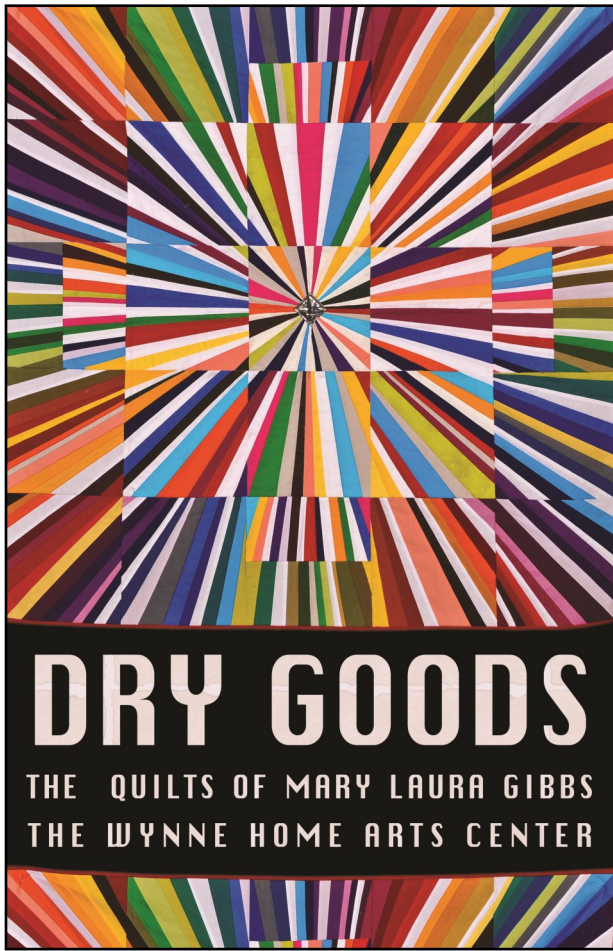




City news,
features
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

January 9,
2015



Wynne Home to present quilt exhibit -

Opening reception January 15

The Wynne Home Arts Center will present a new exhibit entitled "Dry Goods: The Quilts of Mary Laura Gibbs," beginning Thursday, January 15.

The exhibit will be offered free of charge through April 15.

According to Linda Pease, Cultural Services Coordinator, an opening reception for the exhibit sponsored by the Friends of the Wynne Home will be held on January 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Artist remarks will commence at 5:30 p.m.

"We're happy to exhibit the quilts of Mary Laura Gibbs, who has created beautiful wall hangings with very intricate designs," Pease said. "The exhibit will include in excess of 20 unique quilts, and some of the designs will be reproduced in cards that are suitable for framing and available for purchase."

According to her artist biography, Gibbs has been quilting since 1990 and has participated in the annual Airing of the Quilts every year since 2005.

The Wynne Home Arts Center is located at 1428 11th Street. For more information, call (936) 291-5424.

18th Annual Tree Sale - Saturday, February 7

Walker County Proud Communities will host its 18th Annual Tree Sale on Saturday, February 7 and the public is encouraged to take part and purchase one of thousands of available seedlings.

The event will be held at the Walker County Storm Shelter, located at 455 State Highway 75 North, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"WCPC was established over 20 years ago to promote a green environment in the City of Huntsville and Walker County, and our annual Tree Sale is a significant part of that mission," said Esther Herklotz, Solid Waste and Recycling Superintendent. "Our gracious Texas Forest Service has continued to provide thousands of tree seedlings every year for this event, and we hope to see even more public participation in the event this year."

According to information from the Texas Forest Service, the Tree Sale will include 2,000 Hardwood and Softwood trees available for a \$1 donation per tree.

Pecan trees will also be available for \$2 each (limit five per person), Bluebonnet seeds will be available for \$1 per package, and wood chips will be sold for \$1 per bag. For each five trees sold, one bag of wood chips will also be included.

