



# City of Hitchcock

Newsletter November 2022

## THE CITY OF HITCHCOCK APPROVES SMART WATER METER PROJECT TO MODERNIZE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

**Hitchcock, TX.** The City of Hitchcock has approved a project to modernize the City’s aging water service. The \$3.6 million project will replace old mechanical water meters with new “smart” water meters and connect them to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure or AMI system. This 21<sup>st</sup>-Century technology will enable the City to automate water meter reading, detect potential leaks, transmit water consumption data in near real-time, and streamline customer billing. It will also provide operational efficiencies and allow residential customers to access their water usage data for the first time.

Like many cities across Texas, Hitchcock evaluated their aging water infrastructure and utility inefficiencies to better prepare for the future. In July, the City selected Performance Services, Inc., a qualified energy services company, to implement the smart water meters and AMI system to improve the City’s efficiency and resiliency. The project will begin this Fall of 2022 and will replace approximately 2,700 aging meters. The new smart water meters and AMI system will enable the City to track water usage more accurately and reduce manual work processes. Once installed, water consumption will be monitored and reported in near-real time, allowing the City to provide residents with more proactive customer service. For example, the new system will allow residents to detect potential leaks by creating customer notifications when water usage exceeds certain thresholds.

According to Marie Gelles, City Manager, “The arrival of smart meters to the City of Hitchcock is a milestone event. In rainy or dry conditions, the ability to monitor water use closely and precisely will give customers and the City the tools they need to manage and conserve water use wisely. We look forward to our partnership with Performance Services to bring this vitally needed service to our City.”

The City of Hitchcock will finance the project with an Energy Savings Performance Contract. Texas Local Government Code 302 enables public entities to pay for efficiency improvements within their existing operating budget without raising taxes. Project costs are financed and repaid with the savings generated from installing new, modern, and efficient technology and equipment. As a result, this self-funding project guarantees a minimum of \$1,115,581 in annual savings for the City throughout the 15-year contract period.

The project will utilize Badger® water meters connected to the Badger Advanced Metering Analytics (AMA) system called BEACON. This system will utilize cellular technology to capture the water meter data. The electronic meters will provide information, such as gallons used per hour, reverse-flow indication, and other operating data not typically available from traditional mechanical meters and registers. The electronic meters will also eliminate measurement errors due to sand, suspended particles, and pressure fluctuations.

The project complies with the Ultrasonic and Electromagnetic water meter standard, ANSI/AWWA C715-18, issued by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The AWWA standard supports the electromagnetic and ultrasonic water meter technologies that enable water utilities to reduce unaccounted water loss and to read water usage consistently at a high level of accuracy.

Once the meters are installed, and the AMI network is online, customers will have access to Badger’s Eye on Water online portal and smartphone app. This app will allow customers to view, manage, and track their water usage in near real-time. More information for accessing the customer portal will be available during project implementation.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/14/2022 City Council Special Called Meeting 6:00pm.
- 11/17/2022 City Hall will be closed from 12:00 noon—1:00pm for employee Thanksgiving Lunch.
- 11/22/2022 Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting 6:00pm.
- 11/24/2022 & 11/25/2022 City Hall will be closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 12/8/2022 City Hall will be closed from 11:30am—1:00pm for Annual Appreciation Luncheon

**WHERE TO GET ASSISTANCE PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL**

**Galveston County Social Services**

Galveston Office – (409) 770-5583  
 Texas City Office – (409) 770-5803  
 League City Office – (281) 316-8733

**M.I. Lewis Social Service Center**

(281) 534-2043  
 2605 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Dickinson, TX 77539

**Texas Utility Help**

Visit [TexasUtilityHelp.com](http://TexasUtilityHelp.com) and click the Apply Button to get started on your application  
 For Questions call (855) 566-2057

**Hitchcock Family Welfare**

(409) 986-5632  
 6915 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Hitchcock, TX 77563

**Texas Homeowner Assistance**

(409) 229-1394  
 1501 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Texas City, TX 77590

**The Salvation Army**

(409) 935-1190  
 4801 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway  
 Texas City, TX 77591

**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.

**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](http://www.centerpointenergy.com)



## DON'T GET SCAMMED

Scammers are constantly finding new ways to steal your money. You can protect yourself by knowing what to look out for.

### Debt collection scams

Most debt collectors will contact you to collect on legitimate debts you owe. But there are scammers who pose as debt collectors to get you to pay for debts you don't owe or that have already been paid. Do not give any personal financial information until you can verify the debt.

### Grandparent scam

If you get a call from someone who sounds like a grandchild or relative asking you to wire or transfer money or send gift cards to help them out of trouble, it could be a scam.

### Imposter scams

Imposter scammers try to convince you to send money by pretending to be someone you know or trust like a sheriff, local, state, or federal government employee, or charity organization. Remember, caller ID can be faked. You can always call the organization or government agency and ask if the person works for them before giving any money.

