

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 9, Issue 7

April 2013

Calendar

April 2013

- 2 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 3 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 4 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 6 Electronic Recycling Day - See p.3
- 10 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 16 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 18 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 24 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

May 2013

- 1 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 2 Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 7 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 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

Submit requests for Heavy Trash pick-up before noon on Monday, the week of the pick-up at (936) 294-5796.

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

City Finance Department earns distinguished awards from Texas Comptroller, GFOA

The City of Huntsville Finance Department has received two significant awards for their work in budget presentation and transparency this year. The first, the 2013 Gold Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, was received in March, and the second, the 26th Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, in February.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts - Recognizing transparency

The City of Huntsville Finance Department received its fourth consecutive Gold Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The award, which recognizes cities for "setting the bar with their transparency efforts," is largely focused on the material made available through the City's Web site which provides a clear, consistent picture of spending and shares information with the public that is easy understand and follow.



Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle

"This is an important recognition for the City, because it shows that our Finance Department is working continually to be transparent and provide financial information to interested citizens," said Steve Ritter, Interim Finance Director. "This year, we met all of the major criteria and a majority of the minor criteria required by the Comptroller, earning us an overall score of 18 out of 20 possible points. We're very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to improving further."

According to the Texas Comptroller's Web site, the City of Huntsville is one of only a handful of cities that received the Gold designation this year, and it is part of an even smaller group with consecutive Gold awards.

"This award is not just about our budget documents," said Laurie O'Brien, Finance Administrator. "It's about making every check issued posted for viewing, having our credit cards, monthly reports and financial reports online, and making our investments and even fuel costs available and easy to navigate. Our score has increased in large part because we developed a more user-friendly format, utilizing elements of our expanded Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov."

Looking ahead to a potential fifth Gold designation, Ritter said the department will be focused on providing budget documents in a "raw format."

"The first year we received this designation, it was more about having financial reports and credit cards, and then we expanded to include check registers, and just kept going from there," he said. "Where we go from here is putting the budget out there in a format that can be downloaded and opened in a spreadsheet format, what they call a raw format budget."

Budget documents, financial reports, tax information and other documents are available on the City's Finance page. From the home page, scroll over "Departments," then over "Finance," and proceed to the desired link.

Government Finance Officers Association - Budget preparation and availability

The City of Huntsville received its 26th Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association in February, and the recognition has given the City ample credit for its accomplishment and ideas for improvement.

According to Becky Rowley, City of Huntsville Budget Manager, the award is granted based on the City's efforts to make budget documents available electronically and easy to understand for both financial experts and the average citizen.

The City's full budget for fiscal year 2012-13 is available for viewing on the City's Web site.

"We are very proud of receiving this award," Rowley said. "We received several outstanding ratings, indicating that our documentation and formatting could be used as a model for other municipalities around the country. Over time, we hope to improve our ratings even more, with the goal of keeping all citizens well-informed about our budget and the financial considerations we make."

FINANCE, continued from page 1

According to a GFOA press release, governmental entities who receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award must satisfy "nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation, assess[ing] how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device."

Rowley said some of the highest ratings the City received pertained to budget presentation.

"Not only is our budget available electronically, but our scoring also indicated that it is easy for non-financial viewers to comprehend," she said. "Basically, we present our budget in multiple formats, using graphs and charts for visual understanding and laymen's terms for those who are not coming from a financial background."

Rowley said the GFOA scoring provided two distinct areas where the City can improve further.

"One of our goals for 2013-14 is to provide long-term information, incorporating plans, goals, missions and obstacles," she said. "We already include some of those items, but we want to expand on that information to earn an 'outstanding' rating. We also want to place more emphasis on the continuous operational costs the City faces after project completions."

For more information, contact Ritter at (936) 291-5486 or Rowley at (936) 291-5476.

Historically Underutilized Business show a success



Photo by Kim McLerran, SHSU SBDC

The March 19 HUB show at the Walker County Storm Shelter drew a substantial attendance of 71 vendors, with 111 individuals representing those vendors, and more than 150 additional attendants.

City Purchasing Manager Billie Smith was one of several agency representatives to present current purchasing information. The other entities who participated include the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, the SHSU Small Business Development Center and Walker County.



