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City funding hazardous waste disposal

By *Traviss Thomas*

City of Hutto garbage service customers who have household hazardous waste materials, such as old paint and used pool chemicals, now have a free, safe way to dispose of them.

Vouchers are available through the city's utility billing office, 401 W. Front St., to dispose of household hazardous waste at the Williamson County Recycling Center, 495 CR 156.

The city received a grant through the Capital Area Council of Governments in the amount of \$34,000 to establish and implement this program. Each City of Hutto garbage service household is eligible to receive a voucher each quarter, if funding allows.

Customers must have an active City of Hutto utility account and will be required to present photo ID when requesting the voucher. The voucher will cover 100 percent of the disposal cost and will be valid for up to 30 days after issuance.

The Williamson County Recycling Center will accept the voucher when disposing of the items and submit the voucher to the City of Hutto for payment through the grant funds.

To transport household hazardous waste to the Williamson County Recycling Center:

What items are hazardous?

Common products used in the home and the garden that have labels that include such words as "caution," "toxic," "poison" or "danger" will be accepted. Examples of such products are:

- Antifreeze
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Automotive products
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Thinners and solvents

- Keep products in their original containers. Do not mix products. Make sure the lids are secure. Label materials that are not in their original containers.
- Place leaking containers in a larger, plastic container with a tight-fitting lid.
- Secure products upright in a cardboard box to prevent the items from tipping over in your vehicle.
- Transport products in the back of a pickup truck or in a car trunk. Make sure there is adequate ventilation if you must transport products in the passenger area of the vehicle.
- Keep flammables out of direct sunlight and away from sources of heat, spark or flame. Do not smoke.

E-waste such as computer equipment and televisions are accepted at the Williamson County Recycling Center. However, residents will be responsible for the disposal fees. These and other unwanted electronics are accepted free of charge at the Goodwill Store, located at 560 U.S. 79 West. For more information on the Goodwill Store's electronic recycling program, check their website, www.aus?tingood?will.org/e?bs/environmental.html.

The Williamson County Recycling Center hours are Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon.

The center's staff may be contacted by phone at (512) 864-3240 for appointments on Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.