

# CITY

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## CONNECTION

Volume 14, Issue 10

July 2018

# Calendar

### July 2018

- 4 - All City of Huntsville facilities will be closed. Commercial trash routes will be picked up on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 5 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 5 - Planning Commission -  
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 11 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 17 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 18 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 19 - Planning Commission -  
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 25 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

### August 2018

- 1 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 2 - Planning Commission -  
City Hall at 12:00 p.m.
- 7 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 8 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 15 - Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 16 - Planning Commission -  
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 21 - City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 - Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 29 - 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)

## Kulhavy named City Manager

The City of Huntsville is pleased to announce that Aron Kulhavy, AICP, has been selected to serve as the City's next City Manager.

The Huntsville City Council made the selection official at their June 5 meeting. In support, all nine members seconded the motion to approve a contract for his appointment.

"This City Council has full confidence in your ability to lead this city and the city employees in the future, and we're tickled to death that we have somebody already within our ranks that can take over with the kind of experience you've got," Mayor Andy Brauninger said following the unanimous vote of approval for Kulhavy. "We look forward to working with you, Aron. We've got so many great things happening in this city [that you've been a part of]... We can't say enough about what we think the future holds and it's going to be really great watching this city."

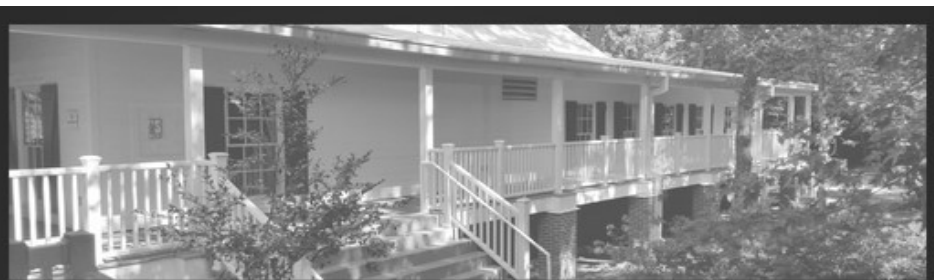
Kulhavy has served as the Interim City Manager for the City of Huntsville since Matt Benoit's move to the City of Jupiter, Florida, in February, and has been with the City overall for almost ten years. He previously held positions as the Director of Community and Economic Development, with responsibilities including oversight of the Inspections, Planning, Main Street, and Support Services Divisions, and, when joining the City in 2008, as the City Planner. He spoke this spring about his hopes for the City while then serving as Interim.

"I want to carry out projects that we have started—see those projects come to fruition. I want to continue to grow and get better in Huntsville," said Kulhavy. "We are getting ready to go out for bids on the water and sewer projects. Each component is essential to ensuring the quality and capacity the City has for water and sewer needs are met now and in the future."

Kulhavy holds a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science and a Masters in Public Administration, both from Stephen F. Austin University. He hails from Nacogdoches, where he began his career in municipal government at the City of Nacogdoches. His first position there was as a seasonal laborer in the Parks Department; Kulhavy was later appointed as its City Planner in 1999. He is married to Rachel and they have two sons, Devin and Dylan. They also have two grandchildren.

"I am completely humbled by the Council's decision and grateful I get the opportunity to continue to serve our residents in this new capacity," said Kulhavy on his permanent appointment. "I am thankful for all of the dedicated employees of the City; without their support and commitment it would not be possible to get this job done well. The key to my success is the good people who work as hard as they do to serve the citizens of Huntsville."

For more information, contact the office of the City Manager at 936-291-5411.



JULY 20, 2018 | 5 - 7 PM

# GRAND OPENING

WILLIAM H. HODGES EDUCATION BUILDING

SAM HOUSTON STATUE VISITOR CENTER EXPANSION

7600 HWY 75 S, HUNTSVILLE, TX 77340  
936-291-9726



# 6th annual Frances Sprott Goforth Genealogy Weekend set

Silent book auction to run concurrently with scheduled events

Calling all genealogists! The 6th annual *Frances Sprott Goforth Memorial Genealogy Weekend* will be held August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Huntsville Public Library. This year's focus will be "Orphan Trains, Adoption, and DNA," and is co-hosted by the Walker County Genealogical Society (WCGS) and the Huntsville Public Library.

