



City news,
features,
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

December 10,
2015

Mayoral Runoff Election

Saturday - December 12 - 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

The Huntsville City Council, at its November 10 special session, voted unanimously to hold the runoff election for the mayor's race on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The City Council formally called the runoff election by ordinance at its November 17 regular meeting. Voting for all precincts is at the Walker County Annex on Sam Houston Avenue.

Councilmembers Andy Brauninger and Keith D. Olson garnered the two highest voting totals in the November 3 regular election, and are the only names on the December 12 ballot.

The mayor is an at-large position that may be voted on by any qualified voter of the city of Huntsville. City voters whose registration is valid on the day they vote (early voting or election day) may vote in this election, regardless of whether or not they voted on November 3.

Questions about registration should be directed to Diana McRae, the Walker County Tax Assessor/Collector and Voter Registrar, at 936-436-4950. Voting by mail, curbside voting, and voter assistance, under the guidelines of the Texas Election Code, as in any election, will be available to eligible voters.

City Hall will be open to the public from 7 p.m. on election night for returns, which will also be posted on the website. For continuing information, visit the City's election page at www.huntsvilletx.gov/Elections, or contact the City Secretary's office at 936-291-5403 or citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov.



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December 12 Runoff Election

When is Election Day? ***Cuando es el Dia de Eleccion?***

Saturday, December 12, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

La Ciudad de Huntsville sostendran una eleccion unida el Sabado 12 de Diciembre del 2015 de 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Am I registered to vote? *Estoy registrado para votar?*

In order to vote in this election, you must be a registered voter of the City.

If you are not sure if your voter registration is current you may call (936) 436-4959 or visit:

<https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/Introduction.jsp>.

Para poder votar en esta eleccion tiene que ser un votante registrado de la ciudad de Huntsville. Si no esta seguro si su registracion para votar esta vigente puede llamar (936) 436-4959 o visite <https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/Introduction.jsp>.

Where do I go for early voting? *A donde voy para votar temprano?*

**Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101,
Huntsville, Texas**



Letters to Santa



Santa Claus wants all of the children in the Huntsville area to send him their Christmas letters. Not only did Santa give the Huntsville Public Library a special Santa mailbox, linked directly to the North Pole, but he even promised to respond with an email!

Starting November 23rd, children of all ages can visit the mailbox in the Children's Library. Santa says, "Please write as neatly as you can. My eyes are old and the elves are always

losing my glasses."

Santa will accept letters until December 15 (he needs to spend a little time on double checking the naughty list). Santa also said that the best person to contact for more information is Rachel McPhail, Children's Coordinator, at 936-291-5910.

Holiday Solid Waste Schedules

The Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling facility will be open Saturday, December 26, 2015 and Saturday, January 2, 2016, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

For questions about the garbage collection, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility, or the Recycling Drop-Off Center, please call the Solid Waste Division at 936-294-5712.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CHANGES
Thursday, December 24, 2015	CLOSED	Residential Curbside Recycling will be picked up on the following Thursday, December 31, 2015. Extra recycling beside the blue cart will be picked up.
Friday, December 25, 2015	CLOSED	Residential Curbside Recycling be picked up on the following Friday, January 8, 2016. Extra recycling on side of blue cart will be picked up.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		COMMERCIAL SERVICE CHANGES
Thursday, December 24, 2015	CLOSED	Commercial Garbage Collection customers with a scheduled Thursday dumpster/roll-off/compactor pickup will be serviced on WEDNESDAY, December 23, 2015
Friday, December 25, 2015	CLOSED	Commercial Garbage Collection customers with a scheduled Friday dumpster/rolloff/compactor pickup will be serviced on SATURDAY, December 26, 2015.

The Streets Division will pick up live Christmas trees (not artificial) at the street's edge from Monday, January 4, 2016 through Friday, January 8, 2016 .

Trees must be on the curb no later than Monday, January 4, 2016 for these pick ups.

The Solid Waste Division will make additional pick ups of live Christmas trees (not artificial) at the street's edge on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, and Wednesday January 20, 2016, only.

City residents may also take their Christmas trees (not artificial) to the Solid Waste Disposal Facility, free of charge with their current City of Huntsville residential utility bill, during regular business hours. Live Christmas trees (not artificial) must be unloaded at the brush pile only. For questions about garbage collection, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility, or the Recycling Drop-Off Center, please call the Solid Waste Division at 936-294-5712.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY		RESIDENTIAL SERVICE CHANGES
Friday, January 1, 2016	CLOSED	Residential Curbside Recycling Collection will be picked up on the following Friday, January 8, 2016; Extra recycling on side of blue cart will be picked up
NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY		COMMERCIAL SERVICE CHANGES
Friday, January 1, 2016	CLOSED	Commercial Garbage Collection customers with a scheduled Friday dumpster/rolloff/compactor pickup will be serviced on Thursday, December 31, 2015.

Kroger's Open!



