

CITY

CONNECTION

Volume 8, Issue 12
September 2012
Calendar

September 2012

- 4 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
1212 Avenue M
- 5 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 6 Planning & Zoning Commission -
City Hall at 12 p.m.
- 12 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
- 18 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
1212 Avenue M
- 19 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- 20 Planning & Zoning Commission -
City Hall at 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste

October 2012

- 2 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
1212 Avenue M
 - 3 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
 - 4 Planning & Zoning Commission -
City Hall at 12 p.m.
 - 10 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
 - 16 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
 - 17 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
 - 18 Planning & Zoning Commission -
City Hall at **5:30 p.m.**
 - 22 Early voting for 11-6 Election
begins - Ends November 2**
 - 24 Heavy Trash & Large Yard Waste
 - 31 Yard Waste Trimming Collection
- Submit requests for Heavy Trash pick-up
before noon on Monday, the week of the
pick-up at 294-5796.

www.huntsvilletx.gov

Walker County Historical Commission to celebrate 150th Birthday of Gibbs-Powell House

For a very special opportunity to view one of the oldest homes in Huntsville and Walker County, please come to an open house with musical entertainment and refreshments at the Gibbs-Powell House, 1228 11th Street, on September 29 from 4-7 p.m., also featuring historical exhibits about the house, its inhabitants and visitors over 150 years.

A special commemorative booklet will tell the story of the house and the families, and the public is encouraged to bring photos and memorabilia to show and share.

This event is sponsored by the Walker County Historical Commission. For more information, visit www.walkercountyhistory.org.

National Night Out 2012 set for October 2

The City of Huntsville's National Night Out event is right around the corner, and citizens are encouraged to participate with local law enforcement in an effort to heighten crime prevention and awareness, as well as strengthen neighborhood spirit.

Participating organizations will include the Huntsville Police Department, the Huntsville Fire Department, the University Police Department, the Texas Forest Service and other first responders.

The event will be held October 2 in the Target parking lot from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and free food including hot dogs and cookies will be served.

"This event is important to the residents of the City of Huntsville because it allows them to get to know the first responders in their area. National Night Out serves as an opportunity for residents to not only become familiar with emergency services personnel and equipment but also allows them to voice any concerns they may have in their neighborhoods. There will be informational materials available from each department as well as fun and safe activities for children." said HPD Officer Joey Murray. "We're honored to be a part of organizing the event and we encourage everyone to participate."

According to the official National Night Out Web site, the event is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Last year's collective National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. Overall, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out 2011.

"In the City of Huntsville, we have been working to strengthen and reinforce our existing neighborhood watch programs and are actively looking for volunteers to create new ones in neighborhoods who do not already have a neighborhood watch program established," said HPD Officer Justin Schubert. "In the next year, we would like to improve these programs both with increased participation and communications between the police department and neighborhood watch leaders."

For more information on the National Night Out event, contact the Huntsville Police Department at (936) 291-5480.

City iPhone app featured in MacWorld magazine

The City of Huntsville received special recognition in August when information on the City's iPhone app was included in a MacWorld magazine article.

The article, entitled "How government is putting the iPhone to work," featured information about how several cities are utilizing technology and social media to respond quickly to citizen concerns.

"The City of Huntsville's iPhone app is a great resource for information about City related activities and to report various issues such as animal control, health code violations, and scheduling for a heavy trash pickup," said Chris Vasquez, IT Manager for the City of Huntsville. "The 'Report IT' tool can also be used via the City's home page at www.huntsvilletx.gov."

In the MacWorld article, writer Joel Mathis describes the app as a tool citizens may use to "see agendas for city meetings, a schedule of other public events, and contact information for important city agencies." In addition, the app allows users to photograph and report problems to the City of Huntsville directly.

"If [citizens] see a pothole, they can take a photo and it'll go to the tracking software used by the [local] government," stated Ken Barlow of eGov Strategies, which assisted in the formation of the City's app.

The City of Huntsville app can be downloaded from the iTunes App Store by searching for "Huntsville TX".

To view the article online, visit http://www.macworld.com/article/1168134/how_government_is_putting_the_iphone_to_work.html.

