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2015 Visitors & Newcomers Guide

WHARTON
Chamber of Commerce

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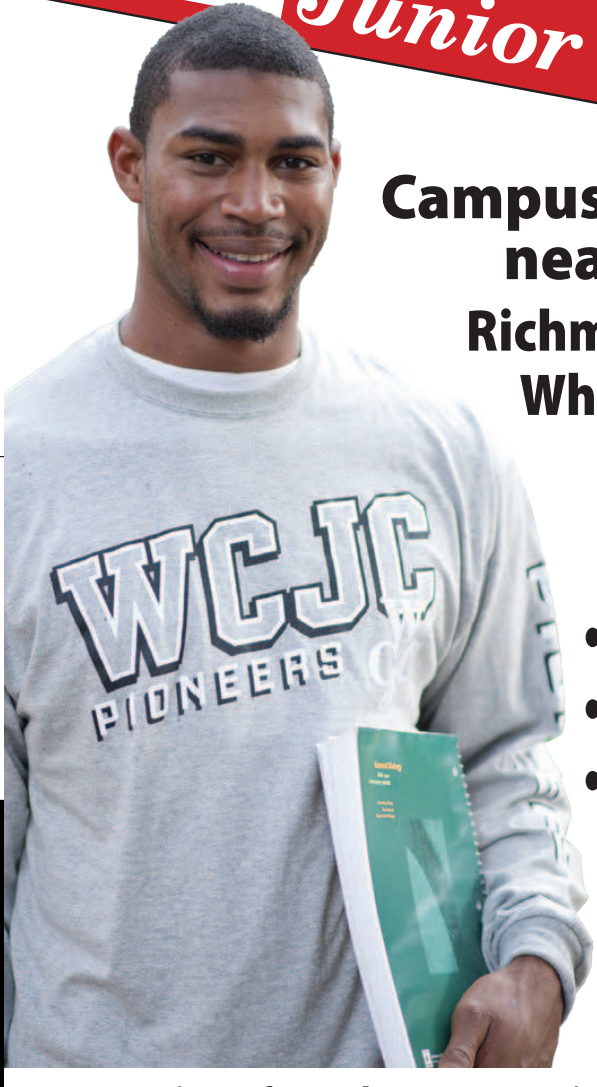

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Welcome to Wharton!

You're very special. We love to have company visit, 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've welcomed visitors since before Texas was a Republic, much less a state. 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 Downtown Square.

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 enjoy your stay. We feel sure the people you meet will make you want to come back soon.

Ron Sanders
Executive Director
Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

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The Wharton County Courthouse on Monterey Square

Visitors & Newcomers Guide 2015

Contributors

Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
Ron Sanders
Kim Peikert • Makyla Monroe

Wharton Journal-Spectator
Bill Wallace • Keith Magee
Burlon Parsons • Jessica Dunn
Tiffany Zapalac • Natalie Frels

Wharton Visitors & Newcomers Guide is an annual publication of the Wharton Chamber of Commerce 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 Wharton Chamber of Commerce at 979-532-1862.

Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
225 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: 979-532-1862
Fax: 979-532-0102
Email: admin@whartonchamber.com
whartonchamber.com

Wharton Journal-Spectator
111 W. Burleson St.
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: 979-532-8840
Fax: 979-532-8845
Email: news@journal-spectator.com
journal-spectator.com

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 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 known 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.

2015 calendar of events

• Jan. 17: MLK Freedom March, Monterey Square to Just Do it Now
• Jan. 17: Boling Fire Dept. Dinner Banquet and Dance, Boling Community Center
• Jan. 28: Pilot Club Chili Supper, KC Hall
• Feb. 17: Wharton County Business Expo/Job Fair, El Campo Civic Center
• Feb. 13-14: Build a Bouquet Valentine's Day, Monterey Square
• March 5: Lions Club Annual Pancake Supper, Wharton Civic Center
• March 6-7: Knights of Columbus Annual Cookoff, KC Hall
• March 19: Wharton Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Wharton Civic Center
• March 26: 100 Club Cookoff, Crescent Fairgrounds
• March 28: Chocolate Walk Easter Sale-$200 Shopping Spree, Monterey Square
• April 17-18: Wharton County Youth Fair BBQ Cookoff
• April 25-May 2: Wharton County Youth Fair
• May 9: Mother's Day Sale, Monterey Square
• May 16: Wharton County Freedom Fest, downtown Wharton
• May 30: Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament, Wharton Country Club
• June 13: Juneteenth Celebration, downtown Wharton
• June 13: 25th Annual Kolache-Klobase Festival, East Bernard
• June 19-20: Sixth Annual Citywide Garage Sale
• August, TBA: Wharton County Football Coaches Luncheon
• Oct. 10: Sixth Annual Wine & Arts Fair, Monterey Square
• Oct. 17 (tentative): Wharton Chamber Golf Tournament, Wharton Country Club
• Nov. 24: Wharton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Parade, downtown Wharton
• Nov. 26: Wharton Feast of Sharing, Holy Family Catholic Church's Family Life Center
• Nov. 28: Small Business Saturday
• Dec. 4, 11, 18: Friday Night Lights on Monterey Square
• Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Java Jam, Milam Street Coffee Shop

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 annual Freedom Fest is an "old-fashioned, family friendly good time."

The festival was previously held the weekend prior to the Fourth of July, but beginning last year, committee members decided to move the event to the spring to beat the heat. May was chosen for the new date since it's a cooler time of the year and can coincide with Memorial Day. The 2015 festival has been set for Saturday, May 16.

