obtain more information and additional trail locations in West Columbia in nearby Brazoria County.

The Tee Pee Motel



The Tee Pee Motel, located on Business 59/Texas 60, is one of Wharton's unique landmarks.

A unique landmark greets visitors to Wharton who travel into town on Business 59 from Houston.

The Tee Pee Motel, one of Wharton's most eye-catching historic locations, is not only designed to be looked at, but it is also designed to be lived in.

The motel is a throwback to the 1940s and '50s before interstate highways, when family car trips were an adventure and part of the appeal was visiting new communities and finding a unique place to stay. Among the more eye-catching of those were motels where the units were built not as square boxes but in the shape of a Native American dwelling, the teepee. Today, there is only one in Texas and only four in the U.S.

The motel rooms were originally designed in 1942 by George and Toppie Belcher but construction was delayed until 1947 because of World War II.

Once a destination location for travelers, the motel began a slow slide as the highway system routed traffic away from the Tee Pee's location. It closed in the 1980s and remained that way until it was purchased by Bryon Woods, who refurbished and reopened the hotel.

A lottery winner, Woods bought the hotel at the urging of his wife Barbara, a Wharton County native. She said that as a little girl, she'd always wanted to stay in one of the rooms but never had the opportunity. When Bryon pointed out it was closed, Barbara reportedly pointed out that it was for sale.

"She told me she wanted to stay there," Woods said in an earlier interview. He saw it as a bad investment but being able to "afford" to keep peace in the family, he relented and took on the



The Tee Pee Motel offers half a dozen unique rooms, each decorated in a different color and theme.

project, purchasing the motel in 2004 and reopening it on Oct. 30, 2006.

Woods has been able to capitalize on that investment. In addition to the national attention the project has brought, Woods installed about 50 recreational vehicle pads as well as a laundry area.

"We've also had people call up and book the rooms and grounds for family reunions," he said. "We've got a lot of space and people enjoy the added feature of being able to stay in a unique location."

And while the location and original construction date back to the 1940s, the rooms have been modernized and include a number of the amenities the modern guest would expect, including high speed Internet and cable television.

In 2015, a new firepit was added behind the tee pees that includes seating for visitors.

In addition, two of the rooms have been updated to include queen size beds.

Call 979-282-8474 or visit teepeemotel.net.

The Plaza Theatre



Russell Kacer, left, and Rachel Hodges Helmick act out a scene during “Annie Get Your Gun,” the summer musical from the last season at the Plaza Theatre.

The Plaza Theatre on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton will kick off the 2016 calendar year with “Barefoot in the Park,” a comedy. It’s the second of five productions from the 2014-15 season.

The 2016-17 season, which will kick off in the fall, will be announced later this year. Performances are normally at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays.

Here’s synopses of the productions:

- **“Barefoot in the Park” (Feb. 12 to Feb. 21):** Paul and Corie Bratter are newlyweds in every sense of the word. He’s a straight-as-an-arrow lawyer and she’s a free spirit always looking for the latest kick. Their new apartment is her most recent find-too expensive with bad plumbing and in need of a paint job. After a six-day honeymoon, they get a surprise visit from Corie’s loopy mother and decide to play matchmaker during a dinner with their neighbor-in-the-attic Velasco, where everything that can go wrong, does. Paul just doesn’t understand Corie, as she sees it. He’s too staid, too boring and she just wants him to be a

little more spontaneous, running “barefoot in the park” would be a start.

- **“Vanities” (April 15 to April 24):** A bittersweet comedy that is an astute, snapshot sharp chronicle of the lives of three Texas girls. In 1963, Joanne, Kathy and Mary are aggressively vivacious cheerleaders. Five years later in their college sorority house, they are confronting their futures with nervous jauntiness. In 1974, they reunite briefly in New York. Their lives have diverged their friendship, which once thrived on assumption as well coordinated as sweater sets, is strained and ambiguous. Old time banter rings false. Their attempts at honest conversation only show they can no longer afford to have very much in common.

- **“Disney’s The Jungle Book KIDS” (June 23 to June 26):** Every summer, basic stagecraft and theatre discipline is taught to youngsters age 5 through 16 during the Litefooter Summer Youth Workshop, and it culminates with a youth production. Disney’s beloved “man cub” marches his way through the jungle as he learns what it means to be

human. The jungle is jumpin' with jazz in "Disney's The Jungle Book KIDS." Specially adapted from the classic film, this musical includes all your favorite Disney tunes, like "The Bare Necessities," and "I Wan'na Be Like You." Performance dates vary from the usual schedule and are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

• **Summer musical to be announced (Aug. 5 to Aug. 21):** Due to contractual agreements, the title of this production will not be announced until Spring 2016.



The theater is owned and operated by Plaza Theatre Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the renovation and restoration of the building, as well as fostering the performing arts. Originally founded as The Community Theatre of Wharton, its performers are dubbed the "Footelitters" in recognition of famed theater and film writer Horton Foote, a native Whartonian.

The mainstay entertainment at the Plaza is live theater, with the Footelitters putting on several live productions each season. In addition, the group's youth organization, The Litefooters, annually puts on a production during the last weekend in June.

The Plaza is part of the continuing history of the west side of Monterey Square, being the city's entertainment focus, although some of that history is less than savory.

Like most cities in Texas and the rest of the west, the early settlers built churches, dry goods stores and homes. They also built saloons and bawdy houses, and Wharton was no different. While three sides of the square were mainly composed of professional and retail businesses, the west side was made up of saloons and other unsavory businesses. In 1890, the good ladies of Wharton had had enough and torched the wood frame buildings, burning them to the ground.

Learning the dangers of building with wood, the west side of the square was re-

built in brick and included the Plaza Hotel. A section of the building was sold in 1941 to the Long-Griffith Theaters. After being gutted and converted into a movie theater, it reopened in March of 1942 and continued to operate until the 1970s, when the doors were closed for good. Or so many thought.

The then Community Theatre group bought the building in 1991 and what followed has been a remarkable effort of the heart and shining example of volunteerism.

"Because the floor of the theater is below ground level, there was a tremendous amount of seepage, and there were leaks in the roof and other problems. It was just a sad thing to see," said Candyce Byrne, former board president.

However, through fundraisers, grants and donations, the group was able to restore the first floor to the point it could stand up to performance. They were even able to reproduce a portion of the original mural decorating the walls of the auditorium through the work of artist Dana Steinheimer.

But the present only offers a glimpse of the future. The group has purchased an adjacent building and has opened much-needed additional restrooms. Plans also include adding an elevator to meet ADA guidelines, as the group is literally renovating from the ground up.

The future includes converting the second floor into a 1940s-style lounge that can be used for small individual, group or business gatherings, as well as opened up to provide balcony seating for live productions. The third floor will be converted into a "Black Box" theater for productions of original material created by the group's members or productions for small groups.

"Complete renovation requires a lot of structural work, in addition to adding an elevator," Byrne said. "That's the expensive part."

For more information, call 979-282-2226 or visit whartonplazatheatre.org.

Wharton museums

The history of Wharton County from the 1800s to today has been preserved inside the walls of the connecting Wharton County Historical Museum and the 20th Century Technology Museum, located on the edge of town on North Richmond Road, near the Tee Pee Motel.

A historical airplane exhibit, a visual timeline of technology, lineages of the lives of local notables such as Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winning play writer Horton Foote and a Trophy Room with a game collection comparable to an animal exhibit in any museum of natural science all coexist under the same roof.

Wharton residents of the 1950s, Marshall and Lillie Johnson, rose to wealth from the oil and gas and farming industries. During their lifetimes, they donated most of their fortune, over \$30 million, to healthcare within the area. After passing, the couple deeded their home and extensive big-game Trophy Room to Wharton County for the purpose of establishing the new museum site, which opened in August of 1991. The original museum was located in the Old Jail Building from 1981 until the move.

The conjoined museums are filled with artifacts and treasures of history donated by the Johnson couple and the families who were born and raised within the communities of Wharton County, tracing the history of Wharton from the early 19th century to today.

Marshall, an avid hunter, donated his extensive game collection to the county and the museum, featuring a giraffe, a crocodile, lions, tigers, an elephant (oh my) and so many more animals from Alaska, Canada, India, British Honduras, Africa and the United States.

A notable local featured in the museums

is Roy P. Benavidez, an El Campo native who was awarded the nation's highest honor for heroic deeds performed during his tour with the Green Berets in Vietnam.

Other interesting individuals featured at the museum include world-renowned journalist and Wharton native Dan Rather and polka disc jockey Bobby Jones, who several years ago mysteriously disappeared from Wharton County and has never been heard from since.

Outside the building is an exquisite cactus garden and the house where Dan Rather was born.

The museum further contains exhibits on the area's history of rich law enforcement, agriculture, medicine, churches, the Texas Gulf Sulphur company and other area veterans. There are also rotating exhibits featuring artwork from area students and seasonal displays.

In October 2012, an addition was built to accommodate the 20th Century Technology Museum. Founded and operated by Wharton residents Art and Sharon Schulze, the technology museum contains a timeline of technological artifacts through the last century.

