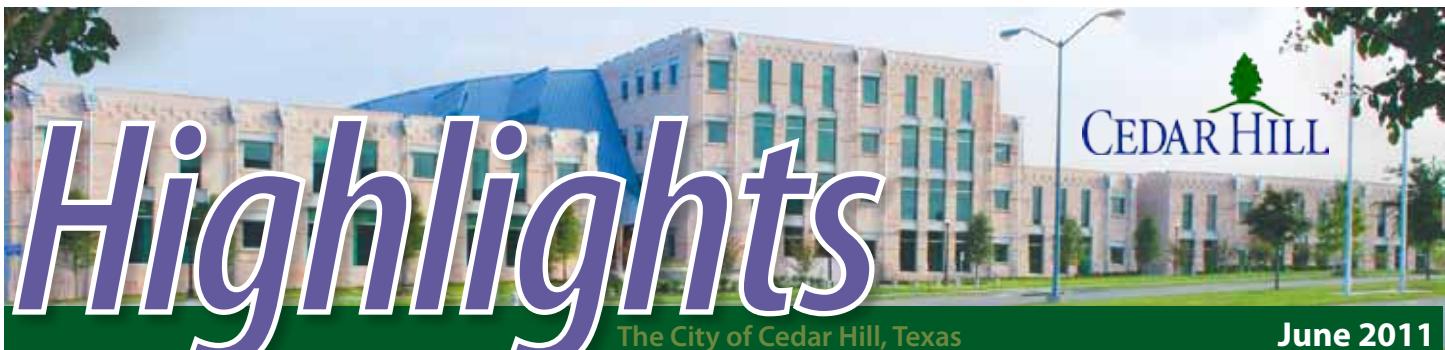


# Highlights

The City of Cedar Hill, Texas



June 2011



**Over 1,000 riders**

## Head for the Hills

The fifth annual Head for the Hills Bike Rally, staged by the Cedar Hill Rotary Club in May, was a success in every way.

The event attracted over 1,000 riders to Cedar Hill from Texas and surrounding states. They enjoyed a well-planned and well-executed event.

It was made possible thanks to the many hours of planning and preparation by Rotary Club members and the support of local sponsors.

Starting from Uptown Village at Cedar Hill, riders chose from several routes of up to about 60 miles. Over 170 volunteers

supported the event, including rest stops about every 10 miles and at the start/finish.

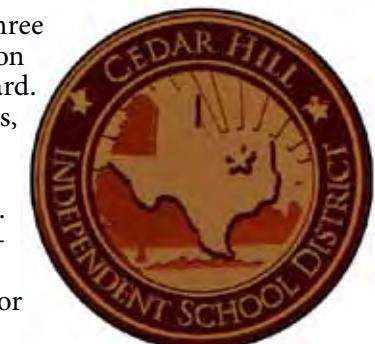
Many of the sponsors had staff working the rally. Headforth-ehillsrally.com lists nearly two dozen sponsors for the event and recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers, including the Southwest Dallas County Amateur Radio Club, whose members helped maintain communication along the

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## Alerts



The City of Cedar Hill may contact residents by phone for severe weather warnings, hazardous road conditions, and other situations that impact the safety, property, or welfare of our citizens. If you do not have a home phone or would like to receive alerts when you are away from home, please visit the website below and add your cell number(s) and email address. Your information is for City use only and will not be sold or available to telemarketers. Visit this address to add your information: [bit.ly/chphone](http://bit.ly/chphone)



## CHISD Board results: one newcomer, two incumbents

Cedar Hill ballots on Saturday May 14 had no selections for City Council because those up for reelection chose to run but were unopposed.

There were three positions open on the CHISD board.

Valerie Banks, incumbent in Place 3 did not seek re-election. Wendy Hodges-Kent defeated James Charles for her seat.

Place 4 incumbent Dan Hernandez, with 9 years on the board, defeated James Charles Hein.

Place 5 incumbent Michael Quildon, a 3-year board member, defeated Leslie Newson.



## 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.



**Find answers and request service from the City at [bit.ly/chaccess](http://bit.ly/chaccess)**



routes to support riders with mechanical or physical problems.

Safety was a priority with police officials coordinating support in Cedar Hill, Midlothian, Waxahachie, Maypearl and Venus.

Judy Pluto, Chairperson of the Head for the Hills Bike Rally, said their goals from the beginning have been to produce a premier event showcasing the City of Cedar Hill, the local Rotary Club and to raise funds for worthy charities.

Proceeds from the event support local charities like the Cedar Hill Food Pantry, the Zula B. Wylie Public Library and the CHISD Education Foundation.

Rotary Club of Cedar Hill also supports earthquake victims in Haiti, water wells in Africa and Rotary efforts to eradicate polio worldwide.

See hundreds of photos at [2011hfh-bikerally.shutterfly.com](http://2011hfh-bikerally.shutterfly.com). For more information and news on next year's rally, visit [headforthehillsrally.com](http://headforthehillsrally.com).



## Two can be better than one



**June is Adopt – A- Cat month** and the Tri-City Animal Shelter & Adoption Center is offering a two-for-one cat adoption special. During June and July, the adoption and microchip fees are waived for the second feline. If the cat is not sterilized, the \$25 sterilization voucher must be purchased.

What a purrrfect time to add to your family. Come by the shelter at 1150 E. Pleasant Run or call 972.291.5335.

## Xeriscape saves water, money, looks natural

Any discussion about reducing water usage eventually turns to lawn watering. Dallas Water Utilities estimates that 50% of drinking water is used to water lawns and gardens during the summer.

