

November 2015



CEDAR HILL

HIGHLIGHTS

Higher consumption causing higher water bills

This summer, residents across Texas reported higher than normal water bills. Many investigations have been done to test meters, examine the data collection systems and re-view the bill calculation processes. In cities, like Cedar Hill, that have not raised water or sewer rates, the clear cause of higher bills is higher consumption.

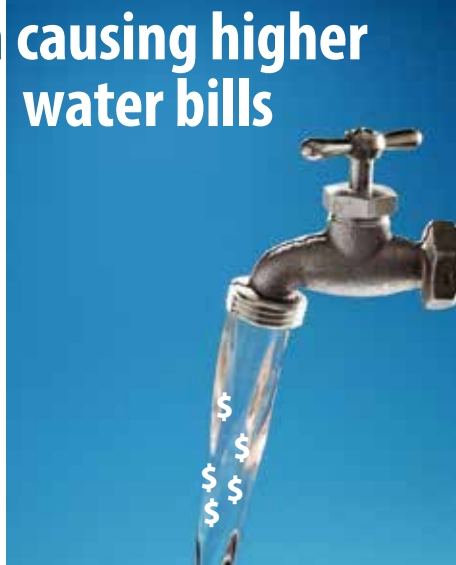
Validating the system

Cedar Hill Utility Billing Dept. staff and City management have been working diligently to double and triple check everything to eliminate other causes and to help residents see and understand their consumption.

In a few cases, leaks have been found on the residents' side of the meter, some faulty plumbing fixtures have been located and some irrigation systems have been found out of adjustment.

But for most of us the higher than normal bills have been caused by using more water than usual.

That's not a popular answer, but all the carefully vetted data points



on consumption across the city point to that cause. Reports from other area cities have all pointed to the same conclusion.

Monitor your usage online

Over the past year, the City of Cedar Hill has invested in a new metering/reporting system that enables every account holder to view usage online at any time.

Cedar Hill residents and businesses can track their usage online, viewing monthly, daily, even hourly charts of water use by going to www.cedarhill.gwfathom.com and clicking on "Sign In/Register." Setting up an online account will require information that is on your recent water bill.

Once the account is set up, click "Usage History" on the left and register to view your secure usage information.

Those who need assistance setting up online accounts or have questions after viewing online usage should email: ubilling@cedarhilltx.com.

Neighbors' concerns generate new PID

Last November, Jennifer Hutchinson visited the Neighborhood Services department to express concerns about aging infrastructure in the local park and the deteriorating brick wall along the Winding Hollow neighborhood.



Leah Walker
Neighborhood Services Coordinator

leah.walker@cedarhilltx.com

She felt that residents could partner with the city to make improvements in these areas, so she set up a community meeting to explore options. In late January, residents collectively agreed that a voluntary neighborhood association with minimal dues would be enough to beautify the entry features and wall around the neighborhood.

But after several subsequent meetings, planning, and more research on costs, the group realized it would be best to explore a Public Improvement District, given the extensive repairs needed to the wall

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City offices in the Government Center will be closed **November 26-27 and December 24-25.** Check cedarhilltx.com to see holiday hours and closings for other City facilities.



The Dallas Morning News has recognized Cedar Hill as one of the **top 20 neighborhoods in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.** Our natural beauty, terrain, location, festivals, concerts and values set us apart. See more at cedarhilltx.com/bestdfw

Mansfield Road work at full speed



Mayor Rob Franke, flanked by City Council members and Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, addresses a surprisingly large crowd that turned out on a warm October afternoon to witness the ground breaking for Mansfield Road, a signature entry for our community that will improve traffic flow to the Lake Ridge neighborhoods, to Mansfield and to Grand Prairie.

The Mansfield Road project will profoundly improve safety and provide better access to Lake Ridge Parkway and southwest Dallas County.

This section is the last phase for the east-west roadway system from US Highway 67 to the Joe Pool Lake bridge. The limits for this project begin just west of the intersection of West Belt Line Road and Mansfield Road and end at the western city limits.