The one-day event in downtown Wharton features dozens of vendors, live music, a bocce ball tournament, a barbecue cookoff and, if you are willing to get your hands dirty, lots of boiled crawfish hosted by H-E-B.

For the comfort of guests, new additions to the festival setup last year was an outdoor dining area, hands-free hand washing stations, not to mention restrooms trailers with air-conditioning.

Fulton Street hosts an area just for kids featuring bouncy houses provided by Moonwalks-N-More, a rock wall for climbing and more.

Just a block from the action, the Open Car Show at Guffey Park features 34 categories and gives 55 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.

The finale of last year's festival featured the Patriotic Laser Show, a first for the city of Wharton. Presented by Laser Spectacles Inc., the show featured patriotic music with smoke machines and 16 lasers set up to project graphics on the courthouse and audience.

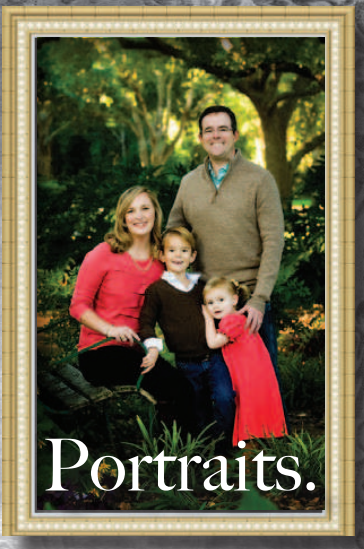
"We are just trying to do something different and bring something new," organizer Susan Freese said.

The Veterans' Salute is a big part of the Wharton County Freedom Fest. This year's event is set for Saturday, May 16 in downtown Wharton.

Though Freedom Fest promises fun, it's still for the same 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.

"It's just one day when we try to get the family to come out and enjoy downtown Wharton and honor our veterans," Freese said. "Get to know your neighbors and salute a veteran."

For updated information, check out whartonfreedomfest.org.



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Wharton County Juneteeth Festival

Music is a big part of the James Simmons Jr. Wharton County Juneteeth Festival.

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

Last year's festival attracted an estimated 15,000 people at the event, and festival-goers keep wondering how the event will be topped the next 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 Proclamation 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 13 on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton.

The event opens at 9 a.m. and 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 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 drink at the Milam Street Coffee Shop on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton.

Doc Blakely

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; Bill Havins, guitar, retired from Santa Fe Railroad; 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 event 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 third Friday of the month, while the November show may be moved to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday.

Acts lined up so far for 2015 are:

- Jan 16: The Austin Colony Band, 5 piece, Bluegrass
- Feb 27: Todd Janik, solo, from The Washers
- March 27: Duke Davis and The Pep Steppers, trio, western and jazz
- April 24: Mike Gallo, solo, light rock
- May 22: Dave Roland Duo, Western & Fiddle Tunes
- June 26: Pat Gavin & The Buckaroos, 5 piece, Old West
- July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27: to be announced

There usually isn't a regular show planned in December, but the Java Jam Band normally has a New Year's Eve show at 7 p.m. Dec. 31.

For more information, call the Milam Street Coffee Shop at 282-9771 or visit milamstcoffee.com.

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Monterey Square Wine & Arts Fair

There's a lot of art on display, as well as wine and beer sampling and live music.

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 of sipping, strolling and shopping.

Begun in 2009, the event is sponsored by the downtown merchants, Wharton Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and Plaza's Monterey Square 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.

Art is another feature of the festival. Local artists display their work in several sites, with the Parsons Art Group 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.

There is no charge to attend the fair, though anyone wishing to participate in the wine sampling must pay a minimal admission fee.

For more information, visit montereysquarewinefair.com.

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 Tee Pee Motel, one of Wharton's famous landmarks, 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 due to 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 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.

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

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

The Plaza Theatre

Debbie Cenko, left, and Russell Kacer act out a scene during *A Tuna Christmas*, the first production of the 2014-15 season at the Plaza Theatre.

The Plaza Theatre on Monterey Square in downtown Wharton will kick off the 2015 calendar year with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a musical comedy. It's the second of five productions from the 2014-15 season.

The 2015-16 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:

• ***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*** **(Feb. 13 to Feb. 22):** This celebration of the mating game takes on the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as "the relationship." Act I explores the journey from dating and waiting to love and marriage, while Act II reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws and newborns, trips in the family car and pick-up techniques of the geriatric set. This hilarious revue pays tribute to those who have loved and lost, to those who have fallen on their faces at the portal of romance, and to those who have dared to ask, "Say, what are you doing Saturday night?"

• ***Picnic*** **(April 24 to May 3):** The play takes place on Labor Day weekend in the backyards of two middle-aged widows. One house belongs to Flo Owens, who lives there with her daughters, Madge and Millie, and a boarder who is a spinster schoolteacher. The other belongs to Helen Potts, who lives with her elderly, invalid mother. Into this female atmosphere comes a young man named Hal Carter, whose animal vitality seriously upsets the entire group. Hal, a child of parents who ignored him, is self-conscious about his failings. Flo is wary of temptations for her daughters. Madge, bored with being only a beauty, sacrifices her chances for a wealthy marriage for the excitement Hal promises. Teenaged Millie finds her balance for the first time through the stranger's brief attention. And the spinster is stirred to make changes in the dangling courtship that has brightened her life.

