

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 9, Issue 4

January 2013

Calendar

January 2013

- 1 New Year's Day - City closed
- 2 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 3 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 8 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 16 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 17 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 22 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 23 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 30 Yard Waste Trimming Collection

February 2013

- 5 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 7 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 13 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 19 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 21 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

Submit requests for Heavy Trash pick-up before noon on Monday, the week of the pick-up at 294-5796.

Visit us online at
www.huntsvilletx.gov for
more information!

Matt Benoit hired as new City Manager

The City of Huntsville welcomed Matt Benoit, the newly hired City Manager, in December.

According to Mayor Mac Woodward, Benoit was chosen based on his experience level, education, and his interactions with both the Council and the City staff during the search process and final interviews.

"We're very excited that Matt Benoit has taken over the position of City Manager," Woodward said. "Of the four highly qualified candidates we interviewed in the final stage of the City Manager search process, he seemed to have the knowledge, the capability, the experience, and the perspective that was best suited for Huntsville at this point.

"We have high hopes for this position, and we feel confident that Mr. Benoit will impact our community positively while effectively managing our daily operations."

During his 13-year professional career, Benoit has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Farmers Branch, the Assis-



MATT BENOIT, CITY MANAGER

tant City Manager/Director of Housing for the City of Wichita Falls, TX and as the City Manager of Herington, Kansas.

Benoit plans to reside in Huntsville with his wife, Micki, and his two children.

"My family and I are very excited to be in Huntsville," Benoit said Tuesday. "I'm looking forward to working with the City Council and the staff."

Exploring the virtual library

Huntsville Public Library database seminar - February 7

The Huntsville Public Library makes hundreds of online databases available to citizens, creating a "virtual library" from which residents in all walks of life could benefit.

In order to make it easier for residents to navigate the plethora of resources available on the Library Web site - myhuntsvillelibrary.com - the staff will host a special informational meeting on February 7 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

"In a sense, we really have two libraries - the brick and mortar library and our virtual library," said HPL reference employee Richard Lane. "In order to get the full use out of the library, we want to help people learn how to access our virtual resources, using basic computer skills to efficiently and effectively find what they're looking for in our online databases.

"We're holding this training session to help facilitate and develop the skills needed to navigate all the databases we have available."

From a computer inside the library, the online databases can be accessed simply by clicking on the desired link. From outside the library, citizens must either obtain a login and password from library staff, or use their library card number and personalized pin number.

To continue reading, see DATABASES, page 2

Databases, continued from Page 1

To reach the databases, visit either the Library's Web site or the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov. From the main City page, scroll over "Departments" in the top bar, select "Public Library" in the first menu and "Online Databases" in the second menu.

The first database, "TexShare Databases," offers collections of information including Homework and Education, Career Development, History and Genealogy, Health and Medical, Business Resources, Literature and more.

"TexShare offers everything from homework and education assistance, medical information, and a whole lot more," Lane said. "One key element, which you'll also see on the main menu, is Learning Express, which offers an extensive collection of practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, and other information in a variety of academic and career-related fields.

"Citizens can practice for the SAT or ACT, prepare for the corrections officer exam and other career-related exams, practice for the GED or GRA, prepare for the US Citizenship test, or choose from a multitude of other courses. Skill-building exercises are also available for children in elementary through high school, and each test offers full explanations and analysis of your scores."

The databases also include a Small Business Resource Center, with an extensive collection of periodicals and reference sources for information about all aspects of running a small business.

"The Small Business Resource Center can help you learn about financing, management, marketing, accounting, taxes and more," Lane said. "We also have Gale Legal Forms, a collection of official, state-specific, federal, business, personal, real estate and general forms, all of which are up to date.

"That's another benefit of using databases – since the database companies are in charge of keeping all of their information current, the citizens know the forms they're using are correct, and the library avoids having to buy new material every few years."

For those citizens seeking employment or a career change, the Career Transitions database offers help with creating resumes and cover letters, as well as assistance preparing for interviews.

"We even have a database called Chilton which gives you step-by-step instructions on how to repair your car, plus photographs, diagnostics, diagrams, recalls and technical service bulletins," Lane said.

Finally, the library offers literature databases for both children and adults. The children's database, Tumblebooks For Kids, adds music, animation, sound and narration to picture books to create an enjoyable reading experience. Also included are books for older children, audio books, puzzles and games, and language-learning titles in Spanish and French.

