City news, features, and updates

This Week in Huntsville

October 9, 2015

Town Hall Tuesday

Inform yourself for the Special Election!

The November 3 election is coming up fast. Only one race in the City's general election is contested, so candidates are preparing for forums and debates and the start of early voting on October 19. But the mayoral race isn't the only thing on the ballot...there's a special election on the reallocation of sales tax being contemplated.

This is a big issue for Huntsville, and one that has not been seen before. The City of Huntsville has been investigating it this year, as the Council was considering a variety of options to fund economic development. The Council ultimately voted on a 4B Sales Tax proposition for the ballot, which will allow the voters to decide. To do so confidently, the public needs to be equipped with the facts.

The Council has announced a town hall meeting to be held this Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m. in the Huntsville Public Library Community Room (following the yoga class held in the room from 5:45-6:45 p.m.). City Manager Matt Benoit will lead the presentation, which will be an opportunity to review the proposition and how it would function if adopted by the voters.

The intent is not to "sell" or encourage or dissuade any opinions, but simply to enhance understanding and encourage informed voter participation. Documentation on the issue disseminated by statewide agencies and organizations is lengthy and detailed, and the City is committed to providing resources for the public to access the material directly.

Tuesday evening's town hall is intended to be informational, enlightening, and brief. As announced at the October 6 City Council meeting, the City will be activating a web page so that everyone will have access. Attendees will be able to submit questions, which Benoit will then answer and post to the web page. Then, every Monday between now and the November 3rd election, the page will be updated.

"Following Tuesday's town hall, citizens will be able to submit questions through the web site, or they can email or bring them here to City Hall," said the City Manager. "Providing everyone's questions and the answers online will ensure all voters receive a consistent and complete public discussion."

For more information, contact the City Manager's office at 936-291-5411 or mbenoit@huntsvilletx.gov.

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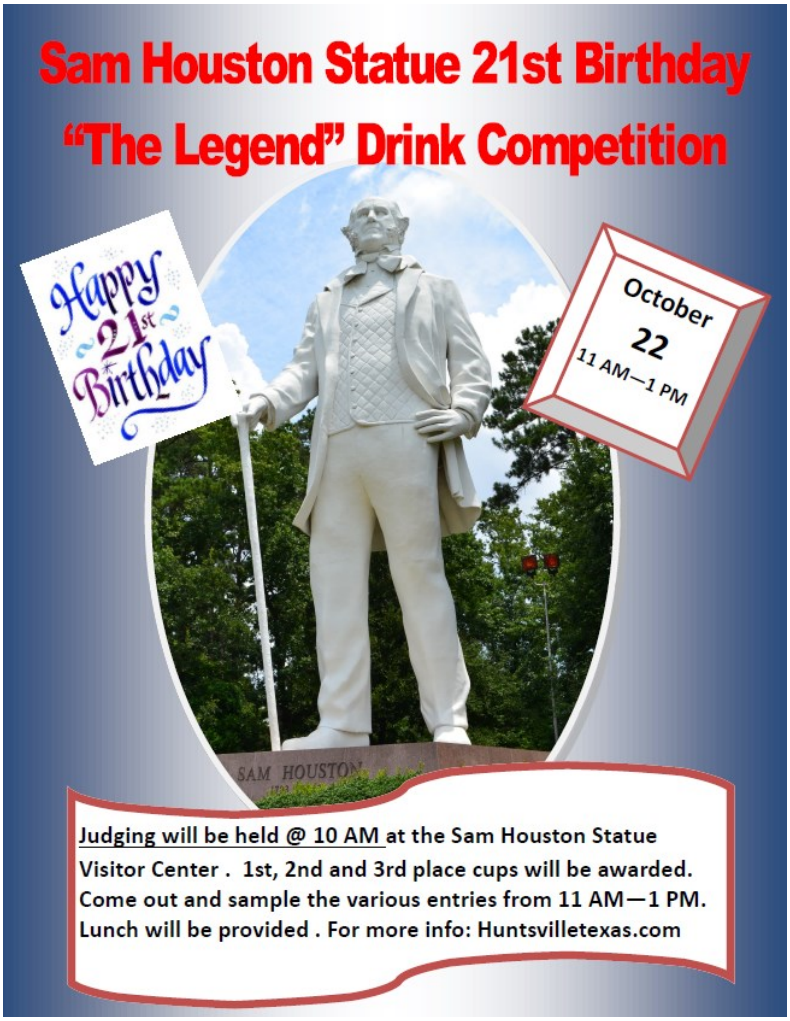
The City of Huntsville's Third Annual Haunted Hayride will take place at Kate Barr Ross Park on Saturday, October 24, at 6:30 P.M. Tickets will be $5 per hayride and $3 per fire truck ride. Concession prices will vary. Contact Penny Joiner in the City of Huntsville Parks and Leisure Department at (936) 294-5708 for more information, or if you are to volunteer as an actor or assistant for the events.

