

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 13, Issue 10

July 2017

Calendar

July 2017

- 4 - Independence Day -
Most City Facilities Closed
- 5 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 6 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 11 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 12 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 18 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 19 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 20 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 26 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

August 2017

- 1 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 2 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 3 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 9 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 16 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 17 - Planning 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

Huntsville Police Department Vacation Checks

Planning a vacation for the summer months? Let the Huntsville Police Department be a set of eyes on your house while you are gone so you can enter into full relaxation mode.

HPD provides vacation home checks for residents at no charge. All you have to do is stop by the Huntsville Police Department and fill out a short form to let officers know the address of your home and the duration of the trip, then you can leave and know your house is in good hands.

The officers drive by your property and walk the area around your house to make sure everything is just like you left it.

Lieutenant Jim Barnes shared some other helpful tips to use before you leave for vacation.

“If possible leave some lights on or use a timer, and get to know your neighbors and ask them to keep an eye out when you’re gone. I also suggest double checking that your doors are locked and the garage door is shut before leaving. Hide or use a safe for valuables (i.e.: jewelry, money, guns, computers). Lastly, fill out a vacation check form with HPD.”



For more information, call HPD at [936-291-5480](tel:936-291-5480).

Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend

The Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend will be held August 4th and 5th, 2017 at the Huntsville Public Library. This year's event, "One-Half of Our Ancestors Are Women: Finding our Female Ancestors" is hosted by the Walker County Genealogical Society and the Huntsville Public Library.

On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m. both days with programs from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, August 4, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 5. A light supper will be provided on Friday. A silent auction, open to the public, will be held during the weekend and will end at 1 p.m. Saturday. The event is free and open to adults over 18 who register in advance.

Call 936-291-5471 or sign up online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com.

City Council Candidate Packets Available

Candidate packets for the 2017 City of Huntsville General Election are now available through the office of the City Secretary at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M, or at huntsvilletx.gov/Elections or huntsvilletx.gov/Elecciones.

The City Council seats for a Mayor At-large Position and Ward Councilmembers 1-4 will be on the November 7, 2017 general election ballot. Filing for the positions will be from July 22, 2017 to August 21, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the office of the City Secretary (City Hall, 1212 Avenue M).

Keeping Rover Safe

Emergencies come in many forms: fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, violent storms and even terrorism. In the event of extreme weather or a disaster, would you know how to protect your pet?

Many pet owners are unsure of what to do if they're faced with such a situation. In recognition of National Pet Preparedness Month, here are five steps you can take to keep your pets safe during and after an emergency:

Have a plan – include what you would do if you aren't home or cannot get to your pet when disaster strikes. You never want to leave a pet behind in an emergency because they, most likely, cannot fend for themselves or may end up getting lost. Find a local pet daycare, a friend, or pet sitter that can get to your pet if you cannot. Make plans ahead of time to evacuate to somewhere that is pet friendly, such as a pet-friendly hotel or a friend or family's home that is out of the evacuation area.

Make a kit – stock up on food and water. It is crucial that your pet has enough water in an emergency. Never allow your pet to drink tap water immediately following a storm; there could be chemicals and bacteria in tap water so give them bottled water. Also, be sure to stock up on canned food. Don't forget a can opener, or buy enough pop-top cans to last about a week.

I.C.E – No, not the frozen kind – it stands for “*In Case of Emergency*.” If your pet gets lost or runs away during an emergency, have information with you that will help find them, including recent photos and behavioral characteristics or traits. These can help return them safely to you.

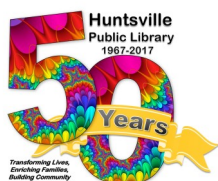
Make sure vaccinations are up to date – If your pet needs to stay at a shelter, you will need to have important documents about vaccinations or medications. Make sure their vaccinations are up to date so you don't have any issues if you have to leave your pet in a safe place. Scan and email the documents to yourself and family members so they're available from anywhere.

