



The City of Cedar Hill, Texas

Highlights

May 2009



Watering ordinance set to help control water usage

This is a summary of the Cedar Hill ordinance related to water conservation. To view the ordinance visit the City website at www.cedarhilltx.com, go to the Public Works Department page, look for Water Conservation.

From May 1 to September 30, Ordinance No. 2008-370 prohibits watering of landscape or any exterior use of water between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day of the week.

From May 1 through September 30 the City is always in a voluntary stage of water conservation.

Residents and businesses with even-numbered addresses are requested to water only on Tuesdays and Fridays but not between

the hours of 10 am and 6 pm

Water customers who reside or operate a business with an odd numbered address are requested to water on Mondays and Thursdays but not between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm.

If the City is forced to move to mandatory compliance, no watering of landscape or exterior use of water is permitted on Wednes-

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Canine unit retrieves honors

By CHPD Lt. Colin Chenault

The Cedar Hill Police Department K9 Unit participated in the annual United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 20 Trials held in Garland earlier this year. This week-long event serves as both a certification process and competition for police working dogs in the Dallas area.

During this event, Cedar Hill Police officers Michael McCorkle and K9 partner

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Cedar Hill Police Officer Michael McCorkle and his K9 partner Jax, above, and Officer David Podany and his K9 partner Shadow, right, attended a recent City Council meeting where Mayor Pro Tem Cory Spillman observed the result of extensive training. Podany and McCorkle were recognized by the Council for the outstanding way they represent the City in competition and service to other communities.



Connect-CTY helps alert everyone

The City of Cedar Hill is introducing a new communication service that allows City officials to make immediate mass notifications to residents and businesses in case of severe weather or other emergencies. The system will also allow the City to keep residents informed about non-emergency community events.

City-wide tests of the system began in May.

“Our City Council

Submit your contact info at [www.cedarhilltx.com/contact me](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/contact_me), or call 972.291.5100 ext. 1007

places a priority on safety and quality of life for Cedar Hill residents, and this system will allow us to improve city-wide communication,” said Alan E. Sims, City Manager. “This communication tool will enhance our ability to provide an environment where citizens can feel

safe and informed.”

Using the Connect-CTY system allows City administrators to target messages to specific geographic areas, sending messages only to residents within select neighborhoods as needed. The system uses

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Fire Station 214 shows rare cooperation

Beautiful and unique Fire Station 214, on Lake Ridge Drive, is officially open and has been serving the residents of both Cedar Hill and Grand Prairie since April. This station is a great example of cooperation between communities to better serve taxpayers while saving money.

Construction and operating expenses for this station are shared between the two cities. The 10,600-square foot station is fully operational. Cedar Hill crews will initially operate a recently acquired 2009 Pierce Paramedic Engine.



Connect-CTY helps *from page 1*

available home telephone numbers to call homes. Additional contact information can be added to the database.

"To make the system work even better we're asking residents and businesses to contact us and provide alternate contact information, such as cell phone numbers, email addresses and TTY/TDD numbers so we can reach our population in multiple ways," said Fire Chief Steve Pollock. "I strongly urge everyone to add additional contact information to the database to ensure they are prepared to receive time-sensitive information wherever they may be."

Residents are encouraged to visit www.cedarhilltx.com/contactme to add their con-

tact information. Those without web access can call 972.291.5100 ext. 1007 to add their information. Residents and businesses can add up to three phone numbers and two email addresses and indicate if they have a TTY/TDD device. Residents with call blocking services should add 469.272.2939 to their approved number list.

Connect-CTY service is provided by Blackboard Connect Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blackboard Inc. (NASDAQ: BBBB). The service was created specifically for local and regional government leaders, based upon the award-winning Connect platform. The service can be used to send targeted, time-sensitive voice and text messages to landlines, cell phones, PDAs,

email addresses, pagers, TTY/TDDD receiving devices and other text receiving devices and is compliant with the Common Alerting Protocol v. 1.1 (CAP-V1.1). The Connect platform is a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution that has been in service since 2001. In 2007, the Connect platform was used by over 20,500 active sites to send over 240 million voice calls and over 17 million email and SMS messages to constituents.

Blackboard Connect Inc. does not sell, lease, share, or rent personally identifiable information (name, addresses, phone numbers, etc.) to any companies or persons outside of Blackboard or its service providers.

K9 unit honors *from page 1*

ner Jax and David Podany and K9 Shadow, were certified in narcotics detection. Both dogs were also certified in suspect/article tracking and patrol tactics which include the areas of obedience, agility, box searches, apprehension work, and handler protection.

Officer McCorkle and K9 Jax were awarded 1st place in Agility and 2nd place in Obedience. Officer Podany and K9 Shadow earned 1st place in Box Searches and 3rd place in Obedience. The K9 Unit received 3rd place in overall Patrol Team.

Our two dogs were among 25 other dogs present for narcotics certification and 14 dogs present for the patrol tactics events.

Officers Podany and McCorkle brought positive recognition and represented the City of Cedar Hill in a very professional manner. These are some of the most dedicated officers, constantly committed to providing the best service delivery and always looking for ways to "raise the bar." In fact we're now entertaining the idea of hosting these trials next year which would bring a great deal of positive attention to the City of Cedar Hill.

Over the last two years the unit has undergone several significant changes. We've adopted a firm positive reinforcement training philosophy. We've undergone major modifications to our policy in an effort to reduce department liability. We've established clear training standards and objective-based practices.

We've also increased the number of public demonstration opportunities by adding a link on the City's website. Public demonstrations allow the officers to showcase the talents of their K9 partners and they give citizens opportunities to see these dogs in action.

