



City Honorees at *Item* Awards

City news,
features,
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

March 10,
2016



Mayor Andy Brauninger congratulates HFD (above) and Mac Woodward accepts award from Item Editor Tom Waddill (right).



The City of Huntsville celebrated with the community at the recent *Huntsville Item* Citizen of the Year awards. Chief Tom Grisham, Assistant Chief John Hobbs, and Firefighters Matt Morris, Jason Sanders, and Darren Parker joined Walker County Emergency Management Coordinator Butch Davis in accepting the award for **First Responders of the Year**, given to all those who assisted in last fall's fire on FM 980.

Former Mayor Mac Woodward received the award for **Public Servant of the Year**, but something even more special was in store for him as the night went on. The final award of the evening was also given to Woodward as he was named the 19th **Citizen of the Year**. Woodward was genuinely surprised and delighted, but it was no shock to any who know him that he immediately shared the special event with others, in his modest and humble way.

"No one does this alone," Woodward said. "I want to thank everyone I've worked with, they all contributed to this moment and share the credit for any successes."

Woodward's family and several Councilmembers and City staff were on hand to thank him personally for his many years of service and dedication.

Beautiful Day for 35th Annual Sam Houston Birthday



Mayor Brauninger presents Sam Houston descendent John Murray with stepping stone to be placed at Statue, above. Center, local officials and guests gather after the morning's traditional graveside service.



Right, Alabama-Coushatta Second Chief Mikko Skalaaba Herbert and Mayor Andy Brauninger.



20th Annual HUB Show

Entities come together to help businesses

The City of Huntsville, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, the SHSU Small Business Development Center, and Walker County will together sponsor the 20th Annual Historically Underutilized Business (HUB)/Vendor Show.

The HUB/Vendor Show will be held in the Walker County Storm Shelter located on Highway 75 North, on March 17, 2016. From 10 - 11 a.m. there will be a training session which will provide detailed information on how to do business with government entities; presenters include the State of Texas and the City of Huntsville.

Lunch for participating vendors will be served immediately following the training to allow more opportunity to network. Introductions and opening remarks will begin at 11:30, with the HUB/Vendor Show concluding at 2:30 p.m.

"The main objective of the show is to assist vendors in the Huntsville area increase their customer base to include government entities," Smith said. "Each level of government has slightly different bidding requirements and this can be daunting to the vendors. The sponsors will be available to discuss various details pertaining to their purchasing processes and procedures."

Sponsors include Sharon Schultz, HUB Director with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Robert Barragan, Director of the SHSU Small Business Development Center; SHSU Assistant Director of Contract Management Bob Chapa; Walker County Purchasing Agent Mike Williford; and Billie Smith, City of Huntsville Purchasing Manager; they will be available to address any questions related to their entity's purchasing procedures.

"While there will be no charge for booth space or to attend any part of the event, booth space will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis," Smith said. "Vendors from all across the state attend each year, and, during the last several years, we have reached capacity prior to opening day."

For more information, contact Billie Smith at (936) 291-5495. To register a company for booth space, call Ruby Cowan, TDCJ HUB Coordinator, at (936) 437-3128.



Hotel Tax Made Easy

(Everything You Wanted To Know!)

March 24, 2016
8:30 AM—2:00 PM
Huntsville Library Community Room
1219 13th Street, Huntsville, Texas 77340



Arthur L. Andrews
Empowerment Speaker



Scott Joslove
President & CEO
TH&L Association



Elizabeth A. Taylor
Consultant

- Tourism Marketing for the Whole Community
- Hotel Occupancy Tax—Who, What, Why & How
 - Power Message for Getting Unstuck!
 - 2016-17 HOT Application Overview

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR HOT FUNDS FOR 2016-17 YOU MUST ATTEND.

The cost is \$25 and includes registration and lunch by Mama Juanita's

For more information, directions or to **RSVP by March 17th** contact Leara Phillips @ 936-291-5935 or visit huntsvilletexas.com

JEDI ACADEMY

AT THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friday, March 11th
1 to 3 p.m.

