



Nichols Hills E-News

December 2012

CITY NEWS

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Upcoming Meetings

- City Council Meeting
January 8th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Regular Meeting of Municipal Authority
January 8th
5:45 pm at City Hall
- Board of Adjustment
January 16th
5:30 pm at City Hall
- Environmental, Health & Sustainability Committee
January 23rd
8:30 am at City Hall

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CITY OF NICHOLS HILLS RECYCLING CENTER TO CLOSE JANUARY 31ST 2013

The Nichols Hills City Council has decided to close the Nichols Hills recycling center based upon the recommendation of the Environmental Health and Sustainability Commission.

Following is the documentation that was presented to the City Council at the December Council meeting:

Nichols Hills Environment, Health, & Sustainability Commission

December 7, 2012

TO: Mayor Peter Hoffman
Vice-Mayor Steve Goetzinger
Councilmember Sody Clements
City Manager David Poole
City Clerk Kristi Hort

FROM: Nancy Herzel, Chair
Nichols Hills Environment, Health, & Sustainability Commission

RE: Request to Close the City of Nichols Hills Recycling Center

Although the emphasis of the NH EHSC is to REDUCE all waste, in reality, waste is a product of living. The challenge is trying to find the best solution for the waste we generate.

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The EHSC has been studying ways to recycle in the City of Nichols Hills, and some of the recent steps include the following:

- January 2009, added two new recycle bins at the police center location
- March 2009, moved the recycle center to Public Works
- April 2009, approved private residential recycling contractors throughout the City
- December 2011, reduced recycling hours and eliminated recycling glass

These actions were well intended and have allowed citizens to recycle in the City, but this is still not the best solution, in our opinion.

Despite our best efforts to minimize recycling costs, the economic burden to maintain the recycling center in the City has continued to increase, currently \$40,000/year. In addition, the situation is made worse by the increased time requirements of City employees to operate the facility plus the fact that non-residents and businesses continue to use our center as a dumping site, causing an inordinate amount of contaminated loads and general messy conditions. Another concern is lack of security at Public Works caused by open access to the facility. This potentially puts all of our public work facilities, especially our water system, at risk. The EHSC, in its efforts to add value to our City, thus finds the current recycling situation untenable.

In an attempt to find the best recycling solution for our City, the EHSC has continued to research the subject and we have discovered that Goodwill Industries has expanded their recycling efforts. They have two (2) locations in close proximity to Nichols Hills, one at 8301 N Western Avenue and the other at 7420 N May Avenue. These facilities are open from 9AM to 7PM, have an attendant available to help with individual loads, and take virtually all recyclables. An added benefit, in addition to offering the important service of recycling, Goodwill Industries also provides jobs for many disadvantaged and disabled individuals.

In conclusion, the EHSC recommends closing the Nichols Hills Recycling Center located at Public Works and encourages our residents to use the **Goodwill Industries Recycle Centers** or contract for private home-side recycling services provided by companies such as **Recycling the Hills**.

The EHSC thinks this action is in the best interest of the City because it helps ensure the safety of the Public Works area and water supply, eliminates the mandatory \$2.50/month residential recycle charge, allows Public Works employees to do other more important work than cleaning up dumped trash, and our residents would still be able to recycle at two (2) convenient nearby locations.

The EHSC appreciates your consideration of this action to eliminate the City of Nichols Hills Recycling Center.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

It is time again to showcase some of the beautiful light displays in our city. This year, the photographs were taken by Jennifer Poole. We hope you enjoy them.

On behalf of each employee of the City of Nichols Hills, we wish you a joyous Holiday Season and all best wishes for the New Year!



HOLIDAY LIGHTS



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