The *Genealogy Weekend* is named in honor of Frances Sprott Goforth, who passed away at the age of 78 on May 7, 2011. She was born on November 12, 1932, in Walker County, Texas, to the late Frank Vernon and Nannie Wells Sprott. She was a professor at the University of South Florida, until her return to Walker County upon retirement and became an avid member of the WCGS and the Tall Pines Quilt Guild.

"Her family has made it possible for the *Genealogy Week-*

*end* to happen through generous donations," WCGS President Johnnie Jo Dickenson said. "It is an honor to host such a wonderful research opportunity in her name."

The free "lock-in" event will begin with onsite registration at 9:30 a.m. both days, with programs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, August 3, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 4. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be providing coffee and light refreshments during registration as attendees get acquainted. A light supper will be provided on Friday.

Friday's lectures include "Orphan Trains" by Dawna Alsbrook. Connie Gray will present "The History of Adoption in Texas" and "How to Build Family Trees with DNA". WCGS President Johnnie Jo Dickenson will give guests a unique view of "Welcome to Huntsville Public Library - Our Collection". The evening will focus on individual research in the Dickenson Genealogy Room with society members available to assist.



"Orphan Trains"

"The evening will be an opportunity for guests to spend one-on-one time with Connie Gray, who specializes in adoption information. The sessions are by reservation only and need to be set through the Library," said Dickenson. "There will also be WCGS members available to assist guests."

Gray was adopted out of Texas foster care at the age of nine. After celebrating her 18th birthday in 1976, Connie successfully petitioned a court for her original birth certificate and located her entire family within two years.

Other adoptees began asking for help with their searches and she soon became known as the "Texas Search Angel." She is

the founder of TexasAdopteeRights.org.

Saturday's featured sessions include "On the Distaff Side: DNA Testing for Women" and "Climbing Trees and Jumping Over Brick Walls with DNA" with Janet Miller; and "Only Half My Genes: The Search for a Biological Father" by Dana Leeds. Registration will be from 9:30-10 a.m., hosted by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT).

A silent auction, open to the public, will be held during the special occasion and will end at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The event is free but requires registration by calling 936-291-5471 or signing up online at [www.myHuntsvilleLibrary.com](http://www.myHuntsvilleLibrary.com).

## HPD offers Vacation Checks for peace of mind

Want eyes on your home while you're away? The Huntsville Police Department can help take some stress out of summer traveling by offering vacation checks to citizens at no cost, year-round. The routine visits include a foot patrol check of the residence to make sure all windows and doors visible from the street are locked and undamaged.

HPD Senior Officer Ryann Kaaa-Bauer said the service provides that the property is checked regularly when citizens are away for extended periods of time.

"All attempts are made by the department for these checks to be conducted daily for up to 30 days, depending on staff call volume," Officer Kaaa-Bauer explained.

"If a citizen will be gone for a longer period, the best choice for watching a home is a

neighbor or friend. If any type of suspicious activity is observed, authorities should be called immediately. The number to dispatch an officer to a location is 936-435-8000. Citizens should call 911 for emergencies only."

Officer Kaaa-Bauer said that the department also supports Neighborhood Watch efforts throughout the community, which is an additional asset during vacation seasons.

"Going on vacation takes time to plan and schedule, and is usually a time for excitement or relaxation. Securing your home while you're away will help lower stress," Officer Kaaa-Bauer noted. "The best defenses are neighbors who will notice objects and people out of place. Communicating with those who live nearby is highly recommended by officers."

Officer Kaaa-Bauer said the hope is to give peace of mind while enjoying time away from home.

