

# City of Hitchcock

Monthly Newsletter  
August 2019



## 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 (libraries, theaters, malls).
- Ensure that your animals' needs for water and shade are met.

### What To Do During a Heat Wave

- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical updates from the National Weather Service.
- Never leave children or pets alone in enclosed vehicles.
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.
- Eat small meals and eat more often.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.
- Slow down, stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest part of the day.
- Postpone outdoor games and activities.
- Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.
- Take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning, who spend much of their time alone or who are more likely to be affected by the heat.
- Check on your animals frequently to ensure that they are safe from the heat.



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### IMPOTANT INFORMATION

#### WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

Online at [cityofhitchcock.org](http://cityofhitchcock.org)  
By Phone at (833) 282-0826

In Person at the City Hall at 7423  
Hwy. 6

Drop Box located in the  
parking lot of City Hall

Cash, Check, Money Order,  
Credit Card

# 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



**We are currently under construction.**

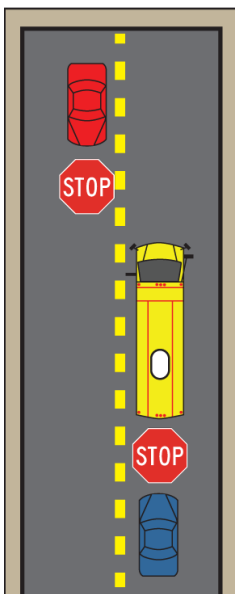
[www.cityofhitchcock.org](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org)

is getting a new look and upgrade. Please take the time to visit the new website often as changes and update will ongoing.

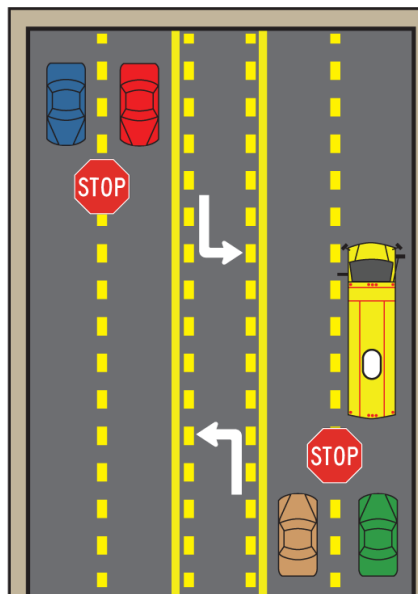
## School Bus Safety

If a school bus is at a full stop with stop signs out and lights flashing, it means to **STOP!**

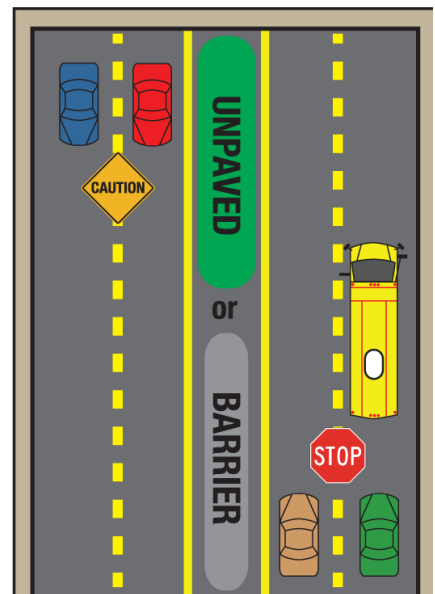
As kids are exiting and entering the bus they may not be aware of other vehicles on the road. Adults even have issues with looking both ways before crossing the street, it's no surprise that kids have problems remembering that as well. Please keep our children safe.



**TWO-LANE:**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST** stop.



**MULTI-LANE PAVED ACROSS:**  
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST** stop.



**DIVIDED HIGHWAY:**  
[Unpaved space (Min. 5ft.) OR any raised median or physical barrier.]  
Vehicles behind bus **MUST** stop.  
Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction proceed with caution.

## 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 pool.

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.

## ANIMAL CONTROL AND LOOSE ANIMALS

Every owner must exercise proper care and control of his or her animal by keeping the animal restrained and not allowing the animal to become loose. Loose animals are a public nuisance. Galveston County Animal Control (GCAC) receives and responds to calls that involve loose dogs and cats. Local municipalities and/or the county's sheriff office handle livestock that are loose from their property. An animal that is a loose may be considered a public nuisance if:

- ➡ The animal turns over garbage containers or scatters garbage or which otherwise damages private or public property.
- ➡ The animal is loose or free-roaming off of private property or the animal is not being controlled by the owner by leash or other means.
- ➡ The animal barks, whines, howls or makes other sounds or noises in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion.

Animal owners are expected to maintain any building, room, cage, kennel, yard, run or any other place or facility where animals are kept. Maintenance includes keeping the area clean and sanitary so as to prevent obnoxious odors, the attraction, breeding or potential breeding of flies, the attraction, harboring or breeding of rodents or potential breeding of rodents or the creation of any other public health nuisances

If you would like to report a public nuisance involving an animal, please call (409) 948-2485.



### 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)

## HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
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MARK COOK	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(281)782-7656
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JOEY DIERINGER	UTILITY SUPERVISOR	joejd204@gmail.com	(409)986-5591
BILL GARVIN	WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
24 HOUR UTILITY			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559