

# CITY

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## CONNECTION

Volume 9 ~ Issue 1  
October 2012  
Calendar

### October 2012

- 2 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.  
1212 Avenue 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.**
- 22 Early voting for 11-6 Election  
begins - Ends November 2**
- 24 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 31 Yard Waste Trimming Collection

### November 2012

- 1 Planning & Zoning Commission -  
City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 6 Regular General and Special  
Election - see pages 2-3**
- 7 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 13 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 Planning & Zoning Commission -  
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Special Session -  
Canvass 11-6 Election
- 21 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 27 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 28 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.

For full election information  
in English and Spanish, visit  
[www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)

## Budget overview for FY 2012-13

The City of Huntsville completed a six-month budget process last month, resulting in a \$58,189,840 budget for fiscal year 2012-13 including a four-cent tax increase and a deficit of approximately two percent.

According to Mayor Mac Woodward, the City Council and the City staff will spend the coming months addressing the budget, keeping citizen needs and levels of service in mind.

"Over the next few weeks and months, City Council - along with the City Manager and City departments - will be looking at other options to close the gap between revenues and expenses," Woodward said. "We will also be monitoring our revenues and hopefully we'll have a good year with increasing sales tax.

"We certainly want to be sensitive to the citizens of Huntsville, and to work to ensure that they continue to receive the high quality of services they deserve."

City staff began work on the 2012-13 budget in March with informational meetings and the development of department-level budgets. At the end of May, preliminary budget reports were generated and presented to the City Council during two sessions. Work continued in June and July to ensure the proposed budget contained only essential components.

During this time - from May until the end of August - the City held numerous workshops which were open to the public and allowed the City Council and staff to discuss different options to reduce expenditures.

In August, the Walker County Appraisal District provided the City with an official effective tax rate for fiscal year 2012-13. Due to the effective rate being lower than the tax rate in place at the time, and a minimal increase in new property value, the City Council voted on August 7 to provide the City the option of increasing the effective rate to .4206. The increase would generate an additional \$451,621 in property tax revenue to the General Fund.

During the months of August and September, two tax hearings and a budget hearing were held to allow the citizens an opportunity to express any concerns with the possibility of a tax increase and the proposed budget. Following the hearings, the Council passed the budget on September 12.

### How much does the tax increase affect you?

The tax rate for the FY 2011-12 fiscal year was .3915 cents per \$100 valuation. Per the Walker County Appraisal District, the effective tax rate for FY 2012-13 was .3806 cents per \$100 valuation.

When City Council set the tax rate at .4206, they raised the rate approximately four cents above the WCAD effective rate. The resulting rate of .4206 was approximately three cents over FY 2011-12 rates.

The four-cent increase requires the average homeowner - with their home valued at \$131,494.00 - to pay approximately \$52.60 a year in additional taxes, or \$4.38 per month.

Compared to FY 2011-12, the increase to average homeowners is approximately \$39.45 a year, or \$3.29 a month.

## Where Do I Vote on Election Day? (Donde votare el dia de la eleccion?)

On Election Day, voters will report to their precinct polling places as set out below:  
(En el Dia De Eleccion, votantes se reportaran a su lugar de votacion del recinto escrito abajo:)

### **City-wide precincts and polling places**

#### **Precinct (Recinto)**

**101**, Ward 3 - (101, Sala 3)  
**102**, Ward 1 - (102, Sala 1)  
**201**, Ward 2 - (201, Sala 2)  
**205**, Ward 4 - (205, Sala 4)  
**206**, Ward 2 - (206, Sala 2)  
**301**, Ward 3 - (301, Sala 3)  
**401**, Ward 4 - (401, Sala 4)

#### **Polling Place (Sitios de Votacion)**

Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101  
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First Presbyterian Church, 1801 19th Street  
Elkins Lake Recreation Conference Center, 634 Cherry Hills  
Huntsville Fire Station No. 1; 1987 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
Huntsville ISD Transportation Building, 95 Martin Luther King  
University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Avenue

The polling places shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

*(Los sitios de votacion estaran abiertos de 7:00a.m. a 7:00p.m. en el dia de las elecciones.)*