WCPC active members include Walker County Master Gardeners, Walker County Commissioners, Planning Department and Environmental Enforcement staff, Walker County Judge Danny Pierce, City of Huntsville Superintendent Esther Herklotz and multiple local businesses such as James Murff of Try 2 Recycle. James Ray Necker of Walker County Pct. 1 serves as the WCPC President.

For more information, contact Herklotz at [\(936\) 294-5724](tel:9362945724).

Mark your calendars!

Walker County Proud Communities will host the 20th Annual Trash Bash on Saturday, March 7 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

During the event, four locations including the City Recycling Center, Try 2 Recycle, the Precinct 3 Barn and the Precinct 4 Barn will accept varying trash items.

Free bags are available.

For more information, contact Herklotz at (936) 294-5724.

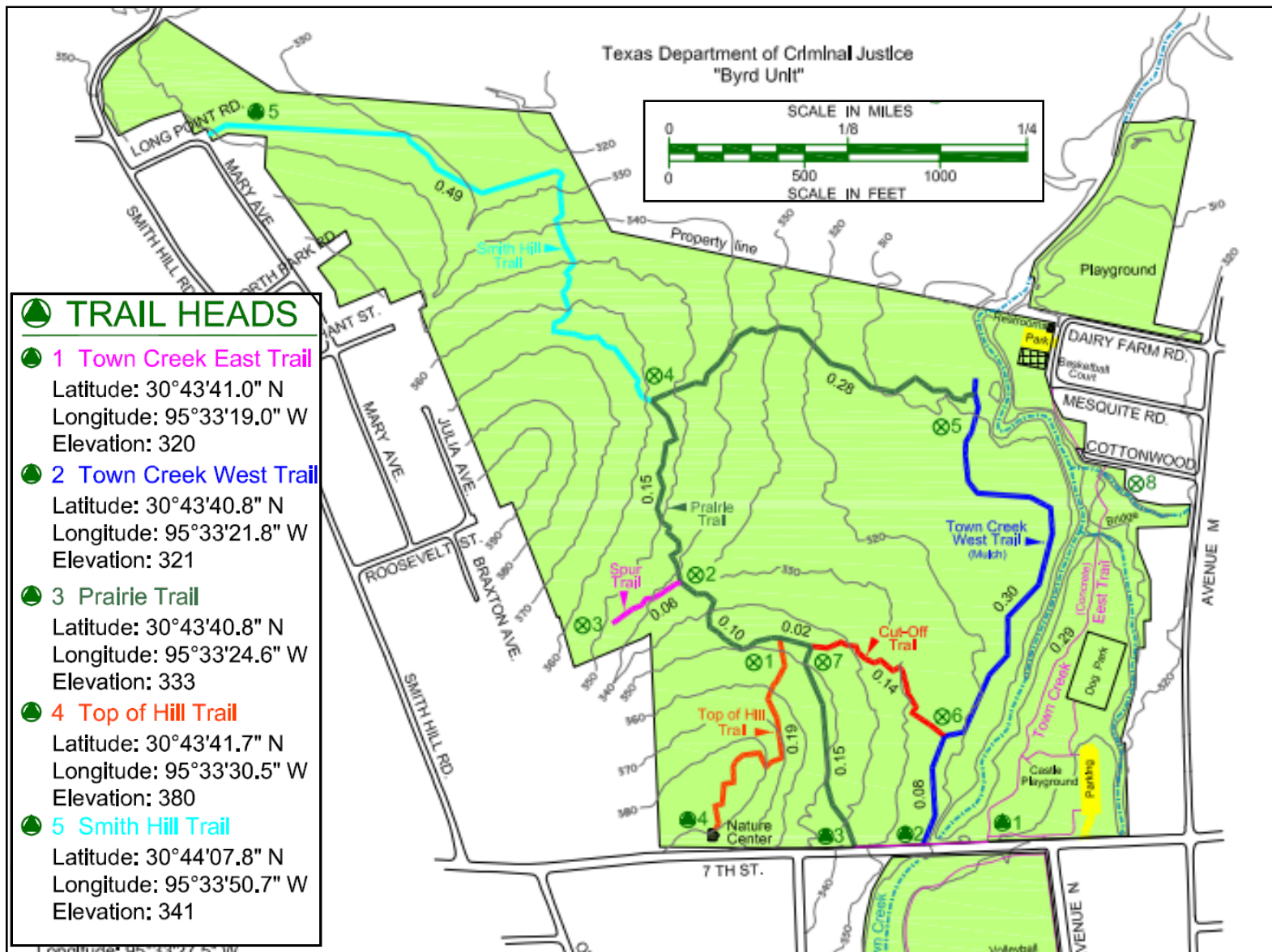
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Take a walk on the City trails!