• **Litefooter Summer Youth Production (June 25 to June 28):** Every summer, basic stagecraft and theatre discipline is taught to youngsters age 5 through 16 during the Litefooter Summer Youth Workshop. The work-

shop culminates in a major production on the Plaza's main stage during the last weekend in June. 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.

• ***Annie Get Your Gun*** **(July 31 to Aug. 16):** Annie Oakley is the best shot around, and she manages to support her little brother and sisters by selling the game she hunts. When she's discovered by Col. Buffalo Bill Cody, he persuades this novel sharpshooter to join his Wild West Show. It only takes one glance for her to fall head over heels for the show's headliner, dashing shooting ace Frank Butler. She soon eclipses Butler as the main attraction which, while good for business, is bad for romance. Butler hightails it off to join a rival show, his bruised male ego leading the way, but is ultimately pitted against Annie in a final shoot-out.

■

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 "Footeliters" in recognition of famed theater and film writer Horton Foote, a native Whartonian.

The mainstay entertainment at the Plaza is live theater, with the Footeliters 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 rebuilt 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 and it was just a sad thing to see," Board President Candyce Byrne said.

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 last year 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 282-2226 or visit whartonplazatheatre.org.

Wharton County museums

What do a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, a Medal of Honor recipient and a one-of-a-kind airplane all have in common? They can be found right here in Wharton — under the same roof.

The Wharton County Historical Museum and the 20th Century Technology Museum merged recently to offer a host of fascinating exhibits for the benefit of the public. Both museums are housed at a facility on North Richmond Road, on the edge of town near the Tee Pee Motel.

The historical museum traces the careers and lives of such local notables as Horton Foote, a Wharton native who would win a Pulitzer Prize and a pair of Academy Awards for his plays; and 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.

The museum further contains exhibits on the area's rich law enforcement history, 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.

The VariEze airplane sign was relocated to the museum in 2014.

One of the most popular areas is the trophy game room, which displays an impressive collection of giraffes, tigers, bears and other trophies obtained by Marshall Johnson during his lifespan. The building at one time was inhabited by Johnson and his wife, Lillie, and was donated to the museum in 1990.

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

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 artifacts that trace technological advancement 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. One of these — the Ornithopter — is suspended by cables from the museum's roof.

Both museums are free of charge and are open to the public 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 location is 3615 N. Richmond Road.

For more information, call 979-532-2600 or visit the websites: whartoncountyhistoricalmuseum.com or 20thcenturytech.com

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The Morris Carriage House

It's only been a few generations back that 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 CR 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 include the carriage used by Vivien Leigh in the movie *Gone With the Wind*.

Restored carriages are displayed in the Stewart Ranch Carriage House.

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 CR 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 more information, contact Tally Ho Enterprises LLC, 2110 CR 117, Wharton TX 77488; call 979-532-0101, email smjranch@stewart.com or visit tallyhollc.com.

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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, bell 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 the with the changes and he referred to it as "the Sulphur Block" because it was painted yellow.

The courthouse during the holidays.

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 popular 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 supposed to be completed in December of 2005, but was actually completed in July 2007.

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 Hallettesville 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*.

Wharton area one-day trips

There's plenty of ways to spend a day right here in Wharton. Here are three different day trips, each designed to highlight the area's sites in a matter of hours.

TRIP A

9:30 a.m. - Downtown Wharton

Visit Monterey Square, with its antique shops, coffee house, gift stores and the exquisite, historically-restored Wharton County Courthouse. Built in 1889, the courthouse was designed by noted architect Eugene Heiner and was brought back to its original glory in 2007 at a cost of $7.4 million.

The east side of the square is called the Burger Block, and includes the Burger and Robertson Building, constructed in 1909, and the W. Roberts Building, constructed in 1919.

Don't miss the murals. There's 9 of them gracing the sides of many downtown buildings. Completed by Texas artist Dayton Wodrich, they detail the county's rich agricultural, religious and medicinal history.

Noon - Lunch Time

There's a host of restaurants in the city, including some in the downtown area. For those craving some Tex-Mex, try Cuevos Mexican Restaurant, Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant or Larry's Mexican Restaurant, all in the downtown area or nearby.

1:30 p.m. - Morris Ranch Carriage House Museum

Among the meticulously restored and maintained carriages is the one that carried Vivien Leigh in the movie, *Gone With the Wind*. Call ahead to make an appointment: 979-532-0101. The museum is located at 2110 CR 117, east of the city.

3 p.m. - Back to town

For a late afternoon pick-me-up, try a specialty frappe or an iced tea at Milam Street Coffee (the kids might enjoy a scoop of Blue Bell Ice Cream). There's plenty of benches around Monterey Square to enjoy the scenery; or, if the weather is uncooperative, stay inside at the coffee house and visit with friends and strangers alike while enjoying their flat screen TV or using their WiFi to get online.

TRIP B

9:30 a.m. - Southern Pacific Railroad Depot

Located at Sunset and Milam streets, the depot was recently restored at a cost of more than $1 million. Originally built in 1912, it served as a social and transportation center for Wharton. The depot sits on the "Macaroni Line," named in honor of the 1,200 Italians who helped build the track for the New York, Texas & Mexican Railroad in 1882.

While in the area, check out Moses Gin and a mural entitled "Cotton - From Pickin to Ginnin." To arrange a tour of the still operational gin, call 979-532-3522.

