



# City of Hitchcock

Newsletter November 2021



## ANDY JENKINS RETIRING AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY

Andy joined the City on August 27, 1990. He has been an integral part of the street department over the years working hard to maintain the streets and drainage of the City of Hitchcock.

He has dedicated his time, talents, and energy to the City of Hitchcock, for many years. With his retirement he takes with him a great knowledge of the history of the City of Hitchcock. He will be missed by many in the City as he takes his retirement to spend time with his wife and the rest of his family.

## WELCOME LISA CLEMENTS

Hello Citizens of Hitchcock. My name is Lisa Clements, and I am your new Permit Clerk at City Hall. Many may remember me as Lisa Werner. I graduated Hitchcock High School back when cell phones were not a thing. I have been lucky to live in other states such as Alaska and California during my life, but Texas was always home.

Along with my husband, Brett, and children, Paige and Tristan, I returned to Hitchcock in 2005. Upon my return I began working as an Executive Administrative Assistant within the oil and gas industry. Ever since my return, it has been exciting to see how Hitchcock is expanding and growing. I am happy to be part of the City of Hitchcock team and look forward to helping our residents, contractors and builders.



## AMERIWASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

AmeriWaste is offering a Recycling option to the residents of Hitchcock. In order for this service to be implemented, a minimum of 200 residents will need sign up for the program. You can sign up by contacting AmeriWaste directly at (281)331-8400 or by email at [customerservice@ameriwaste.net](mailto:customerservice@ameriwaste.net).

The cost, according to AmeriWaste, is \$32.48 + sales tax a year. Trash Cart rentals are also available for \$5.00 a month + sales tax. Contact AmeriWaste for more information.

## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN 5YRS AND UP

Covid-19 Vaccinations have been approved for children as young as 5 years old. The Galveston County Health District is offering appointments for these vaccines at 9850 Emmett F. Lowery Expressway, Texas City, TX 77591. You can schedule an appointment online at [www.GCHD.org](http://www.GCHD.org) or by calling (409) 938-7221.



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### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/15/2021 City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 11/23/2021 Planning and Zoning Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 11/25/2021 and 11/26/2021 City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## CITY OF HITCHCOCK BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

The City of Hitchcock currently has positions open on the Board of Adjustment. Members of the Board are volunteers and possess a strong desire to help the city in efforts to achieve our vision of Hitchcock as an inclusive and resilient community, which takes pride in its cultural heritage, while fostering a high quality of life and sustainable economic growth.

The Board is a quasi-judicial board. It is not a legislative body with the authority to amend ordinances or create new laws. The Board conducts hearings on matters dealing with the Hitchcock Zoning Ordinance and determines if strict compliance with the ordinance will create a hardship. The Board also considers whether the variance will comply with the spirit and intent of the ordinance.

The Board of Adjustment consists of five (5) members with two alternates. All cases must be heard by at least seventy-five (75) percent of the members, four (4). Currently, we are seeking interested individuals to fill one permanent and two alternate positions on the Board. Position terms are 2 years.

If you have a desire to be a part of the efforts to build a better Hitchcock, consider this opportunity to serve the City and its citizens. You CAN make a difference. Visit [www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org), click on Departments. Under "City Secretary" you will find an Application for City Boards-Commissions-Committees. Come be a part of the TEAM.

## WHY DOESN'T MY TOILET FLUSH WHEN IT RAINS?

As heavy rains fall, you may notice the way your bathroom operates. That's the result of the way heavy rains affect the city's wastewater system. Some residents may experience interrupted sewer services. Toilets might flush slower or not at all. Bathtubs & showers may drain slower. The slow response happens when rainwater travels through the city's wastewater collection system lines & service taps as well as manholes & private wastewater clean-outs. The effect is called I&I, or Inflow & Infiltration. Our wastewater lift stations become inundated with the increasing waters and the system backs up. As a result, water takes longer to reach the Wastewater treatment plant & and takes even longer to dispose those waters because there is only so much flow allowed through the plant in a certain time frame without breaching the state mandated permit for the treatment facility. The I&I effects last even after the rain stops. Once the weather passes, the rainwater subsides and the wastewater infrastructure returns to normal operations.

## WASTEWATER INFLOW AND INFILTRATION

### Know your flows

Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) in your wastewater / sanitary sewer collection system increases the influent flow to the treatment plant. Worse yet, I&I adds otherwise clean ground or stormwater to the collection system that otherwise wouldn't need to be treated; but since it's mixed with wastewater, it all gets treated just the same. And, if there's enough I&I in a system during wet weather, some really bad stuff can happen. Raw sewage back-ups and overflows can occur, releasing potential pathogens into homes, streets, and waterways. This brings public and environmental health risks, along with shortening the capacity and permit life of our treatment plant.

### So, what is I&I exactly?

I&I is simply water that enters your collection system through non-sanitary fixtures (toilets, showers, sinks, etc.). I&I breaks down into its two primary cause categories: inflow – rain and stormwater entering the collection system; and infiltration – groundwater entering the collection system.