Xeriscaping may be a good alternative for many homeowners. It means planting drought-resistant and native plants that survive on natural rainfall.

Going green may mean dialing down the volume of grass in your lawn, giving up some of that solid sheet of thirsty turf and including more rocks, flowering plants, shrubs and low-growing trees.

Here are some basics, but do your own research:

**1. Plan.** Know your soil type. Arrange for good drainage. Sketch out your garden for different water needs. Some plants might need only rainfall, others may require some hand watering.

**2. Test and amend the soil.** To have your soil tested, check with your local county extension office or a local nursery. Adding organic matter such as compost will enrich the

soil and it's ability to retain water while encouraging beneficial microorganisms.

**3. Assess your turf needs.** Grass usually requires more water than any other part of



your landscape. Use it if that's what you need, for instance, for children to play on, but consider ground covers, shrubs and stone surfaces for other areas.

Instead of an impervious concrete patio, consider patio stones and natural walkway stones with gravel that allows rainfall to filter and seep into the soil.

**4. Use appropriate plants.** Use native or drought-tolerant, plants that can sur-

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# Community Calendar

[www.cedarhilltx.com/calendar.aspx](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/calendar.aspx)



**Above:** Mayor Rob Franke reads a proclamation declaring "National Public Works Week". Elias Sassoon, Public Works Director for the City of Cedar Hill, accepted the proclamation encouraging citizens to consider the contributions of the people who work in Public Works to provide clean water, modern sewer systems, safe and efficient roadways and many more infrastructure components that benefit the community.

**Below:** City Council Member Cory Spillman presents a STAR student certificate to Lora Chowdhury, a senior at Cedar Hill High School. Lora is VP of the National Honor Society, World Culture Club President and Spanish Honor Society President. She loves to volunteer for her community and has founded a scholarship program for young girls dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty with the power of knowledge. This Fall, Lora will attend the University of Texas at Austin. As the current Miss Teen Texas International, she travels to spread the power of knowledge to children around the world.

A photograph of a white home security alarm system unit with a keypad and a small screen. A hand is shown interacting with the keypad.

**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.

## Did You Know...

that 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>

## June 2011

### 18 Juneteenth Celebration

5-10 p.m. Amphitheater at Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Dr. Live music, stage presentations, exhibits. More information at <http://www.wix.com/junetoth/best-southwest-juneteenth>

### 25-26 Ham radio demonstrations

Noon Saturday thru noon Sunday. Emergency Operations Center on the ground floor of the Government Center.

Local amateur ham radio operators will demonstrate emergency communications abilities. "When all else fails, ham radio works". The public is invited to see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get an FCC radio license.

## 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.

### 4 Red, White and Pool

1-5 p.m. Crawford Park pool. \$2 admission.

Family-friendly games and competition. There will be a slip 'n' slide for everyone to enjoy and a water slide for the little ones.

### 8 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.

### 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.

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	972.291.5335
Tri-City Animal Shelter	972.291.5335
Utility Billing	972.291.5100x1200

## Independence Day Schedules

There will be no trash pick up on Monday, July 4 and bulky brush pickup for that week will begin on Tuesday, July 5.

On July 4 the Government Center, the Library, the Recreation Center, the Animal Shelter and the Senior Center will be closed.

**The Crawford Park Pool will be open for Red, White & Pool from 1-5 p.m.**

## Xeriscape

*from page 2*

vive on rainfall. Local nurseries can help identify good options.

**5. Water efficiently.** Don't water on a regular basis. Note rainfall and the plants' needs. You can kill drought-tolerant plants by over-watering. After the first year, you shouldn't have to water them often, if at all. Water early in the morning. Water close to the ground with soaker hoses, misting or drip line sprinklers.

**6. Use organic mulch.** It conserves water and inhibits weeds. Some organic mulches include

shredded cypress, pecan hulls, cotton seed hulls, composted leaves, shredded cedar and shredded landscape clippings.

**7. Maintain.** Xeriscape landscapes need less attention, but can't be ignored. Prune trees and shrubs. Remove dead buds or prune flowering perennial plants to stimulate blooms. Pull weeds. Fertilize in moderation. Allow grass clippings to remain on the turf as a natural fertilizer.



Stay up to the minute; follow Cedar Hill on Twitter



On Saturday, June 25, amateur ham radio operators will be demonstrating emergency communication capabilities at the Emergency Operations Center at the Cedar Hill Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd.

This event will be open to the public from noon Saturday until noon Sunday. To visit, please use the rear entrance to the GC, available from the south parking lot. Ham radio operators have been in the news lately providing

## Survey: City newsletter is most popular medium

An unbiased group of University of Texas at Arlington graduate students analyzed survey data collected this spring and concluded that almost 3 of 4 residents prefer getting City news via the Highlights newsletter.

The report was presented to the City Council in May.

The data also showed that 22% of residents prefer the City website ([www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com)) for their local information.

"We expected the newsletter to be the most popular," said Corky Brown, Public Relations Manager, "but we were surprised that so many look to the website for current information."

The survey data

was collected from business reply cards included with water bills and website surveys.

There was about a 5% return on the surveys. Another surprise was that two-thirds of the responses came from residents age 50 and above.

The survey, part of a final-semester project for graduate students, was done at very low cost to the City.

"We were fortunate to have Public Administration graduate students and their professor analyzing our data," said Brown. "It's important that we measure the effectiveness of our communication efforts."

The students recommended new communication technologies. Many are already active or in the works.

They recommended tools like "Access Cedar Hill" which gives residents access to information and allows them to request City services via the City website 24/7.



Published by the City of Cedar Hill Corky Brown, Public Relations Manager 972.291.5100 X1032 [corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com)