Noon - Lunch Time

Take your pick. If you're in the mood for Texas barbecue, try Hinze's on Richmond Road or Taste Woods off FM 102, near the hospital. For seafood, there's Wharton Seafood on Richmond Road. For a little of everything (including delicious homestyle hamburgers), visit 9er's Restaurant at the corner of Boling Highway and Fulton Street.

1:30 p.m. - Wharton County Historical Museum/20th Century Technology Museum

Recently combined, these two museums display a treasure trove of artifacts detailing not only the county's history but the development of technology over the last century. At the historical museum,

check out exhibits on Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Horton Foote, newsman Dan Rather, and Medal of Honor recipient and El Campo native Roy Benavidez. Don't forget to check out the trophy game room, which displays a dazzling array of mounted animals from across the globe, and an elaborate doll display.

At the technology museum check out the aviation displays as well as exhibits on radios, computers, toys, cameras and a host of other items. The museum is the creation of Wharton residents Art and Sharon Schulze.

3 p.m. - Rest Stop

While at the museum, venture outdoors for a relaxing stroll around the facility's grounds, including a look at the cactus garden.

TRIP C

9:30 a.m. - Cattle Country

Check out the countryside and the unique Brahman cattle that graze in these parts by taking a drive on Texas 60 north of Hungerford, or FM 1161 east of Hungerford. The trip on Texas 60 will bring you to East Bernard, which has shops and sites of its own.

11 a.m. - Glen Flora

Visit the antique shops on the main drag, off FM 102, north of Wharton. A few more miles down FM 102 brings you to Egypt, home of the Northington Plantation.

Noon - Lunch Time

Take U.S. 59 and drive 20 minutes south to El Campo. Lots of restaurants there and plenty of new sites to see.

1:30 p.m. - El Campo museums

There's the El Campo Museum of Natural History (located in the El Campo Civic Center, 2350 N. Mechanic) and the Danevang Cultural Center, Texas 71 at CR 426.

3 p.m. - Rest Period

There are several parks in El Campo in which to kick up your feet, sit back and watch the clouds pass by overhead.

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Wharton Civic Center

Need to plan a big event like a wedding reception, anniversary bash or a corporate retreat and training session but unwilling to fight the traffic or pay the high prices found in bigger cities? Then check out the Wharton Civic Center, the perfect location for your event, large or small.

The center is conveniently located away from heavily-traveled main roads but still easy to find at 1924 N. Fulton St. It offers a main hall with a seating capacity of 800 when arranged for auditorium style seating or 700 for banquet style. It also includes the O'Quinn room seating 100, the Duncan Auditorium, with seating for 60, Meeting Rooms A and B, 30 each, and a pre-function area with seating for 150. Other features include a caterer's kitchen, ice machines, tables and chairs, a sound system, stage lighting and other necessities for your chosen function.

Country singer Johnny Lee performed at the 2014 Rotary Gala at the Civic Center.

The center started out as the original home of Gulf Coast Medical Center. The hospital gave the facility to the city of Wharton in 1992, and it was renovated into the building that exists today. Other portions of the hospital were converted into the Wharton County Library and the Wharton EMS Department. The initial renovation costs totaled $1.2 million.

Jo Knesek, who has been the civic center's director for 23 years, said the building has hosted all kinds of events — even one that included George W. Bush when he was governor — to such celebrities as Frank Sinatra Jr. and Nancy Sinatra. But Knesek said all events are treated the same.

The effort to convert the facility from hospital building to a regional convention center was undertaken during the administration of then Mayor Garland Novosad.

"I went to bed each night with the blueprints in my arms," Novosad said. "We had this empty building and through the incredible vision of many people, we built something special the community can be proud of and the public can enjoy."

The redesign of the building was handled by the Austin-based architectural firm of Holt and Fetter, which also designed the current City of Austin Police Department building.

For information or to book an event, contact the city of Wharton at 979-532-2491, Ext. 600, visit cityofwharton.com or e-mail convention@cityofwharton.com.

Antique stores & resale shops

Nostalgia has bolstered the collecting of items from yesteryear. Antiquing has also become big business in small towns.

Wharton is no exception with a handful of antique, resale and flea market businesses here.

And lots of collectibles can be found in abundance in Wharton's antique stores at Wharton's downtown Monterey Square, and just off the square.

Wharton's downtown area features shops with antiques from museum quality to everyday items in six stores all within walking distance of each other.

That makes the area an antique hunter's delight.

All of the stores are filled wall-to-wall with antiques, which can meet the taste and pocketbooks of antique collectors.

Local dealers have a networking system which allows them to help shoppers to find just what they are looking for — even though it might mean sending the shopper to another business.

Feel free to stop in any of the shops around the square, browse or just visit with the owners. They are loaded with antique information for their customers.

Miss Hattie's Place is located at 129 S. Fulton Street on Monterey Square. Walk over to 134 W. Milam Street and visit Bohemian Rhapsody.

A unique green glass set of door knobs is just one of the many antiques which can be uncovered in shopping downtown Wharton.

A turn south on Houston Street will lead to Blue Moon Antiques at 138 S. Houston.

Head back to Milam Street, turn left and stroll down to 232 W. Milam to J.T.'s This and That or visit Judy's Resale Shop across the street at 235 W. Milam.

Within driving distance of the square are Lee's Flea Market at 622 E. Milam and Village Antique Retail & Resale Shop at 604 N. Fulton.

Plan to spend some time in each business because of the diversity and abundance of items in each. Have a question or want information? Feel free to visit with each of the knowledgeable owners.

