

what next?

"I'm so bored!"

Living in a small Texas town inevitably paves the way for the utterance of that statement at some time or another. But the city of Huntsville has numerous opportunities scattered throughout the community for recreation and entertainment.

First off, Huntsville has **23 parks** inside the city limits.

"Some of the parks are like green space parks-- kind of like a yard," said Leslie Howland, Huntsville Parks and Recreation intern. Others are much bigger, she said.

Emancipation Park, which is located at 300 Martin Luther King Drive, is one of the biggest. It has a basketball court, jungle gym play area with playground equipment, a picnic area, a bar-b-que pit, restrooms, pavilions, a horseshoe court, benches and a volleyball court (net not provided).

"There's a lot of space to run around," Howland said.

The Eastham-Thomason Park, located at 1500 Seventh Street, has a **wildflower area**, foot trails, a Frisbee golf course and playground equipment.

Another one of the larger Huntsville parks is the Kate Barr Ross Park, located at 486 Sam Houston Avenue. It has baseball, softball and soccer fields, a pavilion with a **picnic area**, restrooms and a big open field in addition to its playground equipment.

One of the smaller parks with historical significance is the **Founders Spring**. Located at 1000 University Avenue, it marks the spot where a natural spring sits underground.

"That's where Huntsville sort of originated from," Howland said.

The **Sam Houston Memorial Museum** offers more opportunities to learn about Huntsville and its most famous citizen, Sam Houston. Sprawling over 20 acres at 1836 Sam Houston Avenue, the museum houses a large collection of Sam Houston memorabilia and early Texas items, said Gene Pipes, curator of education at the museum.

It also contains the **Woodland Home**, the primary residence of the Houston family during Houston's 12-year tenure as a U.S. senator. The Steamboat House, where Houston died, is also

located on the museum grounds.

"The most famous part about the museum, though," said Pipes, "is the duck pond. It has nothing to do with history, but it is a nice place to just relax and enjoy yourself."

The **Texas Prison Museum** offers another view of Huntsville history. Located on 491 Hwy 75N off exit 118, the museum fills its displays with objects, not surprisingly, from the Texas prison system.

"We've got all sorts of artifacts from the prison system dating back from the 1800s including the electric chair, things from the old Texas prison rodeo and inmate art," said Jim Willett, director of the museum.

The prison **contraband** display is the most popular, Willett said.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and prison employees and \$2 for children ages six through 17. Children under six are free.

For an evening out, the **Huntsville Community Theatre** offers a live-action alternative to going to the movies. The Community Theatre presents four plays a year at the Old Town Theatre on the square, covering all genres from dramas to comedies and melodramas.

The plays are presented **seven times** over a

course of two weeks.

"We're looking forward to probably trying a musical next year," said Mike McMannus, chairman of the board for the Huntsville Community Theatre. McMannus said they were also looking to possibly perform a **murder mystery** and at least one comedy for the next season.

Admission to the plays is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under twelve.

For more information about the community plays, auditioning or to get on the mailing list, call 291-7933.

The Sam Houston State **University Theatre** department also puts on about six to nine productions a year which the general public is invited to attend. Musicals are done at least once per year, with the other shows being regular plays or dance concerts, said Penny Hasekoester, chair of the theatre department.

"We provide very strong entertainment value," she said. "[Citizens] will see strong performances and solid production values in our plays."

Admission varies depending on the performance. General admission for a musical is \$12 and a regular play is \$10.

Information on the upcoming performances can be found at http://www.shsu.edu/~drm_www/.

Other **adult-oriented** nightlife options include Shenanigans/Confetti's and The Jolly Fox clubs.

Shenanigans/Confetti's is a combination of two clubs with 11 bars housed under the same roof. Boasting a 3,000 square foot dance floor and an up-to-date sound system, the Shenanigans side is geared toward the country/western crowd.

The adjunct club, **Confetti's Beach Club**, is newly remodeled with a tile dance floor and a beach-style atmosphere. Hip-hop, dance and R&B music is played on that side.

Shenanigans/Confetti's is located at 1548 11th Street. Cover is \$3 for people 21 and up; \$5 for 18 and up.

The Jolly Fox is the other major nightclub in Huntsville, located at 2504 Sam Houston Avenue. Offering a dance floor and playing a wide variety of music, the Fox is also known for bringing artists such as **Roger Creager** to town for a concert. General cover is \$5 21 and over; \$8 for 18 and up.

YOU DEFINITELY
HAVE TO CHECK
OUT MY STATUE
AND MUSEUM!

sam says...