There are currently more than 1,000 pieces on display. These include antique radios, phones, kitchen appliances, arcade games, toys, computers and many other items of interest. Some of the more notable include original aircraft built by aviation pioneers such as the the Ornithopter, which was built in the 1930s, is suspended by cables from the museum's roof.

Supervised children can see the toys and games their parents and great grandparents once played with. In addition, the museums have a doll collection display featuring an original Marilyn Monroe doll from the 1990s, a Shirley Temple doll from 1934, a Princess Diana doll from 1982 and much more.

Both museums are free of charge and are open to the public. The Historical Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The Technology Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and closed on Sunday.

The location is 3615 N. Richmond Road.

For more information, call 979-532-2600 or 979-282-8810 or visit whartoncountyhistorical-museum.com or 20thcenturytech.com.



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The Morris Carriage House

It's only been a few generations since horse-drawn carriages were in vogue and traveled in and around the area.

While the use of carriages declined with the advent of the automobile, memories of their importance is kept alive by collectors.

A local family has devoted a lifetime to collecting and restoring the transportation of another century alive. The love of a more gentle time and quiet means of transportation is the passion of carriage collectors Stewart Morris Sr. and his son Stewart Morris Jr.

Numerous carriages in their large collection are gathered together in the Morris Carriage House just east of Wharton on County Road 117.

Want to see the carriage that carried Vivien Leigh in the movie "Gone With the Wind?" How about the carriage known as "The Traveling Government of Mexico?" It was used by then popular Mexican President Benito Juarez.

Carriages in the facility span several hundred years of history and include carriages from around the world as well as from the U.S. Each carriage and wagon is collected and shown for its historical significance and the craftsmanship of those who built them.

But what is in the carriage house is only a small portion of those collected by the father and son over the years.

In their restored, pristine condition they look like and could go from the showroom to roadway at any time, which some of them sometimes do.

But it takes horses for this means of transportation, so there are trained carriage horses stabled at the facility.

The carriage horses are cared for at the site and all the tack needed is there also. Carriage horses are worked with and groomed daily and all tack is hung with fittings polished and leather oiled ready for use.

When being taken out for special occasions, the drivers and passengers often don period costumes which go along with the years the vehicles were in use.

Interesting pieces in the collection in-



Restored carriages are displayed in the Stewart Ranch Carriage House.

clude the carriage used by Vivien Leigh in the movie "Gone With the Wind."

The 1939 film adapted from Margaret Mitchell's 1936 novel of the same name won 10 Academy Awards. It has been named the fourth in the top 100 American films of the 20th Century. The cast also included Clark Gable, Leslie Howard and Olivia De Havilland.

To get to the Morris Ranch & Carriage House, head east for about four miles on FM 1301 toward Boling. Turn left on County Road 117 and travel two miles. The carriage house is on the right just before crossing the bridge on the West Bernard River.

It is a perfect setting for not only tours, but weddings, proms and other special occasions. The carriage house is available to visit by appointment only for a fee.

For more information, contact 2110 County Road 117, Wharton TX 77488 or call 979-532-0101.

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Wharton County Courthouse

The Wharton County Courthouse does not resemble what people remember from the 1950s. In the 1930s and 1940s, the courthouse was remodeled to gain needed space. Wings were added on each side. The bell, clock tower and mansard roof had been removed. Its original red bricks covered in stucco and painted yellow. It was redesigned in an art deco look of the time period.

Famous playwright Horton Foote, who was a Wharton native, was upset with the changes and he referred to it as “the Sulphur Block” because it was painted yellow.

By the 1980s the added wings were pulling on the center structure and causing major engineering concerns.

The question was, “Do we raze it or save it through restoration?”

That question was asked of Wharton County voters in the late 1990s. For a while it looked like the 1889 Wharton County Courthouse would be no more. Structural issues became the focal points of the emotional issue.

Restoration of the Wharton County Courthouse caused divisions among residents of the county.

Preservationists said save it at all cost, others were for replacing with a more modern structure a third group thought it could not be restored. Local preservationists quickly organized and looked for ways to save the building. They considered the courthouse to be “the heart and soul of Wharton County.”

The preservationists won, and courthouse history was researched by Wharton native and architect David Bucek Jr.

After four years of planning, trips to Austin’s Texas Historical Commission and fundraising, the task of restoring the historic courthouse began — and it would be restored to its Victorian style.

The Wharton County Courthouse was designed by Eugene T. Heiner, who arrived in Houston from Dallas in 1878. Between 1878 and his death in 1901, he designed 12 courthouses of which only six survive.

Wharton’s courthouse was built in a classic Victorian design and overlooked the Wharton countryside and the Colorado River. Its design was a combination of two popu-



The courthouse during the holidays.

lar Victorian styles of the 1880s — the Second Empire style and the Italianate style. It was a three-story masonry building with limestone trimmings topped with a mansard roof and a central clock tower. Its bricks were made from clay gleaned from the Colorado River.

By the 1950s, the Heiner-designed courthouse looked nothing like it originally did.

But cost and time to restore the structure were underestimated. The Wharton County Courthouse had an original estimate of \$2.9 million but ended up costing \$7.4 million. The restoration began in July of 2003 and was completed in July 2007. It was the most extensively restored courthouse in the state’s history.

Finally, in August of 2005, Wharton residents gathered on the courthouse square to watch as the massive clock tower was lifted to the top of the building. The tower is an exact replica of the original. The courthouse bell, which had been saved by First Baptist Church, was returned to the county and placed in the tower.

Today, with the restoration complete, the Wharton County Courthouse as it looked in its 1889 glory is the gem of Wharton’s downtown Monterey Square. It joins Hallettsville as the only two Heiner works that are as the architect originally designed them.

The Wharton County Courthouse is featured in the PBS television documentary, *The Golden Age of Texas Courthouses*.

The Wharton County Courthouse is at 100 S. Fulton St. in downtown Wharton. Visit whartoncountycourthouse.com.

Weekend in Wharton

While in Wharton, there is plenty to do, and we've got it all planned for you.

SATURDAY Morning

Visit the Downtown Monterey Square Historic District for antiquing, a piece of history and a morning coffee. The Milam Street



A customer shops at Nonna's Emporium.

Coffee Shop/Wall to Wall Words is a great place to start your morning, just ask Linda and Carl King for some espresso and you'll have enough energy all day. The square is lined with antique shops, perfect for treasure hunters. While hopping from store to store, make sure to visit the original Wharton County Courthouse. The famous Texas architect Eugene T. Heiner built the building in 1889. While circling the square, you might get a glimpse of a mural or two. Count them all as you visit through town, there are nine total. Address: 100 S. Fulton St.

Lunch

After all that walking, shopping and learning you're probably hungry and you can't visit Texas without eating some Tex-Mex. In town, there are a handful of Tex-Mex restaurants to choose from. In the downtown area, we have Larry's Mexican Restaurant, Cuevos Mexican Restaurant and Los Cucos for an authentic Tex-Mex experience.

Afternoon

Walk off the meal by visiting Wharton's life-size dinosaur sculpture at what the locals call Dinosaur Park on the west end of Riverfront Park, which runs along downtown and the Colorado River. Address: Colorado Street at North Richmond and Business 59.

Check out the recently restored Southern Pacific Railroad Depot. It was built in 1912 as a social and transportation center for Wharton. The depot sits on the "Macaro-

ni Line" named in honor of the 1,200 Italians who helped build the track for the New York, Texas and Mexican Railroad in 1882. 100 S. Sunset. Hours: Sat 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Finish the afternoon off by visiting the Wharton County Historical Museum and 20th Century Technology Museum. Recently merged, the two museums display Wharton county's history as a timeline featuring the past's most important treasures. You can see the progression of technology, a trophy room with countless of species from across the globe and exhibits on notable figures to come out of Wharton County such as playwright Horton Foote, newsman Dan Rather and medal of honor recipient Roy Benavidez. 3615 N. Richmond Road, 979-532-2810. M-F 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sat-Sun 1 to 5 p.m.

Evening

You've done a lot, it's time to sit back and eat. If you're in the mood for Texas barbecue, try Hinze's on Richmond Road. If you're feeling fishy, try Wharton Seafood on Richmond Road for a versatile seafood menu. For a little bit of everything (including hamburgers, chicken-fried steak, subs, steaks, salads and more) try 9er's Grill at Boling Highway and Fulton Street.

Make sure to stop by the Plaza Theatre downtown to see if there is a live show playing. 120 S. Houston St., 979-532-1084

SUNDAY Morning

Spend the morning driving around town. Here are some spots you can't leave town without seeing for yourself:

- Playwright Horton Foote's Home: Wharton is the hometown of Horton Foote, the dramatist who won Oscars for "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Tender Mercies" and a Pulitzer Prize for his stage play "The Young Man From Atlanta." The house he grew up in is maintained in Wharton. Although unmarked, it remains a landmark. 3615 N. Richmond Road.