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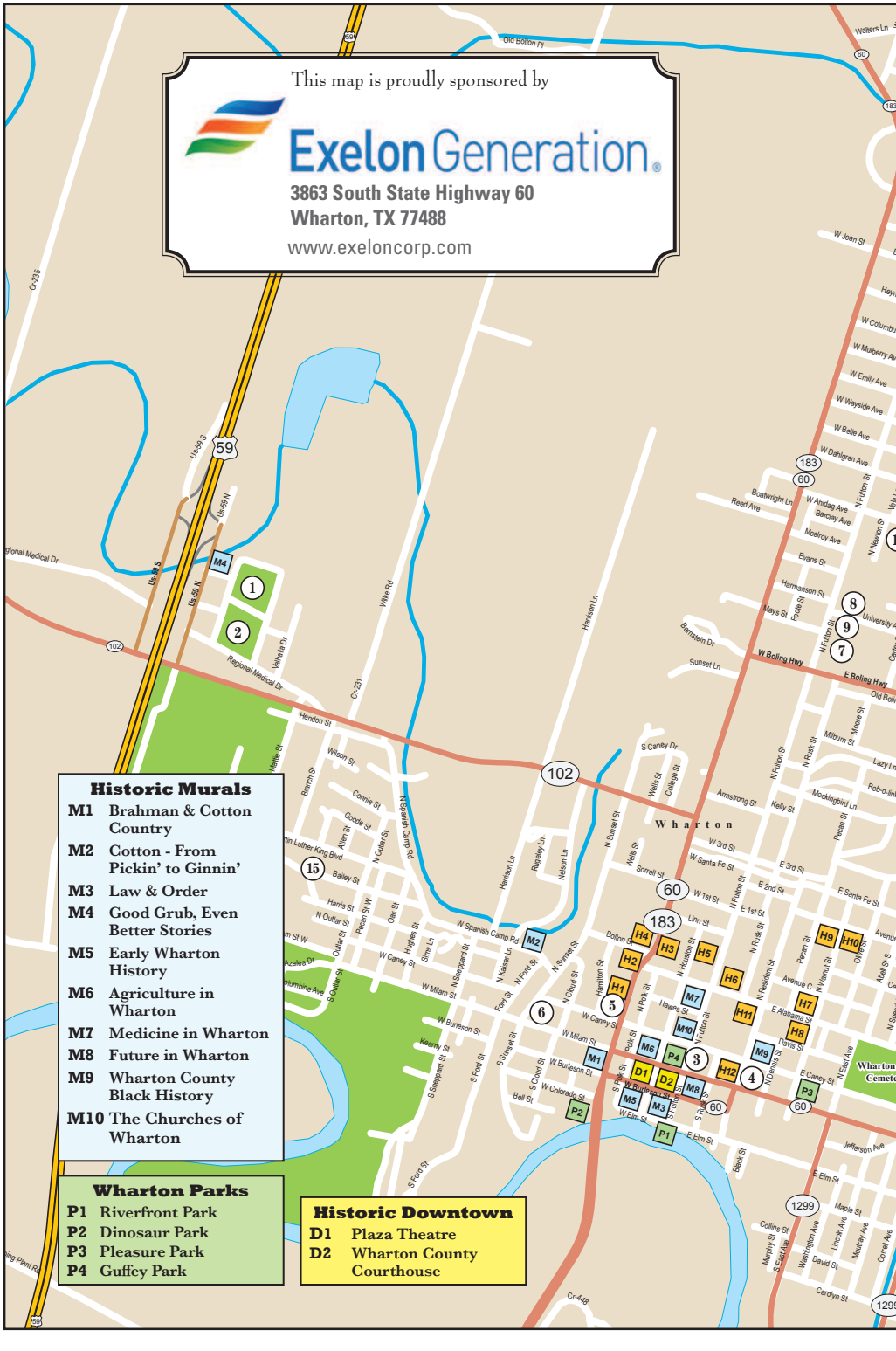
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Historic Murals
M1 Brahman & Cotton Country
M2 Cotton - From Pickin' to Ginnin'
M3 Law & Order
M4 Good Grub, Even Better Stories
M5 Early Wharton History
M6 Agriculture in Wharton
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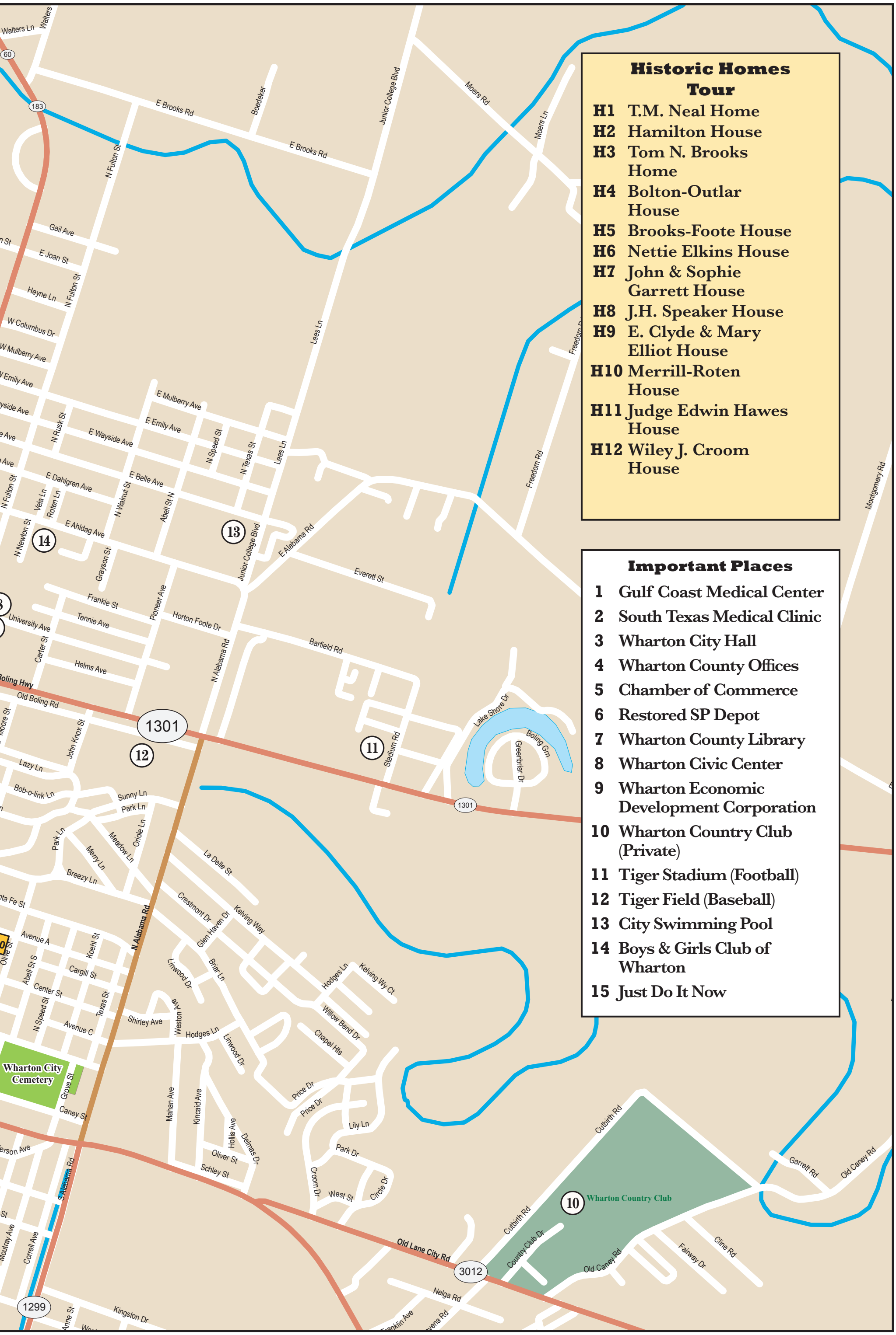
Wharton
Old Bolton Pl
Walters Ln
W Joan St
W Columbu
W Mulberry Ave
W Emily Ave
W Wayside Ave
W Belle Ave
W Dahlgren Ave
W Ahldag Ave
Barclay Ave
Boatwright Ln
Reed Ave
Mcelroy Ave
Evans St
Harmanson St
Mays St
Rose St
N Fulton St
N Newton St
W Boling Hwy
E Boling Hwy
Old Boli
Barnstein Dr
Sunset Ln
S Caney Dr
Armstrong St
Kelly St
Mockingbird Ln
Lazy Ln
Bob-o-link
Milburn St
Moore St
N Rusk St
Pecan St
W 3rd St
E 3rd St
W Santa Fe St
E Santa Fe St
Sorrell St
W 1st St
E 1st St
Linn St
Bolton St
N Houston St
N Reagan St
Avenue D
Avenue E
N Walnut St
Oliver St
Abel St
E Alabama St
Davis St
E Caney St
Wharton Cemete
Jefferson Ave
E Elm St
Maple St
Collins St
Murphy St
S East Ave
Washington Ave
Lincoln Ave
David St
Motley Ave
Cornel Ave
Carolyn St
Wells St
College St
N Sunset St
Harrison Ln
Rugeley Ln
Nelson Ln
N Spanish Camp Rd
W Spanish Camp Rd
Bailey St
Harris St
Allen St
Goode St
Connie St
Benson St
Herder St
Herndon St
Wilson St
N Outlar St
Outlar St
Pecan St W
Oak St
Hughes St
Sims Ln
W Caney St
W Miami St
W Burleson St
W Colorado St
Bell St
Keamy St
S Sheppard St
N Sheppard St
S Ford St
N Ford St
S Sunset St
N Cloud St
S Cloud St
N Polk St
S Polk St
Park St
S Rusk St
N Rusk St
Hawes St
Hamilton St
N Summit St
S Summit St
W Elm St
Black St
Cr-231
Cr-235
Cr-446
Wilke Rd
Jamail Dr
Regional Medical Dr
Us-59 S
Us-59 N
Plant Rd
Azaleas Dr
Columbine Ave
1299