Several members of the City Council attended the ribbon cutting for the new Kroger store on November 18.

Public Affairs Manager Joy Partain and Vice President of Merchandising Ron Parucki thanked the community for their many years of loyalty. They said the prior location had served the community for 34 years, and introduced Store Manager Phillip Lucia.

Lucia will lead the Kroger team at the new Signature store, which is more than twice as large as its predecessor. The new Signature Store now offers the Huntsville community an in-store Starbucks, a Chef Shop with ready-to-eat meals, new expanded beer and wine selections, drive-through service at the pharmacy, and a Fuel Center.



Adopt-A-Senior!

The City Council members, City Manager, and the City Secretary recently showed their support of HISD by participating in the new Adopt-A-Senior program at Huntsville High School.

Working with Assistant Principal Demeka Simmons, all seniors received personalized notes of encouragement, thanking them for their dedication to their studies and urging them to pursue lifelong learning.

Having well-educated residents benefits the entire community by providing a strong labor force who take their roles as citizens seriously.

Above: Here's what 387 student notes and 110 teacher appreciation notes look like!



Nutcracker at The Wynne

Presented by Nicolay Dance Works

December 10th - 11th - 12th | Tickets \$10

To purchase tickets and for more information visit
<http://wynnefriends.ticketleap.com/nutcracker2015/>

HPD Officer Recognized

Huntsville Police Officer Je'rard Collins was honored recently with the "Heroes of the Highway" award by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The East Texas Region of MADD covers a 15-county area including Walker County. Select officers from these counties were honored at MADD's annual Outstanding Law Enforcement Ceremony.

Due to his tireless efforts in DWI enforcement, and the high quality of his investigations and courtroom testimony, Officer Collins was selected as the honoree from HPD. He is diligent in his DWI investigations and led the Department in DWI apprehensions this past year.

The Huntsville Police Department is proud of the professional manner in which Officer Collins represents the agency and our community.



Holiday Fun at the Library!



Holiday Closures

- Closed Dec. 24-27 for Christmas, will reopen at 10:00 a.m. on Dec. 28
- Closing at 5 p.m. on December 31, and closed on New Year's Day, January 1, 2016

Winter Break Activities

Christmas Music - Jan Cole will be playing Christmas music at the library on Dec. 21 from 10:30 a.m. -noon. Refreshments will be served. Whether you prefer to sing along or just sit back and listen, come prepared to enjoy yourself. Requests of holiday favorites are welcome!

Holiday Craft Time: Come make a cute winter craft to take home! Dec. 21, 22, or 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Movie Afternoons: The library will show kid-friendly movies Dec. 28 & 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Wii Tournament: Show off your Wii video game skills on December 29 at 3:00 p.m.

(The Holiday Craft Time, Wii Tournament, and Movie Afternoons above are special Winter Break editions for elementary and junior high students.)

Regular Library Events & Classes

Mother Goose Lapsit - This new program is designed for parents and infants aged birth to 24 months, and features songs, toys, and stories on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. - Dec. 14, 21, & 28; Jan. 4, 11, 18, & 25

Story Time - Every Wednesday and Friday at 10:45 a.m. Parents and their children are invited to enjoy songs, stories, and crafts with a new theme each session. Dec. 11, 16, 18, 23, & 30; Jan. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, & 29

Lego Club - An elementary-aged building program on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Legos are supplied and participants are encouraged to build themed creations. Dec. 17; Jan. 7 & 21

Family Movie Night - Doors to the Community Room open at 5:00 p.m., with the movie beginning promptly at 5:30 p.m. Family Movie Night is sponsored by the Texas Children's Health Plan Program. Complimentary drinks and popcorn are served and all viewers are encouraged to bring a pillow or blanket. Dec. 11; Jan. 8

Wii Friday - An exciting new program for elementary through high school-age students to enjoy the library's Wii system. From 4:00-6:00 p.m. Jan. 22 & 29 (Tournament on December 29 at 3 - see top of page!)

Read with the Dogs - The monthly Read with the Dogs program is held with help from Huntsville Pets Helping People. Children are invited to read to trained therapy dogs in 15-minute segments. Participants also receive a sticker with a picture of the dog they read to. Sign up for a session is available beforehand, but not required. 4:00-5:30 p.m. Dec. 21; Jan. 18

For more information about any Children's programs at the Huntsville Public Library, please contact Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910; for adult programs, contact Adult Services Coordinator Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471; for teen programs, contact Teen Services Coordinator Ashley Newsome at 936-291-5912.

Yoga Class at the Library



Are you looking for a convenient way to try yoga for the first time? Try attending our free Adult Yoga Program for Beginners at the Huntsville Public Library each Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. It's the perfect opportunity to learn and practice yoga techniques with other enthusiasts. All we ask is for you to bring your own mat or towel. The program will take place in the Library's Community Room on Thursday, December 3, 10, and 17 and will continue after the holidays on January 7, 14, and 21. Please consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program. Sign up at the library, online at www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com, or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471.