- Tee Pee Motel: a unique motel, where celebrities such as Elvis Presley have stayed, the Tee Pee Motel was built in 1942 for travelers heading across Texas on what

is now Business 59. The Tee Pee operated for 40 years, until the interstate highway system routed customers away. Barbara Woods, a Wharton native, and her husband Byron Woods were passing the abandoned motel one afternoon when she recalled that she always wanted to stay in one of the teepees. After winning the lottery, the couple purchased the motel in 2004 and re-opened it in 2006. 4098 Business 59, 979-532-1084

- Cattle Country and more: The Wharton area is known for the Brahman cattle breed, thought to have originated in India. Brahman were brought to Texas as early as 1860. They seldom seek shelter from the sun, so a visit to these cattle would be perfect on a sunny day. You can see them on Texas 60, north of Hungerford and on FM 1161, east of Hungerford. Hungerford is located six miles north of Wharton on Business 59. The Hudgins Ranch of Hungerford is among the most well known. Wharton has some of the best hunting and bird watching experiences. Just an hour trip to the beach,

you can access excellent fishing along the Gulf of Mexico.

Lunch

Head south on U.S. 59 for about 20 minutes until you hit Wharton's sister city, El Campo. Located in Wharton County, El Campo has a handful of restaurants and sites to see.

Afternoon

After you refuel, spend the day in El Campo and visit the El Campo Museum of Natural History. Address: 2350 N. Mechanic, located inside the El Campo Civic Center.

And if you have time

The Morris Ranch and Carriage House is a treat for visitors. Among the meticulously restored and maintained carriages is the one that carried Vivien Leigh in the 1939 American epic-historical romance film "Gone With the Wind." Visits are by appointment only, call 713-625-8003. 2110 County Road 117, east of the city.

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Wharton Civic Center

The Wharton Civic Center is the hub for all of the community's special moments — award banquets, seminars, training sessions, business meetings, wedding receptions, rehearsal dinners, baby showers, parties and celebrations, philanthropic events, private classes, job fairs and so much more.

Located 50 miles outside of Houston, the Wharton Civic Center is the perfect location to host your event without the traffic and high fees of the big city.

The Civic Center is an adaptable, dynamic event space that was built on southern hospitality. Whether you're throwing a large event or an intimate gathering, you will be in good hands.

Throughout the area, Wharton's Civic Center has become the premier venue because of both its facility and customer service. You won't find an affordable, mul-

tipurpose event space with quality care quite like this facility in the area.

"A lot of it goes to the leadership we had with Ms. Knezek there, but we have a modern facility and the improvements we've made are some of the things that make it the type of facility people enjoy and use," City Manager Andres Garza Jr. said.

When the facility was given to the city in 1990, Jo Knezek took the director's position and for 25 years she developed the Civic Center into a reputable venue known throughout the area. She even hosted events for celebrities such as Frank Sinatra Jr. and Nancy Sinatra, even George W. Bush when he was governor.

This year, Jessica Dunn has stepped in as the director since Knezek's retirement, and she hopes to carry the legacy Knezek handed her.



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The popular Lions Club Pancake Supper is held the first Thursday in March at the Wharton Civic Center.

“When taking this position, I evaluated the product, the audience and the overall feeling of the property to make notes of what needed improvements and adjustments,” Dunn said. “It’s great to have a facility that is as versatile to hold wedding receptions, baby showers, anniversary parties to business meetings, community and private classes and even job fairs.”

Dunn has many aspirations and plans for the center, but one of her missions in particular is to host events that cultivate community.

“One of my many goals is that I would like to market the center for more events throughout the week and possibly planning and hosting our own community-wide events,” Dunn said.

She has also worked with the Wharton Chamber of Commerce to have a Casino Night and Poker Tournament on May 6, an event open to the community.

Being so close to Wharton County Junior College, Dunn hopes to book events targeted to the college’s young culture, such as concerts, performances and functions.

To book an event or for more information, contact the city of Wharton at 979-532-2491, Ext. 600, visit cityofwharton.com or email jdunn@cityofwharton.com. You can also check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/whartonciviccenter.

The Wharton Civic Center
 979-532-4811 ext. 600 & 603
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Historic Murals

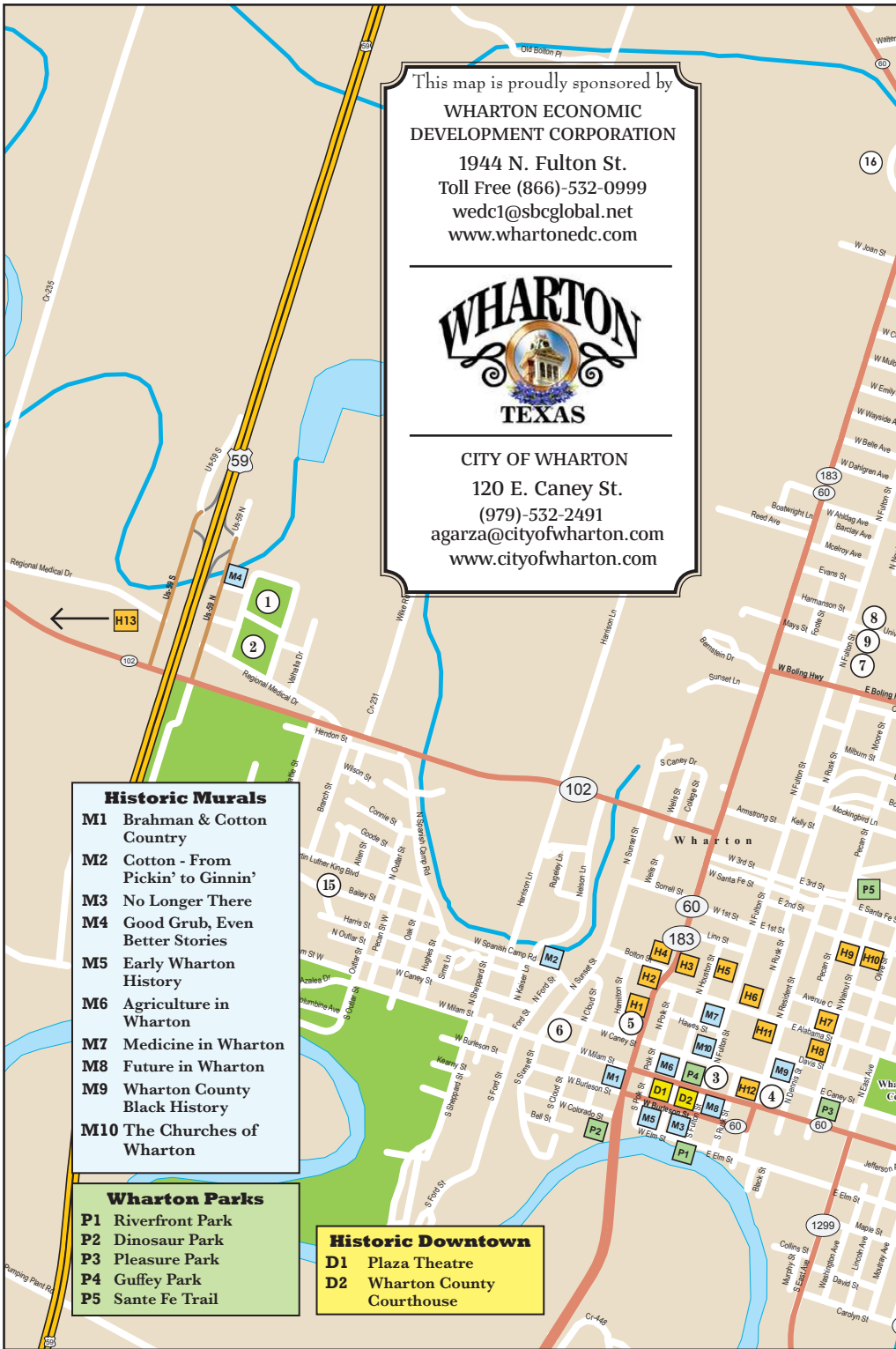
- M1** Brahman & Cotton Country
- M2** Cotton - From Pickin' to Ginnin'
- M3** No Longer There
- M4** Good Grub, Even Better Stories
- M5** Early Wharton History
- M6** Agriculture in Wharton
- M7** Medicine in Wharton
- M8** Future in Wharton
- M9** Wharton County Black History
- M10** The Churches of Wharton