Use the force as you navigate the galaxy by making crafts, playing games, and munching on Star Wars themed snacks.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

Featuring
Mary Anne Burkhalter

"Remember When... Texas Trail Ride!"
Songs
and stories
about Texas history!



Huntsville Public Library
Monday, April 18th
10:30-11:30 a.m.
936-291-5471
www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com

Free

Freedom of Information Day

Freedom of Information (FOI) Day is an annual event on or near March 16, the birthday of James Madison, who is widely regarded as the Father of the Constitution and as the foremost advocate for openness in government. Celebrated by many colleges of law, the American Library Association, and other organizations. This unofficial national holiday is a reminder of American freedoms.

Although the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), adopted on July 4, 1966, applies to federal agencies and information, many states have developed similar legislation for their residents, such as the Texas Public Information Act (PIA). The City of Huntsville follows both the spirit and the letter of the PIA, in addition to the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act, to assure citizens have the access they deserve. The City website (www.huntsvilletx.gov) features a blue *Transparency* button on its homepage, connecting the public to meeting agendas and minutes, information on placing a Public Information Request, bid opportunities and the

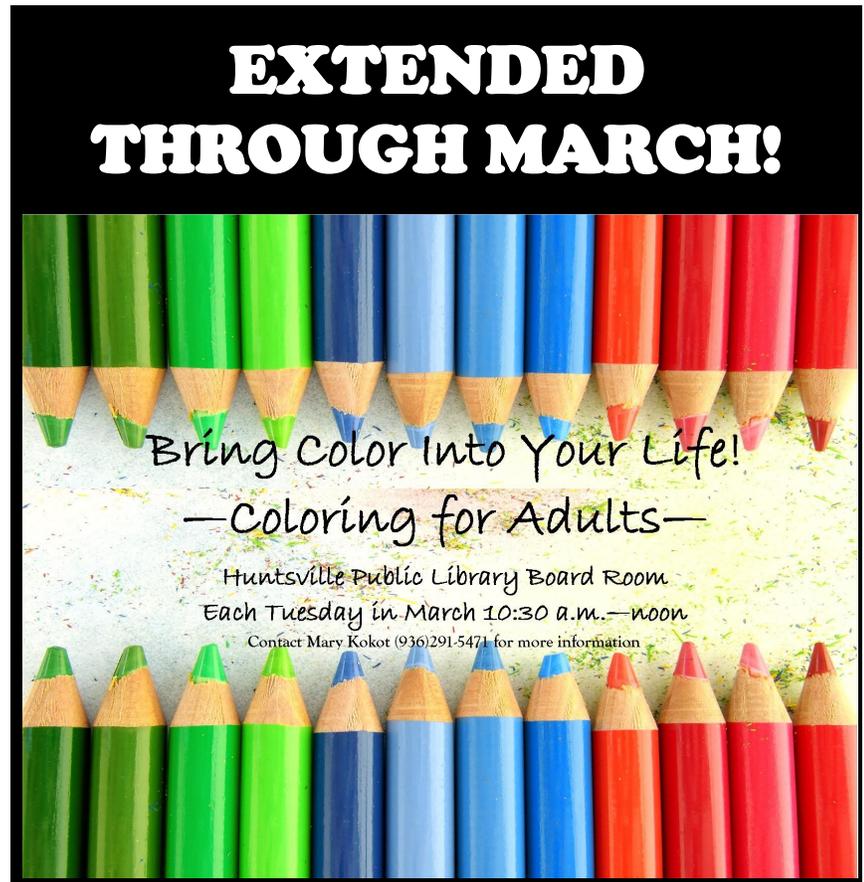


City's Vendor Guide, and a variety of financial document links.

Transparency in governmental information in Texas is recognized in the financial realm by the Texas Comptroller's Office's *Transparency Stars* program, initiated in 2009, awarded to municipalities who make financial information available to the public. The City of Huntsville's Finance Department has won the Gold Circle award four times. As seen in the screenshot above, the Department's web pages offer lots of information in an organized and accessible format.

Another way many residents obtain City information is through the Huntsville Public Library (HPL). As in many cities, the library is a special and trusted part of our public institution and consistently at the core of the community. In the digital age more than ever before, libraries in general are engines of societal and personal change and progress. By fostering education, literacy, research, civic involvement and much more, libraries transform learning every day. HPL is no exception, helping residents find and use City information both current and historical.