She also shared some helpful tips, like having holds put on newspapers and mail; removing valuable articles so they aren't visible through windows or door panes; and using timers for lights.

City of Huntsville Director of Public Safety, Chief Kevin Lunsford, acknowledged that this is a service HPD is proud to provide for citizens. He said that the Department receives lots of appreciative feedback from those who have received vacation checks.

Residents who would like to request the service should stop by the Huntsville Police Department at 1220 11th Street to complete a vacation check form. For more information, contact Officer Kaaa-Bauer at 936-291-5480 or [rkaa@HuntsvilleTX.gov](mailto:rkaa@HuntsvilleTX.gov).

# Charter amendments come to Council

The potential for a charter amendment election is in the air. The 2017-2018 City Charter Review Committee evaluated the City Charter from November until June, and their recommendations were presented to the City Council on June 19. Mayor Pro Tem Keith D. Olson served as the Chair of the Committee and led the Council workshop on the proposals.

Olson urged the Council to carefully consider all the topics brought forward, as the Committee had, to thoroughly address needed updates to the Charter. He said the committee members decided that they would note all the items they felt needed attention, even if there was not complete agreement on exactly how every one of them should be amended.

"We had many good conversations over the last few months, where a variety of perspectives came to light," Olson said. "The [Committee] members weren't in lockstep on how we viewed certain sections, which made for great discussions. It helped us get to know the Charter better, and think about how it can best serve our residents. I hope the Council will consider putting all of these up for our citizens to study and vote on."

The five-member group included Olson as well as Councilmembers Clyde D. Loll and Tyler McCaffety, former Mayor Jane Monday, and former Councilmember Dalene Zender. The meetings were posted and open to the public. The Committee worked with charter officers and City directors to understand how particular provisions were carried out on a day to day basis, and what was made more difficult or could be improved by changes in the Charter.

"The Charter was first adopted by the City's voters in 1968. Every five years, at a minimum, it gets reviewed," clarified Olson. "Unfortunately, we found a lot that had not changed, or had only

rarely been updated, in the last fifty years. As a foundational document as important as the Charter is, residents want to know that it's practical and practiced to ensure the future of our great city."

The City Council will now spend the next few weeks analyzing the Charter and contemplating what items should make it onto the November 6, 2018, ballot. The Council can accept, reject, or amend the recommendations, and can add others. For a change to become part of the Charter, however, any amendments will have to be approved by the voters. The Council is expected to discuss proposed amendments at the July 17 and August 7 meetings, and potentially adopt an ordinance on August 7, calling the special Charter election and listing the ballot language for the final selections. State law mandates that a special election on a measure for the November 6, 2018, election must be called no later than August 20, 2018.

Per the Charter, a review must be done at least every five years. Per the Texas Constitution, a city charter cannot be amended more frequently than every two years.

The current charter and prior versions are available for viewing at [www.HuntsvilleTX.gov/CouncilDocumentsCharter](http://www.HuntsvilleTX.gov/CouncilDocumentsCharter) (for information & links) or at [www.HuntsvilleTX.gov/Charter](http://www.HuntsvilleTX.gov/Charter) (for links only). Via both pages is access to the Charter Action Registry, a document compiled in 2014 that includes all the changes to Charter throughout its existence.

"Councilmember Loll had suggested such a document at one time, and it proved to be very helpful in our review process," Olson recalled. "It enabled us to view changes over time and consider why things were written as they were."

"City staff proved to be excellent resources for the process as well. City Secretary Lee Woodward and City Attorney Leonard Schneider were involved in the 2009 and 2013 charter elections, and City Manager Aron Kulhavy and former City Manager Matt Benoit clearly illustrated how certain charter provisions impacted City workflow and efficiencies. Finance Director Steve Ritter clarified financial procedures and state law requirements. We truly appreciated everyone's assistance."

For more information, contact the City Secretary's Office at 936-291-5403 or [CitySecretary@HuntsvilleTX.gov](mailto:CitySecretary@HuntsvilleTX.gov).

