



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

- Emergency 911
- Police..... 713.365.3700
- Fire 713.468.7941

UTILITIES

- Electricity 713.207.2222
- Gas 713.659.2111
- Water & Sewer..... 713.465.8318
- Cable..... 713.462.9000
- Trash Collection (Royal Disposal)..... 713.526.1536
- Report Street Light Outages..... 713.465.2150



City of Hunters Creek Village

#1 Hunters Creek Place
 Hunters Creek Village, Texas 77024
 Office: 713.465.2150
 Fax: 713.465.8357
 www.cityofhunterscreek.com

Katy Freeway Noise Update

A noise/sound study was completed by the City in 2010 and provided to TXDOT officials as well as to Congressman John Culberson's office. Over the past year, we have continued our discussions with TXDOT and Congressmen Culberson to mitigate the noise levels coming from I-10. So far there has been no resolution. A new Houston District Director for TXDOT was recently selected and we are resuming our pursuit of a solution. Meetings are being scheduled through Congressman Culberson's office and should occur before the end of the year.

Contact Information For Federal And State District Offices

U.S. Congressman John Culberson
 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 620, Houston, TX 77024
 Phone: 713-682-8828

State Senator Dan Patrick
 11451 Katy Freeway, Ste 209, Houston, Texas 77079
 Phone: 713-464-0282

State Representative Beverly Woolley
 2400 Augusta Drive, Suite 266, Houston, TX 77057
 Phone: 713-629-6313



From The Mayor: Report On The Village Fire Department



David Wegner

The Board of Commissioners of the Village Fire Department, made up of primarily mayors and council members, have implemented changes that our City Councils directed and felt were critical to the welfare and success of the Department. These changes initially began in 2009 when the Fire Commissioners were directed to take on the task of budgetary reform.

In the prior 10 year period, the budget of the VFD had increased 70%, without any significant changes in service or personnel. In addition, VFD had unfunded liabilities for pension, post retirement medical insurance, and compensated absences totaling \$6,625,000. By the end of 2010 these liabilities were reduced to \$1,336,000. The significant decrease is due to changes in the pension plan and the restructuring of benefits and policies.

Work conditions and morale were poor and certainly not improving. Several audit reports over the past years have outlined

these problems within the department and urged changes in both leadership and culture. Coinciding with the hiring of our new Fire Chief Dave Foster, the Commissioners began in the Fall of 2010 to immediately improve the procedures, operation, budgeting and morale of the VFD. It has not been an easy task, but it has been a successful one. Fire Chief Dave Foster and VFD Administrator Cheryl Easley did a tremendous job in putting together a budget for the Commission's review that is fiscally responsible and yet provides for necessary services and future major purchases of the Department.

A few of the changes and successful results are summarized as follows:

2012 VFD Budget Decrease

In June 2011, the VFD budget for 2012 was approved by the Commission, and sent to the individual Cities for Council approval. The 2012 VFD budget consists of three funds: the General Operating Budget, a Fund Reserve for Major Equipment/Vehicle Capital Replacement, and a Fund Reserve for Unfunded

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Strategic Planning...And Municipal Solid Waste

The Mayor and City Council recently created the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee to develop short and long term planning goals for the City, including fiscal management, facilities and infrastructure maintenance programs, capital improvement programs and management effectiveness. The Committee's role is advisory only, and it will make timely reports and recommendations regarding the functions of the City to Council, concluding with a final report of findings in June, 2012. Committee members have begun assessing the functions and programs of the City and will focus efforts on major areas of concern which have been identified.

One of the most significant issues concerns the current municipal solid waste (MSW) program of the City, the existing residential solid waste and recycling collection and disposal contract, and the significant changes in MSW systems occurring in Harris County, across Texas.

Simply stated, trends in MSW systems involve separation at the household level of the primary streams of waste – garbage, recyclables, and yard/green waste. This separation facilitates the collection and disposal of the waste streams by the contractors into landfill and/or disposal sites which specialize in treatment and use of the three streams. The MSW of Hunters Creek is approximately 60% yard/green waste, 30% recyclables, and 10% garbage. Each segregated stream can be better managed during pickup and subsequent disposal in the new landfill and recycling operations, benefitting both the City and the environment.

The Committee is reviewing these new trends, the options available from contractors for future disposal contracts (which begin November, 2012), and will recommend the most cost effective, least disruptive system available. There will be future communications and discussions with City residents to ensure all views are heard and considered on this very important matter.

From The Mayor: Report On The Village Fire Department continued from pg 1

Liabilities associated with compensated absence pay.