City updates available video content

During the upcoming fiscal year, the City of Huntsville will continue to live stream City Council meetings on the City's Web site and through KSHU Channel 7.

However, live streaming of meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Hotel Occupancy Tax Board will be suspended. According to Chris Vasquez, IT Manager for the City of Huntsville, the City will save approximately \$4,800 per year live streaming only 25 meetings per year.

"As part of an assessment to help offset costs, the City is reducing the number of meetings shown via live streaming and Channel 7," Vasquez said. "Effective immediately, P&Z and HOT Board meetings will no longer be shown via streaming media or on the local Channel 7 station.

"However, audio recordings of these meetings can be requested, and City Council meetings will continue to be shown as usual."

Solid Waste/Recycling holiday closures: Residential and commercial users affected

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Facility will observe Thanksgiving Day on both **Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23**. Due to the closure for the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no garbage or recycling collected residentially on those dates. Only on the following Monday or Tuesday garbage collection days following Thanksgiving will excess bagged garbage outside of the residential garbage cart be collected.

Commercial dumpster collection will not run on Thursday, November 22 but will run on Friday, November 23. Businesses with a scheduled dumpster collection on Thursday, November 22 will be collected either Wednesday, November 21 or Friday, November 23. Commercial roll-off and compactor collection will not run on Thursday, November 22 or Friday, November 23. Businesses with scheduled roll-off or compactor collection on Thursday, November 22 or Friday, November 23 will be collected on Wednesday, November 21.

The Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling facility will open Saturday, November 24.

As well, the City of Huntsville Solid Waste Transfer Station will observe Christmas on **Tuesday, December 25**. Due to closure for the Christmas holiday, there will be no garbage collected residentially or commercially on that date. Only on the following Monday or Tuesday collection days will excess bagged garbage outside of the residential garbage carts be collected. Customers with Tuesday, December 25, garbage collection will instead be collected on Friday, December 28, with recycling collection postponed until the following Friday, January 4, 2013.

Businesses with a Tuesday, December 25 collection day and with commercial dumpsters, roll-offs or compactors will be collected on Monday, December 24, or Wednesday, December 26.

The Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facility will be closed to the public on Tuesday, December 25. The Recycling Drop-Off Center, located at 590 IH-45 North, will be closed to the public on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25.

If you have any questions about the garbage collection, the Solid Waste Transfer Facility, or the Recycling Drop-Off Center, please call the Solid Waste Division at 936-294-5743.

38th Annual Fair on the Square

New this year: shuttle service available

The 38th Annual Fair on the Square, hosted by the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce and many sponsors including the City of Huntsville, will be held on Saturday, October 6 on the historic Huntsville downtown square and several surrounding streets.

The fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free admission. "The Fair on the Square committee is always striving to make the Fair better each year for the vendors, shoppers and the Huntsville community as a whole," Fair on the Square Coordinator and Chamber Events Manager Laura Green said. "This is a chance to showcase our beautiful city to hundreds of visitors and hopefully encourage them to come back in the future!"

Green said shoppers will find many items to get them ready for both the fall and Christmas holidays. Jewelry, apparel, home décor and many more treasures will be showcased both by vendors and the merchants on the downtown square and Midway Plaza.

Entertainment will include the Ballet Folklorico, Prime Time Dancers and the Hornet Cheerleaders as well as many local dance groups and more in the Kids Korner. Located in Rather Park and the Bank of America parking lot, the Kids Korner offers many free attractions including the train, bungee run, moonwalk and slide.

"Children can create beautiful projects under the arts and crafts tent provided by the Boys and Girls Club and Home Depot, enjoy the rock wall and have a balloon created especially for them," Green said.

The Beer Garden, located at the corner of 14th and University Avenue, offers the musical talents of Wayne Williams and the Thundercreek Band and the Rosenwall Band and they will play continuously from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Start the celebration early with a concert on Friday night, October 5th, from 9:00-midnight. Micky and The Motorcars will provide musical entertainment for the evening with the Haley Cole Band opening. Pre-sale tickets are \$8 and will be available September 1st at the Chamber, Bearkat Books, Cavender's and Baskin's in Huntsville. Tickets at the gate are \$10.

