



City news,  
features,  
and  
updates

# This Week in Huntsville

August 14,  
2015

## “Feel the Sting” Day Are you reading this in green?

You’ve likely noticed that sound in the air, a persistent and steadily increasing buzz - it’s the swarm! Over the last year, groups all around the area have been working with HISD to show their support, which will converge on downtown Huntsville on August 28 with the first “Feel the Sting” Day!

Economic developers believe that strong schools can be an attraction to business and potential residents. The school district serves the majority of local families and is a major employer, making it in the best interest of the community for it to be effective and integrated with the community.

To encourage this, a group of churches, civic groups, local entities, and individuals have banded together to adopt campuses and classrooms. Known as *Promoting Our Positives* (POP), the network has provided countless hours of service and spread the word on the good news at HISD. Activities have included tutoring, teacher support, positive notes and treats for teachers and students at testing time, classroom resources and materials, and more.

The response has been overwhelming, from the public and the District, with both sides saying how much they gain from the relationships and greater involvement with the community’s children and their educators.

To publicly symbolize this, POP developed the Hornet flag project. Members of the public donating \$35 for a Hornet flag for the downtown area, or \$25 for a flag for their home or business, can share in this visual expression of spirit and appreciation. (This is an ongoing project; contact the Chamber of Commerce at 295-8113 at any time to participate.)

As year two of the project begins, a very special event, the first to involve the flags, is on the horizon - “Feel the Sting” Day! On August 28, the date of the first Hornet varsity football home game this year, the flags will be out in full force around the square. All who have purchased a home/business flag are encouraged to display them, also, to really show a “Luv ya green!” attitude.

At the City Council meeting on August 18, Mayor Woodward will issue a proclamation in honor of “Feel the Sting” Day, so join him that evening at 6:00 p.m. Then, be sure to display your flag on August 28, and make time to visit the square that day. Last, but definitely not least, remember to thank an educator or education support staff team member, and let a child know their educational success is important to you!



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# Meet John Agey of the Parks & Leisure Department

John Agey, Parks & Leisure Manager, and USAF, Retired, has worked with the City for fourteen years.

We stopped him for a three-question interview!

**What's the best thing about your job?** Prepping ball fields, because you can see the progress in your work and people appreciate it being done right. (You also get to mow patterns in the grass!)

**What do you wish people knew about Huntsville parks?** There are several pocket parks more of our residents would enjoy, and other larger ones that need more use, too. Our Department offers excellent Recreation Services programs like Outdoor Explorer and Zumba, and the splash pad just reopened!

**Which is your favorite City of Huntsville park and why?** It used to be Gibbs Park when it was more forested, but now it's the trails in the Eastham-Thomason Park. It's like being out of the city without leaving town. You can't hear city noises, but you see wildlife like rabbits, hawks, and foxes.



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## 2015 City Council Candidate Filing Continues

Candidate Packets for the 2015 City of Huntsville General Election are available through the office of the City Secretary at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M, or on the City web site at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Elections>.

The City Council seats for the Mayor (an at-large position) and the four Ward Councilmembers will be on the November 3, 2015 ballot. Filing for the positions opened July 25 and will continue through August 24, 2015 at 5 p.m. in the office of the City Secretary.

The City of Huntsville application fee is one dollar, 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, an abbreviated version 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 the City's Elections page at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/Elections>.

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### Outdoor Explorer - Come Hike/Bike/Kayak with us!

Join the City's Recreation Services Division at the Huntsville State Park as they partner with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to learn basic safety for biking, hiking and kayaking. Then enjoy the rest of the day exploring the State Park with backpacks, bikes and kayaks provided for use. Class size is limited to twenty participants and pre-registration is **required**. Classes are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Youth ages 12 - 17 can register with an attending parent or guardian.

Upcoming program dates are August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge for the program, but there is a \$5 admission fee into the park for each participating adult (no cost for those 12 and under). For more information call 936-294-5725 or visit the website at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/category/subcategory.php?categoryid=12> or on Facebook at COHrecservices.

# New Tool Available to Bidders

City of Huntsville Procurement Manager Billie Smith is spreading the word on an exciting new tool that's part of the updated city web site.

"Businesses and service providers have an easy way to find out when new City bids and solicitations are posted," Smith said. "Subscribers to the Bid Postings-City Solicitations item will get notifications directly in their email inbox, so they can quickly decide if they want to participate."

