



City of Hitchcock

Newsletter November 2019

City of Hitchcock Charter Review Underway

The City of Hitchcock is a home-rule municipality governed by its City Charter, which was originally adopted in 1960. Subsequently amended in 1971 and again in 1995, it serves as the basic governing authority for the City. The Charter determines the form of municipal government, the composition and power of the governing body, and establishes the legal framework for proper city functionality. To ensure compliance with changing states law and the Texas State Constitution periodic reviews of City charters are normally conducted, and Hitchcock is no exception.

To that end, on April 15, 2019 the City Commission established a citizens’ Charter Review Committee. The Charter Review Committee consists of nine Hitchcock residents: Dorothy Childress, Chair; Ena Hughes, Vice Chair; Johnnie Anderson; Henry Cogger; Mary Demby; Ronnie Meier; Gary Riley; Harry Robinson; and Bobbie Tarpey.

The Charter Review Commission is tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of the existing City Charter, including receiving public input, and then providing a report to the City Commission on proposed amendments/ revisions to the City’s Charter. Any recommended changes to the Charter will require approval of the City Commission and would then be placed on a future ballot for Hitchcock voters to determine the ultimate outcome.

To review the current City Charter, visit the City’s website at www.cityofhitchcock.org and click on the Charter Review button. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to email me at mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org. Stay tuned to learn about the next steps in the Charter Review process.

Marie Gelles
City Administrator



Daily routes run between 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.
Items must be placed curbside for collection by 7:00 am.
(281) 331-8400

Regular Garbage – collected on Wednesday and Saturday

- > Observed Holidays are New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. If your collection day falls on an observed holiday, your pick up will resume on your next regular scheduled pickup day.
- > AmeriWaste does not provide garbage cans; therefore you must provide your own. You may either use bags or cans (no barrels) weight cannot exceed 50 lbs, must have handles, and no greater than 55 gallons. The **MAXIMUM** of **SIX** bags, cans, bundles, items, or combination thereof shall be picked up each pick up day.
- > Water based paint may be picked up curbside if it is dried out with an absorbent such as kitty litter. Please remove lids from paint cans.

Bulky Waste Pick up - collected on Wednesday

- > Brush and tree limbs must be cut to a length not to exceed 4 feet, tied in bundles, and weigh no greater than 50 lbs.
- > Appliances, furniture, mattresses, and similar items may be placed curbside for collection, provided that they do not exceed 4 feet in length and 50 lbs in weight and may require additional fees. Appliances that contain refrigerant must be drained and tagged by a certified refrigerant recycler prior to disposal.
- > Items can’t be piled on top of each other.
- > Sheetrock, concrete, lumber, bricks or similar items are considered construction debris and require additional fees.
- > Please contact our AmeriWaste Customer Service Office (281) 331-8400 to have these items picked up.

Unacceptable Waste – Hazardous materials which consists of gas, oil, paint thinner, and tires, TV, computers, microwaves, propane tanks, batteries, oil based paint or any other type of chemicals including lawn and pool will not be picked up.

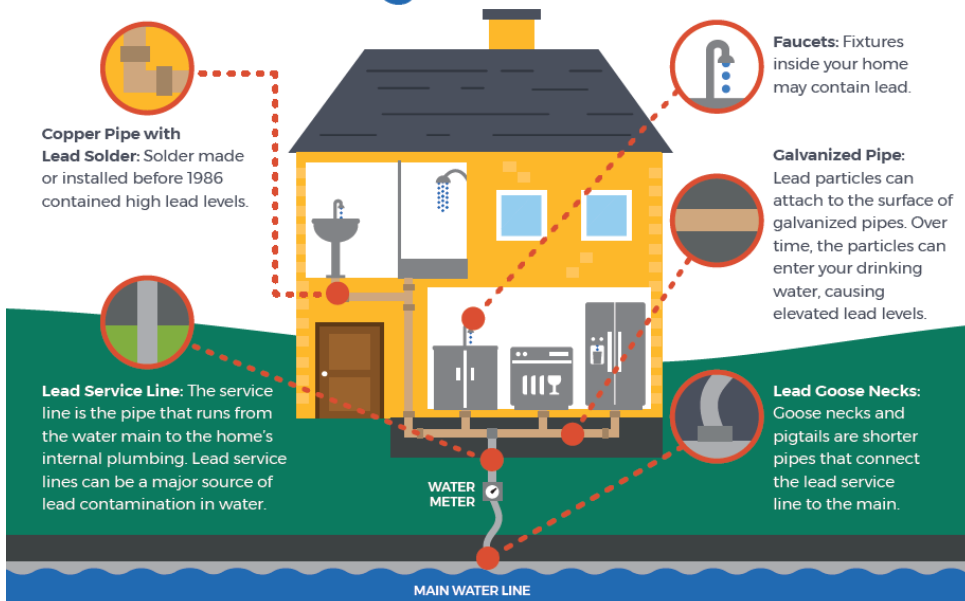
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CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