Supported by City leaders and an integral part of the City's beliefs and procedures, transparency and freedom of information are key to providing good governance and another reason why Huntsville is a great place to live and work.



Facts About Lead Levels and Huntsville's Water System

There has been a lot of public discussion about drinking water quality and safety in other parts of the United States this year, particularly about lead in water. The City of Huntsville has long maintained a water system rated as Superior by the state, and consistently endeavors to provide excellent service to our residents. This is the water that we and our families safely drink as well. We are committed to the health, safety, and welfare of our community and would like to share a few facts about lead and drinking water. For more information, contact lab superintendent Kim Kembro at kkembro@huntsvilletx.gov.

What is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for lead in drinking water?

When lead testing is performed as required by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 90 percent of the samples must contain fewer than 15 parts per billion (ppb) of lead. The EPA has established an action level for lead in water of 15 ppb, meaning that a water system with more than 15 ppb of lead in 10 percent of its samples may require changes to the water treatment process, replacement of lead service lines and public outreach.

The City of Huntsville has participated in testing for lead in accordance with the Lead and Copper Rule since 1992 and has consistently tested below the action level established by the rule. In 1995, the City qualified for reduced monitoring of once every three years, based on the 90th percentile in our initial sampling period. The City has performed a total of ten sampling events to date, with the last event held in June 2013. Thirty residential samples were collected from approved locations within the City of Huntsville's distribution system and no sample exceeded the EPA action level. The next Lead and Copper Rule sampling event is scheduled to be performed between June 1 and September 30, 2016.

What is the relationship between the EPA action level for drinking water and lead levels in the blood?

The EPA action level of 15 ppb of lead in drinking water was established based on reasonable risk assessments. It is the level that requires additional corrective and educational actions, but does not necessarily directly correlate to increased blood-lead levels. Blood-lead levels are reflective of a variety of factors, such as age; exposure to dusts, paint chips, or soil containing lead, and the amount of water consumed daily. For women, pregnancy can also affect blood-lead levels. Nationally, the biggest source of increased blood-lead levels in children is the ingestion of lead-based paint chips.

What are the health effects of too much lead?

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. For infants and children, exposure to high levels of lead in drinking water can result in delays in physical or mental development. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive a greater percentage because of the large volume of water they consume relative to their body size. For adults, exposure to high levels of lead can result in kidney problems or high blood pressure. Although the main sources of exposure to lead are ingesting paint chips and inhaling dust, the EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from drinking water.



How does lead get into drinking water?

Although some utilities use source waters that contain lead, Huntsville's water sources (the Trinity River and the City wells) contain only traces of lead. Lead in drinking water can also come from pipes and valves within the distribution system. Huntsville's distribution system does not contain lead pipe or services.

Another source of lead in drinking water is household plumbing. In 1986, lead was banned from being used in pipe and solder for drinking water systems. In older homes, where lead is present in pipe and solder connections, it may dissolve into the water after the water sits for long periods of time. Some household plumbing components may contain a small amount of lead and can contribute to lead concentrations at the tap.

What can I do in my home to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water?

- Any time the water has been sitting unused for six hours or longer, flush your cold water pipes by running the water 15-30 seconds or until it becomes a constant temperature. Saving the water for other purposes, such as plant watering, is a good conservation measure.
- Use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water may contain higher levels of lead.
- Some people choose to install a water filter in their home. If you choose to do so, follow these three important suggestions:
 1. Choose one designed for the specific filtration desired, such as lead.
 2. Make sure the filter is approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (www.nsf.org).
 3. Maintain the filter as directed by the manufacturer.

Facts in this article came from Your Drinking Water- Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water published by the EPA. More information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/your-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>.

National Book Awards Festival Comes to Town



National Book Awards

at **SAM HOUSTON
STATE UNIVERSITY**

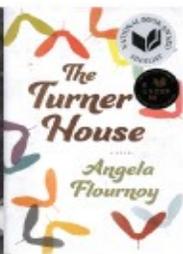
For a third year, the National Book Foundation returns to Huntsville in the springtime with the National Book Awards Festival. This budding literary occasion brings recent National Book Award Finalists to town for three days of events. It's an outreach program that exists to promote reading and American literature on the SHSU campus, in the community, and in the public schools, with the goal of bringing books (and the worlds contained within them) to people who might not otherwise have access to them.