May 10, 2013

LEADERCAST®

"SIMPLY LEAD"

Sam Houston State University Performing Arts Center
1900 Avenue I, Suite 200

Registration: 7 a.m. • Event: 8 a.m.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Mike Krzyzewski

**Head men's basketball coach,
Duke University and
Team USA**

As head coach of the Duke Blue Devils for over 30 years, Basketball Hall of Famer coach Mike Krzyzewski has made a career of motivating people both on and off the court. Affectionately known as "Coach K," Krzyzewski coached both the 2008 and 2012 U.S. men's national teams to back-to-back gold medals in the Olympics. During his tenure as the head coach of Team USA, Coach K amassed an astounding 62-1 and returned U.S. men's basketball to dominance on the world stage.

Condoleezza Rice

**Secretary of State (2005-2009)
Exclusive Simply Lead video
interview with John C. Maxwell**



Condoleezza Rice is currently the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Graduate School of Business; the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution and a professor of Political Science at Stanford University. From January 2005-2009, Rice served as the 66th Secretary of State of the United States, the second woman and first African American woman to hold the post.

Tickets are available online at www.chickfilaleadercast.com for \$65, and both breakfast and lunch are provided with admission.

Sponsorships are also available.

For more information, call (936) 294-2274 or email

Dr. Kristy Vienne @ klv002@shsu.edu or

Rebekah Filson @ rif001@shsu.edu.

Main Street Music Series, silent auction planned for April

The Huntsville Main Street Program has a busy month planned for local residents, with the weekly Main Street Music Series kick-off and a silent auction in the second annual Wine Down, Shop Small event both scheduled in April.

Main Street Music Series – Begins April 5

The Spring 2013 Main Street Music Series will begin April 5, once again bringing free, live performances of local bands and musicians to the downtown square.

The weekly events will be held weekly through May 10 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Walker County Courthouse lawn.

“We held a five-week music series last fall, and it was very well-received, so we immediately started planning to continue with a spring and fall music series this year,” said Kim McAuliffe, Main Street Coordinator. “I love live music, and I especially love that we have so many great musicians in Huntsville that are willing to share their talent with the community.

“I really believe our local residents and families as well as students will enjoy these concerts, and I can’t wait for them to get started.”

The spring series will begin on Friday, April 5 and will feature The Anthemeers, a post-folk rock band, at 6 p.m. and The Gypsy Davies, a folk/blues duo, at 7:45 p.m. On April 12, Zachary Keane Crocker, a folk singer, will perform at 6 p.m. and folk singer Mary Brett will take the stage at 7:45 p.m.

Tom & Gary, a rock duo, will play on April 19 at 6 p.m. and The Shades, a folk trio, will play at 7:45 p.m. Then, on April 26, The Neighbors, an indie/country band, will play at 6 p.m. and rock band Singlewide will play at 7:45 p.m.

For the first show in May, Elixir Kid, an alternative rock band, will play at 6 p.m. on May 3 with The Last Great Assault, an alternative rock band, at 7:45 p.m. The series will conclude on May 10 with The Broken Hinges, a rock/country band, at 6 p.m. and Werewolf Tea Party, a progressive/folk duo, at 7:45 p.m.

Snacks and drinks will also be sold to benefit the Main Street Program and help keep the concerts free. Collectible t-shirts and posters will also be available. Attendees are encouraged to

bring lawn chairs or blankets as a limited number of chairs will be available.

For more information, contact McAuliffe at (936) 291-5920, visit the program Web site, www.huntsvillemainstreet.com, or check the program Facebook page, www.facebook.com/huntsvillemainstreet.com.

Wine Down, Shop Small silent auction – April 27

The Huntsville Main Street Program will hold a special silent auction on Saturday, April 27 in conjunction with the annual Downtown Business Alliance “Wine Down, Shop Small” event, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The silent auction, as well as the main WDSS event, will be held on from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the downtown area. Several stores in the downtown will be participating in late night shopping, and some will have local artists demonstrating and displaying art. Selected stores will have a unique winery and restaurant in their shop, and maps and signage will be available to direct attendees.