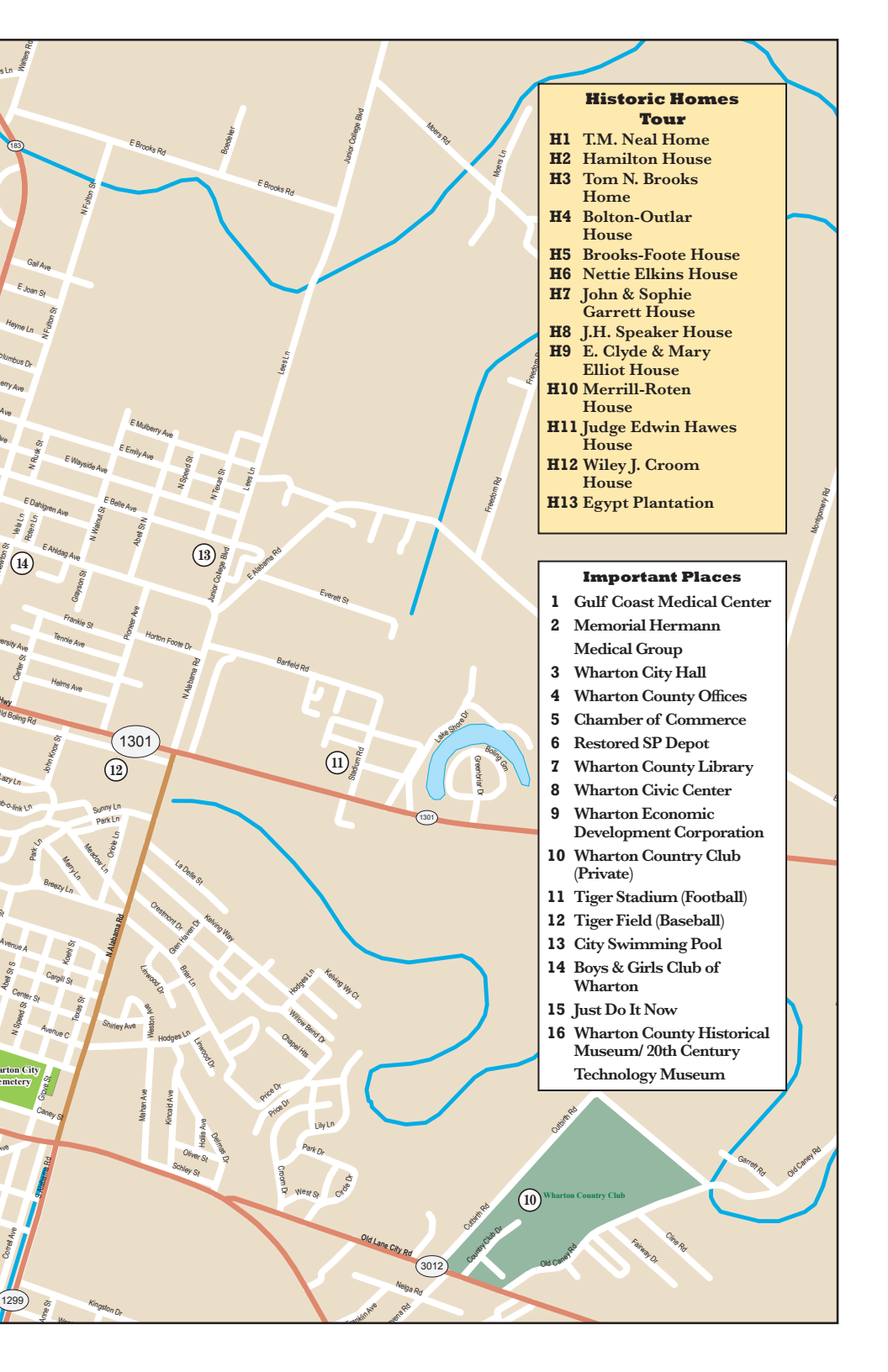
Wharton Parks

- P1** Riverfront Park
- P2** Dinosaur Park
- P3** Pleasure Park
- P4** Guffey Park
- P5** Sante Fe Trail

Historic Downtown

- D1** Plaza Theatre
- D2** Wharton County Courthouse





**Historic Homes
Tour**

- H1** T.M. Neal Home
- H2** Hamilton House
- H3** Tom N. Brooks Home
- H4** Bolton-Outlar House
- H5** Brooks-Foote House
- H6** Nettie Elkins House
- H7** John & Sophie Garrett House
- H8** J.H. Speaker House
- H9** E. Clyde & Mary Elliot House
- H10** Merrill-Roten House
- H11** Judge Edwin Hawes House
- H12** Wiley J. Croom House
- H13** Egypt Plantation

Important Places

- 1** Gulf Coast Medical Center
- 2** Memorial Hermann Medical Group
- 3** Wharton City Hall
- 4** Wharton County Offices
- 5** Chamber of Commerce
- 6** Restored SP Depot
- 7** Wharton County Library
- 8** Wharton Civic Center
- 9** Wharton Economic Development Corporation
- 10** Wharton Country Club (Private)
- 11** Tiger Stadium (Football)
- 12** Tiger Field (Baseball)
- 13** City Swimming Pool
- 14** Boys & Girls Club of Wharton
- 15** Just Do It Now
- 16** Wharton County Historical Museum/ 20th Century Technology Museum

Wharton County Junior College

Wharton County Junior College was listed recently as the No. 1 community college in Texas.

The organization published a list of the top 25 community colleges in Texas on its website — www.best-colleges.com — and Wharton County Junior College was listed as No. 1 in December 2015.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan is pleased with the recognition.

“WCJC is doing an admirable job of helping Texas residents continue their education and attain their future goals,” McCrohan said. “I credit the college’s faculty, staff and administration with putting in the time and effort needed to help students achieve their objectives.”

About WCJC

With a tax district encompassing Wharton County and the Needville ISD, Wharton County Junior College also has a service area that includes Wharton, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Colorado and parts of Jackson and Austin counties.

It has a central campus in Wharton and extension campuses in Sugar Land, Richmond and Bay City. In addition, the college offers classes at an extension center in El Campo.

College-wide, WCJC offers more than 40 programs including certificates, associate of applied science degrees, associate of arts degrees, dual credit programs and continuing education courses.



Wharton County Junior College’s main campus is on Boling Highway in Wharton.

Many students live at home; however, students have the opportunity to live on the Wharton campus in dormitories and to participate in campus life.

The college participates in three competitive sports: volleyball for women, baseball for men and rodeo for men and women. The college has a choir, a band and a drama program. These sports and fine arts programs offer student scholarships.

Campus life includes intramural activities for men and women, a Presidential Scholars Program, student government and a variety of clubs and organizations.

The first day of classes for the spring 2016 semester is Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Wharton County Junior College is a Texas public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of postsecondary educational programs and services including associate degrees, certificates, continuing education courses, cultural affairs and leisure-time activities for the benefit of the community and a population of students that varies in age, background and ability. WCJC operates campuses in Wharton, Sugar Land, Richmond and Bay City. For more information, visit www.wcjc.edu.

Utility information

If you're a newcomer here, welcome to Wharton! If you're moving into a new home, you will need to get your utilities set up. Read the information below.

New water and sewer customers within the Wharton city limits must provide a copy of a lease agreement or proof of ownership for the property, a valid U.S. identification and a deposit in the amount of \$100. Senior citizens are eligible for a reduced deposit. This service also includes garbage pickup. For more information, call 979-532-2491.

For residential customers outside of the Wharton city limits, contact a water well drilling provider.

Centerpoint Energy is the area's natural gas provider. Applications can be filled out online at www.centerpointenergy.com or by calling 713-659-2111.

Texas electricity customers can visit

Power to Choose, the official and unbiased electric choice website of the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Compare offers and choose the electric plan at powertochoose.org.



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Historic Homes of Wharton

EDITOR'S NOTE: The historic homes driving tour is designed to give those staying in Wharton some views of early architecture around the city. The homes have been grouped for ease of finding them on the map. Many of the homes are private residences and not accessible for tours.



Bolton-Outlar House,
517 N. Richmond Road

The Bolton-Outlar House, built in 1893, is a two-story frame Pyramidal-roof dwelling Queen Anne influence modified around 1910 with a classical Revival pediment portico and porches. It rests on brick piers and is covered by an asphalt shingle tripped roof with lower cross gable on the principal and side elevations. An exterior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the top ridge of the hipped roof.

It is one of Wharton's most impressive late-19th and early-20th century residential dwellings. It was substantially remodeled around 1910.

H.J. Bolton acquired this property in 1893 from A.H. Purviance for \$300 and probably built the house soon afterwards. Bolton was a local merchant and first president of the newly organized Wharton National Bank in 1903. In 1919, Dr. L.B. Outlar purchased the dwelling for \$7,500. Dr. Outlar established a clinic in partnership with Dr. William Blair called the Outlar-Blair Clinic. The Outlar family owned the house until 1973.



E. Clyde and Mary Elliott House,
707 N. Walnut St.

E. Clyde and Mary Elliott acquired three lots in 1919 from W.B. Barbee in the Barbee subdivision. The Elliots erected a one-story bungalow home for \$2,697. Mr. Elliott was a farmer with land near the small community of Glen Flora. The couple owned the house until 1960. The E. Clyde and May Elliott House is a one-and-one-half story frame bungalow facing east. The Elliott house is one of the best examples of the bungalow form and the only example of the "airplane" subtype in Wharton.

Nettie Elkins House,
109 E. Alabama St.

The Elkins House was built for Nettie Elkins after receiving the undivided land from the heirs of Mrs. D.A. Hobbs. The house was built in 1874. The Elkins House is significant as the best extant example of the pyramid roof house in its most basic form in Wharton. A full-width open porch supported by three evenly-spaced columns dominates the principal façade.





