



**Wharton County
Junior College**

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KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Renovation projects maintain WCJC's main campus

WHARTON, TEXAS – From sewer lines to foundation repair, Wharton County Junior College's main campus has undergone a significant makeover this year.

Mike Feyen, WCJC's director of facilities management, said the work is part of the 2006 master building improvement plan that has outlined \$13.3 million in projects for the Wharton campus' 15 primary structures.

"All major projects scheduled or completed are based on the 2006 Master Plan," Feyen said. "We regularly review and update that plan to show all progress to date. Parts of that plan include any new construction based on student enrollment needs. We additionally included a building by building maintenance assessment."

Reviews are conducted every two years to provide an updated list of work completed and identify projects that are still outstanding. New projects may also be needed depending upon the condition of the facilities.

From 2006 to 2014, more than \$8.7 million in projects were completed.

One of the more recent jobs was foundation repair on the Johnson Health Occupations Center. Feyen said a study was done on the structure two years ago after cracks began appearing in the brick exterior. The study noted that one corner of the foundation had sunk more than four inches.

This past summer, the foundation was re-leveled and the cracks were filled. Cost was more than \$560,000, including repairs and engineering.

"The work completed this summer was geared toward stabilizing the building and repairing any damages caused by settling," Feyen said.

Another significant project completed this summer was the replacement of sewer and water lines that service the Administration Building. Some of the pipe – made of cast iron – reportedly dated back to the 1940s. Cost of the project was roughly \$22,000.

The Administration Building also received a new roof, at a cost of around \$300,000. Other facilities will receive similar upgrades down the road.

“We had a campus wide survey done and have prioritized buildings in need of work,” Feyen said. “Last summer we did the gym, this summer the administration building and next summer we’ll try to do another building.”

WCJC President Betty McCrohan said such projects are crucial as they ensure the college’s facilities will continue to be able to provide services for future students.

“We take pride in our facilities and want them to be in the best shape possible for the benefit of our students, faculty and staff,” McCrohan said.

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