“The Main Street silent auction will feature approximately 10 to 12 items, and the proceeds will benefit further beautification of downtown Huntsville,” said Kim McAuliffe, Main Street Coordinator. “We plan to make wine tours and tastings, gift certificates to area wineries, gift baskets from several downtown merchants, a one-night stay at Smither Bed and Breakfast and other items available for interested attendees to bid on.

“We’ll announce the winners around 8:30 p.m., giving everyone a chance to pick their favorite items and enjoy the rest of the event.”

Tickets for the event are on sale for \$30 at Main Street and at several downtown businesses. On the day of the event, the price will increase to \$40.

“The Wine Down, Shop Small event is unlike any other event we have in Huntsville,” McAuliffe said. “It’s something truly special and not to be missed by anyone, especially wine enthusiasts.”

For more information on any of the items above, contact McAuliffe at (936) 291-5920.



Farmers Market coming soon!

The Huntsville Downtown Farmers Market will begin its 2013 season on May 4, and both interested shoppers and potential vendors are encouraged to mark their calendars.

According to Kim McAuliffe, Main Street Coordinator, the first few weeks of the market will feature tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, squash, and baked goods, and there is still space for additional vendors to come share their produce.

“We invite anyone who has an interest in selling food, plants or hand-crafted items to participate in this year’s Downtown Farmers Market,” she said. “We’d love to see more people selling homegrown produce – even local gardeners are encouraged to participate and sell extra plants they may have.

“The kick-off for the Farmers Market will be on Saturday, May 4 in conjunction with the Airing of the Quilts, Truck & Tractor Show and Cinco de Mayo Festival, and the market will be held every Saturday through July 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.”

For more information, call Main Street at (936) 291-5920.

Every Saturday - May 4 through July 27

Recreation Services offering spring/summer programs

Zumba - April/May class schedule

The City of Huntsville Recreation Services department will be temporarily changing the class days for Zumba. Until May 8, 2012, Zumba will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Huntsville Intermediate School in the fifth grade gymnasium at 5:30 p.m. This change will also be posted on the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov. The cost to participate in Zumba is \$2 per class. Participants also have the option to purchase a punch card with twelve classes for \$20. For more information, contact Recreation Services at (936) 294-5725.

Water Aerobics - Beginning April 22

The City of Huntsville Recreation Services will hold Water Aerobics classes Monday through Wednesday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Monday through Thursday 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. from April 22, 2013 through September 19, 2013. Participants must be 18 years or older and are required to fill out a registration form and pay a fee of \$55 for the year. The fee covers as many classes in a week as the participant is able to attend. There is also the option to pay \$4 per class. Registration is available at the City of Huntsville Service Center, or upon arrival at each class.

For more information, call Natalie Reid, Recreation assistant, at 936-294-5725 or visit the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov and scroll over "Departments" and "Parks & Recreation" to access the Recreation Services page.

Outdoor Explorer - Beginning April 20

Join us at the Huntsville State Park as we partner with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to learn basic safety for biking, hiking, and kayaking. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon by exploring the State Park with bikes and kayaks provided by the City, free of charge. Class sizes are limited to twenty and pre-registration is required. Program dates include April 20, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, and September 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants twelve and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Entry fees to the park are \$5 for adults and ages 12 and under are free.

For more information or to register call Natalie Reid, Recreation assistant, at 936-294-5725 or visit the Recreation Services Web site.

Wildflowers in bloom throughout the City!

Bright spring colors in Eastham-Thomason Park, Sallie Gibbs Park, Wynne Home and more



The City Parks and Leisure Department had another very successful Beautification Golf Tournament this year, resulting in more than \$2,000 raised for the purchase of wildflower seeds and new trees.

This year marks the tenth annual tournament, and according to Penny Joiner with the Parks and Leisure Department, attendance has steadily increased since the event began.

The wildflowers paid for by the tournament proceeds can be seen in locations all over the City, including Eastham-Thomason Park, City Hall, the Wynne Home Arts Center, Founders' Park and Sallie Gibbs Park.

Be sure to take the camera and check out your City's natural beauty, and visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for a collection of photos of current wildflower patches.