Merrill-Roten House,
520 Avenue A

James F. and Lena Merrill had this brick veneer house built soon after their acquisition of the property in 1930. In 1932, John L. Roten purchased the house. Roten was one of Wharton's most successful businessmen during the mid-20th century. He began his career in 1922 when he opened a dry goods store in the community. The Tudor Revival style was popular among professionals in the community during the late 1920s and 1930s. Its full brick veneer exterior is rarely seen on local dwellings.



Wiley J. Croom House,
205 E Milam St.

This is a two-story frame house designed by Eugene T Heiner, who also designed the 1888 jail and courthouse in Wharton. It was built in typical Victorian Queen Anne style with heavy use of decorative embellishments. Wiley J. Croom came to Wharton in 1868 to practice law and sell real estate. He was elected county judge in 1886 and met Heiner during the construction of the courthouse which led him to select the architect as designer of his new home.

The house is a two-story frame dwelling facing south on East Milam Street. The house retains a high degree of integrity and is the best example in Wharton of the Queen Anne style.



John and Sophie Garrett House,
401 E. Alabama St.

The John G. and Sophie Garrett House is a one-and-one-half story frame dwelling facing south on East Alabama Street. Its appearance is typical of the late 19th century dwellings in a modified L-plan form. Jig sawn balusters and brackets, and turned columns and frieze indicate a strong Victorian Queen Anne influence.

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Judge Edwin Hawes House,
309 N. Resident St.

Rosa E. McCamly had this home built in 1896. In 1897 she sold it to Edwin Hawes (b. 1852), Wharton County judge in the 1870s and 1880s. Hawes had returned to this area after a temporary residency in Kerrville where he was mayor. Here he was a large landowner and a political leader. The double galleried home was purchased in 1944 by George Rust Hawes and his wife Emily Prasifka Hawes, the son and daughter-in-law of Edwin and Uzzie Milburn Rust Hawes. This two-story frame house is an example of center-passage, with Victorian and Classical Revival features.



O. Brooks-Foote house,
505 N. Houston St.

Located directly behind the Tom Brooks home on Houston street is the Brooks-Foote home. Tom, son of P.C. and Daisy Speed Brooks, built this house in 1917 and gave it to their daughter, Harriet and her husband A.H. Foote. It is a good example of 20th Century bungalow style, with two-bay L-shaped porch. The house is owned by the children of the late Horton Foote, who grew up in the house behind his grandparents' home on Richmond Road.

J.H. Speaker House,
414 E. Alabama St.

Susan Speaker purchased this lot and the adjoining lot in 1893 for \$550. This low cost indicates that the house was not present at that time. In 1907, J.H. Speaker acquired the western lot and is believed to have built the house. The property remained in the Speaker family until 1976. J.H. Speaker was a local black educator who taught in the segregated school in Wharton. At the time of construction, this house was in one of the two primary African-American neighborhoods. The J.H. Speaker House is a one-story frame L-plan dwelling



Hamilton House,
325 N. Richmond Road

A native of Ohio, Joseph Andrew Hamilton served in the Union army during the Civil War. In 1866 he settled in Wharton and held a variety of local political offices. Hamilton purchased this property in 1885 and moved his family into the existing one-story frame house. In 1907 the home was enlarged by raising the original structure and building a new addition underneath. The house features influences of the neo-classical style of architecture. The new addition is brick, and upper wooden floor is thought to have been constructed circa 1875.





**T.M. Neal home,
225 N. Richmond Road**

Now the site housing the Wharton Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, the home was built in 1912 by Dr. Thurman McCloud (T.M.) Neal and Mae Vineyard Neal. A doctor, farmer and rancher and civic leader and philanthropist, as a tribute to his wife, he donated the home when he died in 1962.



**Tom N. Brooks home,
516 N. Richmond Road**

This eclectic dwelling with five-bay porch was constructed circa 1915 by Tom Brooks, dry goods merchant. The house faces Richmond Road which carried traffic between Houston and Victoria through Wharton. The home, its residents and the daily events inspired the writings of Brooks' grandson, Horton Foote. The house sold in 1948 to the Brandl family. In 1998, Charles E. and Paulette Brandl-Roades restored the home to its former grandeur.



**Egypt Plantation,
11914 FM 102, Egypt**

An eight generation long legacy of Scottish and English ancestry can be felt at the Egypt Plantation in Egypt, Texas. Established in 1830, when W.J.E. Heard, purchased 2,200 acres from John C. Clark for \$111 in gold coins. Heard constructed a double pen, a log home for his family, salve housing, sugar cane, corn and cotton mills.

Sitting on the crossroad of commerce by river and road, the Northington family crossed the Heards' trails often. After becoming good family friends, the families merged in marriage as Heards' eldest daughter, Elizabeth married Mentor Northington. Producers of sugar cane, corn, cotton and pecans, the Heard-Northington plantation kept up with the market and even ventured into both the cattle and horse businesses. In a constantly changing world, the Egypt Plantation has persevered under the management and ownership of Bud and Mary Margaret Northington. The couple maintains the facility for tours and events.

Helping to Create Hope

The Crisis Center

Providing shelter and support to victims of family violence and sexual assault - both children and adults.

24-Hour Crisis Hotline 1-800-451-9235
116 E. Burlleson Street • Wharton, TX • 979-531-1300

Dan Rather

Dan Rather, the former news anchor for the CBS Evening News, is another native son of Wharton. He is now managing editor and anchor of the television news magazine Dan Rather Reports on the cable channel AXS TV.

Daniel Irvin “Dan” Rather Jr. was born here on Oct. 31, 1931 to Daniel Irvin Rather Sr. and his wife, the former Byrl Veda Page. His dad was working here in “the oil patch” when he was born. He spent the first six months of his life here and refers to Wharton as his hometown.

The home where Rather spent those first days of his life has been saved and restored. It sits on the grounds of the Wharton County Historical Museum, 3615 N. Richmond Road, and is available for tours.

Rather began his career in 1950 as an Associated Press reporter in Huntsville. Later, he was a reporter for United Press International from 1950-52, several Texas radio stations, and the *Houston Chronicle* from 1954 to 1955.

In 1959, he entered television as a reporter for KTRK-TV in Houston and was later promoted to director for KHOU-TV.

In early September 1961, Rather



Dan Rather visits with Whartonians at the Wharton County Historical Museum.

reported live from the Galveston Seawall as Hurricane Carla threatened the Texas coastline. This action, which has been imitated by

countless other reporters, impressed the network executives at CBS, and they hired him as a CBS News correspondent in 1962.

After serving as a foreign correspondent, he served as primary anchor for the CBS Sunday Night News while serving as White House correspondent during the Richard Nixon presidency.

After Nixon’s resignation, Rather took the assignment of chief correspondent for CBS News Special Reports. He later became a correspondent of the long-running Sunday night news show 60 Minutes.

There is also an exhibit set at the museum which recounts events in Rather’s life.

For more about Dan Rather, visit danrather.com.



The First State Bank

“Friendliest Bank Anywhere”



www.fsblouise.com

505 E Boling Hwy, Wharton, TX

(979) 532-0404

Member
FDIC

Horton Foote

An Academy Award winner and Pulitzer Prize recipient, Horton Foote immortalized Wharton and loved the community until the day he died on March 7, 2009 at age 92. He is buried in Wharton City Cemetery.

Foote is the dramatist who won Oscars for “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “Tender Mercies” and a Pulitzer Prize for his stage play “The Young Man From Atlanta.”

Known to work best during the night, he wrote his plays with a pencil on notebook paper to be transcribed later. The playwright left a legacy and body of works which may never be duplicated.

Foote was raised in a middle class, hard-working family. He was born here on March 14, 1916, the son of Wharton haberdasher Albert Horton Foote and the former Hallie Brooks.

His writing captures a unique era in the life of a small Texas town. His subject matter is those in that era trying to cope with everyday life and the twists and turns life brings.

Writers, it is said, are supposed to write about what they know. Foote drew upon everyday occurrences he heard as a child listening to his parents and grandparents talk.

When asked about his writing style, Foote is quoted to have said, “But I don’t really write to honor the past. I write to investigate, to try to figure out what happened and why it happened, knowing I’ll never really know. I think all the writers that I admire have this same desire, the desire to bring order out of chaos.”

Foote left Wharton by train and headed for Dallas at age 16 to pursue an acting career, but he carried with him the memories of his home. Wharton, with its pecan trees, its Victorian homes and the character of its residents, would become part of his plays and films.

He spent two years studying acting at Pasadena Playhouse in California. Then he headed to New York City “to make a name for himself as a Broadway star.” He continued his studies there with Tamara Daykaranova and joined Mary Hunter’s American Actors Company.

One of his assignments was to perform a one-act improvisational play based on the actor’s hometown. After performing his, Agnes DeMille, a choreographer, asked if he

had ever written anything.

His response was “no, what on earth would I write about?”

DeMille, who would become a lifelong friend, then gave him his best advice: “Write what you know about.”

