

**Williams Plumbing**  
*“Chamber Member of the Week”*  
625 Stevens  
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

#2010-006 – June 7, 2010



**Williams Plumbing** has been a long time supporter of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce, and is being honored as **“Chamber Member of the Week”**, a weekly series established in order to recognize, honor, and support our Chamber Members.

Plumbing engineering has changed dramatically from the plumbing options that were available the day that Eagle Lake was settled in the mid 1800’s. Between 1897 and 1907, it was recorded that the Eagle Lake water works consisted of a well and windmill in the square. One of the earlier plumbers of Eagle Lake that have been mentioned in the history books was F T “Tom” Kollman, who began his business, Kollman Plumbing and Sheet Metal Co in 1918. Possibly only the wealthy might have had some sort of closet lore in their homes, but it would be safe to say, most made do the best way they could! We have come a long way from chamber pots, the privies, the outhouses, and just the plain old woods! We have come from hauling water by buckets to the steady flow of running water at a moment’s notice. Can you imagine living without the plumbing systems of today? Many of you will be able to recall some of those earlier years and can remember what it was like for your family. Man, we have definitely come a long way!!

Our indoor plumbing actually consists of not only running water and sewage systems, but also includes the piping of butane, propane and other fuel gases for heating our homes, cooking and even to heat that water for those nice long showers and our soaking in our large tubs. You probably haven’t thought about those wood burning stoves in a number of years. Early gas systems were crude; leaking gas was odorless and dangerous. Unfortunately, it took incidents like the disastrous explosion of the 1937 London School in East Texas to bring legislation to add a scent to the odorless natural gases that we still use today and to create other safety nets in regard to the plumbing industry. Regulations we put in place help protect our health and safety by ensuring that our drinking water and air that we breathe are not contaminated and that we may live and work in safe conditions that properly installed plumbing systems of today are designed to provide. Through the enforcement of our plumbing laws, we are ensured that qualified individuals are following clear standards that protect our health and safety which is the clear goal of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

**Williams Plumbing** in Eagle Lake is owned and operated by Irving Williams Sr., a licensed master plumber. Irving Sr. is the son of Nancy and Henry Williams and was born in 1939 in Weimer Texas. Although the family lived in the small community of Osage, at a young age, Irving Sr. began working at M&G Feed Mill and then Weimar Sheet Metal. In June of 1964, Irving Williams Sr. married Ruby Jean Wilks and they had three children, Anthony, Irving Jr. and Stephanie. The Williams family was very involved in the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in which Irving Sr. served as a deacon. In the spring of 1972, the Williams family moved to Eagle Lake and Irving Sr. started his new business, **Williams Plumbing**, continuing his career as a licensed journeyman plumber. In fact, it has been recorded that Eagle Lake Chamber President Travis Wegenhoft worked with **Williams Plumbing** in establishing his business here in Eagle Lake and that the community was glad to have a man of his capabilities! Irving Williams Sr. also became an Eagle Lake Chamber Board of Director and served for several years. Irving Sr. became a licensed master plumber in November of 1981.

In visiting with **Williams Plumbing**, Irving Williams Sr. shared that his son, Anthony is also a master plumber and works along his side. Grandson Jeremy Williams also has taken an interest in the plumbing business and works fulltime with his grandfather and father. Three generations of Williams' (pictured above – Jeremy, Anthony, and Irving Sr.) are at work in Eagle Lake and the surrounding area. In fact, **Williams Plumbing** services expand to cover several counties including Wharton, Austin, Waller, Washington, Fort Bend and parts of Harris County. What a statement!

**Williams Plumbing** shares that at the beginning of the plumbing industry, there were very few sources available. There only existed one or two varieties of everything from tubs, sinks, commodes, septic tanks, fixtures and piping. In regard to piping, they started out with the old cast iron pipes with leaded joints and galvanized piping and then eventually moved to ABS and PVC piping, and today even more technology with regard to piping is available. The plumbers share that the old cast iron pipes and galvanized pipes were heavy, hard to work with and actually required a lot more strength and skilled workmanship than the pipes used today. And of course we all know how many varieties of tubs, sinks, commodes, fixtures and septic systems that are on the market and available today! They fill a whole catalogue!

If you have a need for plumbing services, be sure to contact **Williams Plumbing**. **Williams Plumbing** is opened Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Williams Plumbing is a full service plumbing company. Services include new construction (residential and commercial), service and repair, septic cleaning and installation, drain cleaning and televising and much more! **Williams Plumbing** home office is at 625 Stephens here in Eagle Lake and you can reach them by phone at 979-234-3122, the same phone number that they have had for 38 years! They can take care of all your plumbing needs! We know that they would greatly appreciate your business!!

Thank you **Williams Plumbing** and Irving Williams Sr! We are so proud of your accomplishments as a business in our area! We salute you for all your 38 years of service to the Eagle Lake community and surrounding areas!

Please take a moment out of this week and give Irving Sr a call at **Williams Plumbing** or if you see his truck around town, stop a few minutes and thank Irving Sr, his son Anthony, grandson Jeremy, or any of the crew for all the years of service to Eagle Lake! The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce would like to thank **Williams Plumbing** for being a Chamber Member and look forward to working with them in the future!