

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 11, Issue 10

July 2015

Calendar

July 2015

- 1 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 2 - Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 3 - City offices closed for July 4
- 7 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 8 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 14 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 16 - Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 21 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 29 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection

August 2015

- 4 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 5 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 6 - Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 12 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 18 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 19 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 20 - Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 26 - 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.

Learn more about
City events at
www.huntsvilletx.gov

New City of Huntsville and Tourism Department Websites!

Happy 180th Birthday, Huntsville (July 12), you have a new web site! Coming online is a new look for both the City of Huntsville (www.huntsvilletx.gov) and the Tourism and Cultural Services Department (www.huntsvilletexas.com). IT Director Chris Vasquez and staff teams have worked with CivicPlus to create redesigned sites that will be more user-friendly and offer improved navigation to better serve the citizens of Huntsville.

The City site will retain all the features to allow online payment options, subscriptions to agendas and publications, online reporting of issues, archived video, and a page of transparency links. The Tourism Department's section will spotlight local attractions and offer an online tour scheduler to assist groups and travelers. The new website designs will allow each department to update content in real time, which will allow the public immediate access to the most current information.

After extensive research, the City chose CivicPlus, a company focused on government clients and serving over 2,000 cities and counties of every size across the United States, Canada, and Australia – serving more than 44 million citizens.

CivicPlus has focused on government clients, giving customers access to the latest in next-generation applications that meet and exceed their needs.

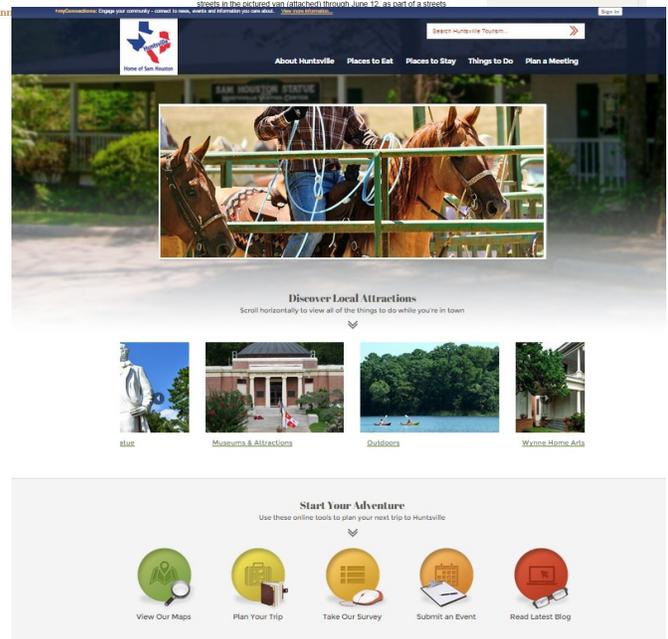
Visit your new web sites now!



Above, the new City website at www.huntsvilletx.gov, and, right, the new site for the Department of Tourism & Cultural Services, online at www.huntsvilletexas.com.

The round main buttons on each home page are highlighted in a smaller format on each interior page.

The City logos will return a user to the home page of the site.



City staff raises \$500 for HISD Socks & Undies Drive



The City of Huntsville staff held a charity event again at their annual City Picnic, which was a huge success to meet the needs of local children. "We are absolutely thrilled to be able to present the United Way and Huntsville Independent School District Social Services with these funds for community kids," said Dr. Sherry McKibben, City Neighborhood Resources Director. The employees raised \$500 to donate to HISD Social Services through United Way.

Town Creek Drainage Coverage

In case you missed it in The Huntsville Item last month (www.itemonline.com), you should know the City's Town Creek Drainage Program is on track. To address some of the City's most critical infrastructure needs, the proposal involves replacing 7,700 linear feet of the existing Town Creek drainage system. Portions were enclosed in the 1960s using a combination of decommissioned rail cars and masonry and include seven roadway crossings composed of the tank cars and concrete culverts.

Town Creek is part of a network of streams that serve as the storm water drainage system for the City of Huntsville. This creek spans the length of town, flowing from the southeast side at Sycamore Street through the historic Cultural District area toward the north, and finally emptying into the Trinity River. Over 163 acres of land adjoin this creek and many more utilize it for drainage.



STAY COOL THIS SUMMER!

The pool is open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon to 8 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The pool is closed on Mondays. Visit the Aquatic Center's page on the City website at www.huntsvilletx.gov or contact the Center's Manager, Jay Miller, at jmiller@huntsvilletx.gov, for more information, rules, and fees.

