



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter August 2020

City of Hitchcock Summer Clean-Up August 29th 2020 7:30am - 4:30pm

This year, the disposal site for non-hazardous clean-up will be at The City Barn. 8401 Schiro Hitchcock, Texas 77563

Waste disposal at this event will be free of charge to residents as a service provided by the City of Hitchcock. The drop off site will be open **ONE DAY ONLY, AUGUST 29TH, 2020**. Disposals may be made at AmeriWaste Services temporary collection point of The City Barn 8401 Schiro, Hitchcock, Texas 77563, between 7:30am to 4:30pm.

**For questions, please contact – AmeriWaste 281-331-8400
OR City of Hitchcock 409-986-5591**

PLEASE BE SURE TO WEAR A MASK OR PROTECTIVE FACE COVERINGS

KEEPING COOL IN AUGUST

In recent years excessive heat has caused more deaths than all other weather events, including floods.

A heat wave is a prolonged period of excessive heat, generally 10 degrees or more above average, often combined with excessive humidity. You will likely hear weather forecasters use these terms when a heat wave is predicted in our area:

Excessive Heat Watch - Conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event to meet or exceed local Excessive Heat Warning criteria in the next 24 to 72 hours.

Heat Advisory - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days (daytime highs= 100-105° Fahrenheit).

Excessive Heat Warning - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least 2 days (daytime highs= 105-110° Fahrenheit).

Before the Heat

- Listen to local weather forecasts and stay aware of upcoming temperature changes.
- Be aware of both the temperature and the heat index. The heat index is the temperature the body feels when the effects of heat and humidity are combined.
- Discuss heat safety precautions with members of your household. Have a plan for wherever you spend time— home, work and school—and prepare for power outages.
- Have your air conditioner inspected annually to ensure proper working order.
- Check the contents of your emergency disaster kit in case a power outage occurs.
- Know those in your neighborhood who are elderly, young, or sick. They are more likely to become victims of excessive heat and may need help.
- If you do not have air conditioning, choose places you could go to for relief from the heat during the warmest part of the day.
- Ensure that your animals' needs for water and shade are met.

CLIMATE CHANGE & EXTREME HEAT

CAUSES MORE DEATHS each year than hurricanes, lightning, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods **COMBINED!**

WHO'S AT RISK?

Adults over 65, children under 4, people with existing medical problems such as heart disease, and people without access to air conditioning

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

STAY COOL

- Find an air-conditioned shelter
- Avoid direct sunlight
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Take cool showers or baths
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device

STAY HYDRATED

- Drink more water than usual
- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more fluids
- Avoid alcohol or liquids containing high amounts of sugar
- Remind others to drink enough water

STAY INFORMED

- Check local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips
- Learn the symptoms of heat illness

LEARN MORE!

Visit CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to learn more about climate change and extreme heat at www.cdc.gov/ephtracking

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DATES TO REMEMBER

8/10/20 Special Called City Commission Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

8/17/20- City Commission Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.



WELCOME OFC. NATALIE WILSON



Natalie Wilson joined the Hitchcock Police Department on 06/08/2020. She is assigned to the police department and will work to gain and maintain control of Environmental infractions in the City of Hitchcock. She will also work closely with Code Enforcement. The infractions include but are not limited too, illegal dumping, waste management, permit inspections, general debris at garbage can pickup sites that AmeriWaste will not pick up, unless you make arrangements and pay out of pocket expenses. She is also learning F.E.M.A. floodplain management for the City with other City Officials. Natalie serves on the Board of Director's for Hitchcock I.S.D.'s education foundation. She comes to us from Hitchcock I.S.D. Police Department and has served Galveston County law enforcement for 19 years in various capacities. She is most proud to be here and learn the ropes of this new position, as the City of Hitchcock has never had an environmental investigator. She will work hard to meet the needs of citizens as well as protect and serve! If you need her assistance call her at (409)750-1517

STREET ADDRESSES

Why is it necessary to post my street number?

