

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 10, Issue 10

August 2014

Calendar

August 2014

- 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

September 2014

- 2 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 3 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 4 - Planning & Zoning Commission -
City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 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

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

HPD encourages back-to-school driving safety

Remember school zone speed limits, cell phone safety

The Huntsville Police Department asks all citizens to be especially mindful during the coming months of the beginning of the school year and the associated traffic concerns.

According to HPD Lieutenant Jim Barnes, the increased presence of Sam Houston State University students on main roadways and the renewed enforcement of school zones and the laws pertaining to school busses should be on the minds of all drivers, especially through the months of August and September.

"The Huntsville Independent School District, Sam Houston State University and other local campuses will be back in session, and there will be a lot more traffic and a lot more kids to consider," Barnes said. "We're encouraging all citizens to be aware, plan accordingly when driving within the city, and be patient and cognizant of your surroundings."

Barnes said citizens should review the locations of school zones on their daily travel routes as well as the speed limits in effect during drop-off and pick-up hours.

"Every campus has protocols for how to enter and exit, and we're asking citizens to observe those protocols," he said. "There will be officers available to assist and answer questions, but they will also issue citations for those who violate traffic laws."

"Also, when you're driving near school zones, remember to keep an eye out for children who will be walking or riding their bikes to school."

Within residential areas, drivers are also cautioned to observe the laws related to school bus stop signs, Barnes said.

"There are numerous bus stops throughout residential areas, and citations will be issued for those not stopping for school bus signs," he said. "When the stop signs on a school bus are out, vehicles are required to stop whether they are behind that bus or across the street from it."

"In these situations, please be patient, or plan alternative routes to avoid temporarily congested areas."

Finally, Barnes said drivers on Sam Houston Avenue and 11th Street should be ready for an influx of university student drivers who are unfamiliar with the Huntsville area.

"We're asking that drivers consider the fact that many incoming freshman may be driving in Huntsville for the first time," Barnes said. "Again, please be patient, but if there is a situation which you feel may require law enforcement attention, make us aware of it and we will act accordingly."

Cell phone usage

Citizens are also reminded that the use of cell phones when school zones are active is against City ordinance and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200. This regulation applies to both calling and texting, and the same fine applies to speeding in school zones.

For more information or with any questions, contact Barnes at (936) 291-5496. See page 2 for school zone information.

Citizens: Please be mindful of school zone period speed limits

Huntsville High School: FM 2821

7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m./ 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 35 miles per hour

Huntsville Intermediate & Scott Johnson Elementary:

US 190 - 7:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m./ 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 30 mph

Huntsville Elementary: 87 Martin Luther King Drive

Gibbs Elementary: 19th Street **Stewart Elementary: 3400 Boettcher**

Sam Houston Elementary: 1600 7th St. **Mance Park Middle School: 8th Street**

All five campuses: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m./ 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 20 mph

Speeding or use of cell phone is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200. Call the Huntsville Police Department for more information at (936) 291-5480.

November 4, 2014 General Election

Voting information, key dates

EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

Early voting will be conducted at the following location:
Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101
Dates: October 20th to October 31st, Monday through Friday
Times: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

EXCEPTIONS:

There will be two twelve hour days during early voting:
Tuesday, Oct. 21st and Tuesday, Oct. 28th – Early Voting Hours 7:00am – 7:00pm
There will also be weekend voting at the Walker County Annex:
Saturday, Oct. 25th and Sunday, Oct. 26th – Early Voting Hours 1:00pm – 5:00pm

CITY POLLING LOCATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 4 ELECTION

Ward 1 –

Pct. 102 - Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue Suite 101

Ward 2 –

Pct. 201 - Walker County Storm Shelter/Veterans Complex, 455 State Highway 75 North
Pct. 401 - University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Avenue

Ward 3 –

Pct.101 - Walker County Justice Center, 717 FM 2821
Pct. 301 - Huntsville ISD Transportation Building, 95 Martin Luther King Dr.

Ward 4 –

Pct. 205 - Elkins Lake Conference Center, 634 Cherry Hills Drive
Pct. 206 - Huntsville Fire Station #1, 1987 Veterans Memorial Parkway
Pct. 401 - University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Avenue

All Walker County polling locations are available at www.co.walker.tx.us in the “Current Elections” tab, and will be included in future issues of the City Connection.

Dates to Remember

for the
November 4, 2014
election

**First day to apply
for ballot by mail
September 5**

**Last day to
register to vote or
make name/address
changes:
October 6**

**Early voting begins:
October 20**

**Last day to apply for ballot
by mail
(Received, not postmarked)
October 24**

**Early voting ends:
October 31**

**Election Day:
November 4
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

Photo ID Required for Texas Voters

Voters are now required to present one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person:

- (1) Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- (2) Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- (3) Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- (4) Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- (5) United States military identification card containing your photograph
- (6) United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph
- (7) United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

The voters name on the identification presented must match or be “substantially similar” to the name on the official list of registered voters (poll list).

Additional information, including material on further exemptions, is available through the Texas Secretary of State’s office at www.votetexas.gov.