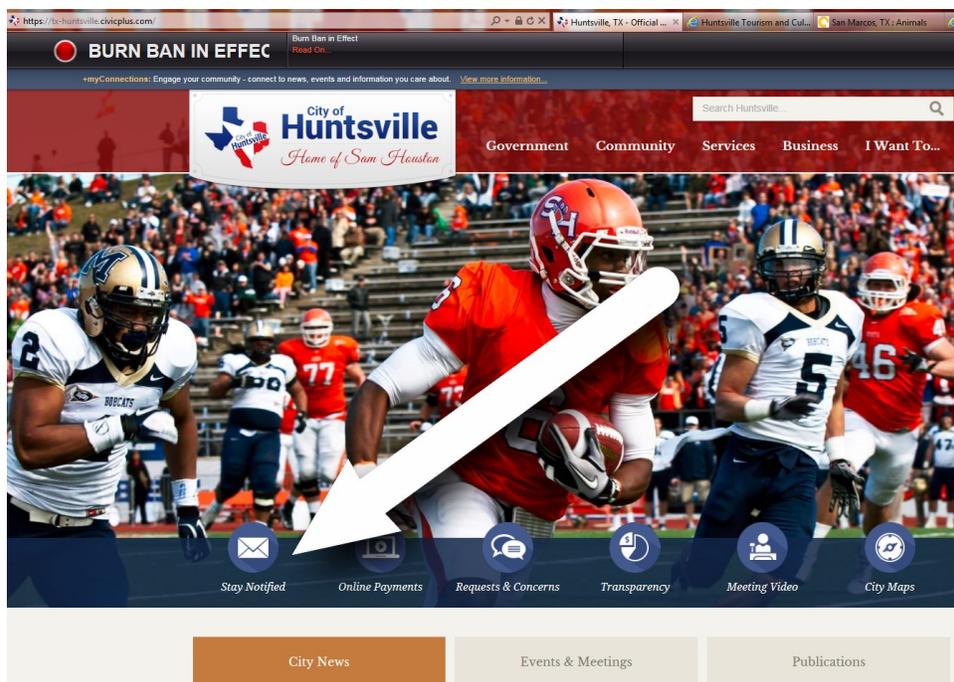
Interested companies simply pull up [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) and click on the blue Stay Notified button on the home page. It will bring up a page titled Notify Me, with a box at the top of the page for an email address. Once that is entered, they look for the Bid Postings heading and select City Solicitations, also noting whether they want to be emailed, texted, or both (see screenshots accompanying this text).

When a subscriber receives an email about a posting, they can click on an included "Read on..." link to view the associated documents. There is no fee for the service.

The Purchasing Division welcomes all businesses to learn more about the City's procurement procedures, and has a Purchasing page on the site at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/292/Purchasing>.

"We seek to maintain an open and transparent process," noted Smith. "When the City can get the word out about a solicitation, creating a high level of competition while enhancing the transparency process, it's always a good day. The new web site feature does exactly that, I am delighted that the businesses have this opportunity. It becomes a win-win for everyone."

For more information, contact Smith at [bsmith@huntsvilletx.gov](mailto:bsmith@huntsvilletx.gov) or 936-291-5495.



To sign up, visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) (left) and click on blue Stay Notified button (see arrow). It links to page of options for subscribing. Enter your email at the top of the page, then look for the listing (shown below) for Bid postings. Select email or text notification option, or both.



## Bid Postings

METHOD LIST NAME



City Solicitations

## No Change to Solid Waste

### Pick-up Routes on Labor Day, Sept. 7

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Division **will run** regular residential and commercial garbage pick-up routes on Monday, September 7, 2015, Labor Day. The Solid Waste Transfer Facility will also be open for business on Monday, September 7.

The Recycling Drop-Off Center, located at 590 IH-45 North, will be closed to the public on Monday, but will open as usual on Tuesday, September 8.

If you have any 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.

This year's closing date for the pool at the Frank D. "Poncho" Roberts Aquatic Center is August 23. Get to splashing before the summer's gone!





Alonzo Hightower, Solid Waste Residential Driver

# Proper Cart Care!

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling Division is pleased to offer curbside residential garbage and recycling collection for our residents. Our carts are rugged and durable, and designed to serve a long useful life, but they need your help to do that.

On the day of collection, the City-issued cart must be placed within two feet of the curb or the street's edge no later than 6:00 am. No items outside of the cart or on the ground will be collected, nor will garbage or recycling be collected from personal garbage cans or on top of the cart lid. The cart needs to be five feet from all vehicles, trailers, boats, mail boxes, fire hydrants, utility poles, fences, other carts, etc. (see proper placement photos on opposite page or at [www.huntsvilletx.gov/SolidWaste](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/SolidWaste)).

