



The City of Cedar Hill, Texas

July 2011

# Solar: part of City's green initiative

You can't see them from the ground, but the solar panels installed on the roof of the Government Center will soon start cutting the City's electric bill by \$21,000 a year.

The system is roof-mounted and grid-tied. The solar panels are strategically located at the most prominent facility in Cedar Hill for maximum energy production and awareness to those living in and visiting the City.

Asst. City Manager Melissa Stephens began submitting grant applications in August, 2000 to fund most of this project. It will cost over \$900,000 to install the system and bring it online.

Federal, state and an Oncor grant covered all but \$25,000.

The City expects to save about \$21,000 a year in electricity costs at the government Center. It will take just over a year to recover



Installers finished connecting solar panels on the Government Center roof in June.

the City's portion of the cost.

The panels will provide about 8% of the electricity for the Government Center. And they will enhance local awareness of alternative energy uses.

An interactive video

panel in the lobby will show visitors exactly how much energy the solar panels are producing at any point in the day.

Cedar Hill is adopting an aggressive "green" strategy, encouraging residents

and businesses to look for ways to recycle, conserve energy and water resources, reduce emissions and increase efficiency.

Responsible consumption today will pay dividends now and well into the future.

## WALK THE LIGHT brings art festival downtown

The Cedar Hill Walk the Light Arts Festival will take place Saturday, July 30, from 4-10 p.m. in historic downtown. Artists will display or perform their crafts inside local businesses, in Pioneer Park and on the streets.

This event is supported by the Main Street Preservation Board.

"There be live music, dancing, paintings and crafts displayed,"

according to Walk the Light co-founder and executive director, Laura Allen, "but we will also feature many other art genres and invite attendees to participate."

Creating a venue for artists of all art genres is a primary goal, but Walk the Light recognizes that engaging attendees in the creative process through interactive art installations,

performances and exhibits enriches the artistic experience for everyone involved.

Combine these lofty goals with a charity focus and you have an event that is the forerunner in a movement that is changing the way arts festivals are done.

Watch the promo video at <http://walkthelight.org/events.html>.



## City seeks input for Old Town District

Public meetings are scheduled to assist the long-term planning for the Old Town District.

Open meetings with the committee are set to meet the third Monday of each month through October. They will be held at 6 p.m. in the Court Room on the first floor of the Government Center at 285 Uptown Blvd.

"The Old Town district is at the heart of

*Continues on back page*

# Local firefighters battle fires at Possum Kingdom Lake

## Fire officials from across the state meet in Cedar Hill

During recent months, several teams of Cedar Hill firefighters have been dispatched to assist Texas Forest Service teams as they battled wildfires in the North Texas region.

In addition to firefighters, Cedar Hill also sent the new brush truck which was delivered earlier this year. This vehicle was designed to help provide access to wildfires not accessible from city streets and highways.

"The fire at Possum Kingdom was more intense and larger than anything that I have seen in 20 years of fire-fighting," said Cedar Hill Captain Chris Tancred. "We were working side by side with the federal forest fighters, they said that they had not seen fires like this in all the fires they had worked."

The Cedar Hill Fire Department is working with the Texas Forest Service to develop a program to educate property owners about how to protect homes



This dramatic photo of wind-driven flames towering over the landscape near Possum Kingdom Lake was taken by Cedar Hill Fire Captain Chris Tancred.

and buildings from wildfires. With some simple changes to the area around your home you can make the difference between saving your home and losing it from wildfire.

Fire Chief John Ballard said "The Texas Forest Service will be providing training to members of the Cedar Hill Fire Department, under the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, to assist homeowners in creating a plan to make their homes defensible in case of a wildfire."

### Officials meet

With wildfires having charred about 2.7 million acres of the state since the fall, Cedar Hill hosted a Texas Forest Service meeting in June for about 80 fire officials from across the state.

During the two-day briefing, Forest Service officials gave an update on the wildfire threat

that has put thousands of communities at risk, according to Nick Harrison of the Texas Forest Service.

The sessions included updates on current conditions and tips on damage prevention. Forest Service officials are talking to local leaders so they can pass the information on to residents.

Home owners can help prevent wildfire damage by creating a safety zone of at least 30 feet around buildings.

"If you've got cedars [Ashe junipers] up around your house, we suggest you move them out at least 30 feet ... or at least trim them up," Harrison said.