Reduce Your Exposure To Lead



Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. *Boiling water does not remove lead from water.*



Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).



Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.



Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, **have your water tested.**

Replace Your Lead Service Line



Water systems are required to replace lead service lines if a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment.

Replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner.

Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. **Consider contacting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.**



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

A CCR is an annual water quality report delivered by community water systems to their customers. The CCR includes information on source water, the levels of detected contaminants, and compliance with drinking water rules.

The current CCR report can be found on the City's website at <http://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments/utilities/index.php>

PREVENT SEWER STOPPAGES

The City needs your help in keeping our sewer system clean and in working order.

To avoid sewer stoppages, do **NOT** flush the following items down your toilets or drains.

- Diapers
- Panties
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissue
- Cotton Balls
- Cotton Swabs
- Kitty Litter
- Baby Wipes
- Gum Wrappers
- Candy Wrappers
- Cleaning Wipes or Rags
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Adhesive Bandages
- Grease
- Contraceptives
- Clothing
- Toys
- Food
- Cigarettes
- Hair
- Adult Wipes

All of these may stop or damage the lift station pumps or other equipment

WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL

Cut off and cut off fee will include any bills that are not paid in full starting October 2019

Online at 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

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.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

City Secretary
Community Development Director
Equipment Operator
Public Works Director
Utility Worker
WWTP Operator II
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

For job descriptions, qualifications, and other information, visit our website at:

www.cityofhitchcock.org

GET INVOLVED

Get Involved – Accepting Boards and Commissions Applications

Serving on a City board or commission is an excellent way to serve your community. The City is currently accepting applications for boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, please complete the on-line application and return to the City or email to the City Administrator at mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org. You may attach your resume and any additional material you would like considered with your application.

http://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments/city_secretary/index.php

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City Offices will be closed for business on the following dates in observance of the upcoming Holidays

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28th & 29th

Christmas Holiday
December 24th & 25th

New Year's Day
January 1st

Shop Hitchcock!



Citizen Input:

What do you like most about Hitchcock? _____

If you were in charge, what would you change about Hitchcock? _____

Drop off or mail your comments to City Hall, 7423 Highway 6, Hitchcock, Texas 77563.



A home is referred to as the “castle” and is probably the largest single investment you will make in a lifetime. It doesn’t matter how large and fancy or how small and simple, it’s your home. As a home owner one sure way to protect and potentially increase the value of this investment is through routine preventive maintenance. It is far less expensive to repair early detected problem areas found in routine checks. IPMC section 302.1 states all exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. A responsible property owner needs to repair dilapidated areas such as windows, porches, handrails, exterior walls, pick up debris and paint if necessary. With timely maintenance of your home comes greater value for you and your neighborhood and most likely avoids a notice of violation. Be considerate of your neighbors and realize Hitchcock pride is contagious.

HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RANDY STRICKLIND	MAYOR	rstricklind@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)927-0058
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Wayne Newton	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3	district3@cityofhitchcock.org	(409)770-3297
MARK COOK	CITY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4	district4@cityofhitchcock.org	(281)782-7656
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ANDY JENKINS	STREET SUPERINTENDENT	anthonyjenkins47@icloud.com	(409)986-5591
VACANT	WATER/WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT		(409)986-5591
BILL GARVIN	WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	billgarvin@yahoo.com	(409)986-5591
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(281) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE		(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER			(409)986-5559
AFTER HOUR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT / LIFT STATION			(409)986-5559
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559