Fire Department equipment is costly, with ladder trucks running over \$1,000,000 and ambulances at around \$150,000, so it is imperative that we put aside a planned contribution each year for Major Equipment/Vehicle Replacement. This year we funded capital replacements and set aside a fund for compensated absence pay, since in the coming years, we expect more retirements.

In comparing the components of this year's 2011 and the 2012 VFD budget, the General Operating portion of the 2012 budget decreased 11.43% from the original 2011 Budget of over \$5,100,000. Further, the 2011 Budget did not provide for any funds toward the Major Equipment/Vehicle Replacement, nor did it provide for any funds to be saved for Unfunded Liabilities. In contrast, the new 2012 Budget does contain a contribution in the amount of \$160,000 to the Major Equipment/Vehicle Replacement Fund, together with a \$55,000 contribution to the Unfunded Liability Reserve. With the inclusion of Capital Replacement and Unfunded Liability assessments, the VFD 2012 total budget of \$4,740,939 is still 7.22% under the original 2011 total budget.

Immediate Future Goals

We will continue to look at improvements to payroll, accounting, and budgeting computer software systems. The City of Houston is changing its radio communication system at the beginning of 2012. Through Chief Foster's efforts we have obtained a \$220,000+ grant that will cover most of the cost in changeover of the VFD's

compatible system, so that we may continue to communicate with the Houston Fire Department during emergencies.

While preparing the 2012 budget, it was determined that major equipment purchases such as turnout gear (\$19K), thermal imagers (\$21K), defibrillators (\$65K) and jaws (\$32K) should be scheduled. We intend to use surpluses from the 2010 budget and unexpended funds from 2011 to purchase those items. We have added the concept of a Major Equipment schedule plan to the budgeting process.

Summary of Changes

Working with Fire Chief Foster, the Commissioners were able to decrease the cost of Fire Department operations and actually improve service. It is difficult to convey in this newsletter the importance of the operational improvements that Chief Foster has made to the Department. Response times are way down, training is improved and our Fire Department is managing and fighting its own Cities' fires, instead of waiting on the Houston Fire Department. Morale has greatly improved due to Chief Foster's leadership and professionalism and there is a renewed pride in the Department. Credit goes to all of our loyal Fire Department employees who worked under less than ideal conditions as these changes were debated and instituted. Credit also goes to the Cities' Mayors and Councils who had the foresight and the fortitude to enact the necessary changes to insure the sustainability and improvement of the Department

OUR TREE CANOPY

This year's drought conditions have been extremely hard on the City's tree canopy. Many trees have been lost due to the drought and extreme temperatures this summer. The pine bark beetle infestation is continuing especially hitting the trees in severe stress from the drought. The pine bark beetle will attack a tree near the top and eat their way to the bottom. Dead trees are actually less of a concern, because the beetles have come and gone, and moved to other trees. Because the beetles are weak fliers, they are often found in trees to the north and west of trees killed by beetles, following the prevailing winds.

City ordinance requires that trees infested with pine bark beetles are to be removed. All property owners are encouraged to have their pine trees checked by a certified arborist, even if the trees are green.

This year the City has lost many trees in the right-of-ways due to these extreme conditions. Many of you are experiencing the loss of trees on your property. The Texas Forest Service has good tips for watering your trees during drought conditions.

Water Your Trees! — is an instructional video detailing four watering methods and can be viewed on the Texas Forest Service YouTube page: www.youtube.com/TexasForestService.

Also: Visit http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu for more information about trees and drought. If you have any questions, please contact our Building Official, Tom Fullen, at City Hall at 713-465-2150.



Property Tax Statements

As a reminder, your Hunters Creek property tax statement for 2011 is included in the tax statement you will receive from the Spring Branch ISD Tax Office. You will be able to access your statement at their web site at www.springbranchisd.com. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express credit cards and E-check payments are accepted for payments on-line.