"For adults looking for their next novel to read, I'd recommend NoveList, a reader advisory that can help you find new authors and titles to explore," Lane said. "You can also enter one of your favorite authors and NoveList will give you a list of similar authors."

Lane said he hopes citizens will take advantage of the chance to learn about all of the features of the "virtual library."

"There are so many resources to choose from, both outside and inside the library," he said. "We hope the community will take advantage of this chance to build the basic skills necessary to navigate the tons and tons of information available to them."

To register for the database session, contact the Huntsville Public Library at (936) 291-5472.

It's Winter Time...Let's Recycle Antifreeze!

Like many other residential customers, do you plan on replacing the antifreeze in your vehicle this winter? Do you plan on disposing of other kinds of liquids, including motor oil, peanut oil or cooking oil?

Don't run those materials down the drain – **recycle them!**

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Department offers free, year-round recycling for these liquids as well as other items for residential customers at the Recycling Drop-Off Center, located at 590 I-45 North from 7:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Other items, including oil filters, are recycled in specifically marked collection barrels. As they are flammable, neither gasoline or diesel from lawn equipment nor vehicles will be accepted for disposal or recycling. Unfortunately, due to disposal restrictions, the Solid Waste Services Department is not able to pick up liquids on a curbside basis. If you have any questions, please call 936-294-5743.

City of Huntsville residential customers: It's time to "winterize" your sewer charge

Water meter usage for the months of November through February is used to calculate your new sewer average charge for the next year. Consciously reducing your water usage during these months could lower your sewer charge. Methods to reduce usage include limiting or completely eliminating outside watering. The new sewer average charge will be effective with the April billing (due in May).

"Basically, the City of Huntsville would just like to advise residents to curtail any kind of outdoor watering, such as washing cars, in order to keep water consumption down during winter months," said Jerri Weaver, City of Huntsville Billing and Revenue Manager. "Also, residents should be aware of any water leaks and make sure to have those repaired."

For more information, contact City of Huntsville Utility Billing at (936) 291-5431.



Get your tickets now for

LEADERCAST®

May 10, 2013

Sam Houston State University

Performing Arts Center

1900 Avenue I, Suite 200

Registration: 7 a.m. • Event: 8 a.m.

Chick-fil-A Leadercast is a one-day leadership event broadcast live from Atlanta directly to your community.

Join us for an unforgettable day of inspiration, learning, connecting and more.

Speakers include:

Jack Welch, Andy Stanley,

Mike Krzyzewski, John C. Maxwell,

Dr. Henry Cloud, LCDR Rorke Denver,

Sanya Richards-Ross, David Allen,

Condoleezza Rice - Video Interview

Tickets are available for the 2012 rate of \$50 for a limited time only!

Price will increase to the 2013 rate of \$60 on February 15 - order today!

Tickets are available online at www.chickfilaleadercast.com.

From the home page, click "Attend" in the top menu, search "Huntsville, TX" and select the Performing Arts Center site.

From there, a link will appear to allow ticket purchases.

For more information, or to purchase tickets in person, contact Dr. Kristy Vienne, Assistant Vice President for Student Services, at (936) 294-2600 or klv002@shsu.edu.

Heavy Trash Specifics

Heavy Trash/Large Yard Waste Collection is for **residential customers only**. Either an [online form](#) OR call-in is required (936) 294-5796. Requests must be made no later than Monday, the week of, by noon. Customers must leave their complete name, service address, contact number and a detailed description of the items to be placed on the pick-up list. Heavy Trash will be collected on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month.

Guidelines for Heavy Trash / Large Yard Waste Collection

- (1) All items must be at the street's edge no later than 6:00 AM on the day of the scheduled pick-up but no earlier than five days prior to the scheduled pick-up.
- (2) Items shall be placed no more than two feet from the street's edge, approximately five (5) feet from garbage cans and other obstacles such as mail boxes, utility poles, fences and parked cars. Avoid placing large brush and bulky items under low-hanging tree limbs, utility lines or cables.
- (3) Heavy trash is large yard waste, furniture, appliances/white goods, material from minor household projects and miscellaneous heavy debris.
- (4) Pile (including brush) not to exceed four (4) feet in height, ten (10) feet in length and five (5) feet in depth. If the pile exceeds these dimensions, this will NOT be considered acceptable Heavy Trash and shall be removed and disposed of by the residential customer.
- (5) Large yard waste includes limbs and branches which must be prepared for pickup by using the following guidelines:
- (6) Limbs and branches must be placed curbside and the cut ends must face the road.
- (7) Tree limbs cannot exceed (12) inches in diameter and must be cut to a maximum of five (5) feet in length.
- (8) Large brush must be stacked, unbound and in one pile along the road edge (see pile size limit above).