He also suggested property owners keep grass cut at a maximum height of 4 inches within 100 feet of a building.

"Grass is the main carrier of fire, either to the trees or the house," Harrison said.

Officials say they are trying to better prepare their communities as neighborhoods expand into undeveloped areas.

## Hot dogs are not cool

Dogs are particularly prone to heatstroke during the hot summer months. If not treated immediately it is often fatal.

Heatstroke can occur when animals are kept in a poorly venti-



lated garage or kennel on a hot day, confined in the hot sun without proper shade, ventilation, or access to plenty of fresh water, or are over-exercised in the heat of the day.

Dogs left tethered out in the yard are prime candidates for heat exhaustion. They may become entangled and unable to get to shade or water.

If your dog has heat stroke he will begin to show excessive panting, pale gums, a bright red tongue, rapid heart rate, thick saliva, vomiting and breathing difficulties.

These symptoms will be followed by collapse, coma and death.

Contact your vet immediately if your dog is experiencing any of these symptoms.

Prevention is the best cure for heatstroke, so keep your dog safe by keeping him cool.



**Free wi-fi**  
Free wireless internet connection is available at the Zula B. Wylie Public Library and at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.



## Watering restrictions

### No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days a week from May 1 to Sept. 30

From May 1 to September 30, outdoor watering is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fines for violators start at \$200 for the first offense.

The City requests no outside watering at all on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays to allow the system to re-

plenish supplies in the water storage tanks.

There is a lot more information about Drought Response Stages on the City website at [tinyurl.com/CHwater](http://tinyurl.com/CHwater).

Refer to the home page of the City website [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com) for drought response updates.



**Above** WFAA's Good Morning Texas, with Chris Flanagan, showcased the Ordered Steps dancers and interviewed Mayor Rob Franke and City Manager Alan Sims during a promo before Juneteenth.

**Below** Despite the heat, a large crowd estimated at 6,000 people turned out to enjoy Midnight Star and the full array of entertainment, food and fun at the Best Southwest Juneteenth celebration, held this year in Cedar Hill's Valley Ridge Park.



**Above** Mayor Rob Franke received the Pitstick Award from the North Central Texas Council of Governments at their annual meeting. The award recognizes his efforts to promote regionalism through innovative cooperation between cities, counties and agencies. He was nominated by Asst. City Manager Melissa Stephens.



## Who answers your alarm?

For only \$25 a month you can have your home or business alarm monitored by our local 911 Center. Call 972.230.5248 for intro specials.

The Cedar Hill Police Department will check your home while you are away on vacation.

You can get more information and download the form on the City website at <http://bit.ly/chpdvac>

# Community Calendar

## July 2011

### 1-31 July is National Parks and Recreation Month

Get involved with the "Adopt-a-Park" kick off. Watch the City website for more information about how you can adopt your favorite park and help keep it safe, beautiful and litter free.

### 15 Senior Center Health Fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Senior Center, 1740 Mansfield Rd. Take an active approach to staying healthy by taking advantage of the information available at the event. Vendors desiring a booth should call the Senior Center at 972.291.5353.

### 18 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Meeting

7 p.m. at Cedar Hill Fire Station #1, 1212 W. Belt Line Road. This group meets the third Monday of each month.

Under the direction of local emergency responders, volunteers trained in CERT help provide critical support during a disaster by giving immediate assistance to victims, providing damage assessment information, and organizing other volunteers at a disaster site until trained emergency personnel arrive. For more information, contact Clark Stephenson at 972.839.6172.

### 21 Emergency Preparedness Community Forum

7 p.m. at Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar. Join in this informative panel discussion and learn how Cedar Hill's Emergency Management officials and other organizations prepare for, monitor and recover from natural and man-made disasters. Learn what you can do to stay informed and protect your family.

### 30 Walk the Lights Arts Festival in Downtown

4 - 10 p.m. in Historic Downtown

Enjoy stimulating new art in several media displayed in the heart of old Cedar Hill. Feel the rich and beautiful vibe as artists demonstrate their role as catalysts for change. Celebrate the rich and beautiful heritage of downtown. Watch the video at <http://walkthelight.org/events.html>.