Historic Homes Tour
H1 T.M. Neal Home
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E Brooks Rd
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N Fulton St
Gail Ave
E Joan St
Heyne Ln
W Columbus Dr
W Mulberry Ave
Lees Ln
E Mulberry Ave
E Emily Ave
E Wayside Ave
N Rusk St
N Speed St
N Texas St
E Belle Ave
E Dahlgren Ave
N Walnut St
Abell St N
Vela Ln
Roten Ln
E Ahldag Ave
N Newton St
Grayson St
E Alabama Rd
Everett St
Freedom Rd
Montgomery Rd
Frankie St
Tennie Ave
University Ave
Carter St
Helms Ave
Pioneer Ave
Horton Foote Dr
N Alabama Rd
Barfield Rd
Old Boling Rd
John Knox St
1301
Stadium Rd
Lake Shore Dr
Boling Grn
Greenbriar Dr
Lazy Ln
Bob-o-link Ln
Sunny Ln
Park Ln
Oriole Ln
Meadow Ln
Merry Ln
Breezy Ln
La Delle St
Crestmont Dr
Glen Haven Dr
Kelving Way
Avenue A
Koehl St
Cargill St
Center St
Abell St S
Texas St
N Speed St
Avenue C
Linwood Dr
Briar Ln
Hodges Ln
Kelving Wy Ct
Willow Bend Dr
Chapel Hts
Shirley Ave
Weston Ave
Wharton City Cemetery
Grove St
Caney St
Mahan Ave
Kincaid Ave
Hollis Ave
Delmas Dr
Oliver St
Schley St
Price Dr
Lily Ln
Park Dr
Croom Dr
West St
Circle Dr
Cutbirth Rd
Garrett Rd
Old Caney Rd
Wharton Country Club
Country Club Dr
Cline Rd
Fairway Dr
Old Lane City Rd
3012
Nelga Rd
S Alabama Rd
Correll Ave
Moutray Ave
1299
Kingston Dr
Anne St

