

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 11, Issue 8

May 2015

Calendar

May 2015

- 5 - City Council workshop at 4:30 p.m. - meeting at 6 p.m.
- 6 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 7 - Planning & Zoning Commission - City Hall at 12:00 p.m. (noon)
- 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.
- 25 - City closed for Memorial Day
- 27 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

June 2015

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

National Library Week Recognized

Mayors and Councilmembers not only see to the health, safety, and welfare of the community through the actions they take at Council meetings, but also fulfill ceremonial duties. The most common of these are attending social functions as representatives of the City, giving welcome addresses at gatherings or events, and presenting proclamations for special days, weeks, or months of recognition.

Spring is an especially busy time for proclamations, as many national organizations and initiatives are acknowledged, such as National Tourism Week, Municipal Clerks Week, and Hurricane Awareness Week, to name a few. Additionally, local groups hold public and private events such as the Relay for Life of Walker County and SHSU or Denim Day at SAAFE House, to which they invite local leaders to attend and often deliver proclamations.

On April 15, 2015, the City of Huntsville proclaimed National Library Week, encouraging all citizens to take advantage of the opportunities that libraries offer. As stated in the proclamation, libraries create potential and possibility within the community, effect social change through their commitment to provide equitable access to information for all library users, and open up a world of new resources for individuals throughout.

National Library Week supports more than the resources made available for use, it also supports librarians and patrons of the public libraries within the community. Councilmember Tish Humphrey had the honor of not only presenting the proclamation, but also reading a short story to the children of Huntsville. Be sure to visit the Huntsville Public Library soon, to see what all the proclaiming is about!

"Being a part of National Library Week was beyond inspiring," said Councilmember Tish Humphrey. "We have an amazing library here in Huntsville and it's great to see that so many young children and adults are utilizing their resources and taking advantage of learning opportunities."



Sign up for our digital newsletter, "This Week in Huntsville!"

The City's new bi-monthly, digital newsletter is really taking off, with new residents signing up and new features to keep everyone informed. Never miss an event again - sign up for your free **This Week in Huntsville** newsletter!

Did you notice the disaster preparedness kit special issue on our Web site? Check it out! To subscribe, log onto the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov, click "**e-news Subscriptions**" on the left-hand side of the page, enter your email address and select "This Week in Huntsville." You'll automatically receive a free, digital newsletter twice each month!

Heavy Trash Fee/Yard Waste Changes Went Into Effect April 3, 2015

On February 3, the City Council conducted a second reading and adopted the City's updated guidelines for heavy trash pick up charges and yard waste bagging requirements (fee schedule changes for Solid Waste were approved on January 20).

Heavy Trash Pick Up

Effective April 3, 2015, customers who call in for Heavy Trash Pick Up Service will have a \$25.00 charge added to their City of Huntsville utility account bill each time the service is used.

This service is for residential customers only with an active utility account and a call-in is required. Requestors call 936-294-5796 to leave information on the voice mail in order to be added to the pick up list. They must leave a name, service address, account number, contact number, and a description of the item or items to be picked up.

Heavy Trash Pick Up Service is for furniture, appliances, piles of brush not to exceed 4 feet high, 10 feet in length, and 5 feet in depth, or limbs no larger than 12 inches in diameter and cut to 5 feet in length.

Yard Waste

Beginning April 3, plastic yard waste bags at the street's edge will no longer be collected. Yard waste must be placed at the street's edge for pick up in one of the following acceptable manners:

- In paper compostable yard bags which can be purchased from local retailers
- In personal trash cans not to exceed 30 gallons
- Limbs no larger than 4 inches in diameter, cut to four feet in length, must be tied securely in bundles no larger than 2 feet in diameter, and not weigh more than 50 pounds

For more information and specifics, please go to the City of Huntsville web page under Departments/Public Works/Solid Waste/Recycling. Citizens are also welcome to contact the office at (936) 294-5724 or eherklotz@huntsvilletx.gov.

Proper Retirement of Flags

Did you know there are twenty different ways to properly retire the United States flag, and only one correct way to retire the Texas flag? Did you know it is bad form to talk about *destroying* a Texas or United States flag, and that the correct terminology is to *retire* a flag? Local Boy Scout Matthew Fields does, and as part of his Eagle project, he'd like to help you learn about this as well.

Matthew's father Chuck Fields is also interested in the correct handling of flag disposal, and has been an ongoing instructor for local Boy Scouts in correct protocol.

Last year, Matthew constructed Flag Deposit boxes and placed them at City Hall and the Walker County Courthouse to provide easy drop-off locations for local residents who have flags that are due for retirement.

"Just put it in the box," Matthew said, "we will pick up year-round from both locations, and store the flags until we have our annual ceremony in October."

Each fall the Fields host a camporee, and alternate retirement of United States and Texas flags, as Chuck Fields said the two should not be handled at the same time.

"You never retire the Texas and U.S. flags in the same ceremony," Mr. Fields also informed us. "Each deserves its own time for respect. This year we're retiring Texas flags."

Matthew said learning about the process and how to correctly handle the flags in all situations has been really interesting for him, especially hearing the stories about flag history.

The Fields welcome those who are interested in knowing more or would like to attend this year's retirement to contact them at viperfc1213@yahoo.com, and, of course, to continue to use the flag deposit boxes year-round.

Stay Informed!