Carts left in the street can become safety issues for drivers and cyclists, and can block sighting of children and pets, placing them in danger from motorists. Please remember not to set carts out before 8 p.m. the night before collection, and that your cart should be removed from the street edge or curbside area as soon as possible after collection, or by 10 p.m. on collection days. Carts should definitely not remain on or at the street edge on a regular basis.

Please visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov/SolidWasteRecycling](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/SolidWasteRecycling) for information, schedules, and guidelines.

# Correct Cart Placement

**CORRECT PLACEMENT - SINGLE CART**



When possible, always try to place your cart on your property, as opposed to the public roadway.

**CORRECT PLACEMENT - TWO CARTS**



Customers with two carts should place them at the street's edge with at least five feet of space between them.

**CORRECT USE - ONE CART**



Trash should be placed in the cart with the lid securely closed. There should be no trash on the lid or on the ground.

# Incorrect Cart Placement

**INCORRECT PLACEMENT - TWO CARTS**



**DO NOT** place carts right next to each other.

Review the photos and guidelines to ensure your blue and green carts are properly placed each collection day. Remember to keep the side of the carts five feet from all vehicles, trailers, boats, mail boxes, fire hydrants, utility poles, fences, other carts, etc.

**INCORRECT PLACEMENT - ONE CART**



**DO NOT** place cart in front of a fire hydrant - leave at least five feet of space.

**INCORRECT PLACEMENT - SINGLE CART**



**DO NOT** place your cart directly in front of a mailbox.

**INCORRECT PLACEMENT - SINGLE CART**



**DO NOT** place your cart within five feet of a vehicle.



**DO NOT** place your cart between two parked vehicles.



## Your Blue Recycling Cart Specifics

Your blue recycling cart is provided to you free of cost. The recycling program is voluntary, and we encourage you to take part. If you choose to participate in the program, there are some very specific guidelines that need to be followed. These carts are to be used for specific types of items:

### Plastic Bottles

Examples include:

-  Water bottles
-  Milk bottles
-  Shampoo bottles
-  Hand soap bottles
-  Soda bottles
-  Juice bottles

### Paper Products

Examples include

-  Office paper
-  Junk mail
-  Small cardboard boxes
-  Toilet paper tubes
-  News paper
-  Magazines

### Cans

Examples include

-  Soda cans
-  Beer cans
-  Soup/vegetable cans
-  Coffee cans
-  Pet food cans

All of these items must be clean, and placed loose in your blue cart. **No grocery/plastic garbage bags are permitted in your blue cart.** If the item does not fall into one of these three categories, it belongs in your regular green garbage cart, or you may find another organization that accepts donations of such items.

Remember, when in doubt, throw it out. If you have any questions, please contact the Solid Waste and Recycling Department at 936-294-5743.

Effective January 5, 2015

## Notice of Public Hearing on City Tax Increase

The City of Huntsville will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 6.98 percent (percentage by which maximum proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Tax Code, Chapter 26). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearings will be held on August 18 and September 1, 2015, at 6:00PM at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M. The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2014 last year was \$110,844. Based on last year's tax rate of \$ 0.4106 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$455.13

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in 2015 this year is \$118,765. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.3838 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$455.82. If the governing body adopts the maximum proposed tax rate of \$0.4106 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$487.65

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

Huntsville Public Library and Texas Children's Health Plan  
Presents:

# Family Movie Night Series

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month @ 5:30  
In Community Room



Ask for specific titles.

Movies sponsored by Texas Children's Health Plan

Try the KEY RING app!

Tired of trying to keep up with your library card?



Download the KEY RING app for your smartphone and we scan your library card directly from your phone!



**SIGN UP NOW  
FOR FREE  
SPANISH  
CLASSES!**

HABLA  
ESPAÑOL?



The Huntsville Public Library will again be offering free Spanish classes on Tuesdays beginning September 8, 2015. Instructor Beth Williamson will be teaching Intermediate and Advanced classes this coming Winter semester. Register now to reserve your spot – *only 35 students maximum*. Classes will meet weekly in the Community Room and materials are provided.

Intermediate classes – 1 to 3 p.m. & Advanced classes – 3 to 4:30 p.m.