There Could be a new legend in town!

On October 22, the Sam Houston Statue, "A Tribute to Courage" will turn 21. To commemorate the special occasion, the City Tourism and Cultural Services Department is hosting a competition to create a drink that will be unique to Huntsville.

All of Huntsville's bars and restaurants are encouraged to create a refreshing non-alcoholic drink that will be named "The Legend" in honor of the statue and great statesman, General Sam Houston.



Community dignitaries will decide the winners, and all participants are to be featured on a special recipe card indicating where the drinks will be sold throughout the city.

For more information, contact the Tourism office at 936-291-5935 or lphillips@huntsvilletx.gov.

The SHSU Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre presents

Story Drama Hour

an interactive program for elementary students

Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m.
Oct. 20th-Nov. 17th, 2015
In the Huntsville Public Library Children's Department

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

October Events

Story Time - Every Wednesday and Friday at 10:45 a.m. at the library. This complimentary program promotes emergent reading skills for young children. Story Hour includes stories, songs, dance and finger plays and concludes with a craft activity. October 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30.

Wii - Wii Friday will continue in the Children's Department from 4 to 6 p.m. on October 16, 23, and 30.

Drama Story Time - Featuring the SHSU Theater Department, this will begin October 20 and be held weekly at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Read With the Dogs - This is an excellent program that helps children who experience anxiety when reading out loud or in a group setting. The dogs are trained and friendly, and make excellent reading companions. Read With the Dogs takes place on the 3rd Monday of every month. October's READ is Monday, October 19, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Family Movie Night Series - Huntsville Public Library, in partnership with Texas Children's Health Plan, is offering a free monthly family night movie. All movies are rated PG or G. October's Family Movie night will be Friday, October 9, at 5:30 p.m. Complimentary popcorn and drinks will be served.

Lego Club - The Lego Club for ages 5-12 will be the 1st Thursday and 3rd Thursday of every month. They will meet on Thursday October 1st at 5:00 and Thursday October 15th in the Children's Room at the Huntsville Public Library.

Special Events

- New yoga class (Beginner's Level 2) on Tuesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Classes run October 20-November 24.
- The Essentials Oils class will meet from 5:45-6:45 p.m. on October 12, 19, and 26.
- Author Angela Williams will hold a special reading for adults from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, October 28.
- Scare on the Square, Saturday, October 31, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Stop by our booth for special prizes!

November Events

Mother Goose Lapsit - Beginning November 2, this 0-24 months-focused event with movement, song, and story will be held Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Story Time - Every Wednesday and Friday at 10:45 a.m. at the library. This complimentary program promotes emergent reading skills for young children. Story Hour includes stories, songs, dance and finger plays and concludes with a craft activity. Nov. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, and 25.

Wii - Wii Friday will continue in the Children's Department from 4 to 6 p.m. on November 6, 13, and 20.

Read With the Dogs - This is an excellent program that helps children who experience anxiety when reading out loud or in a group setting. The dogs are trained and friendly, and make excellent reading companions. Read With the Dogs takes place on the 3rd Monday of every month. November's READ is Monday, November 16, from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Lego Club - The Lego Club for ages 5-12 will be the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, in the Children's Room at the Huntsville Public Library.

Drama Story Time - Featuring the SHSU Theater Department, this will be held weekly at 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. Nov. 3, 10, and 17.

Special Events

- Beginner Level 2 yoga class continues through November 24 on Tuesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
- The Essentials Oils class will meet from 5:45-6:45 p.m. on November 2, 9, and 30 (Holiday Special).

****Please take note that the Huntsville Public Library will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25 and reopen Monday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. The HPL will not be open Thursday through Saturday.****

For more information on all events, call the Library at (936) 291-5472 or visit at 1219 13th Street.

FLOODS

This page explains what actions to take when you receive a flood watch or warning alert from the National Weather Service for your local area and what to do before, during, and after a flood.