Hurricane season is just around the corner, and the City of Huntsville is working to make sure residents have all the information they need to prepare their families, homes and pets for the potential severe weather ahead. According to John Waldo, Emergency Management Coordinator, a critical source for weather preparedness is the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) page, part of the Texas Department of Public Safety Web site.

"The Texas Division of Emergency Management provides extremely valuable information for families who are in the process of preparing for severe weather," Waldo said. "From their web page, <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/>, all visitors have to do is click on the 'Public Information & Education' link, and they'll be taken to all the preparedness tips, supply kit checklists and safety information they'll need to get through Hurricane Season."

The TDEM Web site includes awareness information on wildfires, severe weather, flood safety, hurricane and post-storm preparedness, lighting safety and more.

On the Hurricane Preparedness page, readers will find information for evacuation planning, storm watch and warning articles, and post-storm information concerning power outages, debris removal and applications for financial assistance.

"Since Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1st, I would recommend starting to read through the preparedness documents and gather the supplies you need in advance," said Waldo. "Many of the items which are recommended for an emergency supply kit are either already in your home or can be purchased inexpensively."

John Waldo can be reached at 936-291-5945.



HPL Events for May!

Regular events

- **Story Time** is fun and exciting and held every Wednesday morning at 10:45 a.m. Each week we read stories, sing songs and make a craft that follows the theme of the week.
- **Delightful Doodlers** is an informal craft period for preschoolers every Monday at 11:00 a.m. Take some time out, let the children make a super cute craft, and then stay a little bit and play with friends.
- **Krafty Kids** is a lively and enjoyable craft time for elementary students. We meet every Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Children's Room.
- **Read With The Dogs** is an excellent program that helps children who experience anxiety when reading out loud or in a group setting. The dogs are trained and friendly, and make excellent reading companions. Read With The Dogs takes place on the third Monday of every month and registration is required.
- The Huntsville Public Library's **Lego Club** is held the third Tuesday of every month. The Lego Club meets for approximately 45 minutes and is for ages 5-12. We have icebreaker activities, group work, and show and tell time, and the library provides all materials. At this time registration is not required but highly recommended. For more information, contact Children's Coordinator, Kristi Glasgow at 291-5910.
- **Family Movie Night** will be held on Friday, May 8, and Friday, June 12 at 5:30 p.m. The movie night is sponsored by Texas Children's Health Plan. All movies are rated G or PG. Complimentary popcorn and drinks are served at all movies. For more information call the library at 291-5472.
- The Teen Department will host a **Teen 3-D Art Activity** on Thursday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m. and will have more events throughout the summer. For more information about this activity please contact Ashley Newsome at 291-5472.
- **Family Story Time** is the fourth Thursday of every month. We will have a couple of stories, a bedtime snack, and a craft. This Children are encouraged to wear pajamas and bring a pillow.

Mark your calendars! Summer Events Coming Soon!

- **Teen Computer Classes** will be held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from June 9-July 16 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Summer Reading Program, Every Hero Has a Story** - sign up on Saturday, June 13 at 12:30 p.m. - for ages 0-13
- **Superhero Craft Activity** - will be June 23, July 7, & July 24 at 3.30 p.m.
- **Read for Chocolate** - Summer Reading Program for those aged 14-114 begins Monday, June 15th
- **Texas Mime Program** with Mitch Corley - Tuesday, June 16 at 10:30 a.m. - All ages are welcome.

The Huntsville Public Library Children's Department would like to thank all of their sponsors for the 2015 Summer Reading Program donations. If you would like to donate prizes for the program, please contact Children's Coordinator, Kristi Glasgow at 291-5910. Donors are still being welcomed through the dates of the program, but here's a special *thank you* to those who have donated at the time of printing:

- **#1 Nails * 3 Spoons * Amber Van Roekel, Independent Scentsy Consultant * Chili's * Cinestar of Huntsville * City of Huntsville Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center * Dairy Queen * DoubleDave's Pizaworks * Ellen Trout Zoo * Golden Corral * Huntsville Kiwanis Club * Huntsville Lanes * IHOP * Los Pericos Mexican Restaurant * McDonald's * McKenzie's Barbeque & Burgers * Olive Garden Italian Kitchen * Pita Pit * Smoothie King * Sonic * Starbucks * Taco Bell * Target * Taylor Nails * Walmart ***

Children's Summer Art Classes

The Wynne Home Arts Center
1428 Eleventh Street Huntsville, TX 77340

SAVE THE DATE!

Session I: July 14-17

Session II: July 21-24

Session III: July 28-31

Classes include:

Collage Making,
Silk Painting, Ceramics,
Oil Painting, & Many
More!

Call (936) 291-5424 or email
lclay@huntsvilletx.gov for details.



The City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling Division is working hard to ensure that residents who wish to recycle using the single-stream curbside recycling program do so responsibly.



Putting any type of film plastic (which includes items like grocery bags, garbage bags, cling wrap, and zip lock bags) in the recycling bin increases recycling costs. These items can become stuck in the machines that sort the recycling. Unfortunately, not all items with a recycling logo on it are appropriate for single-stream recycling. Place film plastics in your green cart, or take grocery bags back to the grocery store for recycling. Do not place recycling in a plastic bag. Recycling needs to be placed loose in your blue recycling cart.



For more information about the single-stream recycling process, please visit

<http://bit.ly/1yUjgn0>

to watch a five-minute video that explains the single-stream process and the importance of removing plastic bags from your recycling bin.

Thank you for making the program a success!