#### **County-wide precincts and polling places**

**Pct. 103** - Cook Springs Baptist Church  
1936-A SH 75 N

**Pct. 104** - Northside Baptist Church  
1207 FM 980

**Pct. 203** - West Sandy Civic Center  
Corner FM 3179 & FM 1791

**Pct. 204** - Walker County Fairgrounds  
3925 SH 30 W

**Pct. 302** - Calvary Baptist Church  
1135 U. S. Hwy 190

**Pct. 303** - Dodge Volunteer Fire Department  
28 Dodge Oakhurst Road

**Pct. 304/305** - Riverside Fire Department  
2341 FM 980

**Pct. 402/403** - Phelps First Methodist Church  
Dorrell Road @ Watson Lake Road

**Pct. 404** - New Waverly First Baptist Church  
460 Fisher Street, New Waverly, Texas 77358

#### **SAMPLE BALLOT - REGULAR ELECTION**

**Councilmember, At-Large Position One**  
 James Fitch

**Councilmember, At-Large Position Two**  
 Lydia Montgomery

**Councilmember, At-Large Position Three**  
 Joe Rodriguez  
 Don Johnson

**Councilmember, At-Large Position Four**  
 Kendall Scudder  
 Keith Olson

#### **Information from the Walker County Elections Department:**

Ballot by mail is also available to those that qualify. If a voter will be over 65 years of age or older on Election Day, has a disability, or will be outside the county during early voting hours and on Election Day, the voter can apply to vote by mail. Simply submit a completed and signed Application for a Ballot by Mail to the address above. Call our office for more information at (936) 436-4959.

Registered voters can vote with a voter registration card, driver's license or any official photo ID, birth certificate, United States citizenship papers or passport, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement or other official document that shows the name and address of the voter.

Curbside Voting service is available to any voter who has difficulty walking or standing for long periods. If you have an assistant with you, when you arrive at poll place whether you're voting early or on Election Day, have them notify the election official at that time. The election official will then bring your ballot to your car outside the polling location. If you do not have an assistant, please pull up in one of the designated "curbside-alert" parking spots which will automatically notify the election clerk that you want to vote curbside.

In Walker County, there are several entities having a joint election and due to the makeup of the voting boxes across the county, voters qualify to vote one of the twenty-six (26) different ballot styles based on their registration. All ballots are double-sided, legal size and will include federal, state, and county offices. However, on the back side of the ballot is where the differences will come in based on where you live. If applicable, your ballot may also include the Huntsville Independent School District and/or the City of Huntsville. Or if applicable, your ballot may include the New Waverly Independent School District and/or the City of New Waverly. Applicable ballots in Precincts 1 and 2 will also include a special election for the creation of an Emergency Services District. We ask for your patience at the polls and encourage you to pick up a sample ballot at the Walker County Annex, Elections Department Rm 114. The sample ballot provides the order the contests and candidates will appear on the ballot for every political subdivision on the Walker County Joint Election. These ballots will also be posted on the county website at [www.co.walker.tx.us](http://www.co.walker.tx.us). On the homepage, just click on the "Current Election(s)" tab on the left for more information or call our office at (936) 436-4959.

## November 6, 2012 General and Special Election information

### When is Election Day? (Cuando es el Dia de Eleccion?)

Walker County will hold a Joint Election including the City of Huntsville on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. (La Ciudad de Huntsville y el distrito independiente escolar de Huntsville sostendran una eleccion unida el Martes 6 de Noviembre del 2012.)

### Am I registered to vote? (Estoy registrado para votar?)

In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of the particular political subdivision. The last day to register to vote for the November 6 election is OCTOBER 9, 2012.

If you are not sure if your voter registration is current you may call (936)436-4959 or visit:

<https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/Introduction.jsp> or [www.co.walker.tx.us](http://www.co.walker.tx.us)

(Para poder votar en esta eleccion tiene que ser un votante registrado de la division politica particular. Si no esta seguro si su registracion para votar esta vigente puede llamar (936)436-4959 o visite nuestra pagina de web arriba.)

### Where do I go for early voting? (A donde voy para votar temprano?)

There will be two Early Voting Polling Place for all entities:

- (1) The Main Early Voting site will be the Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101, Huntsville, Texas; and
- (2) a temporary Branch Early Voting Site at the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum Complex, a.k.a. Walker County Storm Shelter at 455 State Highway 75 North.

### Early Voting By Personal Appearance at Walker County Annex:

**October 22 - November 2, 2012 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**October 23 and 30 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

**October 27 - 28 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

### Early Voting By Personal Appearance at H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum:

**October 27 - 28 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

\*\*Remember to bring proper identification to the polling place. The most common forms of identification used are a voter registration certificate or driver's license.\*\*

[1] El Anexo del Condado de Walker (Walker County Annex), 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Room 101, Huntsville, Texas 77340, es por la presente designado como el lugar principal para votar por anticipado en las elecciones. Durante el periodo legal para votar por anticipado, dicho secretario deberá mantener abierto dicho lugar para votar por anticipado desde las 8:00 A.M. hasta las 5:00 P.M. lunes hasta viernes del 22 de octubre al del 2 de noviembre; y desde las 7:00 A.M. hasta las 7:00 P.M., los días martes 23 y miércoles 30 de octubre, de 2012; y desde la 1:00 P.M. hasta las 5:00 P.M., el sábado Octubre 27, 2012 y el domingo Octubre 28, 2012; excepto días festivos estatales oficiales.