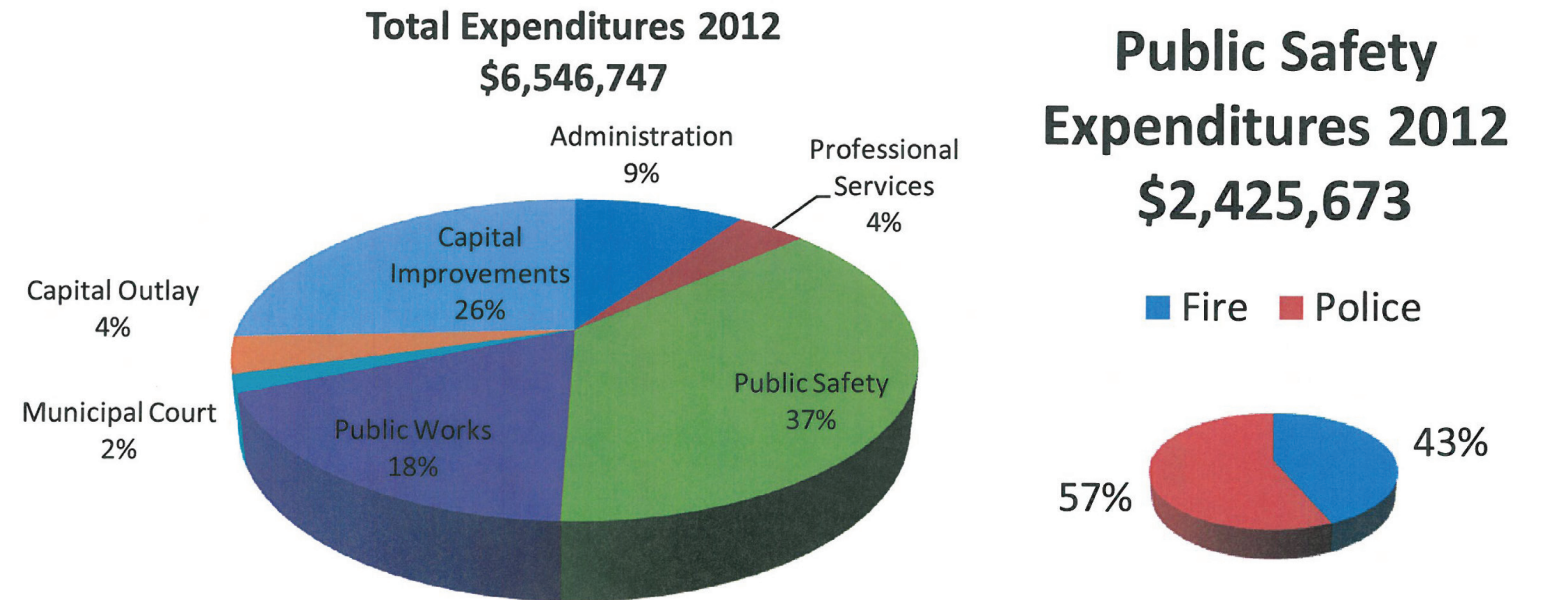
If you have any questions regarding your tax statement, you should contact SBISD Tax Office directly at 713-251-7960. The tax office is located at 8880 Westview, Houston, TX 77055

2012 BUDGET AND TAX RATE

At the September 27, 2011 Council Meeting, the City Council adopted a budget for fiscal year 2012 and adopted a tax levy of \$0.182518/\$100 of valuation for this year's tax rate. This tax rate is a reduction of about 1% from last year's rate of \$0.185/\$100.

The expenditure budget for 2012 for maintenance and operations was reduced by 5% from 2011 budget levels. Most of this reduction was due to tighter budgets in both Fire and Police departments.

The graphs below provide you with a breakdown of the expenditures in the 2012 budget:



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Beginning in 1995 the City embarked on an extensive drainage enhancement program to improve the stormwater drainage to 100 year storm event levels. Over this 16 year period, the City has expended approximately \$34,000,000. The City was able to do these projects without incurring any debt with the participation of METRO and the Harris County Flood Control District. During fiscal year 2011 the City began the final phase of the drainage improvement projects completing drainage improvements at Kemwood and Bryn Mawr and should finish with Saddlewood and Wellesley by the end of this year.

For fiscal year 2012 budget, the City will continue with a capital improvement program with the focus being on a street maintenance program.

During 2010 a Street Assessment Inventory was completed establishing a grading program for rating the condition of streets throughout the city. The purpose of this inventory was to take a comprehensive look at the City's 25 miles of pavement infrastructure so that maintenance and replacement of roadways could be planned out in a manner that would address future funding over a multi-year period. The City Engineer was charged with the task of walking all the streets throughout the City to measure, photograph and observe the condition of the streets and present his observations in this report. Additional information was included in the report that identified the drainage ditches on streets with roadside ditches with a build-up of silt. This report gives the Council the ability to determine existing conditions, life cycle of streets and upgrades or reconstruction of streets where necessary.

In fiscal year 2012 as part of this Maintenance Program, there are plans for paving improvements for Ripple Creek and Fleetway, as well as ditch regrading, restriping signal intersections, and sidewalk repairs.

You Are Invited... to attend regular council meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. For citizens who wish to receive periodic messages from City Hall, please email your name, home address and preferred email address to citysecretary@cityofhunterscreek.org.