The 2016 guests will be Fiction Finalist Angela Flournoy, Finalist in Young People's Literature Noelle Stevenson, and Poetry Finalist Ada Limón. Join them all at the Huntsville Public Library's Community Room from 5-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, to share the warm welcome for which we're known. Then make plans for the main event on Friday, March 18, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Gaertner Center for Performing Arts. Steph Optiz, former literary director of the Texas Book Festival and fiction co-chair of the Brooklyn Book Festival in New York, will serve as the moderator for the onstage interviews.

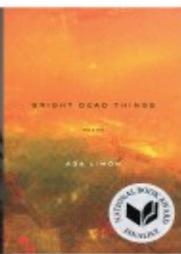
There will be other opportunities to meet and interact with the authors and learn more about their books and the National Book Foundation during this free festival, including activities at the Huntsville Public Library and the Wynne Home. For more info., visit www.shsu.edu/nba or follow at www.facebook.com/shsubookawards or @shsubookawards.

NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS FESTIVAL

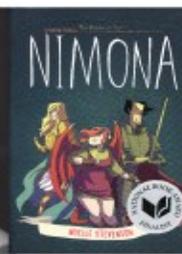
MARCH 16-18, 2016



Angela Flournoy | *The Turner House*
2015 National Book Award Finalist,
Fiction



Ada Limón | *Bright Dead Things*
2015 National Book Award Finalist,
Poetry



Noelle Stevenson | *Nimona*
2015 National Book Award Finalist,
Young People's Literature

AUTHOR MEET & GREET

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 | 5-6:30pm
Huntsville Public Library Community Room

All events are free and open to the public.

BIG READING & INTERVIEW

Friday, March 18, 2016 | 6-8:00pm
Gaertner Performing Arts Center
Sam Houston State University

www.shsu.edu/nba

@SHSUBookAwards

facebook.com/shsubookawards



National Book Awards

at **SAM HOUSTON
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Sam Houston State University,
Member of the Texas State University System

Start Decorating Your Easter Baskets!

The Huntsville Public Library's Easter Egg Hunt (for children six and under) will be held Wednesday, March 23, at 10:45 a.m., on the lawn next to City Hall (Jane Monday Amphitheater area). Please bring your own bag or basket to hold whatever goodies you find. Please note, the Easter Egg Hunt is being held in lieu of Story Time on this date. For more information, contact Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.

TABC Announces Statewide 2016 Spring Break Undercover Operations

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents from across the state are set to conduct hundreds of undercover operations in an effort to prevent the sale of alcohol to minors during Spring Break.

The undercover operations - dubbed "minor stings" - will take place March 1-15 at retailers located along popular travel corridors between major Texas cities and the Gulf Coast. During the operation, undercover TABC agents will accompany a minor-aged volunteer, who will attempt to purchase alcohol. Retailers who sell alcohol to the underage person could face possible administrative action by the TABC.

Members of TABC's Audit & Investigation Division will visit each of the targeted retailers prior to the undercover operations in order to provide training on ways to recognize suspected underage customers.

During the 2015 Spring Break undercover operations, TABC agents visited more than 900 retailers and found more than 90 percent to be in full compliance with the law. Agency officials say they hope for an even better compliance rate this year.

"These undercover operations have proven to be a useful tool in ensuring our retailers are in voluntary compliance with the law," said Chief Robert Saenz, TABC Chief of Field Operations. "While we were very pleased with the relatively low number of violations last year, when you're talking about an underage person getting behind the wheel while intoxicated, even one violation can result in loss of life. We're counting on Texas retailers to do the right thing and remain vigilant during this very busy time."

For more information on TABC's efforts to curb underage drinking, visit the Agency's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TXABC.