Wharton County Junior College

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

The Wharton County Junior College Adult Education and Literacy program has made its new year's resolution for 2015: enroll more than 1,200 students in its GED and ESL classes.

If that sounds like a lofty goal, consider this: This past year, nearly 900 students from four southeast Texas counties — Wharton, Fort Bend, Colorado and Matagorda — were enrolled in the program. In 2015, two additional counties – Waller and Austin – will be added to the program's service area.

Dr. Cyrus Johnson, director of WCJC's AEL program, couldn't be happier about the expanded service area. He is a firm believer in the benefits of education — for all.

"We believe everyone is capable of learning," Johnson said. "We want to provide them with the option to come back into the learning process in order to be successful."

The AEL program will begin offering orientation classes in January of 2015, with sessions held in Sugar Land, Wharton, El Campo, Richmond and Bay City as well as in the two newest service areas, Waller and Austin counties.

The orientations offer an overview of WCJC's General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and provide "locator" testing aimed at determining where each student stands as far as language acquisition and basic learning skills.

Students can then begin taking the regularly scheduled GED and ESL classes. The program is offered at no cost to the student.

"We work on their strengths and upgrade their weaknesses," Johnson said. "All they need to bring is an open mind and a willingness to learn."

In addition to Johnson, the AEL staff includes Tara Zekavat, instructional supervisor; Holly Eisel, testing technician; Maria Guevera, secretary; Maria Alvarado, data technician; Jackie Fields, distance learning; and Roweena Britton, evening receptionist.

Registration is required prior to attending an orientation session. Registration forms can be found by visiting the AEL program tab on the college's website, www.wcjc.edu. For more information, call 979-532-6301 or email ael@wcjc.edu.

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 or apartment and need to get your utlities hooked up, the following information will be helpful to you.

New water customers within the Wharton city limits must provide a copy of a lease agreement or proof of ownership for the property, a valid identification and a deposit in the amount of $100. After filling out an application at City Hall, 120 E. Caney St., water is usually turned on within 20 minutes. This service also includes waste pickup. For more information, call 979-532-2491.

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

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

E. Clyde and Mary Elliott acquired three lots in 1919 from W.B. Barbee in the Barbee subdivision. The Elliotts 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 Street

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.

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.

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.

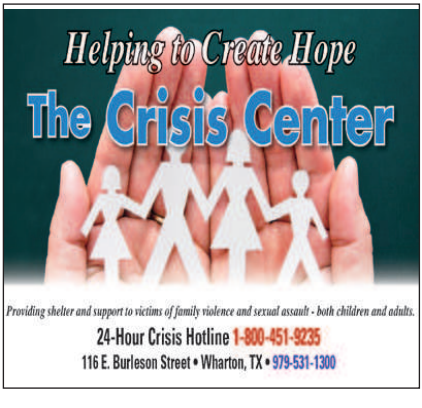
John and Sophie Garrett House,
401 E. Alabama Street

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.

Wiley J. Croom House,
205 E Milam Street

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.



Judge Edwin Hawes House,
309 N. Resident Street

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 temporarily 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 Street

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, 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 Street

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 to the chamber 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 inspirated the writings of Brooks' grandson, Horton Foote. The house sold in 1948 to Brandl family. In 1998, Charles E. and Paulette Brandl-Roades restored the home to its former grandeur.

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Dan Rather

Another native son of Wharton is Dan Rather, the former news anchor for the CBS Evening News. 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 home.

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 North 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 of 1961, Rather 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 C*BS 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.

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(979) 532-0404
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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
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Horton Foote

An Academy Award winner and Pulitzer Prize recipient, 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.

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 reared 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 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 Daykarhanova 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 Street. 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 Boedeker, 532-2640
Interim elections administrator: Rebecca Hernandez, 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 Andel
City Secretary: Paula Favors
Director of Facilities Maintenance: Bob Baker
Public Works Director: Kyle Marchant
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: Jo Knesek, 532-4811, Ext. 603
Municipal Court: 532-4811, Ext. 304

• 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: Jeffery Gubbels

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR 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: Jack Moses, Position 9
Position 1: Lloyd Nelson
Position 3: Ann Hundl
Position 4: Amy Rod
Position 5: Merle Hudgins
Position 6: Monty Mericka
Position 8: Oliver Kunkel Jr.