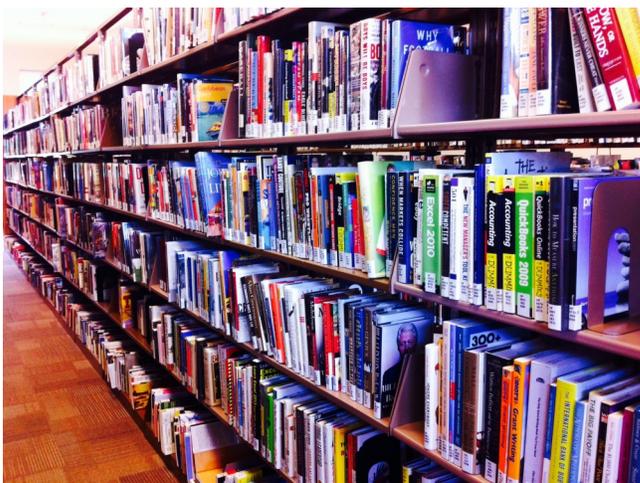
Register online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com) or call Mary at 936-291-5471 for additional information.

## Estate Planning Seminar

An Estate Planning Seminar will be presented free to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 18, 2015, in the Community Room. While you enjoy complimentary refreshments, attorney at law Evelyn L. Gordon will discuss how an estate plan can benefit you and the disadvantages of not having one. Topics will focus on the four primary items in an estate plan, shielding assets from probate, trusts, and the three types of Texas wills.



Please register online at  
[www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)  
or by calling Mary @ 936-291-5471.



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## Electronic HR Applications Available

Effective August 26, 2015, job seekers will find a modernized application process in the Human Resources (HR) Department. Online applications will then be available through [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov), and the City will no longer accept paper applications.

Julie O'Connell, HR Director, is excited about the new opportunity for applicants.

"This is something that has been in the "works" for a very long time, and we have now been able to complete it as part of the new website" she said. "HR will also have two computers available to complete online applications in the HR office."

The new process will provide benefits to applicants, as they will be able to apply for more than one position without having to complete additional forms, and they can track the jobs they're interested in easily and at any time. It will also be easier to attach additional documentation such as resumes and certifications.

Because the City's website is designed to adapt to use on tablets, smartphones, and other electronic devices, applicants can access the system with greater convenience. Current City employees, volunteers, and interns will have specialized applications through the online process.

The process will also enable HR to better and more quickly communicate with candidates on their application status, scheduled interviews, and follow up notifications.

For more information, contact Sandra Cuevas, HR Coordinator, at 936-291-5914.

## Beginner's Guide to Online Privacy

Privacy in cyberspace is becoming an increasingly hot topic in the news as we learn of banks and department stores having credit records hacked. Concerns about tracking devices in cell phones and remote access of computers and other technologies from hundreds of miles away call for increased knowledge and alertness.

Learn the basics of how to protect your online privacy on Thursday, August 27, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Huntsville Public Library. Students from the SHSU Student Net Alliance will be on hand to educate the public, demonstrate how to encrypt emails, and the installation and use of apps to protect privacy. Bring your laptop and flash drive to participate.

Register now for this free event, as there is limited seating. Visit [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com), call Mary Kokot at (936)291-5471, or see the graphic below.

# BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ONLINE PRIVACY

Thursday, August 27

4 pm to 5 pm

At the Huntsville Public Library



Learn how to encrypt emails on your computer or phone.



Bring your laptop and flash drive and learn how to install and use apps to protect your privacy.



Find out about current privacy issues in Texas and the U.S.



Register online at [www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)  
or call Mary at 936-291-5471

*Presented by: Andrew Bannon of  
SHSU Student Net Alliance*

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER DEPUTY REGISTRAR OR ELECTION WORKER

Volunteer Deputy Registrars are entrusted with the responsibility of officially registering voters in the State of Texas. They are appointed by county voter registrars and charged with helping increase voter registration in the state. Deputy Voter Registrar's will be acting as an agent on behalf of Diana McRae, Walker County Voter Registrar, to register voters. Accordingly, the deputy will be expected to understand and abide by the Texas Election Code. Before deputation, all interested persons must complete the state mandated training provided by the Walker County Voter Registration Office free of charge.

Visit <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy.shtml> to read more about qualifications and responsibilities of Volunteer Deputy Registrars.

The next training class is scheduled at the Walker County Annex Room 101 on September 8, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

To register, please complete the Request for Appointment and return the completed form (available in English and Spanish at [http://www.co.walker.tx.us/egov/docs/1369232464\\_645904.pdf](http://www.co.walker.tx.us/egov/docs/1369232464_645904.pdf)) to the Voter Registration Office at the Walker County Annex in Room 114, or email it to [walkervr@co.walker.tx.us](mailto:walkervr@co.walker.tx.us) no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the training class.