Have a safe haven – Just like people, pets will become stressed when their safety is at risk. Whether you are waiting out a storm or evacuating to a different area, be sure to bring their favorite toys, always have a leash and collar on hand for their safety, and pack a comfortable bed or cage for proper security. If your pet is prone to anxiety, there are stress-relieving products like a dog anxiety vest or natural stress-relieving medications and sprays that can help comfort them in times of emergency. Ask your veterinarian what would be best for your pet. Read more tips at <https://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2017/06/keep-pets-safe-in-an-emergency/>

Wynne Home Luau



Aloha! You and your family are invited to join The Wynne Home Arts and Visitors Center on Saturday, August 5th, from 4pm to 7pm for a Wynne Home Luau! There will be Hawaiian games, music, hula dancers, tasty Hawaiian food, and more. Admission is free! For more information, call 936-291-5424 or see their posts on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/TheWynneHomeArtsCenter/>.



The Huntsville Public Library is turning 50 this year! Check out www.MyHuntsvilleLibrary.com to view family friendly events all year long!

Water Meter Whatnot

What is AMR?

AMR stands for Automated Meter Reading. It is a method of using communication technology to read meters without having to access the meter, which is located in a meter box in the ground.

How does it work?

There are several ways to read a meter remotely. We have chosen a system that uses a small radio transmitter powered by a battery that is connected to the water meter by a cable. The radio device collects a reading from the meter and transmits the reading to a collection/receiver device located in a vehicle that is driven through the neighborhood.

Why are we undertaking this effort?

Automated meter systems are quickly becoming the standard for utilities around the country. These new devices allow for more accurate and faster collection of water usage readings than the current manual method and improve safety conditions for City staff. Currently, the meter reader must open every meter box to obtain a reading. Introducing automatic meter reading as the standard for Huntsville is one of the ways we can better serve the citizens of Huntsville and will enable us to upgrade to more advanced meter reading methods in the future.

Will the electronic device on the meter interfere with other electronics?

No. The radio transmission operates in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission regulations to avoid interference with other electronic devices.

Has this new AMR equipment been tested for accuracy and reliability?

Yes, meters come pretested along with results directly from the manufacturer. The radio device will be tested for accuracy during the meter collection process regularly.

Does this mean no more meter readers?

No, you will still see meter readers in your neighborhoods. There are times that the radio signal transmission is weak and meter readers may have to walk up to the meter before acquiring a signal and capturing a read. Most reads will be acquired by simply driving by. We will continue to visit your property for routine service, maintenance, or repair, and to respond to water emergencies.

Why is my water meter being replaced?

Meters are being replaced to upgrade the meter to one capable of communicating with the AMR equipment, and as an extension of an existing program to replace aging meters after they have reached the end of their life cycle.

Can I cover up my meter?

No. Access needs to be available at all times. There will still be occurrences when the meter technicians will visit the meter to perform routine maintenance or verify high readings. Obstructions to the meter box are subject to removal by the City.

Will my water bill go up?

Possibly. Older meters tend to lose accuracy as they age and therefore do not measure all the water going through them. The newer meters will accurately measure the water you use. All new meters are tested prior to delivery by the manufacturer to ensure they register properly. If you see a higher bill after the meter is replaced it is likely the older meter was slowing down.

Can I read my water meter?

Yes, you can. The meter has a dial on it just like the odometer on a car. We encourage residents to read them to keep up with their usage. If you have any trouble reading your meter, please call Utility Billing at 936-291-5431 and they will be more than glad to assist you.

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?

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. In 2015, for an Eagle Scout project, 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."

Since he started the flag retirement he has collected and retired 863 flags that have been deposited in the boxes!

City of Huntsville Recycling Guidelines

Direct questions to [\(936\) 294-5712](tel:9362945712)

Curbside recycling guidelines:

1. Rinse all plastics and cans to remove residue
2. Plastics 1-7 stamped with number and symbol accepted
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.

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

Visit www.huntsvilletx.gov for curbside recycling schedules, full list of acceptable curbside items, and more recycling information.