### Mail fraud

Mail fraud letters look real but the promises are fake. A common warning sign is a letter asking you to send money or personal information now to receive something of value later.

### Mortgage closing scams

Mortgage closing scams target homebuyers who are nearing the closing date on their mortgage loan. The scammer attempts to steal the homebuyer's closing funds—for example, their down payment and closing costs—by sending the homebuyer an email posing as the homebuyer's real estate agent or settlement agent (title company, escrow officer, or attorney).

### Lottery or prize scams

Scammers will call or email congratulating you on being a winner with an ask for an upfront payment for fees and taxes. Similarly, a scammer might ask you to pay money in advance to get sweepstakes prize winnings.

### Wire or money transfer fraud

Scammers use money wire transfers to steal your money. One example of a wire transfer fraud is the "grandparent scam." Once a money transfer is picked up, there is very little you can do to get your money back. If someone you don't know asks you to wire money, this is a red flag.

To report a scam, you can submit a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. Other options include contacting your local police or sheriff's office or your state attorney general to report the scam.

## HOLIDAY PET SAFETY

Now that the holidays are on the way, people will be spending more time indoors entertaining which could mean trouble for those who want to include their pets in the merrymaking. Here are some simple tips to keep pets and their people safe during this holiday season.

- Holiday treats of any sort should be kept away from your pet. Chocolate and raisins can be toxic to many animals.
- Do not give your pet table scraps as this may lead to intestinal issues such as diarrhea.
- Poultry bones, including turkey, are a choking hazard.
- Create a safe and comfortable place for your pet to relax away from party guests and noise.
- Pay attention to your pet. Pets are often ignored in the rush and excitement of the season.
- If traveling with your pet, make sure to bring all your pet's supplies.



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



We are excited to announce that the City of Hitchcock has created a Facebook Page. Follow us for important information regarding your community. Our page is for informational purposes only. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact the City Hall at (409)986-5591 or visit our website at [www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org).

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## HOLIDAY CHARITY DRIVES

### Share Your Holiday Food Drive

Sponsored By: Texas First Bank

- Canned Goods
- Cereal
- Whole Grain Pasta & Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Non-Perishable Snacks
- Household Items
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Nutritional Shake
- Hygiene Items

Drive ends November 22, 2022

### Canned Food Drive

Sponsored by: Hitchcock Police Department

The Hitchcock Police Department will be collecting canned food and non-perishable food items at the Police Department through out the month of November.

### Board Game and Book Drive

Sponsored by: Hitchcock ISD Education Foundation  
(409)316-6545 ext. 1580

Drop off locations:

- Texas First Bank
- Hitchcock City Hall
- Hitchcock Chamber of Commerce
- Hitchcock ISD Administration Office

Drive ends December 9, 2022

### Pack a Patrol Car

Sponsored by: Hitchcock Police Department

December 13, 2022 9:00am—1:00pm

Location: Texas First Bank  
8128 Hwy 6

Fill a patrol car with toys!





## YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

Join the team! We are looking for passionate individuals to join our team. Voice your opinion, learn city government, get involved with your community and make a difference. We are currently seeking volunteers for the new year. Ages 14 to 19 are encouraged to join.

Information and applications can be found at City Hall, online at [www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org), or contact Stacey Baker at (409) 986-5591.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Serving on a City board or commission is an excellent way to serve your community. The City is currently accepting applications for the Parks and Recreation Board, Building Standards Commission, Board of Adjustments and the Disaster Assessment Team.

If you are interested in serving on one of these, please complete the on-line application at and return to the City Hall or email to the City Secretary at [rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org](mailto:rsorrell@cityofhitchcock.org).

You may attach your resume and any additional material you would like considered with your application. [https://cms9files.revize.com/hitchcocktx/document\\_center/City%](https://cms9files.revize.com/hitchcocktx/document_center/City%20Secretary)

## 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
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DARRON RAY	FIRE MARSHAL/BUILDING OFFICIAL	fire@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)986-5591
HENRY DEBORD	BUILDING INSPECTOR	inspector@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 739-0822
LISA CLEMENTS	PERMIT CLERK	lclements@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
EDUARDO GONZALEZ	STREET SUPERINTENDENT	egonzalez@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
LEROY THOMAS	PUBLIC WORKS OPERATION MANAGER	lthomas@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 761-0737
MIGUEL DELGADO	WWTP OPERATOR	mdelgado@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(800) 842-5622
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE	customerservice@ameriwaste.net	(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP	AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP		(409) 795-7595
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409) 986-5559
STREET LIGHT OUTAGES			(800) 332-7143
TX DOT DITCH MAINTENANCE FM 2004, HWY 6, and FM 519 (Main St.).			(409) 978-2551