New feature: Shuttle service

Free parking and free shuttle service provided by the Forum Apartments will be available this year.

"We are excited to offer this service from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. to and from the fair beginning at the Bowers Stadium Parking Lot P14 and drop off at 13th Street and Avenue J," Green said. "Over 800 spots are available including 18 handicap spots - just look for the signage and tent in the parking lot."

For more information call the Chamber at (936) 295-8113.

Police/Fire:

Stats for July 2012

Police:

Calls for service: **4203**

Accidents investigated: **60**

Animal Control

complaints investigated: **55**

Fire:

Calls for service: **85**

Main alarm calls: **11**



Curbside Recycling - Area #5 Pickup Schedule

Garbage - Monday pick-up dates:

September 3, 10, 17, 24

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19, 26

Remember to use **Green carts for garbage**

Recycling - Thursday pick-up dates:

September 6, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 29

Remember to use **Blue carts for recycling**

Also, please remember to separate
all garbage from recyclables!

For map details or for more information, visit
www.huntsvilletx.gov under City News
or call (936) 294-5743.

City employee receives TACVB certification

Kimm Thomas, the Director of Tourism and Cultural Arts for the City of Huntsville, recently received her Texas Designation Marketer certification through the Texas Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.

The certification, which required five and a half years of study and conference attendance, verifies that Thomas has completed program requirements related to Communication Technology, Administration Finance, Group Sales, Tourism Sales, Marketing, and Heritage Tourism.



Kimm Thomas receives Texas Designation Marketer certification at TACVB conference.

Heavy Trash Specifics

Heavy Trash/Large Yard Waste Collection is for **residential customers only**.

Either an online form OR call-in is required (936) 294-5796.

Requests must be made no later than Monday, the week of, by noon. Customers must leave their complete name, service address, contact number and a detailed description of the items to be placed on the pick-up list.

Heavy Trash will be collected on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month.

Guidelines for Heavy Trash / Large Yard Waste:

- (1) All items must be at the street's edge no later than 6:00 AM on the day of the scheduled pick-up but no earlier than five days prior to the scheduled pick-up.
- (2) Items shall be placed no more than two feet from the street's edge, approximately five (5) feet from garbage cans and other obstacles such as mail boxes, utility poles, fences and parked cars. Avoid placing large brush and bulky items under low-hanging tree limbs, utility lines or cables.

Heavy Trash

- (1) Heavy trash is large yard waste, furniture, appliances/white goods, material from minor household projects and miscellaneous heavy debris.
- (2) Pile (including brush) should not exceed four (4) feet in height, ten (10) feet in length and five (5) feet in depth. If the pile exceeds these dimensions, this will NOT be considered acceptable Heavy Trash and shall be removed and disposed of by the residential customer.

The following items and locations DO NOT qualify for Heavy Trash pickup:

- (1) Household garbage of any kind;
- (2) Tree stumps or small yard waste (bagged, canned or bundled trimmings);
- (3) Vehicle batteries, parts, oil, tires, antifreeze or vehicles;
- (4) Commercial businesses, commercially generated heavy trash/large yard waste or tree removal service;
- (5) Construction, demolition or remodeling materials (to include but not limited to: drywall, siding, concrete, bricks, blocks, dirt, rocks, etc.);
- (6) Cardboard or recycling;
- (7) Dead animals;
- (8) Pallets;
- (9) Barrels, unidentified sealed cans, paint cans, hazardous waste, swimming pool chemicals, water softener salt or chemicals; and
- (10) Property vegetation clearance (lot clearing).

Yard Waste - Large yard waste includes limbs and branches which must be prepared for pickup by using the following guidelines:

- (1) Limbs and branches must be placed curbside and cut ends must face road.
- (2) Tree limbs cannot exceed 12 inches in diameter and must be cut to a maximum of 5 feet in length.
- (3) Large brush must be stacked, unbound and in one pile along the road edge.

These items shall be separated from any brush:

- (1) Appliances/white goods such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, large microwaves and miscellaneous metal appliances.
- (2) Household project item such as a toilet, sink, door etc.
- (3) Miscellaneous Heavy Debris such as TVs, furniture, mattresses, lawn mowers etc.