SWIMMING LESSONS at the Aquatic Center

July 13-24 July 27-August 7
All classes are Monday - Friday - \$35 per course

Ages & Times: 3-5 yrs / 8:00 am - 8:45 am
6-7 yrs / 9:00 am - 9:45 am
8 yrs & up / 10:00 am - 10:45 am



ALL SIGN UPS AND FEES ARE TO BE PAID AT AQUATIC CENTER

City Manager Matt Benoit summarized some important points:

1. Town Creek is a drainage project to address some of the City's most critical infrastructure.
2. The City is fortunate to be the likely recipient of a \$12.2 million grant covering 75% of the project.
3. The project will be designed to be environmentally sound and preserve the natural beauty of Huntsville and still effectively convey drainage through the central part of the community.
4. Like most construction, there will be disruptions to daily life. But, like many such things, "it will be great when it's finished."

Filing Period for November Election

The City of Huntsville 2015 General Election will be held on November 3, for the at-large position of Mayor, and the four Ward Council member positions.

Filing will open on July 25 and continue until 5 p.m. on August 24, 2015. Interested candidates should file with the City Secretary's office in City Hall at 1212 Avenue M, which is open regular business hours, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City filing fee is \$1 in cash. Candidate qualifications include the following City Charter provisions:

At the time of election to office and during their tenure of office, the Mayor and each member of the Council shall be a citizen and a qualified registered voter of the State of Texas and the City of Huntsville and, if a Councilmember from a specific Ward, a resident of such Ward. No member of Council shall have resided in the City for less than 12 months next preceding the election and no member shall be less than 21 years old. No member of the Council shall be indebted to the City or be delinquent in the payment to the City of any tax or assessment. No member of the Council shall hold any other office or employment under the City government while a member of the Council. A member of the Council ceasing to possess any of the foregoing qualifications shall immediately forfeit their office.

Candidate packets will be available online (<http://tx-huntsville.civicplus.com/395/Elections>) and at City Hall during the filing period.

For questions or more information, contact the City Secretary's office at citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov or 936-291-5403.

FEMA Urges Caution After Storm Damage

The following is from FEMA, find out more at www.fema.gov - State and federal recovery officials urge Texans affected by the ongoing severe storms and floods to watch for and report any suspicious activity or potential fraud.

Even as government agencies and charitable groups continue to provide disaster assistance, scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals may attempt to prey on vulnerable survivors. The most common post-disaster fraud practices include phony housing inspectors, fraudulent building contractors, bogus pleas for disaster donations and fake offers of state or federal aid.

"Scam attempts can be made over the phone, by mail or email, or in person," said Federal Coordinating Officer Kevin Hannes of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "Con artists are creative and resourceful, so we urge Texans to remain alert, ask questions and require identification when someone claims to represent a government agency."

Survivors should also keep in mind that state and federal workers never ask for or accept money, and always carry identification badges with a photograph. There is no fee required to apply for or to get disaster assistance from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) or the state. Additionally, no state or federal government disaster assistance agency will call to ask for your financial account information; unless you place a call to the agency yourself, you should not provide personal information over the phone - it can lead to identity theft.

Those who suspect fraud can call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 (toll free). Complaints may also be made to local law enforcement agencies.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.



The Wynne Home Arts Center

Summer Art Classes
Beginning July 14th
All ages welcome
Registration begins June 16th



Visit the Wynne Home Art Center today!
1428 Eleventh Street
Huntsville, Texas

For information regarding registration contact:
Jasmine Moss
Wynne Home Intern
(936) 291 5424
Wynneintern@huntsvilletx.gov
www.thewynnehome.com

Early Bird Art Camp

Ages 6-7, 8-9, and 10+
9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Session I: July 14-17
Session II: July 21-24
Session III: July 28-31



Classes will include:

- ♣ Paper Mache
- ♣ Ceramics
- ♣ Crafts & Gardening

Calendar Photo Call

It's time to submit your great local photos for the 2015-2016 City calendar! Please consider photos taken in City parks, at City events, or of groups working with the City on occasions such as All Paws In or the Spring Clean—anything City-related.

Maybe you attended the Fourth of July celebration or E-Recycling Day, or took the kids to an Outdoor Explorer class and have a great picture. Or perhaps your group received a proclamation or made a donation or participated in Local Government Day.

We'd love to see your photos! The City of Huntsville is asking all residents, business owners and organizations to submit their best photos for use in the calendar, on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, in our digital newsletter, and maybe even for upcoming special projects.

Please submit original photography along with the name of the photographer. The City requests participants send the highest resolution copies available, and that only material suitable for viewing by all ages. If necessary, photographer must have received appropriate permission to submit any photos of minors.