Due to the limited space available, the County highly recommends that all interested persons pre-register at least one week before the scheduled date of training in order to ensure a reserved seat and to allow staff time to prepare enough VDVR packets.

The City of Huntsville contracts with Walker County to conduct its elections. You are helping your community become more informed when you participate in the election process. For more information on becoming an election worker, visit <http://www.co.walker.tx.us/department/?fDD=25-0>.

For more information, please call 936-436-4959 or come by the Walker County Annex, Room 114.

## Heard about City employees lately? Citizens share good news!

- ◆ I'm a strong believer in giving kudos where kudos are very important, and as a Huntsville resident of 46 years and a school nurse for 30 of those years, that reinforced my belief in praising people who have earned it. Stressed with having to move out of my 43-year-old home, with closing dates changing three times, I'm with a truckload of trash that cannot be removed until mid-August, so I called Mrs. Herklotz for a solution, to which she said she would send a crew at 7:30 the next morning. Much to my shocking surprise, Mrs. Herklotz and Mrs. Mimms themselves came and lifted all of my stuff and drove it off as a courtesy. Short of a small thank you gift and card of thanks, this letter was meant to thank you and your crew for their kindness. I thank you for your generous staff!
- ◆ Yesterday afternoon we went to the city pool. As soon as we got there Ryder got away from me, ran and jumped into the Olympic pool. I ran up to the pool and asked a couple of kids to grab him. Before they could even turn around the lifeguard on duty had already jumped in the water and scooped him up. Ryder was safe before I even had time to panic. I wanted to take a second to express my gratitude for her quick thinking and being aware of the pool surroundings. I didn't get her name nor in the chaos of the moment did I thank her enough. I don't know if you are also responsible for the lifeguards, if you are, please pass along my new found appreciation for the job they do. If not, please share this with their supervisor.
- ◆ Just had a call from a Mrs. Stevens, who wanted to let the Mayor know about the great assistance provided her by Esther Herklotz. She and her husband are elderly and needed help disposing of an old refrigerator. Esther put them in contact with Noah Speer of the Lions Club, who took care of it with his usual grace and kindness. Mrs. Stevens was very appreciative of both Noah and Esther, and wanted to make sure you knew how much!



The  
Wynne  
Home  
Arts  
Center

silent/silence  
residents/resonance

The Wynne Home Arts Center  
Champagne and Chocolate  
Closing Reception  
with Lynn Lane

Thursday August 27, 2015  
5:30pm to 7pm  
Artist Remarks @ 6pm

ARTIST OPPORTUNITY

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

Calling All Huntsville Area Artists!  
Don't forget to submit your artwork for  
The Wynne Home Arts Center's  
Biennial Community Art Exhibition  
"Liberties"

We will be accepting one entry per artist on  
Saturday, September 5th 10am-2pm  
@ The Wynne Home Arts Center  
1428 Eleventh Street

for more info or to download entry form  
[www.thewynnehome.com](http://www.thewynnehome.com) or call 936-291-5424

# WALKER COUNTY NEEDS ELECTION WORKERS!

Election workers are fully trained to (1) prepare the area for voting and open the polls on time, (2) process voters during check-in on the electronic poll books, (3) provide assistance to voters when called upon, (4) and properly close the polls by completing and returning all required paperwork to Election Central.



## WHO CAN BE AN ELECTION WORKER?

You are eligible to work elections if you are:

- ✓ Registered to vote in Walker County
- ✓ You are not an elected official
- ✓ You have good computer skills
- ✓ You have good customer service
- ✓ You enjoy meeting other people and serving the public

## WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE WORK AS ELECTION WORKERS?

Just about everyone! We have everyone from retired citizens to high school students. We have professional individuals that work full-time or part-time; those who are self-employed and stay-at-home parents. Election workers are a very diverse workforce. We are always in need of bilingual election workers as well!