Dallas County and the City of Cedar Hill are partnering to fund the design and construction of the project. Improvements include widening of the roadway from the existing two lanes to a four-lane divided roadway with turn lanes, drainage, landscaping, street lighting, a hike and bike

trail, and dedicated bike lanes. These improvements are proposed to be made within a 130' right-of-way which is based on the city-approved Thoroughfare Plan.

Those who drive on this road during construction are cautioned to beware of construction delays and reminded that the speed limit has been lowered to a maximum of 35 m.p.h. Watch for flagmen during workdays. They are there for your safety.

The project is expect to be completed by the fall of 2017.

Receive updates about traffic and construction progress by signing up for email and/or text messages on the project page at cedarhilltx.com/MR.



Eagle Scout's project shows he cares

For his Eagle Scout project, Liam Sloane, second from right, decided to benefit Cedar Hill by painting a total of 36 fire hydrants in the Cedar Crest neighborhood. He engaged family and friends from his church in this project. All together there were 36 people involved from age 3 to 76.

Liam chose this project because he loves Cedar Hill and wants to keep it beautiful. He has two brothers who also completed Eagle Scout projects in Cedar Hill.

Thank you Liam, your brothers, all your family and friends who work to make Cedar Hill better.



Fire Chief John Ballard congratulates Liam Sloane for his Eagle Scout project that helped maintain and improve the appearance of 36 hydrants.

Don't feed the clog

Cooking oils can cause drain and sewer clogs, expensive for you and for the City. Pour them into a closeable container or wipe the warm, not hot, pan with paper towels and place them in the trash.



The Cedar Hill Fire Dept. was joined by a local business, Batteries+ Bulbs, to encourage residents to replace the batteries in smoke detectors at the Fall time change. Store owner Paul Fuglie, center, holding batteries, is flanked by firefighters who remind us that functional smoke detectors save lives.

Batteries + Bulbs distributed batteries to all fire stations so residents can pick up a free 9V battery. Cards are available to purchase 4 additional 9V batteries at the store for only \$1 each. B+B is located at 420 E. Pleasant Run.

People make it a community



The Cedar Hill City Council recently recognized CHISD S.T.A.R. students Othniel Santiago, above, with his family, Council Member Jami McCain and Mayor Rob Franke; and Jayvyn Williams, below, with his family, Council Member Steve Mason and Mayor Franke. Othniel is a 5th grader at Plummer and Jayvyn is a 5th grader at Highlands.



See a typo?

If you find a typo in this issue of Highlights, **email the location to corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com** and you'll be entered to win a gift card from Hillside Village in Cedar Hill. Please, only one entry per person.

The deadline is midnight, November 30. The winner will be notified via email.

The winner of the September drawing is **Susan Webster**.

Your Neighborhood online

Nextdoor is the private neighborhood social network for you and your neighbors. It helps you keep in touch. Check it out at Nextdoor.com.

If you're already on Nextdoor you may have noticed that several City departments are sharing information there. Remember we cannot see or monitor your neighborhood posts, so contact us by Nextdoor's private message if you wish to reply.

CALENDAR

For the most up-to-the-minute information on events, check out the City's online calendar by scanning this QR code with your smartphone. Free QR scanners are available in your phone's app store.



November

7 E-Waste Recycling and Paper Shredding

8 a.m. - Noon, Cedar Hill High School parking lot. Proof of residency required. Items to be recycled include CD/DVD players, cell phones, copiers, fax machines, printers, satellite TV equipment, VCRs, TVs up to 32". Paper shredding is available while you watch, up to 3 boxes per household. Not for commercial use. More info at cedarhilltx.com/e-waste.

6, 13, 20, Cinema on the Square

6 p.m. each night in Pioneer Park, Historic Downtown Cedar Hill Arts Council, Zula B. Wylie Public Library and Main Street present some of our favorite classic romances. On the 6th is *An Affair to Remember*, on the 13th is *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and on the 20th see *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and enjoy the popcorn. For more info email theresa.brooks@cedarhilltx.com.

10 City Council Meeting

7 p.m. meeting, briefing session at 6 p.m. Cannady Room, First Floor, Government Center The City Council usually meets twice a month, but in November and December they meet only once. Agendas and minutes for City Council and other boards are available at www.cedarhilltx.com/75/Agendas-Minutes.