### Causes of I&I:

#### Inflow

- Unauthorized system connections
- Sump pumps
- Roof leaders
- Drains
- Stormwater cross-connections
- Manhole leaks

#### Infiltration

- Pipe cracks
- Connection leaks
- Poor construction
- Poor design

## SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

A new emergency alert system is now available through the City's website. This system allows you to sign up for emails and /or text messages on topics of your choosing.

Visit the City Website for more details [www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org)



## COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

To avoid household and environmental damage as well as a costly plumbing bill, never pour fats, oils and grease down the drain.

Fats, oil and grease come from meats, butters, margarine, lard, food scraps, sauces, salad dressing, dairy products, and cooking oil. When these items go down the drain, it hardens and causes sewer pipes to clog. This can lead to a sanitary sewer overflow where raw sewage backs up into your home, lawn, neighborhood and streets.

### Tips for handling fats, oils, and grease during the busy holiday cooking time:

- ◆ Reuse fry oil by filtering and freezing it after it has cooled
- ◆ Small amounts of grease, such as meat drippings, can be soaked up with a paper towel and thrown in the trash. If you have a larger amount of grease, let it cool, then pour or scrape it into a sturdy closed-lid container, like a coffee can, and dispose of it in the trash.
- ◆ Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of them properly. Avoid using the garbage disposal.
- ◆ Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease.
- ◆ Do not rinse off oil and grease with hot water.



## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. The Hitchcock Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

### Follow these Safety Tips to help keep you and your family safe:

Keep garage doors and curtains closed and never leave vehicles unlocked.

Always check the interior of your vehicle when you return from shopping.

Avoid strangers. Be cautious when allowing anyone into your home including workers for jobs such as carpet cleaning and furnace repair. Always use reputable companies that are bonded.

Never leave any property visible in your vehicle. Keep your purchases in the trunk and out of view.

If you are going out of town, have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers. Have them watch over your home.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use your debit card instead. If your card is lost or stolen report it immediately to your financial institution.

When shopping, choose parking in well-lit areas with increased pedestrian traffic and scan the parking lot before you exit your vehicle.

When driving, keep your doors locked and your windows up. Never respond to pedestrians approaching your vehicle.

## GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY PROJECT



Gulf Coast water authority will be performing a 42" water line bypass project as a part of the TXDOT I-45 widening project. Test run dates are scheduled for Nov. 15-19, 2021. Actual start date has not been determined but is tentatively scheduled for Dec/2021-Feb/2022. Once the project has commenced, the city will operate our backup water wells to maintain water distribution. Our Gulf Coast feed will be modified for the duration of the project. Potential water restrictions may be activated on an as needed basis. The city should not experience any service interruptions.

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## VETERAN'S PARKING SIGNS



The City of Hitchcock in partnership with [HonorLocalVets.org](http://HonorLocalVets.org) is offering signs for local businesses to dedicate parking spaces for our Veterans.

The property owner will need to complete an application and submit a description of where the sign is to be placed. The application can be picked up at City Hall at 7423 Hwy 6, Hitchcock, TX or you can request an application by email by contacting Ruth Ann Sorrell, call (409)986-5591 or email [rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org](mailto:rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org).

## NEW UTILITY RATES

The City adopted the five year utility rate structure developed and recommended by our utility rate consultant to ensure that water and wastewater rates would fund operations, capital improvements, and future debt service and to ensure that each service is operating at a self-sustaining basis. The third year of the rate increases for water and wastewater are incorporated in the budget and will provide adequate revenues to meet the systems operation and maintenance expenses, while providing necessary funds for system capital improvements.

## WHAT IS WINTER AVERAGING?

City residents can save on monthly costs by conserving water during winter averaging. Winter averaging for wastewater is set using November, December, January, and February metered water consumption for each customer (removing the highest consumption month). New averages are set each year and are used to calculate the wastewater bill for the following year. This average determines your sewer charge for the 12 month that begin in March 2022.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
CHRIS ARMACOST	MAYOR	mayor@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 519-9646
MARY COMBS DEMBY	CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 1	district1@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 502-0424
SHAWN KADLECEK	CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 2	district2@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-4284
Wayne Newton	CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
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
RUTH ANN SORRELL	CITY SECRETARY/COURT CLERK	rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
ARNOLD "ARNIE" CROSS JR.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR	development@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
VACANT	CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICIAL		(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
ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERVISOR	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(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

## NEW RATES EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 2021 CONSUMPTION

Water	BASE FEE
Meter size:	Base fee is determined by meter size.
5/8"	\$19.50
3/4"	\$21.45
1"	\$27.30
1.5"	\$35.10
2"	\$56.55
3"	\$214.50
4"	\$273.00
6"	\$409.50

Water	Rate
<b>Volumetric Rate, Non-Residential</b>	
	\$5.99
<b>Volumetric Rate, Residential</b>	
0-2,000	\$4.15
2,000-5,000	\$4.36
5,000-10,000	\$5.01
10,000-20,000	\$7.26
20,000-50,000	\$10.53
ABOVE 50,000	\$15.27

Wastewater (sewer)	2020
Base Fee, per month	\$19.50
Volumetric Fee, per thousand gallons	\$4.78