



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter October 2022



City of Hitchcock Fall Clean-Up
October 29, 2022
8:00am – NOON



**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 October 29, 2022. Disposals may be made at AmeriWaste Services temporary collection point of The City Barn – 8401 Schiro, Hitchcock, Texas 77563, between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

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

What you need to know:

- Fall clean-up is restricted to Hitchcock residents only.
- 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 / City of Hitchcock Employees.

Accepted Items:

- Car Batteries
- Furniture
- 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 oils, filters, fluorescent light bulbs, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers.
- NO TIRES on rims or wheels, Commercial or Heavy Equipment Tires
- Mercury WILL NOT be accepted.
- Explosives and ammunition WILL NOT be accepted
- Computer monitors and box style television 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 over the established limits are subject to a fee (at AmeriWaste Services discretion).

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/24/2022 City Council Special Called Meeting 6:00pm.
- 10/18/2022 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting 6:00pm.
- 11/6/2022 Daylight Savings—Turn your clocks back one hour.



NEW UTILITY RATES

Dear Customer:

When it comes to the management and operations of our utilities, the City Council, City Engineer, and the Public Works Department recognize that it is our duty and responsibility to be vigilant and proactive. Working with the City Council we have made several recommendations to ensure that we are providing the best services possible for our customers. At the same time we also strive to stay in compliance with state and federal guidelines to achieve optimum operations at the lowest possible costs. To retain our permits and operate our system we must ensure that that our facilities operate at the standards specified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (T.C.E.Q.) and the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.), or we run the risk of fines or civil action. Like many other small cities of our size, over the past decades our water and sewer systems have sorely degraded due to a lack of preventative maintenance, upgrades and improvements. Due to the lack of funding the City is experiencing more customer service interruptions, stoppages and equipment failure. When utility systems are not readily replaced or maintenance is deferred there are increased costs, due to emergency repairs.

Working with our City Engineer over the last few years, the City has identified problems within our system that have failed or are near failure and need rehabilitation, replacement or expansion. This year we developed a plan for the replacement, upgrade or improvement to our utility infrastructures. In this year’s budget we have identified funds for a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for our utilities with combined funding through grants, bonds, or cash. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 adopted budget provides \$21,242,657 to fund needed infrastructure improvements and the replacement of equipment. Funding includes \$500,000 for street maintenance projects and \$300,000 for drainage projects, \$857,000 for elevated storage tank maintenance and repairs, \$612,855 for smoke testing Sanitary Sewer evaluation and pipe bursting, and 11,283,730 Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. The city has also increased our daily purchased water allotment from Gulf Coast Water Authority from 1.5 MGD (Million Gallons Per/Day) to 2.0MGD, coupled with the cities “Pro Rata” shares of 3 Gulf coast water authority maintenance projects that will directly effect our infrastructure. The City has made significant strides in addressing the funding needed to meet future infrastructure requirements and we still have work to do.

To begin with, we worked the City’s financial plan to develop utility rate structures that would provide sufficient revenues to meet the systems operation and maintenance expenses, debt service requirements, and provide for necessary capital improvements to the systems. The utility rate structure was designed to provide a perpetual balance between residential and commercial rates. The recent utility rate study conducted by an outside consultant, recommended that utility rates be increased this year and each year for the next five (5) years to meet the system’s need. The City Council received this report in August 2022 and utility rates will increase this year with the November 2022 utility bill. A copy of the Utility Rate Study presentation may be reviewed on-line at www.cityofhitchcock.org.

