

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 13, Issue 11

August 2017

Calendar

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

September 2017

- 4 - Labor Day Holiday - City Facilities Closed
- Solid Waste Pick-up Regular Schedule
- 5 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 7 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 13 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 19 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 20 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 21 - Planning Commission -
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 27 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

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

Say Goodbye to City Employees...

(find out more on page 2)

Volunteers Needed For Lead and Copper Sampling Program

The City of Huntsville is seeking help from residents to complete water quality sampling as required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This program requires water providers to collect a certain number of samples to be analyzed for drinking water quality standards. This year the City of Huntsville must collect samples from 60 residences. These residences must be sampled two times in 2017-2018 - once before December 15, 2017 and then again before June 15, 2018.

To ensure the best sampling and testing process, the TCEQ assigns the highest priority to sampling single family homes built between the years 1982 and 1988. Due to building materials used during this time period (copper pipes with lead solder), homes that fit this category are more likely to exhibit lead and copper leaching.

For this reason, the City is seeking volunteers interested in participating (at no cost to the homeowner). The City's Environmental Services Division will provide participants with a sample bottle and detailed instructions on how to properly collect and handle the sample. Also, participants will be given a copy of the lab analysis when complete.

If you are a City of Huntsville water customer for a home built between 1982 and 1988 and would like to participate in this program, please contact the Public Works Department at [936-294-5707](tel:936-294-5707) or email Kimberly Kembro at kkembro@huntsvilletx.gov.

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).

It's Not a Goodbye, It's a See You Later

At the end of July, two wonderful City employees will be retiring. Public Works Director Carol Reed, and Street Superintendent David Welch. We asked them a few questions about their time with the City before they go on well deserved extended vacations!

Carol Reed, Public Works Director, started with the City of Huntsville on November 4, 1992. She began as the Laboratory Analyst, and then took on many roles including Environmental Services Superintendent, Public Utilities Director, and finally Public Works Director.

We asked Carol her retirement plans, they were simple but sound great. "Become a Snowbird...winters in Texas and summers in Pennsylvania!" Reed said.

A note to the City from Carol: *I have always been very proud to be a City of Huntsville employee. Thanks to everyone at the City for all your friendship and support over the years...it has been an honor and privilege to work with all of you.*

David Welch, Street Superintendent, has been with the City for 29 years. David has been with the Street Division his entire career with the City, the first 13 years as the Street Supervisor, which was the same as what we call the Assistant Street Superintendent now. He has been Street Superintendent since 2001.

"I have a new granddaughter to spoil, I have my gardens, two homes to take care of and lots of other things I like doing. I will probably stay busy with most of that for a while. I might solicit a little bit of tractor work or carpenter work to pick up some extra pocket money," David said about his retirement plans.

A note to the City from David: *I'm going to miss the comradery with the folks in the Street Division and others that I've been working with all these years, some of them over 25 years. Sometimes it feels like I'm going to walk away from part of my family, but I know where to find them if I want to see them so it's not like they are never to be seen again.*

The City will miss David and Carol but we wish them the best of luck and happiness in their retirements.

HPD encourages back-to-school driving safety

The Huntsville Police Department asks all citizens to be especially mindful with 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 buses should be on the minds of all drivers.

"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 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.

Citizens are reminded that the use of cell phones in school zones when 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.

Additionally, drivers should consider road construction projects that may be along their routes from home to schools, and be prepared for increased drive times.