The budding playwright went home and wrote a one-act play called “Wharton Dance” that night. It was about the Friday-night dances in his hometown. He wrote himself into the lead. The company performed the play in an evening of one-acts. Foote appeared in other plays he wrote and pursued his acting career.

During a visit home, he wrote another play. This time it was a three-act play, a drama set in a small-town drugstore. It was called “Texas Town.” The American Actors Company staged it in 1941. Foote again played the lead.

Brooks Atkinson, a critic for the *New York Times*, came to see it. He called it an “engrossing portrait of small-town life.”

His “The Trip to Bountiful” starred his friend Lillian Gish in live theater. In 1985, the movie was made and Geraldine Page received an Academy Award for best actress and Foote was nominated for the screenplay.

Another film success was “Baby, the Rain Must Fall” (1965), a reworking of Foote’s play “The Traveling Lady.” The film starred Steve McQueen, and much of it was shot in and around Wharton.

Foote wrote more than 60 plays, most of which are set in the fictional Texas town called Harrison. It’s a place where everybody knows everybody else’s name and business — just as they did when Foote was growing up in Wharton. His career spanned six decades.

He wrote “The Young Man From Atlanta” in the 1950s. It won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1995.

His home in Wharton still stands at 505 N. Houston St. It is part of the driving home tour offered in Wharton.



County, city, school information

(all area codes 979 unless otherwise indicated)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

All emergencies: Dial 9-1-1

Wharton County Sheriff's Dept.: 532-1550

Wharton Police Dept.: 532-3131

Wharton Fire Dept.: 532-4811, Ext. 400

Wharton EMS: 532-4811, Ext. 700

Department of Public Safety (Pierce): 532-1700

• Other helpful numbers

The Crisis Center: 531-1300

Family and Protective Services: 532-5310

Share: 282-2021

Salvation Army: 532-1550

Red Cross: 531-1128

WHARTON COUNTY

co.wharton.tx.us

Wharton County Annex

309 E. Milam St.

Wharton, Texas 77488

Phone: 532-4612

• Wharton County commissioners court

County Judge: Philip Spenrath, 532-4612

Commissioners

Precinct 1: Leroy E. Dettling, 532-1991

Precinct 2: Chris King, 335-7541

Precinct 3: Steven Goetsch, 543-0091

Precinct 4: Doug Mathews, 543-3561

• Other county officials

Sheriff: Jess Howell, 532-1550

District Attorney: Ross Kurtz, 532-8051

County Attorney: Trey Maffett, 532-2591

County Clerk: Sandy Sanders, 532-2381

District Clerk: Kendra Charbula, 532-5542

County Treasurer: Donna Thornton, 532-2971

County Tax Assessor-Collector: Patrick Kubala, 532-3312

County Auditor: Sharon Howard Boedecker, 532-2640

Elections administrator: Cindy Richter, 532-0193

Emergency management coordinator: Andy Kirkland, 532-1123

Veteran Services Officer: Don Montoya, 532-

1311

• Constables

Precinct 1: Michael Hubenak, 532-3941

Precinct 2: John Szymanski, 335-6210

Precinct 3: Shannon Srubar, 648-2022

Precinct 4: Shawn Ferguson, 543-1147

• Justices of the Peace

Precinct 1: Jeanette Krenek, 532-3941

Precinct 2: Cynthia Kubicek, 335-6210

Precinct 3: Dennis Korenek, 648-2363

Precinct 4: Timmy Drapela, 543-4322

329th District Court Judge: Randy Clapp, 532-1514

23rd District Court Judge: Ben Hardin, 864-1205

CITY OF WHARTON

cityofwharton.com

City Hall

120 E. Caney St.

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-2491

Fax: 532-0181

• City officials

City Manager: Andres Garza, Jr.

City Finance Director: Joan Anzel

City Secretary: Paula Favors

Director of Facilities Maintenance: Bob Baker

Public Works Director: Wade Wendt

Police Chief: Terry David Lynch

Fire Chief: Anthony Abbott

EMS Director: John Kowalik

• Other city departments

Wharton Economic Development Corp. Director: David Schroeder, 532-0999

Wharton Civic Center Director: Jessica Dunn, 532-4811, Ext. 600

Municipal Court: 532-4811, Ext. 532

• Wharton City Council

Mayor: Domingo Montalvo Jr.

District 1: Al Bryant

District 2: Steven Schneider

District 3: Tim Barker

District 4: Donald Mueller (mayor pro tem)

District 5 at-large: Russell Machann

District 6 at-large: Vincent Huerta

WHARTON COUNTY JR. COLLEGE

wcjc.edu

• **Wharton campus**

911 Boling Highway

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-4560

President: Betty McCrohan

Vice President of Administrative Services:

Bryce Kocian

Vice President of Technology and Institutional

Research: Pam Youngblood

Vice President of Student Services: David

Leenhouts

Dean of Financial and Business Services: Gus

Wessels Jr.

Vice President of Instruction: Leigh Ann Collins

Academic Dean: G.G. Hunt

• **WCJC Board of Trustees**

Chair: Danny Gertson, Position 7

Vice-chair: Gary Trochta, Position 2

Secretary: Monty Mericka, Position 6

Position 1: Lloyd Nelson

Position 3: Ann Hundl

Position 4: Amy Rod

Position 5: Merle Hudgins

Position 8: Oliver Kunkel Jr.

Position 9: Jack Moses

WHARTON ISD

whartonisd.net

Education Support Center

(Administration Building)

2100 N. Fulton St.

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-3612

Superintendent: Tina Herrington

Deputy Superintendent: Randy Meyer

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & In-

struction: Brian Yearwood

Assistant Superintendent of Finance: Randy Hill

Director of Operations: Steve Wernecke

Technology director: Sheri Ganske

Special programs director: Marci Brown

Special development director: Patricia Brown

Special services director: Kim Somer

Police chief: Landy Williams

Athletic director: Tim Finn

• **Wharton High School**

(Grades 9-12)

No. 1 Tiger Ave.

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-6800

Principal: Mark Anglin

Associate principal: Mollie Bodungen

Assistant principal: Alan Black

• **Wharton Junior High School**

(Grades 7-8)

1120 N. Rusk St.

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-6840

Principal: Tod Nix

Associate Principal: Jeannie Young

• **Wharton Elementary School**

(Grades 3-6)

2030 E. Boling Hwy.

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-6882

Principal: Keith Brooks

Assistant principal: Monica Rath

Assistant principal: Kim Moses

• **Sivells Elementary School**

(Grades PreK-2)

1605 Alabama Road

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 532-6866

Principal: Trishia Terrell

Assistant principal: Jim Smith

• **Wharton School Board**

President: Rachel Rust (Place 4)

Vice president: Michael Grissom (Place 1)

Secretary: Christine Stransky (Place 3)

Place 2: Garland Mann

Place 5: Sherrell Speer

Place 6: Wayne Taylor

Place 7: Curtis W. Evans

FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

wharton-fca.org

(infants to Grade 12)

Faith Christian Academy of Wharton

5227 FM 1301

Wharton, TX 77488

Phone: 531-1000

Email: fcawharton@gmail.org

Administrator: Sandra Allen

Assistant Administrator: Diana Gajewsky



Chamber of Commerce

Business Directory

Accountants-Certified-Public & Tax Service

Dobbins & Sheek, CPAs, LLC
300 W. Burselson St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4852

P.W. Stephenson & Company PC
1609 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5964

Agriculture

Bagley Pecan House
902 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2791

Caney Valley Cotton Company
2203 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5210

Central Turf
1238 County Road 107
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 657-1122

Coastal Warehouse
602 N. Sunset
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8550

Maxim Production Company, Inc.
580 Maxim Drive
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-2891

Moses Gin Inc.
209 N. Cloud
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3522

Northington Ranch Corp.
135 Egypt Cemetary
Egypt, TX 77436
(979) 532-3883

Pierce Ranch
354 Barrio Road
Pierce, TX 77467
(979) 532-4250

Wharton Tractor Company
1007 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3172

Wittig Grass Sales, LLC
6913 FM 1096
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-4496

Aircraft Charter-Rental & Leasing

Silver Star Helicopters LLC
1201 Chapel Lane
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 541-9823

Antiques

Bohemian Rhapsody II
134 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5577

Burr Trading Company
411 CR 123
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 453-0860

Glen Flora Emporium
103 S. Bridge Ave.
Glen Flora, TX 77443
(979) 677-3249

J.T.'s This & That
232 Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0977

Nonna's Emporium & Tea Room
232 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-3103

Miss Hattie's Place
129 S. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1175

Polak Petals
365 Main St.
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 335-4444

Apartments

Morning Star Apartments
1520 Barfield Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4007

River Bend Apartments
2500 Junior College Blvd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5453

Sweetwater Apartments
200 McElroy Avenue #8
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2001

University Place Apts./Pecan Village
310 University St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0241