The winter months are an opportune time to take advantage of the many trails and walkways maintained by the City of Huntsville.

According to Natalie Reid with the Parks and Leisure Department, the City maintains five major trails in and around Eastham-Thomason Park, including Town Creek East, Town Creek West, Prairie, Top of Hill and Smith Hill Trail.

"The City of Huntsville walking trails offer a great opportunity for local families to experience the beauty of nature at no cost," Reid said. "Because there are five trails of varying lengths and challenge levels, there is an ideal trail for everyone from walkers with small children, independent hikers or mountain bike riders."

In particular, the winter months present an excellent opportunity to utilize the various available trails. According to David Zellar, City Horticulturalist, the combination of lower humidity, fewer bugs and snakes and a lower understory makes cooler periods a great time to utilize the trail system.

"There are a lot of advantages to walking on trails during cooler months," Zellar said. "In general, wooded areas are more user-friendly when it's cold outside – the Poison Ivy, brush and leaves at ground level are lower and more open, making visibility much better.

"Plus, there are seasonable pleasures to think about – walkers might see more migratory birds come through, and they might even catch a glimpse of the deer or foxes that always live in the woods."

Zellar said the City offers three different types of trails – cemented sidewalk trails, woodchip surface trails and single-track trails, which put walkers right in the middle of woodland surroundings.

"A lot of people like to make the cement sidewalk loop by the Aquatic Center, but others like to walk among the trees," he said. "It all depends on what your group of walkers is comfortable with."

On the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov, the Parks and Leisure Department maintains a map of the entire Eastham-Thomason trail system, outlining where each trail begins and ends, the locations of trail junctions and approximate lengths and elevations. The park is located at 1500 7th Street and Avenue N.

The map may be accessed directly at http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/egov/documents/1255464100_2

Get a puppy for Christmas? Come play at Eastham-Thomason Park!



Photo by Kristin Edwards

The City maintains a second dog park - Pineview Park - located at 2335 23rd Street.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.huntsvilletx.gov.

Eastham-Thomason Park isn't just for humans—man's best friend is free to enjoy it, as well! While all dogs must be kept on a leash while enjoying the five major trails, there is a separate facility, the Eastham-Thomason Pet Park, where dogs can run free, play fetch, and interact with new friends.

There are a few rules to keep in mind when utilizing the facility:

The park is open from sunrise to sunset, and pet owners are responsible for the actions and behavior for their dogs at all times. A limit of three dogs per owner is allowed in the park at one time.

Dogs must be leashed when entering or leaving the park.

Owners must remain within the fenced area with their dog while the dog is off of his or her leash.

Dogs must remain within view and voice control of the owner.

Owners are responsible for picking up and disposing of any dog waste.

No dogs under four months old, dogs in heat, or dogs who have not received their complete round of vaccinations are allowed. Dogs must also wear current license tags.

Dogs showing signs of aggression must be leashed and/or immediately removed from the park.

Finally, no food is allowed in the park, and children must be over 10 years of age and supervised by an adult.

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

Call 2-1-1 to register today!

The State of Texas offers residents the option to register with the STEAR program, a free registry that provides local emergency planners and responders with additional information on the needs of their community.