BookUp Bash

COMMUNITY BOOK PARTY

WHEN: Thursday March 17th 5:30-7pm

WHERE: Wynne Home Arts Center

COST: Free to the public

Activities:

- Crafts
- Storytelling
- Refreshments
- Book-related activities
- Bookshelf giveaway
- Free books to first 50 kids/ teens
- Fun for kids of all ages

Donations welcome to support Walker County BookUp

Join us this St. Patrick's Day to Celebrate Children's Literacy!

This event is presented by BookUp TX and the Wynne Home Arts Center.

Saturday April 2, 2016

City of Huntsville Solid Waste-Recycling Services

9th Annual Electronic Recycling Day

City of Huntsville Disposal - Recycling Facility, 590 IH45 N

9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Acceptable Items:

- Laptops/Notebooks
- Printers / Scanners
- Copiers / Projectors
- Plasma Screens / LCD/ LED Screens
- Computer Accessories
- Telecommunication / Networking Equipment
- Stereos, radios
- Cell Phones / Pagers / Cameras
- PDA / Palm Pilots
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Vehicle Batteries

For Information, please call Solid Waste & Recycling Services at 936-294-5712

TECHNOCYCLE RECYCLE EVENT

TRY2RECYCLE

City of Huntsville

Bookie ... the Book Worm joins HPL

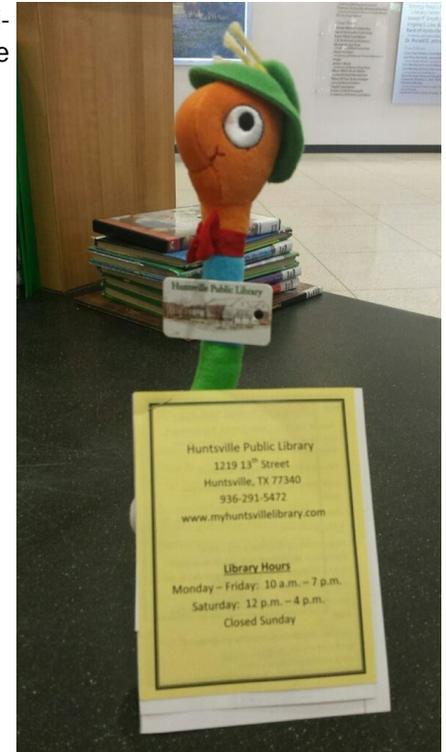
Introducing ... Bookie! Bookie is our newest HPL friend and is a complete book worm! Bookie will be roaming the library - reading books, presenting some words for consumption and causing friendly mischief. Stay tuned because you never know where Bookie the book worm will turn up next! Monday, February 8, was basics day, on getting a library card (*photo at below right*). If you don't know how to get one, just ask Bookie.

Monday, February 15, Bookie celebrated President's Day as he posed with some Presidential Dolls that were hand-crafted and donated to HPL (*photo below*). His word of the Day was democracy!

democracy: noun democ·ra·cy \di-'mä-krə-sē\ - simple definition of democracy:

- a form of government in which people choose leaders by voting
- a country ruled by democracy
- an organization or situation in which everyone is treated equally and has equal rights

Stop by the library soon to see what Bookie's getting up to next!



United Way Honors City Director Dr. Sherry McKibben named 2015 Volunteer of the Year

A very special award was presented to one of the City's Directors on February 24, 2016. Dr. Sherry McKibben, Director of Neighborhood Resources, was recognized by the United Way of the Piney Woods as its 2015 Volunteer of the Year. Piney Woods Coordinator, Sheila Cannon, was complimentary of McKibben's contributions.

"She was chosen because of her ongoing commitment with United Way of the Piney Woods, and the extreme amount of passion she has shown towards our community. She has evolved so much on this committee and shown how much she is willing to lead United Way of the Piney Woods to greater expectations. Her efforts in the Socks and Undies drive have grown over the past 3 years, with her most current drive with the City of Huntsville raising over \$1000."



U. S. Citizenship Preparation Course

Presented by: Sam Houston State University LEAP Center & The Huntsville Public Library

Mondays, March 28th - April 25th

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Community Room

Sign Up at
the Library!

The Huntsville Public Library and Mike Yawn, Political Science Professor at SHSU, will present a FREE, five-week course designed to prepare immigrants for the Naturalization Exam.

