

Certified Retirement Community Community Assessment

Tab 2- J Leisure Living

Being a small rural community, most of the businesses in West Columbia are locally owned and operated. Family and friends meet to enjoy dinner, shopping, and other activities.

Dining – (See enclosed West Columbia Menu Guide)

West Columbia has several choices for dining out. Locally owned establishments such as Lucy's Fine Mexican Food, Elmo's Grill, Scott's BBQ and Cowgirls Kitchen are all landmarks in the community. Baytown Seafood and Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant were opened within the past five years. Ramon's Taquito, Takeria La Rosa, Pancho y Frank Tacos and Snowflake Donuts provide more selection along with a few fast food restaurants including Dairy Queen, Sonic, McDonald, Subway, Pizza Hut, Dominos Pizza and our newest addition ~ Jack-in-the-box.

Shopping – Stores such as Wal-Mart, Walgreens, CVS Pharmacy, HEB Grocery, Dollar General and Hi-Lo Auto Parts all provide great selection and prices, but West Columbia has some hidden gems as well. Chesney's Jewelry opened in 1924 and was passed down from father to daughter. Shop for jewelry, crystal and other gift items and receive a personal touch with every purchase. Bob Barta Lumber has been owned by the same family since 1945 and has many hard to find items. Jenn's Furniture opened in 1946 and is still owned and operated by the Jenn family. Reputation and referral keep customers coming back. Other locally owned shops such as Madaline's Melange, Flowers by Mary Lee, Hearts Content, Janet's Custom Framing, and Porch Swing Candles offer one-of-a-kind, unique gifts and décor with great customer service. If you enjoy browsing resale shops, West Columbia has six shops. Purchases made at the Senior Citizens Resale Shop fund the Meals-on-Wheels program and daily lunches & activities at the Senior Citizen Center. Proceeds from the Amazing Place resale shop help needy people in our community with food, clothing and necessities. Farmers Market is open Saturdays from 8 – noon.

A short 20 minute drive will take you to Lake Jackson and Brazos Mall, with a large selection of department stores and chain stores galore. Popular destinations include Dillard's, JC Penneys, Palais Royal, Bath & Body Works, and American Eagle to name a few. Around the mall are other popular chain stores including Academy, Hobby Lobby, Lowes, Home Depot, Best Buy, Target, Kohl's and a wide variety of restaurants.

Movies - Starplex Cinema 14 is also located in Brazos Mall and ticket prices are \$5.00 for all shows before 6 pm and anytime for seniors, students and children or enjoy renting movie from Movie Gallery in West Columbia.

Personal Care – Have a special occasion or pamper yourself! Have your nails done at Modern Nails; do a little tanning at Heatwave Tanning; and get a new look at one of our five hair salons – all locally owned and operated: Angie's Design & Color Salon, Clip & Curl; Cooky's; M & M Hair Care; My Time to Shine Hair Salon.

Accommodations – Three hotels are located in West Columbia: Best Western, Executive Inn & Suites and Western Inn. Just outside of town is Columbia Lakes Resort & Hotel which also offers cottages. Four RV Parks are located in town and area town.

Entertainment – The great outdoors is where most of the area entertainment is available such as sporting events, golfing, fishing, hunting, birding, picnics at the parks, swimming and community events. Enjoy peaceful walks, beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife at our parks (Details in Section K) Performing Arts (Details in Section L) outline many of the "indoor" activities such as theatre, museums, symphony and plays.

Clubs and organizations help build your community and provide a means for people who share same interests ~ to work together, provide services, share ideas and volunteer their time & talents to improve the quality of life within our community. Here is a list of these building blocks:

Civic Organizations

American Legion Post – Mattson-Ringgold Post 503
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary
Central EMS Inc.
Chamber of Commerce
Christian Senior Citizens Center
First Capitol Lions Club
St. John's Masonic Lodge # 5
West Columbia Chapter – Order of the Eastern Star # 705
West Columbia Rotary Club
West Columbia Volunteer Fire Dept.
West Columbia VFD Ladies Auxiliary
West Brazos Knights of Columbus
VFW – Veterans of Foreign Wars

Historical Organizations

Capitol of Texas Park
Charlie Brown Heritage Foundation
Columbia Cemetery Association
Columbia Heritage Foundation
Columbia Historical Museum
Daughters of the American Revolution asa Underwood Chapter
Daughters of the Republic of Texas – Cradle of Texas Chapter
First Capitol Historical Foundation
Rosenwald School Foundation
Varner Hogg Guardians

Social Organizations

Alpha Alpha Eta Sorority, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Fidelis Xi Chapter, Alpha Delta Kappa
Beta Sigma Phi, Laureate Eta Pi
Beta Sigma Phi Chapter, Xi Nu Xi Sorority

Social Clubs

Blue Streak Cloggers
Brazoria County Retired Teachers Association
Columbia Lakes Ladies Association
First Capitol Study Group
Friends of the Library
Weight Watchers
West Columbia EDC Focus Group
West Columbia Garden Club
Woodcarvers

Youth Organizations

Boy Scouts of America Troop 553
Columbia-Brazoria Athletic Boosters
Cub Scouts
Fire House Youth Center
First Baptist Church Mother's Day Out
Girl Scouts of America
Half-Way 4 H Club
Tri City Youth Football
West Brazos Babe Ruth Baseball
West Columbia Elementary PTO
West Columbia Girls Softball Association
West Columbia Little League Baseball Association
West Columbia Soccer Association
West Columbia Swim Team
West Columbia Youth Basketball

Large or small congregations ~ West Columbia has sixteen churches serving its community. Many of the churches have activities such as bible study classes, golden age groups, choir and a host of opportunities to volunteer and become involved. Special events such as bazaars, pot luck dinners, BBQs and luncheons provide fellowship and support for its members and the community.

Churches

Apostolic Light House UPC
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Blue Run Baptist Church
Capitol Missionary Baptist Church
Church of Christ
Columbia United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church of West Columbia
First Missionary Baptist Church
Gulf Coast Christian Center Church
Iglesia Centro Cristiano Church
Israel Chapel AME Church
Jefferson Street Church of Christ
Jehovah's Witnesses
Northwind Ministries
St. John's Catholic Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Volunteer opportunities are available through clubs, organizations, churches, schools, library, senior citizens centers, historical sites and many more. Whether you have a few hours a week or a couple days here and there, volunteering helps your neighbors and supports & strengthens your community. West Columbia has opportunities to get involved ~ there is something for everyone!