Firefighters, emergency vehicles, and personnel may need to find your home quickly should an emergency occur. It is difficult for emergency vehicles, utility trucks, and postal and delivery trucks to find homes and businesses with address numbers that are not properly posted.

What are the requirements for posting street numbers?

The City of Hitchcock's ordinance only states that the address numbers shall be not less than two and one-half inches high. The method of affixing and materials used must be such as to insure durability. This basically leaves it up to the resident on size, color, etc.

Recommended guidelines:

- House numbers should be no less than 4" tall.
- Numbers should be in a contrasting color to the color scheme of the building.
- House numbers should be visible up to 150 feet, from all angles.
- Be sure house numbers can be seen at night.
- Keep house numbers clearly visible throughout the year. Plant growth during certain seasons can hide numbers.

Remember that fire vehicles sit up higher than automobiles. Low hanging limbs can obstruct the view that would normally be visible to others.

Although street numbers may not seem to be that important, they can be critical in the event of a fire, sudden illness or other emergency. Another perspective on the visibility of house numbers may be stated this way: *Can your address be seen from the street while sitting in a vehicle in the middle of the night? After all,*

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITO BITES

Mosquitos spread Zika and other viruses



DAYTIME IS THE MOST DANGEROUS

Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night



USE INSECT REPELLENT

IT WORKS!

Look for the following active ingredients:
DEET/PICARIDIN/
IR3535/OIL OF LEMON/
EUCALYPTUS
PARA-METHANE-DIOL



WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES

Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night



MOSQUITO PROOF YOUR HOME

Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning when available. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs near standing water

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Inside the home

- > Never use any more water than necessary to complete a task.
- > Fix leaks on faucets, sinks and toilets.
- > Take short showers instead of baths.
- > Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- > Install low-flow showerheads and toilets.
- > Keep cold beverages in the refrigerator and use ice only when needed.
- > Keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator instead of waiting for water to cool from faucet.
- > Fill sink half-way to rinse vegetables and fruit instead of rinsing one at a time under running water.
- > Wash dishes by hand instead of using a dishwasher (fill one side of sink with soapy water for washing and the other with clear water for rinsing).
- > If using a dishwasher, make sure you have a full load.
- > When washing clothes, make sure you have a full load; if not, select the correct water level.
- > When cleaning or emptying a fish tank, use the old water to water plants or for on the lawn.

Outside the Home

- > Water lawn only when needed.
- > Water early in the morning or late at night.
- > Never water when it is windy; this causes water to evaporate and dry quicker.
- > Use drip irrigation for shrubs and flower beds.
- > Use mulch around trees, plants and gardens to hold in moisture.
- > When watering; set a timer, saves from over watering .
- > Instead of washing your driveway and sidewalks, sweep or use a blower.

ALL TOILETS NEED MAINTENANCE

Knowing when yours is in need of some upkeep helps save water and money.

Some toilet leaks are obvious:

- > Toilet tank filling when not in use (aka "ghost flushing").
- > Water trickling down the inside of the bowl.
- > Ripples of water in the bowl.

Other leaks aren't as easily seen or heard, but can be detected with a simple test. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water in the tank, but don't flush. Leave the toilet for about 20 minutes; if coloring appears in the bowl, your toilet is leaking.

Typically, the problem can be solved easily by replacing either the toilet flapper or seal. You might not think much about the maintenance of your toilet but it's important to change the flapper at least once a year and to find the right match for your toilet model. Settling for a one-size-fits-all flapper can quickly turn your water-efficient toilet into a water waster and can significantly increase your water bill.

**THE AVERAGE LEAKY TOILET CAN
WASTE 200 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY**



DRAINAGE FACTS

Our City is in the midst of great development. However, at this time our maintenance resources are limited. The City receives complaints about drainage issues on a daily basis. Many of our property owners are plagued by poor drainage. As the City continues to work hard at the tasks necessary to repair the system, the citizens must take responsible measures to aid in keeping our drainage system working as well as it possibly can. Citizens are being reminded to keep your ditches mowed, cleared and free of debris.