## Candidate packets available

Candidate packets for the 2018 City of Huntsville General Election are available through the office of the City Secretary at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M, or at [HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elections](http://HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elections) or [HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elecciones](http://HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elecciones).

The City Council seats for the four At-Large Councilmember positions will be on the November 6, 2018, general election ballot. Filing for the positions will be from July 21 to August 20, 2018, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, in the office of the City Secretary (City Hall, 1212 Avenue M). The City of Huntsville application fee is one dollar in cash, per City Charter mandate. City Secretary Lee Woodward acknowledged members of the public may have questions about the responsibilities of Councilmembers.

"The City Secretary's office provides the candidate packets, which include general information, a brief of the state election calendar, and references for guidelines and statutes," Woodward said. "Anyone is welcome to learn more about the duties of Councilmembers and how the election process is conducted, even if they have no desire to run for office. The steps to becoming and the obligations of an elected Councilmember are many and varied."

For more information, email [CitySecretary@HuntsvilleTX.gov](mailto:CitySecretary@HuntsvilleTX.gov), call 936-291-5403, or visit [HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elections](http://HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elections) or [HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elecciones](http://HuntsvilleTX.gov/Elecciones).

## Downtown Sidewalk Sale

**Join the Summer Fun!**



**SHOP SMALL**

**Saturday,  
July 28**

**10 a.m.  
to 5 p.m.**



**SHOP LOCAL**



**MAIN STREET**  
Huntsville, Texas

Follow us at 

**@CoHMainStreet**

**HuntsvilleTX.gov/  
MainStreet**



## 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 & anti-freeze.

Visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) for curbside recycling schedules, full list of acceptable curbside items, and more recycling information.

# HPD officer takes Silver in 10K at the Texas Police Games

City of Huntsville Police Officer Ricky Roberts took the silver medal in the Texas Police Games held in Fort Worth June 10-16.

Officer Roberts ran an amazing pace in the 10K in a field of more than 20 runners. The Police Games are held every year, giving police officers from around the state the opportunity to compete in a variety of events.

Officer Roberts, an eight-year veteran with the Huntsville Police Department, signed up to participate in the triathlon on the first day and the 10k run on the next day.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the triathlon was cancelled, giving Officer Roberts an opportunity to focus all his efforts on the 10K.

"I felt pretty good going into the run. I had run the Woodlands Marathon at the beginning of March and 30 minutes that I fell short of by five minutes," Officer Roberts said.

"I had run another marathon in 2010 and wanted to see how I could improve my time. I was able to trim 30 minutes off my overall time, utilizing better training, pacing, and nutrition."

Additionally, Officer Roberts has been focusing on weight lifting, only getting a run in once a week.

He said lifting weights is easier for him to do when the weather gets hot, and he typically works out three to four times a week - rotating weight training, running, cycling, and swimming.

"I think the hardest part of finding time to work out is making it a priority while being conscious of job schedules for my wife and me, and having quality family time. Our children are two and



four," Officer Roberts said, "so most of my runs involve putting my kids in a double jogging stroller and going for 30 or 40 minutes before we play at the park. As a police officer, I am required to keep up my physical endurance and strength, which I feel is important."

Officer Roberts has participated in the Police Games twice before, in 2013 and 2014, both of which were held in Clear Lake.

"I have entered the cycling road race and time trial, as well as the duathlon, which includes a two-mile run, ten-mile bike course, and another two-mile run. I have enjoyed all the events I have participated in and truly appreciated the opportunity to meet police officers from all over the state," Officer Roberts said.

Officer Roberts is already looking forward to the 2019 Police Games, set to be held in Abilene.

"Having races as goals for training has been a pleasure. The Police Games provide the chance for me to connect with other officers through sport and friendly competition," Officer Roberts said. "Many thanks to the City of Huntsville and our community for encouraging my participation and acknowledging my success."