Art Galleries & Graphic Arts**Montgomery Gallery & Frame**

110 S. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3929

The Painted Poodle Art Studio

816 Olive St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 943-8400

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(979) 532-5500

Paul Webb, Attorney at Law

221 N Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5331

**Wadler, Perches, Hundl & Kerlick,
Attorneys at Law**

101 West Burleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3871

Automobile Dealers**Don Davis Motor Company, Inc.**

2011 N. Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3291

Don Elliott Autoworld

1225 N. Richmond
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2150

Von-Wil Ford

316 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4360

**Automobile Parts,
Repairs & Service****Big G Auto**

2313 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2080

Caney Auto Service

607 FM 102
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4160

Pekar's Body Shop

2720 N. Richmond Road

Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5805

Star Parts

1119 E. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1500

Wharton Auto & Truck Parts (Napa)

1739 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4510

Banks & Banking Associations**Capital One**

323 E. Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8961

Community Bank of Texas

1610 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2555

New First National

101 E. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1650

Prosperity Bank - Wharton

143 W. Burleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2000

Texasgulf Federal Credit Union

2101 N. Fulton Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2300

The First State Bank

505 E. Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0404

Woodforest National Bank

1255 U.S. 59 Loop
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-8680

Beauty Salons**Healthy Touch Knead to Relax**

110 S. Resident
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8881

Boutiques & Specialty Shops**Denise's Alterations & Things**

223 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0816

K&D Design

206 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3250

Selections on the Square

104 S. Houston St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0877

Boutiques & Specialty Shops Cont.**The Screen Stop**

109 W. Jackson
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 578-0465

TNT Western Wear Inc.

3030 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-8623

Carpet Cleaning**Duraclean**

17108 County Road 278
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 335-4375

Caterers**Hinze's Bar-B-Que**

1917 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2710

Great Western Dining

911 Boling Highway
Wharton, TX, 77488
(903) 327-5189

Mrs. T's Kitchen

608 CR 243
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5798

Child Development & Day Care**Child Development Center**

507 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1462

Small Blessings Child Care Center

1717 Pioneer Ave.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1100

Churches**Abundant Life Wharton**

121 E. Ahldag
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2916

Caney Creek Church

128 W. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2533

First Baptist Church

507 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4295

First Presbyterian Church

1602 John Knox Street
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3375

First United Methodist Church

1717 Pioneer
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1100

Grace Community Fellowship

1900 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3999

Holy Family Catholic Church

2011 Briar Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3593

Iago Federated Church

135 FM 1096
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-2466

Peace Tabernacle UPC of Wharton

1416 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(409) 599-7501

St. John's Lutheran Church

614 Pecan St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2336

St. Paul Lutheran Church

325 N. East Avenue
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2315

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

1717 Pioneer Ave.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1723

Cleaners**Lone Star Cleaners**

1309 N. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8500

Clinics & Medical Groups**Memorial Hermann Medical Group**

2100 Regional Medical Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1700

Stephen J. Ringle, M.D., P.A.

2022 Regional Medical Drive, Ste. 1319
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2786

Nephrology Leaders and associates, PLLC

205 Alabama Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1822

Clubs-Country & Tennis**Wharton Country Club**

126 Country Club Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5940

Coffee Shops**Glory Bean Coffee Company**

637 Main St.
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 335-4477

Wall2Wall Words/Milam Street Coffee

200 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-9771

Collection Agencies

McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C.
P.O. Box 469
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8089

**Communications, Consultants
Telecommunications**

Computer Center & Radio Shack
119 North Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-1949

Tec-Tronic Systems
423 E. Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0011

Concrete

Alamo Concrete
193 CR 216
Bay City, TX 77404
(979) 532-1962

**Construction Companies,
General Contractors, Industrial**

Brothers Custom Works
PO Box 249
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 532-2250

Exuma Construction & Development LLC
1111 Swallow Circle
Sugarland, TX 77478
(979) 250-6224

Hinton's A&G Construction
1218 CR 232
Wharton, TX 77488
(713) 906-0290

Zachry Group
3603 S. State Hwy. 60
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 636-5100

Consulting

Kapeesh Creative Marketing & Design
414 Blanche St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(713) 570-6603

Convenience Stores

Cracker Barrel Partnership
16107 Kensington Dr. Ste. 105
Sugar Land, TX 77479
(979) 282-2773

Love's Travel Stops
US 59 FM 1161 Walnut St.
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 463-8069

Counseling

Crisis Center
116 E. Burleson St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 245-9109

Great Oaks Recovery Center
11210 FM 102
Egypt, TX 77436
(979) 677-1000

Straightway
FM 1161 W.
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 532-5613

Therapy Solutions 4U, PLLC
1114 N. Fulton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8100

Victory in Jesus Recovery Center
218 N. Houston St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2319

Dentists, Dental Care & Labs

Boehm Dental, PLLC
808 North Fulton Street
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4400

David Tripulas, DDS
1016 Sunny Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4663

Dental Clinic
1506-E N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8110

J.R. Kieler, Jr., DDS
1016 Sunny Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3636

Directories

Yellowbook
6803 N. Navarro St., Apt. 168
Victoria, TX 77904
(832) 423-7141

Drug Store, Pharmacy

Savon Drugs
123 Leveridge Road
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 335-4810

**Electrical Equipment
& Supplies**

Barbee Services
401 E. Caney St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4570

H&M Electrical Services
220 Maude St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1204

Emergency Medical Services

St. Christina's EMS
222 W. Burleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 559-2961

Employment Agencies

Workforce Solutions
1506 N. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-0730

Engineers-Civil, Mechanical, Environmental & Consulting

Half & Associates
4707 FM 3012 Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-8683

Jones & Carter, Inc.
6335 Gulfton Ste. 100
Houston, TX 77081
(713) 777-5337

Terracon
11555 Clay Road
Houston, TX 77043
(713) 690-8989

Events

James Simmons Jr. Juneteenth Committee
1709 Forrest Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-1070

Farms & Ranches, Commercial & Residential

Central Turf
1238 County Road 107
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 657-1122

Foggy Hollow Ranch
5911 CR 225
Wharton, TX 77488
(281) 381-4311

Wharton Ranch
6250 County Road 156
Wharton, TX 77488
(512) 658-6788

Feed Store

Wharton Feed & Supply
1105 N. Fulton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8533

Financial & Financial Advisors

Edward Jones Investments
128 S. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1282

Fire Departments

Hungerford Vol. Fire Dept.
P.O. Box 416
Hungerford, TX 77488
(979) 532-0539

Wharton Volunteer Fire Dept.
319 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4811

Florist

Flowers It Is
2521 CR 132
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-3449

Flower Shoppe
420 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8620

Foundations

Mary Louise Dobson Foundation
622 Lakeshore Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-7000

Funeral Homes

Gooden Hatton Funeral Home
110 N. East Avenue
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3602

Wharton Funeral Home
515 E. Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3410

Furniture

Franklin Furniture Company
7397 US 59 Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2631

Mattress Discounters of Texas
228 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(210) 326-3177

Grocery Stores

H-E-B Food Store
1616 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2773

Wharton Walmart Supercenter
10388 U.S. 59 N.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3986

Gun Shops

Wharton Guns & Gear
247 W. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-3100

Gym & Fitness

Anytime Fitness
2407 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-9000

Hall Rental

CUFN an Caring and Snow Cone Stand
110 South Ford
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 453-0740

Egypt Plantation Enterprises, LLC
P.O. Box 219
Egypt, TX 77448
(979) 533-0096

Simply Divine Event Center
314 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(832) 279-5850

The Orchard at Caney Creek
923 County Road 235
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5856

Health Centers & Equipment

Girling Health Care, Inc./Wharton
1614 N. Alabama Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8822

TEXANA MHMR Center
4910 Airport Ave. Bldg. D
Rosenberg, TX 77471-5759
(281) 342-9387

Heating & Air Conditioning Distributors, Eqpt. & Repairs

Eldridge Air Conditioning & Heating
1929 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8150

Faust Air Conditioning & Heating
212 N. Richmond
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2511

Roberson Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
200 E. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5101

Home Health

Angels Care Home Health
315 N. Alabama Road Ste. A
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2629

National Senior Care Home Health Services
6150 Richmond Ave. #214
Wharton, TX 77488
(832) 712-3799

Home Improvement/Generator Installation

Starbrite Generator & Control Services, LLC
1150 Kloecher Road
Sealy, TX 77474
(979) 885-6232

Hospitals

Gulf Coast Medical Center
10141 U.S. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-6100

Hotels & Motels

Country Hearth Inn
1808 FM 102
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1152

Express Inn LLC
2393 FM 102
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 488-9440

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
10247 Highway 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8300

Tee Pee Motel & RV Park
4098 E. Business Highway 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8474

Travelers Inn & Suites
1527 N. Richmond
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0740

Humane Society

Wharton County S.P.O.T.
PO Box 584
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 332-1853

Insurance

Bremser Insurance Agency
211 W. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1586

Charles Chambers Insurance
415 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4572

Hank Hall State Farm
727 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5151

InsuranceNet, Inc.
101 W. Caney
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1011

Insurance Cont.**Kerlick's Farmers Insurance**

1317 N. Alabama Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2820

Schulz Insurance Agency

1316 N. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0021

Siska Life & Health Insurance

1423 N. Rusk St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-1350

Wharton County Farm Bureau

120 N. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2852

Investment Counselors**K-Mana, Inc.**

PO Box 588
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-7000

Jewelers**Tyler's Jewelry & Pawn**

2310 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0971

Landscape Architects**Total Outdoor Solutions, LLC**

1825 Foote St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 559-6027

Lawn & Garden Services**El Campo Spraying Inc.**

2601 N. Mechanic St.
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-7811

Liquor Stores**Louie's Package Store**

2005 Highway 60 South
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2378

Kuntry Daiquiris

1731 N. Richmond Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1440

Lumber**Zarsky Lumber Company, Inc.**

1106 N. Richmond Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2574

Machine Shops**Koenig Welding Service, Inc.**

2305 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4161

**Manufacturing-Manufacturers
Representatives****Dorian Tool International, Inc.**

615 CR 219
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 282-2861

Drawworks, L.P.