Based on the average bill analysis for a residential customer water and sewer rates will increase as displayed below:

Water:

Average Bill- Water -Residential	Current 2022	New 2023
0-2,000 gallons	\$4.15	\$5.45
2,000-5,000 gallons	\$4.36	\$5.70
5,000-10,000 gallons	\$5.01	\$6.70
10,000-20,000 gallons	\$7.26	\$8.70



Wastewater:

Wastewater	Current 2022	New 2023
Base Fee Per Month	\$19.50	\$24.00
Volumetric Fee, per 1,000 gallons	\$4.78	\$5.02

ILLEGAL DUMPING IS A CRIME

Illegal Dumping Hurts the Community

Dumping trash in prohibited areas can cause public health and safety concerns. Broken glass, exposed metal and other dangerous materials can hurt children playing around illegally dumped debris. Rats, snakes, mosquitoes and other pests are attracted to and populate within dumped garbage. This debris washes into storm drains during rain, and eventually ends up in our neighborhood creeks.

Illegal dumpsites and roadside litter create a negative image of our community. Illegal dumping also creates more illegal dumping – people are much more likely to dump on property where trash already exists. Stopping illegal dumping makes good environmental sense and good economic sense. You can help solve the problem by working with the City of Hitchcock to create a cleaner, healthier, and safer community.

Common Illegal Dumping Methods

- ◇ Throwing litter out of a car, truck or boat.
- ◇ Dumping household trash, construction debris or yard waste on land that is not a legal landfill.
- ◇ Dumping household trash in someone's dumpster without authorization.
- ◇ Hauling trash for profit and dumping it on land that is not a legal landfill.
- ◇ Letting someone else dump waste on your property, whether they pay you or not.
- ◇ Pouring used motor oil or restaurant grease into storm drains or down manhole covers
- ◇ Disposing of old cars by rolling them into a river.

Texas Litter Abatement Act / Fines for Illegal Dumping

Class C Misdemeanor: If the amount dumped weighs 5 pounds or less or has a volume of 5 gallons or less, the maximum penalty is:

- ◇ A fine not to exceed \$500

Class B Misdemeanor: If the amount dumped weighs more than 5 pounds but less than 500 pounds or has a volume of more than 5 gallons but less than 100 cubic feet, the maximum penalty is:

- ◇ A fine not to exceed \$2,000; or
- ◇ Confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days; or
- ◇ Both fine and confinement

Class A Misdemeanor: (1) If the amount dumped weighs 500 pounds or more, but less than 1,000 pounds, or has a volume of 100 cubic feet or more, but less than 200 cubic feet; or (2) if it was disposed for a commercial purpose and weighs more than five pounds but less than 200 pounds or has a volume of more than 5 gallons but less than 200 cubic feet, the maximum penalty is:

- ◇ A fine not to exceed \$4,000; or
- ◇ Confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year; or
- ◇ Both fine and confinement

State Jail Felony: (1) If the amount dumped weighs 1,000 pounds or more or has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more; or (2) if it was disposed for a commercial purpose and weighs 200 pounds or more, or has a volume of 200 cubic feet or more, or is contained in a closed barrel or drum, the maximum penalty is:

- ◇ Confinement in a state jail for not more than two years, but not less than 180 days

Additionally, an individual may also be fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Police Officer
- Utility Billing Specialist
- Street and Drainage Maintenance Worker
- Utility Worker Apprentice

An Employment Application and Background Release Form may be downloaded from our website at www.cityofhitchcock.org or obtained at City Hall.

Submit resume, 5 professional References, completed Employment Application, and Background Release Form to City Manager, City of Hitchcock, 7423 Highway 6, P.O. Box 48, Hitchcock, Texas 77563 or by emailing mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org.

CHANGE YOU FOR CLOCKS, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

Checking and changing your smoke detector batteries is easy to do—the hard part is actually remembering to do so, which is why this handy pairing with Daylight Saving Time is ideal. With DST right around the corner, here's your friendly reminder to change those batteries, along with smoke detector tips and information to keep them properly maintained year-round.

Halloween Safety Tips



Have a way to reach your kids



Keep your home lit all night



Check all treats before eating



Arm your security system



Drive carefully



Adjust your security cameras



Wear light-colored or reflective clothing or carry lights while trick-or-treating



Use common sense



Watch out for foods your kids are allergic to



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
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LISA CLEMENTS	PERMIT CLERK	lclements@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 986-5591
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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/ SEW-	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