While registration is voluntary and does not guarantee specific services, joining the 2-1-1 network allows local responders to maintain an up-to-date database of those individuals who may need special assistance during emergencies.

Required information to register:

Name, address, phone number, primary language

Who should register?

- People with disabilities;
- People with access and functional needs such as:
 - (1) Those with limited mobility;
 - (2) Those with communication barriers;
 - (3) Those who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event;
 - (4) Those who require transportation assistance; and
 - (5) Those who require personal care assistance.

Additional questions asked to capture vital information for local emergency planners and responders:

Emergency contact information; caregiver information; any necessary information related to pets; transportation assistance for home evacuation; communication barriers; disability, functional or medical needs.

How to register:

Dial 2-1-1 or use a video phone relay option. Alternatively, contact Emergency Management Coordinator John Waldo at (936) 291-5945.

For more information, visit <https://www.211texas.org/cms/>.



City of Huntsville Emergency Preparedness Web page

The City's Emergency Preparedness page features several downloadable tools including:

- Meal plans for emergencies;
- Shopping lists;
- Maps of surrounding counties;
- FEMA's Financial First Aid Kit;
- Tips for creating and maintaining supply kits and more.

To access the page, visit www.huntsvilletx.gov, scroll over Departments and Fire Department and select "Emergency Preparedness."

“Winterize” your home - FEMA tips for freezing weather

Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year.

Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing.

All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside and kept clear.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Insulate your home by installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic from the inside to keep cold air out.

Hire a contractor to check the structural ability of the roof to sustain unusually heavy weight from the accumulation of snow - or water, if drains on flat roofs do not work.

For more tips, including ways to “winterize” your vehicle, visit <http://m.fema.gov/before-winter-storms-extreme-cold>

Expert in Every Office



Kristin Edwards
**Deputy City Secretary/
Assistant Public Information Officer**
(936) 291-5413

Kristin Edwards, MPA, TRMC

Time employed with City of Huntsville: 5.5 Years

Education:

Master of Public Administration – Sam Houston State University
Bachelor of Arts – Mass Communications – Sam Houston State University

Job description:

As the Deputy City Secretary, Edwards supports the City Council through the functions of the City Secretary’s office, including City Council meeting preparation, records retention, responding to public information requests, interfacing with members of the public and facilitating public outreach efforts. Specifically, in the capacity of Assistant Public Information Officer, Edwards produces the monthly City Connection print newsletter, the semimonthly This Week in Huntsville digital newsletter, press releases and multi-platform social media content.

Certifications/Memberships/Activities:

Texas Registered Municipal Clerk – January 2012; Heart Walk of the Piney Woods organizing board member – 2012-2014; Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce HISD “Promoting Our Potential” board - 2014

Recent training:

During 2014, Edwards continued her work with the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, working toward her re-certification as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk through the University of North Texas. She also attended the 2014 Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers conference.

Unique contribution to City of Huntsville:

“In 2013, our office established the City’s first digital newsletter, entitled This Week in Huntsville,” Edwards said. “The publication, designed to provide the timeliest City information possible to an ever-growing list of e-mail subscribers, has experienced great success and a consistent following, receiving as many as 2,300 views per issue.

“We have released not only two regular issues each month since the establishment of the publication, but also a variety of special issues on disaster preparedness, holiday events and more.”

Colleague perspective: Tom Waddill, Managing Editor for the Huntsville Item

“Working with Kristin has always been a pleasure. As the Deputy City Secretary for the City of Huntsville, she has been the picture of professionalism. Kristin understands well the inner workings of the city and she makes it easy for reporters to approach her to ask questions, or for more information. Kristin was a strong and ambitious reporter during her time at The Huntsville Item. She was a better public servant in the city secretary’s office. The City of Huntsville, and The Huntsville Item, are going to miss Kristin and the fine work she did here.”

Edwards has accepted a new position in the City of Deer Park, Texas. Her last day with the City of Huntsville is January 9.