Effects of Grease in the Sewer System

When fats, oils, and grease are poured or flushed down your sinks, drains, or toilets they enter the

sewer system where they cool, harden and stick to the inner walls of sewer pipes. Over time, as more fats, oils, and grease are added to the system, these sewer blockages build-up and harden until they

completely plug the pipes. The hardness of the blockages makes them very difficult and costly to clean out.

Where do fats, oils, and grease come from?

The most common sources of household fats, oils, and grease are:

- > meats and other food scraps (including baked goods)
- > sauces, gravies, and salad dressings
- > dairy products (milk, cream, yogurt, cheese)
- > fats, lards, cooking oil, shortening, butter, and margarine
- > cosmetics and toiletries (makeup, lotions, some soaps and oils)

How do these blockages affect the sanitary sewer system?

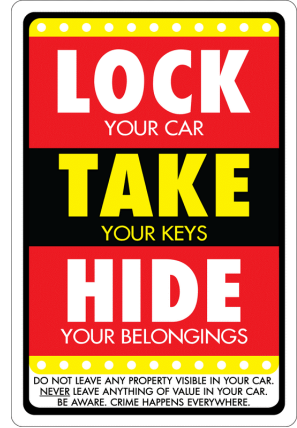
You may think that once you flush it, it simply washes away and is gone for good. That's not the case. Fats, oils, and grease will build up in your pipes, create blockages and plug sewers, leading to problems such as:

- > Raw sewage overflowing and backing up into your home, business, or a neighboring property.
- > Exposure to disease-causing organisms.
- > Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, streets, creeks, rivers and other waterways.
- > Increasing operations and maintenance costs to clean and repair damaged sewer pipes.

CAR BURGLARY PREVENTION

One of the more common (and frustrating) crimes to occur in neighborhoods is burglary of motor vehicles. Offenders will often walk neighborhoods and pull on door handles. If they find an unlocked car, they will rifle through your belongings and take anything of value. The Hitchcock Police Department offers the following tips to help keep you from becoming a victim:

- *Always lock your vehicle and take your keys.
- *Never leave your car running and unattended.
- *Park in a well-lit area.
- *Take valuables with you when you are not in your vehicle.
- *Keep valuables out of sight.
- *Install an alarm and set it whenever you park your vehicle.



REPORT STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

CenterPoint Energy maintains street lights throughout their electric service area in and around Hitchcock. If you need to report a power outage please call 713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143

When reporting, you will be asked to provide:

- A pole number for the non-functioning lights you want to report.
- Contact information (in case more information is needed to locate a street light).
- An e-mail address (if you want feedback regarding your repair request).
- The number of street lights you would like to report.

www.centerpointenergy.com

HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
MARY COMBS DEMBY	CITY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-7171
CHRIS ARMACOST	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 2	district2@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)519-9646
Wayne Newton	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
MARK COOK	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(281)782-7656
MARIE GELLES	CITY ADMINISTRATOR	mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
WILMON SMITH	CHIEF OF POLICE	wsmith@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
NICHOLLE ANDRUS	CITY SECRETARY	nandrus@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
CANDIE SERNA	CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	cserna@hitchcockpd.com	(409)986-5559
NATALIE WILSON	ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATOR	nwilson@hitchcockpd.com	(409)750-1517
VACANT	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	djwood@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
FRED WELCH	INTERIM EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HEDC	hedc@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)502-7331
HENRY DEBORD	BUILDING INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-0822
JANIE AVILA	PERMIT CLERK	javila@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
RUTH ANN SORRELL	MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK/ASSISTANT CITY SEC.	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-9702
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERVISOR	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)761-0737
BILL GARVIN	WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE		(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559