These items shall be separated from any brush:

- (1) Appliances/white goods such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, large microwaves and miscellaneous metal appliances.
- (2) Material from minor household projects such as a toilet, a sink, a door etc.
- (3) Miscellaneous Heavy Debris such as TVs, furniture, mattresses, lawn mowers etc.

The following items and locations **DO NOT** qualify for Heavy Trash pickup:

- (1) Household garbage of any kind;
- (2) Tree stumps or small yard waste (bagged, canned or bundled trimmings);
- (3) Vehicle batteries, parts, oil, tires, antifreeze or vehicles;
- (4) Commercial businesses, commercially generated heavy trash/large yard waste or tree removal service;
- (5) Construction, demolition or remodeling materials (to include but not limited to: drywall, siding, concrete, bricks, blocks, dirt, rocks, etc.);
- (6) Cardboard or recycling;
- (7) Dead animals;
- (8) Pallets;
- (9) Barrels, unidentified sealed cans, paint cans, hazardous waste, swimming pool chemicals, water softener salt or chemicals; and
- (10) Property vegetation clearance (lot clearing).

Curbside Recycling Expansion - Area #6 begins January 2013

City Council approved the expansion of curbside recycling to begin in Area #6 on Friday, January 4, 2013. This area includes customers residing in the vicinity of Lake Road, Old Houston Road, Boettcher, Cline, Hayman, Powell and Tall Timbers streets. For map details, please visit www.huntsvilletx.gov under City News. Blue recycling carts will be issued to customers within area #6 starting Saturday, December 15, 2012. Please remember the blue recycling cart is for recyclables only and will not be serviced until January 4, 2013. Once the program begins, garbage pickup will be on Tuesdays and recycling pickup will be on Fridays.

Recycling Guidelines meetings are being held at the Walker Education Center at 1400 19th Street on Thursday - December 13, 2012 @ 6:00PM and on Thursday - January 24, 2013 @ 6:00PM. There will be a speaker presenting information on how to recycle, please join us.

If you have any questions, please call the Solid Waste & Recycling Division at 936-294-5743.

Items that **SHOULD** be placed in the BLUE City cart:

- Cardboard
 - Aluminum cans
 - Newspaper
 - Steel cans (throw away lids)
 - Office Paper
 - Magazines
 - Plastics 1-7
- 
- 

Items that **CANNOT** be placed in the BLUE City cart:

- Garbage
 - Food waste
 - Yard waste
 - Shredded paper
 - Glass, oil or filters
 - Batteries
 - Cell phones
 - Electronics
 - Styrofoam
 - Aluminum foil
- 

Important curbside recycling guidelines:

- Place all recyclables loosely inside the blue cart – do not bag the recyclables.
- If recycling plastic bags (with number and symbol), place all bags inside one and tie shut.
- Rinse all plastics and cans to remove residue.
- Flatten items to save room inside the cart.
- No bags, garbage or items on ground will be collected.
- Keep cart five feet from all other objects, including cars.
- The lid of the cart must close – do not overload the cart or place items on top of the lid.
- Carts must be placed at the curb or street's edge no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection, with the numbers facing the street. Carts must be removed from the street's edge by the end of the day.

AREA #6 PICKUP DAYS:



Area #6 Street Listing:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Aberdeen Dr. | Elks Dr. | McDougal St. |
| Angier Rd. | Elkwood Circle | McGuire Ln. |
| Avenue M | Glen Court | Sand Dr. |
| Baker St. | Hardy Rd. | Tall Timbers Ln. |
| Beto St. | Hayman Rd. | Turner St. |
| Boettcher Dr. | Helen St. | Vickie Dr. |
| Brook Dr. | Hidden Valley Circle | Wilson St. |
| Clay Circle | Josey St. | Winding Way |
| Cline St. | Lake Rd. | Windridge Ln. |
| Collard St. | Lakeridge Dr. | Windsor St. |
| Crawford St. | Manor Ln. | Wolverton St. |
| El Toro | McCollum Dr. | |