



# City of Hitchcock

Newsletter January 2022

## PROTECT YOUR PIPES FROM FATS, OIL AND GREASE

Put fats, oils, grease, and food scraps in the trash, NOT down the drain.

### PROTECT YOUR PIPES

Clogged and broken pipes allow raw sewage to back up into your home, lawn, neighborhood, streets, and our local bayous.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Cool it.**  
Let fats, oils, and grease cool.

**Can it.**  
Pour into a covered, disposable container.

**Trash it.**  
Throw it in the trash.

Learn more at [ceasethegrease.net](http://ceasethegrease.net)



### TOILETS ARE NOT TRASHCANS!

"Flushable" wipes  
DO NOT break down like regular toilet paper.

Please only flush the 3 P's:

- Poop
- Pee
- Paper (Toilet)

### DO NOT FLUSH

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hair                 | Medications              |
| Diapers              | Gum Wrappers             |
| Paper Towels         | Flushable Wipes          |
| Tissues              | Dental Floss             |
| Cotton Swabs         | Cigarettes               |
| Baby Wipes           | Cotton Balls             |
| Cleaning Wipes       | Kitty Litter             |
| Bandages             | Women's Hygiene Products |
| Makeup Remover Wipes | Facial Cleansing Pads    |



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY A TEXAS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPROVED BY THE TEXAS LAND COMMISSIONER PURSUANT TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AWARD NO. NA19NOS4190106.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

1/10/2022 Special Called City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1/17/2022 City Offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

1/24/2022 Regular City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

STAY INFORMED BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT [www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org)



## CITY OF HITCHCOCK SPRING CLEAN-UP

**MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2022, 7:00AM—2:00PM**

**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, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**. Disposals may be made at AmeriWaste Services temporary collection point of The City Barn – 8401 Schiro, Hitchcock, Texas 77563, between 7:00am to 2:00pm.

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

### **What you need to know:**

- This service is **free of charge** during the designated clean-up days and times for **City of Hitchcock Residents Only**.
- Waste delivered must be separated by type of material by the resident.
- Clean Up activities do not apply to commercial/rental property clean ups, large property clean ups, lot or acreage clean up, or lot and property land clearing.
- Commercial tree trimmers are not eligible for this service.

### **Requirements for Participation:**

- A current City of Hitchcock utility bill showing that you are a City of Hitchcock Resident.
- Proper identification is required at time of disposal; Texas Driver's License or Identification Card.
- All materials must be sorted by the customer, NOT by the AmeriWaste Service or City of Hitchcock employees.

### **Accepted Items:**

- Batteries (car batteries only)
- Furniture (dressers, mattresses, box springs, sofa's, love seats, tables, and chairs)
- Stoves
- BBQ pits that DO NOT HAVE HOT ASH
- Tires (Passenger Tires Only Limit 4)

### **Limits:**

- Maximum of 2 pick-up truck loads per household or a maximum of 1 trailer load per household.
- Trailers are not to exceed 16' long x 4' high in size.
- No household waste.
- No Paint, Pool Chemicals, or Chemical Items
- No Propane Tanks, Microwaves, Washers, Dryers, or Air conditioners
- NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS; including automotive oils, cooking oils, filters, fluorescent light bulbs, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers.
- NO TIRES on rims or wheels, Commercial Tires, or Heavy Equipment Tires
- Mercury WILL NOT be accepted.
- Explosives and ammunition WILL NOT be accepted.
- Computer monitors and box style televisions WILL NOT be accepted.

The City of Hitchcock and AmeriWaste Services are NOT responsible for damage to vehicles or injury to citizens during this event. The City of Hitchcock and AmeriWaste Services reserve the right to refuse service to anyone for not following the rules of the clean-up. Any items brought that are not listed/accepted or are over the established limits, are subject to a fee (at AmeriWaste Services discretion).

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### **2022 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:**

Upcoming General Election for Councilmember for District 3 and District 4.

First Day to file applications for place on the ballot is January 19, 2022 through February 18, 2022 by close of business day (5:00 p.m.).

April 7, 2022 is the last day to register to vote in this election cycle.

Early Voting will be April 25 - 29, 2022 and May 2 - 3, 2022.

Election Day is May 7, 2022. Qualifications for a position are shown on the city website at:

[https://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments /city\\_secretary/elections\\_information.php](https://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments /city_secretary/elections_information.php)

Candidate packets will be available by January 19th in the City Secretary's office and on the City Website.