Basic Safety Tips

- Turn Around, Don't Drown! ®
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

Flood watch

Flood Watch = "Be Aware." Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

Steps to Take

- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.

Prepare Your Home

- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and don not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.

Flood warning

Flood Warning = "Take Action!" Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.

Steps to Take

- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- Evacuate if directed.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

After a flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.

When it is not flooding: Make a flood plan

- Know your flood risk.
- Make a flood emergency plan.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Consider buying flood insurance.
- Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there should you need to get to higher ground, the highest level of a building, or to evacuate.
- Stay tuned to your phone alerts, TV, or radio for weather updates, emergency instructions, or evacuation orders.

Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed..

Find checklists, games, preparation guidelines and more on www.fema.gov, for all types of emergency and disaster readiness

Local Government Day With LEAP!

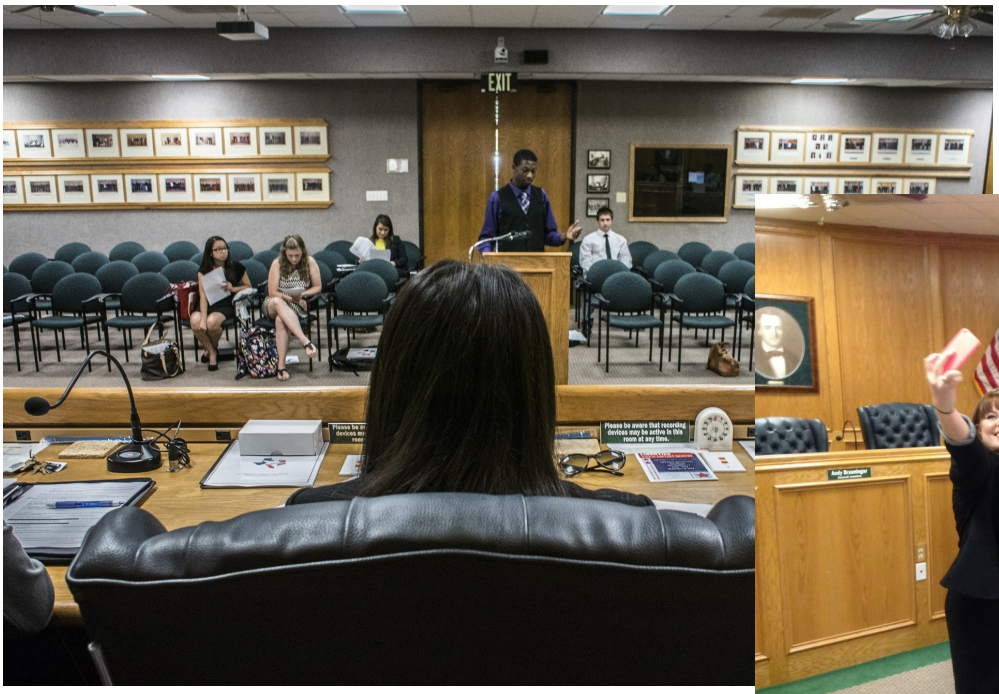
For several years, the City Secretary's Office has offered local groups the opportunity to come learn about local government and even practice it in action by scheduling a Local Government Day. Any group of 10-30 individuals of any age (the program is about two hours overall) can arrange one.

Recently, SHSU students from The Center for Law, Engagement, and Politics took part in an afternoon at City Hall, beginning with a question and answer session with Mayor Mac Woodward.
"Local government is where you are," Woodward told the group. "You are students, but also citizens, and local government touches your lives every day."

The students seemed to really enjoy the chance to sit at the dais and deal with a scripted Council meeting, gaining a new appreciation for what that part of public service can be like.

"Overall, we did pretty well. One of the most difficult things was adjusting to parliamentary procedure," noted Megan Chapa. "Another was understanding the various rules under which city governments have to operate. If nothing else, this was a good exercise to know how hard council members work for virtually no pay."

To schedule a Local Government Day, contact City Secretary Lee Woodward at lwoodward@huntsvilletx.gov.



Participants included Professor Mike Yawn, Constance Gabel, Megan Chapa, Marisa Brusuelas, Austin Campbell, Jazmin Perez, Paul Oliver, Paula Lindsey, Alejandra Galvan, Kaitlyn Tyra, Yarixza Rivera, Brittany Lightfoot, John Turner, Jamaus Williams, Joanna Abril, Hannah Zedaker, Caitlin Suman, Karla Rosales, and Haley Bond.