## WHEN ARE ELECTIONS HELD? WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

- **General Elections** are held each year on the first Tuesday in May and November
- **Primary Elections** are held in even years on the second Tuesday in March
- **Runoff Elections** are held as necessary
- **Special Elections** are held as necessary
- **Polls are open on Election Day from 7:00am to 7:00pm**

*Election workers arrive an hour early for set-up and stay an hour late for closing.*



## WHAT DO ELECTION WORKERS DO?

Election workers work in their own home precinct. Duties include:

- ✓ Arriving at the poll place at 6:00am to set up voting area and prepare for voting;
- ✓ Greeting voters with a friendly smile;
- ✓ Qualifying and checking in voters using electronic poll books;
- ✓ Assisting voters when asked, including those with special needs;
- ✓ Ensure that all laws are followed and the election process is honest as well as organized;
- ✓ Closing polls at 7:00pm (or once the last voter in line has voted), then close out poll place properly;
- ✓ And returning all required forms and equipment to Election Central.

## IS TRAINING PROVIDED?

Yes! All election workers must complete (1) online poll-worker training, (2) a mandatory DVD training, (3) electronic poll book training, (4) and an in-person state mandatory training (*normally held the Saturday before the election*). Additional training sessions could be required.

ARE ELECTION WORKERS PAID? YES! All election workers are paid \$9.00 per hour.

PLEASE CALL (936) 436-4959 FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING AN ELECTION WORKER!

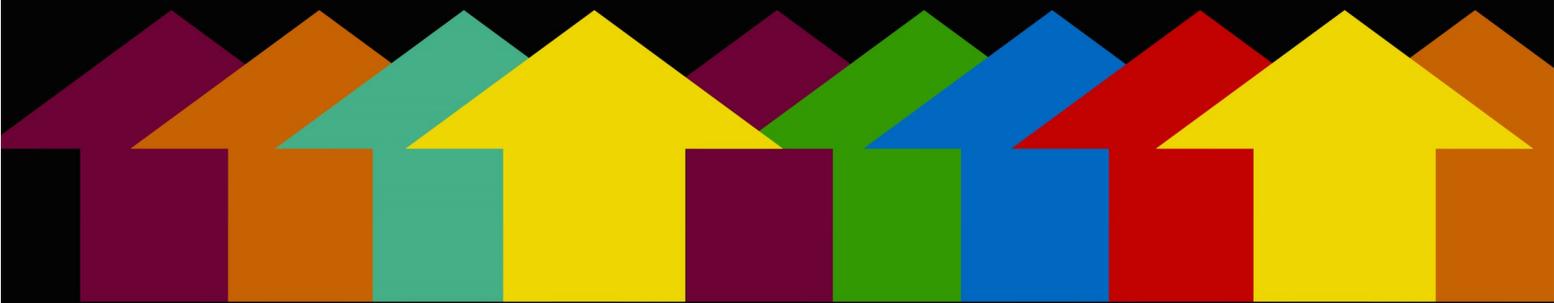


# FIRST THURSDAYS

**Downtown businesses will be open until 7pm OR LATER!**

**Come out and support your local Huntsville businesses!**

OPEN LATE



COME ON IN



**[facebook.com/COHmainstreet](https://facebook.com/COHmainstreet)  
For more details**

# Feel the STING!

## Get a Flag!



Citizens across the community are stepping up to share the good news in our school district, and demonstrate their support for our kids, teachers, and administrative staff. You can join them by donating for Hornet Pride flags flown around the Square and downtown (to assist with flags, poles, and supplies), or by purchasing flags to fly at home or your business on football game days, or any time! It's a simple way to stand together and let the Hornets know we're all pulling for them!



I'm going to help fill the downtown with Hornet Spirit! \$35 or more \_\_\_\_\_

I want to join the Swarm at home & work with extra flags! \$25 X \_\_\_\_\_

(For each \$25 flag, note whether you need side pocket or grommets, please!)

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer to donate by mail, please send to:

Hornet Flag Project  
c/o Chamber of Commerce  
Post Office Box 538  
Huntsville, TX 77342

For information or to pay by credit card: 936-291-8113



The City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling Division is working hard to ensure that residents who wish to recycle using the single-stream curbside recycling program do so responsibly.



Putting any type of film plastic (which includes items like grocery bags, garbage bags, cling wrap, and zip lock bags) in the recycling bin increases recycling costs. These items can become stuck in the machines that sort the recycling. Unfortunately, not all items with a recycling logo on it are appropriate for single-stream recycling. Place film plastics in your green cart, or take grocery bags back to the grocery store for recycling. Do not place recycling in a plastic bag. Recycling needs to be placed loose in your blue recycling cart.



For more information about the single-stream recycling process, please visit

<http://bit.ly/1yUjgn0>

to watch a five-minute video that explains the single-stream process and the importance of removing plastic bags from your recycling bin.

**Thank you for making the program a success!**