10555 FM 1301
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-1216

J-M Manufacturing

10807 U.S. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5640

Lamberti USA, Inc.

140 CR 212
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 532-8453

Prime Eco Group, Inc.

2933 Hwy. 60
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1100

Marketing**Kapeesh Creative Marketing & Design**

414 Blanche St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(713) 570-6603

Motorcycle Dealers**El Campo Cycle Center**

28268 US Highway 59
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-8442

Museums**20th Century Technology Museum**

3615 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8810

Egypt Plantation Enterprises, LLC

P.O. Box 219
Egypt, TX 77448
(979) 533-0096

Wharton County Historical Museum

3615 N. Richmond Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2600

Newspapers**Wharton Journal-Spectator**

115 W. Bursleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8840

Nurseries**DSG Nursery**

1201 S. Mechanic
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-7333

Nursing Homes**Avalon Place**

1405 Valhalla Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1244

Elmcroft

1930 Briar Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5800

Wharton Nursing & Rehabilitation

1220 Sunny Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5020

Oil Distributors**South Texas Oil & Distributing**

409 W. Loop St.
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-1791

**Optical, Optometrists,
Opticians & Optical Labs****Berkeley Eye Center-Wharton**

1120 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0805

Organizations**100 Club of Wharton County**

P.O. Box 46
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-1040

American Cancer Society

4401 Lilac Lane
Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 578-2840

Boys & Girls Club of Wharton

2220 N. Newton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-9660

East Wharton County Crime Stoppers

1407 N. Richmond Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-3262

Fraternal Order of Eagles #4507

PO Box 386
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-2835

**Habitat for Humanity East Wharton
County**

613 Boling Green
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4850

Hospice Support, Inc.

PO Box 1417
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 578-0314

Just Do It Now, Inc.

1619 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1975

Pilot Club of Wharton

P.O. Box 963
Wharton, TX 77488

Rotary Club of Wharton

P.O. Box 303
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2636

Team Wharton, Inc.

P.O. Box 588
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-7000

United Way

2417 Ave. G
Bay City, TX 77404
(979) 245-5852

Wharton County Freedom Fest, Inc.

1225 N. Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0927

Wharton County Interfaith Coalition

229 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2021

Wharton County Youth Fair

6036 FM 960 Rd.
Glen Flora, TX 77443
(979) 677-3350

Wharton Garden Club

1407 CR 231
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3523

Wharton Knights of Columbus

2820 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2218

Wharton Lions Club

P.O. Box 106
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4532

Wharton Little League

P.O. Box 1106
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 943-8605

**Wharton Training High School &
Ex-Students Association**

PO Box 1131
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0916

Party**Moonwalks-N-More, LLC**

1610 Stadium Dr.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 488-4784

Pest Control Services**Bricker Pest Control**

1400 Elm St.
Bay City, TX 77414
(979) 244-5811

BUGABUG

1117 Tobola
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 344-8266

Photography

KGibson Photography
7415 E.M. 1301
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-1409

Sharon Joines Photographs

822 Caney Trail Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2636

Plastic Molding

Nan Ya Plastics Corporation.USA
2081 FM 102 Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(281) 727-7300

Plumbing & Portable Toilets

ALLStar
4828 S. U.S. 71
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-1500

Rath Plumbing
216 N. Richmond Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0223

**Printers, Publishers,
Typesetters & Graphics**

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Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5240

Lawton Publications
4111 East Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99202
(214) 717-0471

Real Estate

C.E. Mueggel Real Estate
213 N. Richmond
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5252

Coldwell Banker
2618 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1013

Hudgins Groover Real Estate
120 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0007

Wied Realty
102 S. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 543-2266

Real Estate Appraisers

Gary Ward Appraisal Services
P.O. Box 1276
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-8190

R.C. Harrison, Jr., Realtors
108 Santa Fe
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8000

**Real Estate Developers
& Investors**

Carlson Development Company
P.O. Box 886
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8787

LL & C Properties, Inc.
2211 Norfolk Ste. 1030
Houston, TX 77098
(713) 881-7777

W.A. Harrison Rentals
1122 FM 102
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1012

Wakefield Development, LLC
3360 CR 154
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8650

Wharton Industrial Foundation
1610 North Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2631

Recreation

El Campo Bowling Center
806 West Loop
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-9999

Moonwalks-N-More
1810 Stadium Drive
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 488-4908

Natural Horisun Family Nudist Park
11715 FM 442 Road
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-3061

Plaza Theatre
120 S. Houston St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1084

Showplace 3 Cinema
1004 W. Loop St.
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-8182

Recycle

Top Price Recycle
426 Croom St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 257-9452

Restaurants

9ers Grill
112 W. Boling Hwy
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2025

Restaurants Cont.**Denny's #8588**

10367 Hwy. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3200

Dominos Pizza

309 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-9600

Evelyn's Soulfood 59

8007 FM 1161 W.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 414-3468

Grand Buffet

125 E. Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1998

Hinze's Bar-B-Que

1917 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2710

Jr.'s Texas Best Smokehouse

164 CR 467
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-0888

Little Caesar's

1422 A N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-3038

Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant

211 W. Elm
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1961

McDonald's

1404 Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8884

Nonna's Emporium & Tea Room

246 W. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-3103

Pizza Hut

302 N. Richmond Rd
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1692

Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse, Inc.

29714 US 59 Hwy
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-8312

Sonic Drive In-Wharton

120 W. Boling HWY
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1611

Taste Woods Bar B-Q

1925 Regional Medical Dr.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8833

Vincek's Smokehouse

139 S. Dill
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 335-7921

Whataburger

1120 Hwy 59 N.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1208

Roofing**First Call Roofing Systems**

606 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2625

Priority Roofing and Construction

802 Clubside Dr.
East Bernard, TX 77435
(979) 559-7281

Waterproof Roofing

P.O. Box 482
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 253-4414

Weather Guard Roofing

708 E. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0928

RV Sales & Service**Fun Town RV**

6767 U.S. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 271-3400

Sanitation**WCA Management Company, LP**

8515 U.S. 6 S.
Houston, TX 77083
(281) 210-6185

Schools, Colleges & Education**Faith Christian Academy of Wharton**

5227 FM 1301
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-1000

Taps & Mats Dance Studio

1109 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-0602

Wharton County Junior College

911 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4560

Wharton I.S.D.

2100 N. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-6201

Signs, Trophies, Plaques**Custom Creations**

202 N. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-0000

Storage Facilities - Rentals**City-Wide Storage**

808 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3823

My Storehouse Mini Storage

1727 Stadium Dr.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4422

Surveyors**K M Surveying, LLC**

3902A Reese Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(713) 806-1814

Robert Kolacny & Associates, LLC

140 S. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8056

Television-Cable**NewWave Communications**

1302 Wisteria Way
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 532-3920

Theaters**Showplace 3 Cinema, Inc.**

820 West Loop
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-8152

Plaza Theatre

120 S. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2226

Tire Dealers**Gensco Kross Wholesale Tire Co., Inc.**

102 Hawes Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-4800

Strouhal Tire Recapping Plant

Hwy. 59
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 532-1579

Title Companies**Coastal Title Company**

104-A West Main Street
Edna, TX 77957
(979) 532-9900

Mid-Coast Title Company

111 N. Fulton St.

Wharton, TX 77488

(979) 532-1512

Toys & Retail**Dale Pinson Farm Toy Store**

1406 Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 358-0783

Transportation**Sacred Care Transportation**

222 W. Bursleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 559-2961

Utilities**CenterPoint Energy Houston**

13300 W. Bellfort
Houston, TX 77099
(281) 341-4920

Exelon Colorado Bend Power Plant

3863 S. U.S. 60
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 398-1415

Fox Smolen & Associates

1701 Nueces Street
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 322-9090

Wharton County Electric Cooperative

1818 E. Jackson
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-6271

Wharton County Generation - New**Gulf Power Plant**

206 Vat Rd.
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-0343

Veterinarians**Alamont Veterinary Clinic**

1907 E. Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5569

Wharton Veterinary Clinic

1518 Highway 60 South
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1431

Web Design**WebUnlimited**

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College Station, TX 77845
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