

# CITY

---

## CONNECTION

Volume 11, Issue 3

August 2015

### Calendar

#### August 2015

- 4 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 5 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 6 - Planning & Zoning Commission -  
City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 9 - 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

#### September 2015

- 1 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 2 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 3 - Planning & Zoning Commission -  
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 7 - Labor Day - City offices closed
- 12 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 16 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 17 - Planning & Zoning Commission -  
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 23 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 30 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection

Submit requests for Heavy Trash pick-up  
before noon on Wednesday,  
the week prior to pick-up,  
at 294-5796.

**Learn more about  
City events at  
[www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)**

# “Feel the Sting” Day

## Are you reading this in green?

You’ve likely noticed that sound in the air, a persistent and steadily increasing buzz - it’s the swarm! Over the last year, groups all around the area have been working with HISD to show their support, which will converge on downtown Huntsville on August 28 with the first “Feel the Sting” Day!

Economic developers believe that strong schools can be an attraction to business and potential residents. The school district serves the majority of local families and is a major employer, making it in the best interest of the community for it to be effective and integrated with the community.

To encourage this, a group of churches, civic groups, local entities, and individuals have banded together to adopt campuses and classrooms. Known as *Promoting Our Positives* (POP), the network has provided countless hours of service and spread the word on the good news at HISD. Activities have included tutoring, teacher support, positive notes and treats for teachers and students at testing time, classroom resources and materials, and more.

The response has been overwhelming, from the public and the District, with both sides saying how much they gain from the relationships and greater involvement with the community’s children and their educators.

To publicly symbolize this, POP developed the Hornet flag project. Members of the public donating \$35 for a Hornet flag for the downtown area, or \$25 for a flag for their home or business, can share in this visual expression of spirit and appreciation. (This is an ongoing project, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 295-8113 at any time to participate.)

As year two of the project begins, a very special event, the first to involve the flags, is on the horizon - “Feel the Sting” Day! On August 28, the date of the first Hornet varsity football home game this year, the flags will be out in full force around the square. All who have purchased a home/business flag are encouraged to display them, also, to really show a “Luv ya green!” attitude.

At the City Council meeting on August 18, Mayor Woodward will issue a proclamation in honor of “Feel the Sting” Day, so join him that evening at 6:00 p.m. Then, be sure to display your flag on August 28, and make time to visit the square that day. Last, but definitely not least, remember to thank an educator or education support staff team member, and let a child know their educational success is important to you!

---

### Sign up for our digital newsletter, “This Week in Huntsville!”

The City’s digital newsletter is a must, issued twice a month and arriving directly in your email inbox, full of features to keep everyone in your home or office informed. Check it out! To subscribe, log onto the City’s Web site, [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) and click on the **Publications** tab.

You’ll automatically receive a free digital newsletter  
twice each month!

## Electronic HR applications available

Effective August 26, 2015, job seekers will find a modernized application process in the Human Resources (HR) Department. Online applications will then be available through [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov), and the City will no longer accept paper applications.

Julie O'Connell, HR Director, is excited about the new opportunity for applicants.

"This is something that has been in the "works" for a very long time, and we have now been able to complete it as part of the new website" she said. "HR will also have two computers available to complete online applications in the HR office."

The new process will provide benefits to applicants, as they will be able to apply for more than one position without having to complete additional forms, and they can track the jobs they're interested in easily and at any time. It will also be easier to attach additional documentation such as resumes and certifications.

Because the City's website is designed to adapt to use on tablets, smartphones, and other electronic devices, applicants can access the system with greater convenience. Current City employees, volunteers, and interns will have specialized applications through the online process.

The process will also enable HR to better and more quickly communicate with candidates on their application status, scheduled interviews, and follow up notifications.

For more information, contact Sandra Cuevas, HR Coordinator, at 936-291-5914.

## City Splash Pad reopens!

The splash pad is OPEN! If you haven't been by lately, it's been too long! Adjacent to the Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center, the pad is wet from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., with the hours expected to remain the same through the month of October.

Aquatic Center Manager Jay Miller is pleased by the announcement.

"We welcome all to come enjoy the splash pad and beat the summer heat," Miller said. "This is another fun way to enjoy the City's aquatic facilities. I hope our residents enjoy this alternative to taking a plunge in the pool!"