## August 2011

### 2 Taste of Cedar Hill

5 p.m. at former Old Navy space at 386 Belt Line Rd., Cost \$5-10. An evening of sampling the best Cedar Hill has to offer. Sponsored by the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce. For more information call 972.291.7817 or visit <http://cedarhillchamber.org/taste-of-cedar-hill-business-expo/>

### 12 Flick-n-Float (every 2nd Friday in June, July and August)

8-10 p.m. Crawford Park pool. \$2 admission.

Relax on your float in the pool and enjoy a family-friendly movie. The concession stand will be open. Call 972.291.5130 for details.

To submit your community organization's activity to be considered for this Community Calendar, please email complete info to [corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com).

# Contacts

After Hours	972.780.6643
Alarm Monitoring	972.230.5248
Animal Control	972.223.6111
City Administration	972.291.5100x1010
City Secretary	972.291.5100x1011
Code Enforcement	972.291.5100x1090
Economic Develop. Corp.	972.291.5132
Fire Department <i>Non-emergency</i>	972.291.1011
Human Resources	972.291.5100x1050
Library	972.291.7323
Municipal Court	972.291.5100x1041
Neighborhood Services	972.291.5100x1084
Parks & Recreation	972.291.5100x1500
Parks Rain-outs	214.855.9758
Parks Special Events	214.890.6977
Police Department <i>Non-emergency</i>	972.291.5100x2400
Public Relations	972.291.5100x1032
Public Works	972.291.5126
Recreation Center	972.293.5288
Senior Center	972.291.5353
Tri-City Animal Shelter	972.291.5353
Utility Billing	972.291.5100x1200

# Old Town visioning

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our distinctive character and a significant piece of the City Center Vision Plan," noted Mayor Rob Franke. "Our goal is to develop a clear vision for redevelopment that includes input from the public, focusing on the best interests of Old Town residents and businesses.

A City Council-appointed-committee, comprised of the Main Street Development and Preservation Board, and City Council members Cory Spillman and Wallace Swayze, began meeting with consultant Dan Sefko of Freese and Nichols in June to establish a vision and recommend strategies for transforming Old

Town into an attractive and economically vibrant destination.

"It is important to note that this is just the first step in a long-range planning process to introduce concepts, illustrations, ideas and strategies that will lay the groundwork for future development discussions," said Planning Director, Rod Tyler.

The public meetings are opportunities for residents to participate and monitor progress.

For more information about the meetings and Old Town planning, visit [www.cedarhilltx.com/oldtownvision](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/oldtownvision) or follow the City on Twitter and Facebook.

## Smart 911 helps responders

The Southwest Regional Communications Center, serving the City of Cedar Hill with public safety dispatch services, now offers Smart911 service.

Once you've signed up, first responders will have important information that will help them address

your emergency before they arrive. This information, including your current location and medical issues, will help police, fire and EMS better serve you. Your information is private and secure. Sign up today at [Smart911.com](http://Smart911.com).



Pay Municipal Court Fees Online

[www.cedarhilltx.com/warrants](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/warrants)

## MADD honors CHPD's Cooley for DWI arrests

Cedar Hill's Officer Chad Cooley recently received a 2010 Enforcement Hero Award presented by the Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

The award was presented at a special luncheon hosted by MADD in Dallas.

The Enforcement Hero Award is presented to the officer in each police agency in Dallas County who had the highest number of arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

During 2010, Offi-

cer Cooley arrested 22 drivers for DWI. This was the third time in as many years that Officer Cooley has received this award.

Officer Cooley is the Department Instructor for Standardized Field Sobriety Testing; a battery of tests offered to drivers to determine the severity of their impairment.

During 2010, Cedar Hill officers arrested 47 drivers for Driving While Intoxicated. So far, in 2011 30 arrests have been made.

## PD: 'Check out alarm sellers'

Cedar Hill police officials urge residents to make sure that any alarm salesperson, company or alarm installer that they hire is licensed by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Some alarm salespersons aggressively market their services primarily by going door

to door. If someone offering alarm-related services shows up at your door unsolicited, ask them for their DPS Private Security pocket card, which will also have their picture. Do not accept any other identification.

Alarm companies must be licensed to operate legally in Texas. To check out an alarm company, visit [http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb/company/company\\_search.aspx](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb/company/company_search.aspx).



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Meetings are set for 11 a.m. on July 12, July 26, and set up on Aug 2.

Call 972.291.7817 for more information.