## WINTER STORMS: PREVENTING AND THAWING FROZEN PIPES

Homeowners should give special attention to exposed water pipes during the winter months. Freezing pipes are a problem in warmer climates where they often run through uninsulated or under insulated attics or crawl spaces. Although we only have a few cold snaps per season, it's still necessary to protect exposed water pipes. Leaving pipes unprotected can cause them to burst, which can result in a tremendous amount of damage to the home and the contents inside.

You can drastically reduce your chance of property damage by preparing your water pipes before a hard freeze. The following suggestions can help you accomplish this task.

### What Kind of Water Pipes Freeze and When?

- Water pipes have the potential to freeze and burst when the outside temperature reaches 20 °F or below.
- Pipes that are most vulnerable to freeze are usually exposed to severe cold, such as:
  - ◊ outdoor hose bibs,
  - ◊ swimming pool supply lines,
  - ◊ water sprinkler lines,
  - ◊ water pipes in crawl spaces,
  - ◊ water pipes in attics,
  - ◊ water pipes in garages, and
  - ◊ water pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation.



### Prepare While the Climate Is Warm

- Drain water from the swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines, following manufacturer's or installer's directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Remove and drain outdoor hoses. Store in a shed or garage. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs if possible. Cover hose bibs with insulated covers.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located and are in unheated areas. Look in crawl spaces, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. A hot water supply line can freeze just as a cold water supply line can freeze if the water is not running through the pipe and the water temperature in the pipe is cold.
- Consider installing products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Many products are available at your local building supplies retailer. Newspaper can also provide some protection to exposed pipes as long as the cold temperatures are not frequent or prolonged.

### Take Action During Cold Weather

- Keep the garage door closed if there are water supply lines located inside.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Keep the heating thermostat set at a consistent temperature both day and night.
- If going out of town during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home. Set the thermostat to a temperature no lower than 55 °F, and open cabinet doors where there is plumbing.
- If you are going out of town and have a heat pump system, and if the temperature is forecast to be extremely low, you may need to switch the setting to emergency heat and reduce the thermostat setting to 55 °F.

### Thawing Frozen Pipes after the Storm

- If you suspect that a pipe is frozen; keep the faucet open. Water will begin to flow as you treat the frozen area, which will help to melt more ice in the pipe.
- Make sure you **know where the main water valve is located** outside of your home. The frozen pipe may already be broken, and it will leak when the water is thawed. If this is the case, you'll need to turn off the main water valve to your home until the leak is repaired.
- Apply heat to the frozen portion of the pipe. This can be accomplished by using the following sources of heat: a heating pad, electric hair dryer, a portable space heater, or wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Make sure that electrical cords do not come into contact with water. Do not attempt to use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame devices; they present a serious fire hazard as well as release lethal carbon monoxide fumes into the air.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. Call a licensed plumber if you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not within reach, or if you can't get the pipe to thaw.
- Inspect all other faucets in your home to find out if additional pipes are frozen. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze also.





## SHEDS AND STORAGE BUILDINGS

When purchasing or building a shed, remember that a building permit is required. Please check with the Permit Department Clerk, Lisa Clements (409)986-5591 before a storage shed is moved onto or built on any property.

It is important that you understand all the codes and regulations that must be met in order to convert a shed to a residential living area.

For More Information visit the Municode website at

[https://library.municode.com/tx/hitchcock/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/tx/hitchcock/codes/code_of_ordinances)



### HOW TO CONTACT

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
CHRIS ARMACOST	MAYOR	mayor@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 519-9646
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ANDRE PERKINS	CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-1375
MARIE GELLES	CITY MANAGER	mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
WILMON SMITH	CHIEF OF POLICE	wsmith@hitchcockpd.com	(409) 986-5559
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CYNTHIA SMITH-REX	CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER		(409) 986-5591
NATALIE WILSON	ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATOR	nwilson@hitchcockpd.com	(409) 795-1517
TYLER ROBERT	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEDC	hedc@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 502-7331
HENRY DEBORD	BUILDING INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-0822
LISA CLEMENTS	PERMIT CLERK	lclements@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
VACANT	STREET SUPERINTENDENT		(409) 986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 761-0737
MIGUEL DELGADO	WWTP OPERATOR	mdelgado@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
DARRON RAY	FIRE MARSHALL	fire@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(800) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE	customerservice@ameriwaste.net	(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409) 795-7595
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409) 986-5559
STREET LIGHT OUTAGES			(800) 332-7143