WHARTON ISD
whartonisd.net
Education Support Center
(Administration Building)
2100 N. Fulton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: 532-3612
Superintendent: King R. Davis
Deputy superintendent: Sharon Young
Assistant Superintendent of Finance: Randy Hill
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction: Tina Herrington
Director of Operations: Steve Wernecke
Technology director: Sheri Ganske
Special programs director: Kim Somer
State/federal programs director: Danette Thornton
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 6-8)
1120 N. Rusk St.
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: 532-6840
Principal: Marcia Brown
Assistant Principal: Dan Garza

• Wharton Elementary School
(Grades 2-5)
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-1)
1605 Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: 532-6866
Principal: Jeannie Young
Assistant principal: Jim Smith

• Wharton School Board
President: Rachel Rust (Place 4)
Vice president: Christine Stransky (Place 3)
Secretary: Hazel Hurd (Place 7)
Place 1: Michael Grissom
Place 2: Garland Mann
Place 5: Sherrell Speer
Place 6: Wayne Taylor

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: Reeci Ellington

Chamber of Commerce

Business Directory

Accountants-Certified-Public & Tax Service

Dobbins & Sheek, CPAs, LLC
300 W. Burleson 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
5935 CR 156
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.
Drawer 789
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3522

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

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

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

Wittig Grass Sales, LLC
P.O. Box 489
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

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

Attorneys

Howard H. Singleton, P.C.
109 E. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-9800

John Roades, Attorney at Law
1201 N. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5320

Law Office of James Perez
105 W. Burleson
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5500

Attorneys Continued

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

Banks & Banking Asso. Cont.

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

Unique Hair Salon
1327 N. Alabama Road, Ste. A
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 531-8849

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

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

Unico
117 N. Fulton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 224-5020

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

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

Churches Cont.

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

AccessHealth
1720 B F Terry Blvd. Ste. H
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 238-2303

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

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

Computer Products

Jeramy's Gadgets
200 McElroy Ave., Apt. 15
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 257-6288

Concrete

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

Construction Companies, General Contractors

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

Dreammaker Construction
523 Charlene St.
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-6800

Sabrsula Construction
3711 CR 154
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-0218

Convenience Stores

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

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

Counseling Cont.

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

Department Stores/Grocery Stores

Wal Mart Super Center
1255 Hwy. 59 Loop
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3986

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

Employment Agencies

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

Engineers-Civil, Mechanical, Environmental & Consulting

Halff & 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 Dr.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-1070

Farms & Ranches, Commercial & Residential

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

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 77448
(979) 532-0539

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

Florist

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
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3986

Gym & Fitness

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

RJ Fitness
F.M. 1161 County Road 218
Hungerford, TX 77488
(979) 559-6150

Hall Rental

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 & Wellness

Medina Farm
241 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-9955

Health Centers & Equipment

Active Body Health Mind Nutrition Fitness
246 W. Milam St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 220-7827

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

Hunter's Air & Heat
Drawer 628
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1707

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

Texas Home Health
10358 U.S. 59, Ste. B
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8584

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

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

Doug Light, LUTCF, FSS, CLU

Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
120 N. Houston
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2852

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

Kerlick's Farmers Insurance
1317 N. Alabama Rd.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2820

Pronto Insurance
1616 N. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3100

Insurance Cont.

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

Woodmen of The World
10335 F.M. 102
Wharton, TX 77488

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

Texas Quality Lawn Equipment, LLC
707 E. Milam
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-1350

Liquor Stores

Louie's Package Store
2005 Highway 60 South
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-2378

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

Motorcycle Dealers

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

Moving & Storage

Mund Moving
3920 CR 135
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8810

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. Burleson
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

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

Beyond The Fences
PO Box 1148
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-9324

Boys & Girls Club of Wharton
2220 N. Newton St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-9660

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

Organizations Cont.

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

Wharton County Alumni Association
911 Boling Hwy.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-6322

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 Panthers
423 Wilkes St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(281) 690-2640

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

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

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 F.M. 1301
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-1409

Photography Cont.

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

MD Plumbing
213 N. Richmond
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-8080

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

Printers, Publishers, Typesetters & Graphics

J & M Printing
813 E. Alabama
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-5240

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

Radio Stations

Globe.com Media/96 Country
201 E. Jackson
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-8282

KULP Radio
515 E. Jackson
El Campo, TX 77437
(979) 543-3303

TLC Media/Happy Radio
1713 7th St.
Bay City, TX 77414
(979) 323-9771

Wolf Pak Radio
2418 Old Lane City Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 533-6170

Real Estate

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

Real Estate Cont.

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

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

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

Recreation Cont.

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

Restaurants

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

Denny's #8588
10367 Hwy. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-3200

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

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

La Casona Mexican Restaurant
10292 U.S. 59
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2755

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

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

Restaurants Cont.

Reyna's Cafe
7902 Hwy. 59
Hungerford, TX 77448
(979) 531-0880

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

The Dragonfly Cafe
119 1/2 S. Fulton
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 332-8118

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

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

UNICO
3515 Cline Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 224-5020

Sales

Crust Chemicals
2104 N. Richmond Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 282-2150

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

Signs, Trophies, Plaques

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

Storage Facilities - Rentals

General Sales Company
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

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

Stewart Title
148 S. Houston St.
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-8883

Toys & Retail

Dale Pinson Farm Toy Store
1406 Alabama Road
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 358-0783

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
(979) 696-2500

Wolf Run Internet Marketing
6552 Wolf Run Dr.
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(979) 532-2060

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979•543•2266

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