For more information call:
Mary Kokot or Christina Perez
Huntsville Public Library
(936) 291-5471



Space
is
Limited

Curso de Preparación para Cuidanía Estadounidense

Presentado por:
Sam Houston State University LEAP Center &
The Huntsville Public Library

Fecha: Lunes 28 de marzo– 25 de abril
Hora: 6:00–8:30pm

Lugar: Cuarto Comunitario en la Biblioteca de Huntsville

Clases Gratuitas para inmigrantes en busca de ciudadanía, curso de 5 semanas de preparación para examen para naturalización

El curso incluye:

- Proceso de Aplicación
- Entrevista Oral
- Práctica para el examen, preguntas y respuestas



Curso impartido por
Mike Yawn,
Profesor de Ciencias
Políticas en SHSU

Materiales proporcionados

Para más información:

Mary Kokot
Adult Literacy Coordinator
(936) 291-5471
Huntsville public library:
1219 13th Street Huntsville, TX 77340

Good Friday Solid Waste Schedule Changes

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste and Recycling Division will not be collecting curbside residential recycling on Friday, March 25, 2016, in observance of Good Friday. Only commercial customers with dumpsters and roll offs/compactors will have garbage collected on Friday, March 25, 2016.

The Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facility will be closed to the public on Friday, March 25, 2016 and open on Saturday, March 26 from 7:30-noon only. For any questions about collection, contact the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility at 936-294-5712.

Huntsville Public Library, in partnership with the SHSU Student Money Management Center, hosts "BE WISE" in the Community Room during April – Financial Literacy Month.

Wednesday April 6th
Budgeting and Goal Setting
5:45pm-6:45pm

Thursday April 21st
Creative Ways to Cut Family Expenses
5:45pm-6:45pm

Thursday April 28th
How to pay for college
5:45pm-6:45pm

@shsu_smmc

Student Money Management Center
Student Services Annex
919 Bearkat Blvd.
936.294.2600 • smmc@shsu.edu • shsu.edu/smmc
MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



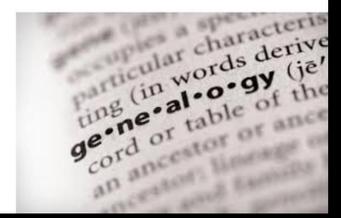
Roadblocks and Dead Ends got you down?

Meet with an experienced Genealogist for individual research assistance.

First and Second Saturdays
in March, April, and May
From 12 P.M. to 2 P.M.

Sign Up Now or call Mary Kokot at 936-291-5471

SPACE IS LIMITED!!



**Month
after
month...**

**DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE
FARMERS
MARKET**



**MAY THROUGH JULY
SATURDAYS
8AM – NOON
HOMEMADE &
HOMEGROWN
[FACEBOOK.COM/COMMAINSTREET](https://www.facebook.com/commainstreet)**

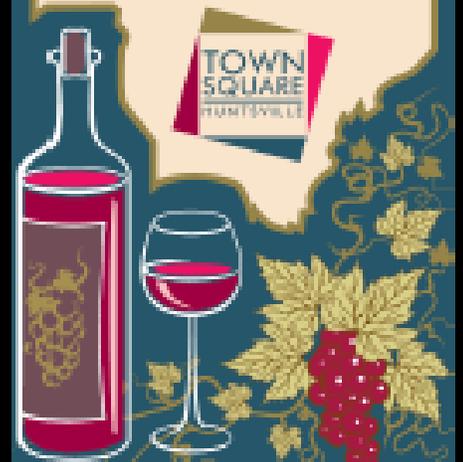
Huntsville Music Festival 2016
LAST TWO THURSDAYS
IN APRIL!!!

SAVE THE DATE

**...all the
fun
happens
on Main
Street!**

*Wine Down,
Shop Small*

**FIRST THURSDAY
IN MAY • 5-9 PM**
Historic Downtown Huntsville



**Come
early, stay
late!**

JUNK-A-PALOOZA 2016

*Save
the
Date*

*Save
your
junk*



YARD SALE

1ST SATURDAY IN JUNE