14 Fall Community Cleanup

The City's Beautification and Environmental Sustainability Board (BES) invites residents and volunteer groups to form a team and help beautify the community by cleaning up your favorite neighborhood, school, creek, street or park. Teams can register at cedarhilltx.com/2089/Fall-Cleanup. Registered groups are eligible for free gloves and trash bags.

24 Dogwood Canyon Volunteer Work Day

9 a.m. - Noon, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 West FM 1382. The staff at DCAC needs help with trail-building, habitat management and much more. Volunteers help make this nature preserve even better for visitors. For information, email jcolins@audubon.org and mention "Fourth Saturday."

December

3 Holiday on the Hill

6 - 8 p.m., Historic Downtown Cedar Hill
Tree lighting ceremony, free photos with Santa, performances and lots of activities.



For the latest...

Let the latest goings-on in Cedar Hill come to you via social media.

Like us on Facebook, look for City of Cedar Hill, Texas-Government.

You can tweet with the City at twitter.com/CedarHillTX.

Pin with us on Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx.

Find our website at cedarhilltx.com.



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Winding Hollow PID

From page 1

and other improvements. A Public Improvement District, or PID, is a defined area in which all property owners are charged a special assessment that is reflected on their property tax bill.

All revenue collected under the assessment is then used to make improvements only within the boundaries of the PID. The High Pointe and Waterford Oaks neighborhoods currently have established PIDs in the City of Cedar Hill and have made dramatic improvements in public areas within their boundaries.

After gathering information from Neighborhood Services, a core group of residents in the Winding Hollow neighborhood went door-to-door to gather signatures on a petition for the City Council.

On October 13, the City Council passed a resolution establishing Winding Hollow as the third Public Improvement District in the City.

Revenue collected by the PID will be used under the direction of officers elected by neighbors.

Winding Hollow will be able to replace the wall along their neighborhood; plant landscaping around entry points and install distinctive lighting.

This entire process began with a resident expressing a desire to improve her neighborhood. Imagine a community where everyone was concerned about improving their neighborhoods and not only vocalized their concern, but also took action!

Contact Neighborhood Services today if you are ready to take action in your neighborhood. Leah.walker@cedarhilltx.com



Business on the Hill

Remember to "Shop Local" this holiday season to support the businesses that are key components in the success of Cedar Hill.

Get out and visit some of the amazing shops in Cedar Hill's historic downtown and the variety of stores in our great shopping centers.

Plan to enjoy these special holiday events:

Holiday on the Hill, Historic Downtown, December 3, from 6-8 p.m. Tree lighting and free photos with Santa.

At Hillside Village enjoy **FROZEN Tree Lighting & Santa Arrival** on November 21 from 6-9 p.m. and

Black Friday (Nov 27) Gift Card Promotion - Spend \$200, receive a \$20 Hillside Village Gift Card that can be used December 1 - December 20.

No parking within 25 ft. of an alley entrance

To help maintain clear access and sight lines when entering or exiting alleys, the Cedar Hill City Council established an ordinance that prohibits parking within 25 feet of the entrance of an alley.



The entire ordinance is available at www.cedarhilltx.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=885.

City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100 x1009

After Hours (Answering service) 972.780.6643

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

Building Inspections 972.291.5100 x1090

City Secretary 972.291.5100 x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100 x1111

Communications 469.272.2903

Economic Development 972.291.5132

Fire Department, non-emergency 972.291.1011

Human Resources 972.291.5100 x1050

Library 972.291.7323

Municipal Court 972.291.5100 x1041

Neighborhood Services 972.291.5100 x1099

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100 x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency 972.291.5100 x2400

Public Relations 469.272.2903

Public Works 972.291.5126

Recreation Center 972.293.5288

Senior Center 972.291.5353

Tourism 972.291.5100 x1084

Trash & Recycling (Waste Management) 800.772.8653

Utility Billing 469.272.2931

Yes, the City website works great with mobile devices. You can get full functionality on a desktop, tablet or phone. cedarhilltx.com



Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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