Please make contact with us before trying to send larger files, either at citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov or by calling 936-291-5403.

City of Huntsville Recycling Guidelines

Direct questions to [\(936\) 294-5743](tel:9362945743)

Curbside recycling guidelines:

1. Rinse all plastics and cans to remove residue
2. Plastics 1-7 stamped with number and symbol accepted
3. Flatten items to save room inside of cart
4. Keep cart five (5) feet from all other objects including vehicles
5. Carts must be placed at the curb or street's edge no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Carts must be removed from the street's edge by the end of the collection day (*carts cannot be stored at the street's edge*)

Items that cannot be placed in the City cart:

Garbage, food waste, yard waste, loose shredded paper, glass/oil/filters, batteries, cell phones, electronics, Styrofoam, aluminum foil, or plastic bags of any kind.

No plastic wrap, shrink wrap, or bubble wrap. No Styrofoam, even if it has a recycling number and symbol on item.

Recycling Drop-Off Center Information:

The Recycling Center accepts self-hauled recyclable items and is located at 590 I-45 North. The Recycling Center Attendant will be onsite to assist customers from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Drop-offs can still be made Monday - Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and holiday closings are posted.

Recycling Drop-off Center Guidelines:

Aluminum - Soda cans, beer cans: Flattened/unflattened. Keep aluminum cans separate from steel cans. NO FOIL, BAKING PANS OR FOOD TRAYS.

Steel Cans - Food cans, pet food cans, aerosol cans: Rinse out the can, you can leave the label on. Aerosol cans must be empty.

Newspaper - Whatever comes inside the newspaper can be recycled. Stack and put in paper bags or cardboard boxes. Throw away plastic rain sleeves and rubber bands.

Magazines - catalogs, phone books: Keep separate from newspaper. Place in brown bags or small cardboard boxes. DO NOT place in plastic bags.

Paper - White or colored paper, remove paper clips, rubber bands and staples if possible. Put in small boxes or paper stacks.

Glass - Clear, green or brown only: Throw away lids, rinse out. You can leave the label on. Place glass in separate containers. NO window panes, light bulbs or dishware.

Cardboard - Toilet/paper towel cores, food boxes, medicine boxes, shoe boxes, shipping/moving boxes, sugar bags, dog/cat food bags which include a recycling logo, paper bags. NO packing materials, plastic liners or foam.

Plastics - Numbered 1-7: Recycling symbol and number are required.

Milk Jugs and Water Jugs - Throw away cap/lid. Rinse with warm water and try to flatten. Keep these jugs separate from soda bottles or colored plastic.

Other #1 and #2 Plastic Containers - Examples of other recyclable containers: syrup bottles #3, snap-on coffee lids #4, cottage cheese containers #5, yogurt containers #6, and ketchup bottles #7

Drop-off Center Also Accepts: Used motor oil, oil filters, cooking oil and anti-freeze.

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for Area curbside recycling schedules, full list of acceptable curbside items and more recycling information.



Yard Waste Specifics

Collection Service: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday of each month - No call-in required!

Yard waste is classified as leaves, grass, pine needles, yard clippings and small brush, items referred to as "green waste."

The total number of compostable-bagged, canned, or bundled yard waste items is limited to twelve (12) per household per collection day. All yard waste materials must be placed within two (2) feet of street's edge no later than 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled pick-up.

Yard waste such as leaves, grass, pine needles or small clippings must be:

- (1) Bagged in compostable bags (not to exceed 30 gallons) or placed in personal garbage can;
- (2) Cannot exceed 50 pounds each;
- (3) City-issued garbage and recycling carts cannot be filled with yard waste.

Tree limbs and brush must be:

- (1) No longer than four (4) feet in length;
- (2) Limbs no larger than four (4) inches in diameter;
- (3) Must be tied securely in bundles which cannot exceed two (2) feet in diameter and can't exceed 50 pounds each.

The following items and locations DO NOT qualify for Yard Waste pick-up:

- (1) Household garbage of any kind;
- (2) Anything other than green waste: NO flower pots, fertilizer, mulch, bags, dirt, potting soil, sand, rock, gravel, etc.
- (3) Commercial businesses or commercially generated yard waste.

Bring your City utility bill showing that you pay for garbage service and dispose of your yard waste at the City Transfer Station free of charge. This excludes commercial customers, yard waste contractors, and any lawn service providers. The customer must be present with their current City garbage bill at the time of disposal.

For more information on yard waste trimming collection services, contact the Solid Waste Services Division at (936) 294-5743.