National Night Out Sees Great Participation!

HPD Community Service Officer Ryann Kaaa worked throughout her department and the community to put together another great National Night Out event Tuesday, October 6.

“National Night Out was a huge success,” said Kaaa. “We had an amazing turnout. Huntsville Police Department would like to thank all of the sponsors and members of the community who helped make this year's event what it was. We hope to see everyone again next year!“

Chief Lunsford applauded Kaaa for her efforts, and thanked all who participated, “We love how much the community has been supporting us lately. We are here to serve them and are so appreciative of their response.”

In Texas, National Night Out is held on the first Tuesday in October. To keep up with all HPD outreach and enforcement, like their Facebook page.

November 3, 2015 General Election

Voting information, key dates

EARLY VOTING INFORMATION/VOTACION TEMPRANA POR ASPECTO PERSONAL

Early voting will be conducted at the following location:
Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101
October 19th to October 30th, Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

EXCEPTIONS:

There will be two twelve hour days during early voting:
Tuesday, Oct. 20th and Tuesday, Oct. 27th – Early Voting Hours 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

CITY POLLING LOCATIONS/SITIOS DE VOTACION

Ward 1/Sala 1 –
Pct. 102 - Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue Suite 101
Ward 2/Sala 2 –
Pct. 201 - Walker County Storm Shelter, 455 State Highway 75 North
Pct. 401 - University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Avenue
Ward 3/Sala 3 –
Pct. 101 - Walker County Annex, 1301 Sam Houston Avenue Suite 101
Pct. 301 - Huntsville ISD Transportation Building, 95 Martin Luther King Drive
Ward 4/Sala 4 –
Pct. 205 - Elkins Lake Conference Center, 634 Cherry Hills Drive
Pct. 206 - Huntsville Fire Station #1, 1987 Veterans Memorial Parkway
Pct. 401 - University Heights Baptist Church, 2400 Sycamore Avenue

(All Walker County polling locations are available at www.co.walker.tx.us
Map available at http://www.co.walker.tx.us/egov/docs/1377003789_401641.pdf)

Dates to Remember

for the November 3, 2015 election

First day to apply for ballot by mail
September 4

Last day to register to vote or make name/address changes
October 5

Early voting begins
October 19

Last day to apply for ballot by mail (application received, not postmarked)
October 23 (reg ABBM)
October 27 (FPCA)

Early voting ends
October 30

Election Day
November 3
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Photo ID Required for Texas Voters

Voters are required to present one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person:

(1) Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
(2) Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
(3) Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
(4) Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
(5) United States military identification card containing your photograph
(6) United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph
(7) United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

The voters name on the identification presented must match or be "substantially similar" to the name on the official list of registered voters (poll list).
Additional information, including material on further exemptions, is available through the Texas Secretary of State's office at www.votetexas.gov.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BALLOT!

There are five entities holding elections on November 3, 2015, including Walker County (State Constitutional Amendments), Walker County Hospital District, City of Huntsville, New Waverly ISD, and City of New Waverly (City of Riverside and Huntsville ISD were able to cancel their elections; political party primaries are in the spring of 2016). There are sixteen local voting precincts voting at thirteen local polling locations (on Election Day - all early voting is at the Walker County Annex) resulting in a total of 24 different ballot styles for this election.

Please be sure you are in the right location and be sure you have received the correct ballot before you vote it. There is information on all November 3, 2015 early voting and election day dates, times, and polling locations on the City website at http://tx-huntsville.civicplus.com/395/ElectionsElecciones and also on the Walker County website at http://www.co.walker.tx.us/egov/docs/1377003789_401641.pdf

The ballots have two sides, please read and vote both sides!

When is Election Day? (Cuando es el Dia de Eleccion?)

Walker County will hold a Joint Election including the City of Huntsville on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m..

La Ciudad de Huntsville y el districto independiente escolar de Huntsville sostendran una eleccion unida el Martes 3 de Noviembre 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 particular political subdivision.

The last day to register to vote for the November 3 election is OCTOBER 7, 2013.

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 division politica particular. Si no esta seguro si su registracion para votar esta vigente puede llamar (936)436-4959 o visite nuestra pagina de web arriba.)

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

There will be one Early Voting Polling Place for all entities:

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

(Habra solamente un lugar para votacion temprana para todas entetidades que sera localizada en el Walker County Annex.)