City of Huntsville Recycling Guidelines

Direct questions to (936) 294-5743

Curbside recycling guidelines:

1. Rinse all plastics and cans to remove residue
2. Only plastics 1-7 stamped with number and symbol
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, shredded paper, glass/oil/filters, batteries, cell phones, electronics, Styrofoam or aluminum foil.

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, place in plastic trash bags. 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. Put the cans in plastic trash bags. 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 or brown only: Throw away lids, rinse out. You can leave the label on. Place clear glass and brown 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, 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. Place these items in plastic trash bags by themselves. 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

Plastic bags - Must have recycling symbol visible on the bag. These can be some grocery bags, shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, etc. Place all plastic bags into one and tie shut.

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

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

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for Area curbside recycling schedules 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 bagged, canned or bundled yard waste 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 (bags not to exceed 30 gallons) or placed in personal garbage;
- (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.

The yard trimmings must not be bagged.

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

“Beat the Heat” with these summertime tips

As temperatures reach the high double and even triple digits this summer, utilize the following tips to stay cool and healthy:

- (1) No air conditioning? Make a homemade air conditioner using a fan and bowl of ice. The fan's breeze will blow across the ice cubes and, as they melt, ice-cooled air will spread and help cool off a small space, like a bedroom or kitchen.
- (2) Another way to simulate A/C is to hang a wet towel filled with ice from a desk or table and position it near a fan, which will blow colder air around the room. Be sure to place a bucket underneath to collect the melting ice.
- (3) Cool off by spraying yourself with water from a spray bottle in the fridge. It's a cheap and an easy way to lower your body temperature. Be sure to spray your upper chest, arms and face to cool down.
- (4) Make your freezer your friend. Put household items in the freezer and use them to cool down. Anything from towels to pillowcases can be tucked in the freezer and pulled out during peak afternoon heat hours or overnight to cool off.
- (5) Cover windows that receive a ton of sun with shades or towels to keep your house cooler. Turn off the lights, when possible, to reduce energy use.
- (6) Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Cold beverages and water will help cool down the body.
- (7) Mind what you eat. Avoid spicy foods, which can raise your body temperature, and opt for well-balanced and light meals, instead. Kids should eat foods such as fresh fruits, like watermelon, or ice popsicles, that are rich in water to stay hydrated.
- (8) Avoid coffee and alcohol. As they are diuretic-based, they can lead to frequent bathroom visits that exacerbate dehydration.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/07/summer-heat-wave-tips-to-beat-the-heat-2/>

Solid waste customers: Look for “Greener Huntsville” Twitter posts

Citizens are encouraged to follow the City of Huntsville Twitter feed, @HuntsvilleTexas, for updates on the City's curbside recycling and solid waste efforts.

According to Carol Reed, Public Works Director, additional material will be made available for residents via the City's existing Twitter page as part of the “Greener Huntsville: Easy Recycling” initiative.

“Now that we have activated curbside recycling in all eight areas of the City, we want to provide our residents with as much information as possible about how to take advantage of this service correctly and easily,” Reed said. “By providing how-to guides, tips and reminders about curbside recycling and important dates to remember, our hope is to make recycling a quick and convenient part of our citizens' daily lives.”

The tweets will not only address recycling, Reed said, but will also assist customers in pinpointing Heavy Trash, Yard Waste and regular garbage pickup dates and requirements. The most current copy of the City's recycling and garbage pick-up area map will also be provided for reference.

“We plan to use Twitter to remind people to put their blue or green carts at the street's edge both at the right time and on the right day,” Reed said. “For example, for customers in Areas 1, 3, 5 and 7, we actually plan to send a tweet out on Sunday evening to remind them their garbage pickup is the next day, Monday.

“That way, they have plenty of time to get their carts out before the next morning at 6 a.m. when pickup begins. We'll do the same thing for recycling later in the week; our plan is to send these messages on a set schedule so citizens always have an extra reminder.”

Reed said the “Greener Huntsville” Twitter initiative will also include energy conservation tips for residential and commercial entities, methods for saving water and more. For more information, contact Reed at [\(936\) 294-5768](tel:936-294-5768) or Solid Waste Superintendent Esther Herklotz at [\(936\) 294-5724](tel:936-294-5724). The City's Twitter feed can be viewed at <https://twitter.com/HuntsvilleTexas>.

HPOA preparing for annual fundraiser - Citizens encouraged to participate

The Huntsville Police Officers Association is preparing for its annual Team Roping Fundraiser, and attendees and potential participants are encouraged to mark their calendars! According to Huntsville Police Department Sergeant Eric Scott, the event will be held on October 19 at the Walker County Fairgrounds, and the money raised will go directly back into the local community to support children's activities and organizations.

“We are very excited to host our fourth annual Team Roping Fundraiser,” Scott said. “HPOA, which includes both civilian and uniformed employees of the Huntsville Police Department, works with community sponsors to coordinate prizes for the event, as well as food and beverages for the concession stand. Then, we open the event up to individuals who wish to register to compete for a \$25 entry fee. We take 30 percent of those fees for the fundraiser, and the remaining 70 percent goes into a pot for the winners.”

Scott said HPOA was able to donate funding to several community organizations including the Huntsville Lions Club, the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce, the Walker County Fair Association (for student projects) and more.

For more information, contact Scott at (936) 291-5497 or HPD at (936) 291-5480.