While you're drying out in the sun, don't forget the City's Free Little Library is located at the same property, between the pool and the splash pad. Drop off books, borrow a book, find a new favorite story!

This Little Free Library was an installation of the City's Youth Advisory Board in May 2014.

## Free Spanish Classes at Huntsville Public Library

The ever popular free Spanish classes are returning to the Huntsville Public Library! Instructor Beth Williamson will be teaching Intermediate and Advanced classes on Tuesdays in the Community Room. Classes begin September 8, and materials are provided. Register now to reserve your spot – only 35 students maximum for each class.

Intermediate classes will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and advanced classes from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com) or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471 for additional information.

## Meet John Agey of the Parks & Leisure Department

John Agey, Parks & Leisure Manager, and USAF, Retired, has worked with the City for fourteen years. We stopped him for a three-question interview!

*What's the best thing about your job?* Prepping ball fields, because you can see the progress in your work and people appreciate it being done right. (You also get to mow patterns in the grass!)

*What do you wish people knew about Huntsville parks?* There are several pocket parks more of our residents would enjoy, and other larger ones that need more use, too. Our Department offers excellent Recreation Services programs like Outdoor Explorer and Zumba, and the splash pad just reopened!

*Which is your favorite City of Huntsville park and why?* It used to be Gibbs Park when it was more forested, but now it's the trails in the Eastham-Thomason Park. It's like being out of the city without leaving town. You can't hear city noises, but you see wildlife like rabbits, hawks, and foxes.



# Town Creek Grant Awarded!

## Notification is culmination of six years of effort

The City of Huntsville was pleased to receive notification this week that it has received the award letter from the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), approving a scope of work for “Improvements along approximately 1.5 miles of Town Creek between 7th Street and Bearkat Boulevard in downtown Huntsville...” Acceptance of this \$8,763,910.00 amount from TDEM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to be combined with a City match of \$2,921,302.00, is the culmination of over six years of work to secure the funds.

Dr. Sherry McKibben, Director of Neighborhood Services, was elated and relieved by the news.

“We have been expecting this for some time,” McKibben said. “Knowing that the application had met all the anticipated approvals and that the monies had been allocated left only this formality to be met in order to move ahead with the entire project.”

The original timeline for completion was 24 months, but FEMA and TDEM have agreed to grant a 36-month timeline.

In April 2009, the City applied for \$11.1 million in funding to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve the drainage along Town Creek from Sycamore Avenue to 7th Street. Subsequently, FEMA issued a Request for Information in January 2010, and Klotz and Associates was hired to assist the City in responding.

On December 13, 2010, TDEM and FEMA awarded the City \$392,000, with a match of \$130,668, for Phase I Design of the project which included bringing the project to 30% design. Klotz and Associates was selected as the engineering firm for the project and was awarded the contract. On October 2, 2012, the City Council amended the contract to include an additional \$105,900, for a total fee of \$497,900, to complete and secure the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit and finalize the Environmental Assessment that FEMA required but did not originally fund in Phase I. This additional funding is provided by FEMA and is included as a cost overrun.

The Corps of Engineers Permit was issued on December 23, 2014. The Environmental Assessment was approved and FEMA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on May 14, 2015 which resulted in FEMA approval to award Phase II of the project. The City Council amended the contract with Klotz and Associates on May 5, 2015 for the Design and Engineering of Phase II.

Due to the length of time working through FEMA's requirements (six years), FEMA requested an updated project budget in January 2015. The updated project budget is \$12,207,880 and FEMA has agreed to increase the original request from 2009 to reflect this amount. The \$12,207,880 total project budget includes \$753,003 of City “In-kind” match, leaving a cash budget of \$11,454,877 needed for the project.

On June 5, 2015, FEMA released funding for Phase II of the project and, on June 23, 2015, the City was informed FEMA sent a letter to TDEM indicating the funding was obligated and available to the State. On June 9, 2015, the City Manager provided formal Notice to Proceed with final design to Klotz. As formal grant award was then imminent, the City Council authorized acceptance of the grant, signature authority to the Mayor and City Manager, and approved the requisite budget amendments on July 7, 2015.



# City of Huntsville Recycling Guidelines

Direct questions to (936) 294-5712

## 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, 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.huntsvillex.gov](http://www.huntsvillex.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 paper 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 paper 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) 294-5712