[2] La Rama de Votacion Temprana Sitio será en el H.E.A.R.T.S. El Complejo del Museo de Veteranos, conocido como El Refugio de Tormenta del Condado de Walker en la 455 carretera nacional 75 del norte (H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum Complex, a.k.a. Walker County Storm Shelter at 455 State Highway 75 North). Durante el periodo legal para votar por anticipado, dicho secretario deberá mantener abierto dicho lugar para votar por anticipado desde solo la 1:00 P.M. hasta las 5:00 P.M., el sábado Octubre 27, 2012 y el domingo Octubre 28, 2012.

\*\*Recuerde de traer identificacion suficiente a el lugar de votacion. Las formas mas comunes de identificacion son la tarjeta certificada para votar o su licencia de conducir.\*\*

“How do I know which polling place to use?”

For a map of the City and assistance determining updated ward boundaries, visit [www.huntsvillegis.com](http://www.huntsvillegis.com) and select the City Map at the bottom of the page. The map provides both ward and precinct boundaries.

## 10th Annual Scare on the Square - Oct. 27

The City of Huntsville Main Street Program will host the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scare on the Square on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

According to Main Street Coordinator Kim McAuliffe, attendants will see many of the features of past events, including costume contests, game booths and free candy. However, several new features have been added to make the event more fun for the entire family.

Admission for the event will be \$1 for adults and children over 5, while children under 5 will receive free admission.

"Working in collaboration with several community and SHSU organizations to bring spooky family-friendly fun to downtown, this 10-year milestone promises to be the best Scare on the Square yet," she said. "We've made several changes, including food vendors selling fair favorites like funnel cakes, corn dogs, kettle corn, pork skins, snow cones, sausage on a stick. "Also, 'Drac's Back' - the Huntsville Community Theatre production - will be in its opening weekend, and it would be a perfect way for families to end the night."

As in previous years, free candy and trick-or-treat bags as well as free Nestle chocolate milk will be provided while supplies last.

"We'll have around 40 booths featuring games, crafts, food and drinks and more," McAuliffe said. "We will also have activities like bone-yard bowling, face painting, bean bag tosses, as well as two moonwalks.

"There will also be a costume contest, and the winners will receive cash prizes, so our judges will be looking for a lot of creativity in our contestants' outfits. Finally, Oakwood Cemetery tours led by the Walker County Historical Commission will be available, and Historical Huntsville Ghost tours will be booking tours for the fall season."

For more information, contact McAuliffe at (936) 291-5920.

## Halloween Safety Tips

With Halloween night just around the corner, the Huntsville Police Department has a few safety tips for families to remember as they set off for Trick-or-Treating.

According to HPD Lieutenant Jim Barnes, the following common sense safety tips can ensure that kids are safe both during Halloween festivities and once they've returned home.

- ~ Parents or other adults should always escort groups of small children going Trick-or-Treating.
- ~ Children should wear easily recognizable or reflective costumes, and should also stay away from masks that obstruct their view.
- ~Trick-or-Treaters should avoid staying out past dark, even though extra HPD patrol cars will be watching neighborhoods.
- ~Trick-or-Treaters should always get candy from friends, family members or neighbors, and NEVER eat anything that hasn't been inspected by an adult
- ~Do not approach houses that do not have their lights on.
- ~Everyone should stay aware of traffic, exercise caution when driving or walking on Halloween night.
- ~If possible, carry a flashlight or attach a light device to your child's costume or candy container.
- ~Children should not be on trailers or hayrides on public roads, or in the back of pick-up trucks.

For more information, contact the HPD at (936) 291-5480.

### Police/Fire:

### Stats for August 2012

Calls for service: **4457**

### Police:

Accidents investigated: **94**

Animal Control complaints investigated: **71**

### Fire:

Calls for service: **124**

Main alarm calls: **18**

### Solid Waste/Recycling holiday closures

Thursday, November 22, 2012:

No residential garbage or recycling collection

No Commercial garbage collection

Facility closed

Friday, November 23, 2012

No residential garbage or recycling collection

Commercial garbage collection will run

Facility closed