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

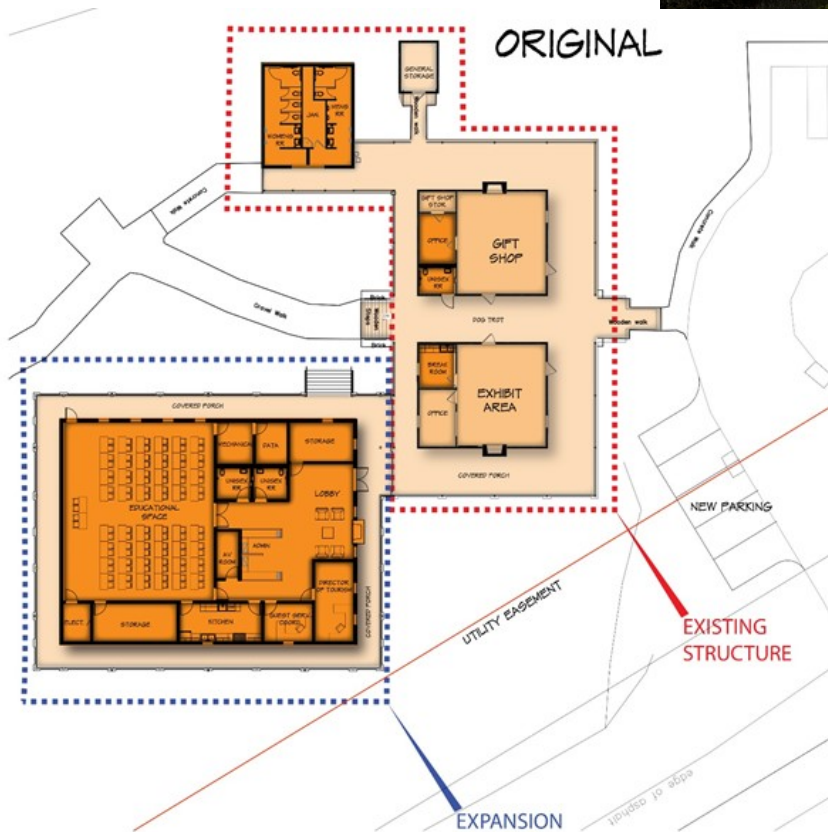
Speeding or use of cell phone is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200.

Call the Huntsville Police Department for more information at (936) 291-5480.

Expansion Coming Soon to the Sam Houston Statue Visitors Center

The City Council a needs assessment for a new facility at the Visitors Center in their 2015 Strategic Plan. The Council had several presentations on the findings at workshops and Council meetings. On March 15, 2016, Council authorized the City Manager to approve an agreement with PGAL Architects to complete design and provide construction observation services for a remodel and expansion to the Sam Houston Statue and Visitors Center and amend the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget and CIP budget appropriating Hotel Occupancy Tax Unallocated Reserves for the design. In August 2016, the Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Rogers O'Brien for construction manager at-risk services for the project.

In the 2017 Strategic Plan, the Council included consideration of a contract for construction of the expansion. In conjunction with the architect and proposed contractor, a team was able to put forth some alternative methods and products to reduce the cost of



construction without affecting the look or safety of the finished building. At the July 18 City Council meeting, the Council approved the construction contract with Timberline Construction. Timberline is scheduled to begin construction in August and it is estimated that the project will be completed in eight months.

The City is excited about the improvements coming to the Statue and Visitors Center which will allow more room to accommodate large tourist groups, showcasing the entrance to *Home Sweet Huntsville!* The Visitors Center sees approximately 70,000 guests a year and the number is always growing. The new building will help Huntsville welcome more guests.

The images are preliminary renderings and layout for the renovation and addition to the Visitors Center. To learn more about activities and tourism, visit HuntsvilleTexas.com.

Artist Opportunity!

AREA ARTIST EXHIBIT

The Wynne Home Arts Center
1428 Eleventh Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-291-5424
www.thewynnehome.com

- Submit ONE original work of art.
- Works may be paintings, sculptures, photography, drawings, woven or fabric art.
 - Space is limited, works can be no larger than approximately 30" x 40".
 - Works should be suitably framed with wire ready to be hung or ready for display if sculpture/3D.
- Artwork does not have to be for sale, but if your art is sold, a 20% commission will go to The Wynne Home Arts Center.

DATES TO REMEMBER

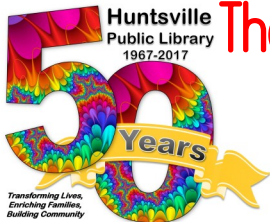
- Saturday August 5:** submit work in person 10am-2pm at The Wynne Home
- Saturday August 19:** Opening Reception for the exhibit 4pm-6pm remarks at 5pm
- Friday October 13:** Closing Date for the Exhibit, last day to view the exhibition
- Saturday October 14:** Pickup of Artworks from 10am-2pm

Save the Date

Come join the Huntsville Police Department at Kate Barr Ross Park for National Night Out, where you will be able to meet and greet friends and local businesses from here in town. First Responders from all local agencies will be available to meet with community members and answer any questions as well as display their marked units and their uniforms to the kiddos!

NNO will be held on October 3, from 4 PM to 7 PM at Kate Barr Ross Park (486 Hwy. 75 N). This is a completely FREE event.

For further information, please contact Officer Kaaa-Bauer at 936-291-5493. Sponsor and vendor space is available.



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

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 or placed in personal garbage cans (not to exceed 32 gallons);
- (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.