Identificación con Foto se Requiere para Votantes Tejanos

Ahora tiene que proporcionar una de las siguientes formas de identificación con foto cuando vota en persona:

(1) Licencia de Conducir de Texas expedida por el Departamento de Seguridad Publica (DPS, según sus siglas en inglés)
(2) Cédula de Identificación Electoral de Texas expedida por DPS
(3) Tarjeta de Identificación Personal de Texas expedida por DPS
(4) Licencia de Texas para Portar un Arma de Fuego Oculta expedida por DPS
(5) Cédula de Identidad Militar de los Estados Unidos con fotografía de la persona
(6) Certificado de Ciudadanía Estadounidense con fotografía de la persona o
(7) Pasaporte de los Estados Unidos

Con la excepción del certificado de ciudadanía estadounidense, la identificación deberá estar vigente; si no la está, debe haberse vencido hace 60 días o menosen el momento de presentarla para calificar como votante en el sitio electoral.

El nombre del votante en la identificación presentada debe hacer juego o ser “considerablemente similar” al nombre en la lista oficial del certificado de votantes (lista de encuesta).

Los votantes son animados a actualizar su registro de votante para reflejar los nombres en sus tarjetas de identidad antes de la fecha límite del 7 de Octubre.

November 3, 2015 General Election - Important Dates to Remember

First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail - Friday, September 4, 2015
(does not apply to FPCA (Federal Postcard Application for Military/Overseas))

Last Day to Register to Vote - Monday, October 5, 2015

First Day of Early Voting - Monday, October 19, 2015

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)
Friday, October 23, 2015 (regular ABBM (Application for Ballot by Mail))
or Tuesday, October 27, 2015 (FPCA)

Last Day of Early Voting - Friday, October 30, 2015

Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail - Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.
(unless overseas deadline applies)

Wynne Home Happenings!

The Wynne Home's Day of the Dead events will be held on Friday, October 23, including a showing of the animated children's movie *The Book of Life* (still from the film at right), and a craft/art project involving sugar skulls.
Liberties - Area Artists Show opened September 17 and runs through January 9.
For all events and lots more, regularly check in with the Wynne Home on the City web site at www.thewynnehome.com

Upcoming Events
The Wynne Home Arts Center

October 12 Beginning of Fall Classes

October 23 Day of the Dead Exhibit and Activities

November 7 H2O Performs

November 14 No Foolin' String Band Performs

November 19 Richard Haas, Exhibit and Reception with the Artist @ Huntsville Public Library

December 4 Gingerbread House Contest

December 5 Cider On the Porch

December 6 Historic Home Tour

December 10-12 "A Wynne Home Nutcracker" Performances by Nicolay Dance Works

Ongoing	Liberties: Area Artist Exhibition
Long-term	Sculpture on the Grounds by Jesús Moroles

For more info 936-291-5424 or www.thewynnehome.com

It's Fall Downtown – *Save these dates!*

Downtown Farmers Market - Fall Edition - Saturdays from 8 a.m.-noon, the 2nd Saturday in October until Thanksgiving (same place as summer market, on University Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets). Call the Main Street office at 936-291-5920 for more information.

Scare on the Square - Saturday, October 31, from 3-5 p.m. downtown. Booth applications are now available through the Main Street office at 936-291-5920.

Downtown Christmas Fair and Winter in the Park - events held together this year, on Saturday, December 5, from noon-5 p.m. Booth applications are now available through the Main Street office at 936-291-5920.

The 2015 State of the City Address

When: Tuesday, October 27

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Walker County Storm Shelter

445 SH 75 North

Hear updates on the City Council's Strategic Plan!

Meet your City staff!

Get to know your community!

Sponsored by:

Huntsville Walker County CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For more information, contact the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce at (936) 295-8113 or the City of Huntsville at (936) 291-5400.

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!

Downtown Huntsville

FARMERS MARKET

FALL EDITION

7 WEEKS ONLY!

Saturdays 8am - Noon

OCT. 10TH - NOV. 21ST

City of Huntsville

Fresh Produce

tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, green beans, bok choy, cabbage, preserves, spices, honey, yard eggs, herbs

PLUS

metal art, leather & wood working goods, dog cookies, natural bath & beauty products, handmade jewelry

University Avenue East side of the Courthouse Square

facebook.com/COHmainstreet