The K9 unit stays very busy as their service area extends into other neighboring cities. In the past year we've provided K9 service to DeSoto, Duncanville, Grand Prairie, Lancaster, Mansfield, Midlothian, Dallas County Sheriff's Office and Dallas Police Departments. These agencies contact us to assist in a number of different situations ranging from narcotics searches of vehicles to tracking and apprehending fleeing suspects.

Excellence through dedication is the best way to define the strategy used by the Cedar Hill Police K9 Unit. Cedar Hill is one of very few K9 units who require dual annual certification in narcotics detection through the USPCA and the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA). We also require an annual certification in patrol tactics through the USPCA. Additionally, our K9 teams train a minimum of 16 hours per month after completing a three month K9 training program upon initial entry into the program.

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

Clara McGinnis honored for service

It has to start somewhere and Clara decided it would start with her.

Concerned about her neighborhood, Clara thought something should be done. So she started calling City employees and elected officials; she started talking with her neighbors in the Cedar Trails neighborhood; she got involved and got others involved.

In 2006 her neigh-



borhood won the Cedar Hill Premier Neighborhood Award.

This year Clara was honored with the 2009 Community Service Award by the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's

Club, Inc. And recently the Cedar Hill City Council honored her with the first Volunteer Appreciation Award.

Clara is president of her neighborhood Crimewatch, a member of the City's Neighborhood Advisory Board and is a founding leader of Neighbor 2 Neighbor, committed to advancing inter-neighborhood cooperation through integrity, honesty and teamwork.



Members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Assn. present a \$2500 check to the Cedar Hill Police Dept. to acquire a body armor vest for the Emergency Response Team. CPAAA's goal is to raise funds to acquire three vests for the ERT team this year.

BELOW: Cliff Felts, Parks Superintendent and Betty Minszew, Marketing and Special Events Director join Mayor Rob Franke and Sandy Martin, Recreation Superintendent to mark Cedar Hill's recognition as Tree City USA.

To qualify for Tree City USA, a city must meet standards set by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters including a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance/proclamation. As Mayor Franke said, "It is only fitting that Cedar Hill be recognized as a Tree City USA.



City Council members display signs and a banner noting Cedar Hill's new designation as a Tree City USA.

Water ordinance *from page 1*

day Saturday and Sunday.

Exceptions

Vehicles may be washed at commercial auto washes or may be washed at residences using a water bucket. Water running freely from a hose is prohibited.

Foundations may be watered with a hand-held water hose or soaker hoses.

Watering new landscape may be permitted for 30 days after installation.

Fines

Any person, firm or corporation violating

any of the provisions contained in Ordinance No. 2008-370 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in the Municipal Court, may be fined as follows:

First Offense, up to \$200

Second Offense, up to \$400

Third Offense, up to \$600

Fourth Offense, up to \$2000

Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Community Calendar

Monthly

Readers on the Hill

Literary group meets the first Monday of each month at the Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. Call the library at 972.291.7323 for more information.

Dallas Area Writers Group

Open to beginning and seasoned writers, this group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. For more information visit www.dallaswriters.org.

Cedar Hill Star Party

Third Saturday of each month, Sunset until 11 pm, J.W. Williams Park, 1065 High Pointe Ln. (Beside West Intermediate School)

Telescopes provided by members of the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas. For more information, please visit www.tasobserving.org. For status and cancellation information, call 214.800.6000.

To submit your community organization's activity to be considered for the Community Calendar or to be listed on the City's website, email complete information (including date, time, location, a contact number or email to corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com.

City Council Meetings

are scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesday of most months. Meetings, held in the T.W. 'Turk' Cannady/Cedar Hill Room of the Government Center at 285 Uptown Blvd., start at 7 p.m. and are open to the public. Citizens can address the City Council members during the Citizens Forum. Council briefing sessions before regular Council meetings are open to the public and usually start at 6 p.m.

Visit www.cedarhilltx.com for current information

Contacts

After hours
972.780.6643

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
Non-emergency
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
Non-emergency
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
972.291.5335

Utility Billing
972.291.5100x1200



Best of the Best Southwest honored in Cedar Hill

At a recent City Council meeting Cedar Hill Today Editor Steve Snyder brought honors for two of our outstanding civil servants. Kevin Cunningham, Emergency Medical Services Chief and Police Officer Jimmy Boatman were honored with 2009 Readers' Choice awards as the Best of the Best Southwest.

Today Newspaper's poll allows residents of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and Lancaster to select the best of the Best Southwest in several categories. Today Newspaper publishes weekly, serving a population of over 150,000.

Veteran receives overdue honors



Congressman Kenny Marchant delivered special honors to Cedar Hill resident James Brown at a recent City Council meeting. After learning that the retired naval aviator had not received all of the medals he had earned for his service he had his staff research and secure them for Mr. Brown.

At the meeting, Cong. Marchant de-

scribes Mr. Brown's long career, starting with fabric-covered bi-planes before World War II, continuing through the war stationed on an aircraft carrier, and returning to active duty during the Korean War as a night fighter pilot.

Mr. Brown received 17 military awards, the most that Cong. Marchant's staff had ever located.



Gail Smallin, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, sprays primer over graffiti on a utility pole.

City takes aim at wiping out graffiti

The City of Cedar Hill's new initiative to cover graffiti as soon as it is found involves cooperation from utility companies, the post office, CHISD, Public Works and Code Enforcement staff to quickly paint over it.

As tagged items are noticed, primer is sprayed and authorities are advised. Repainting restores the original appearance.

Property owners are responsible for removing graffiti on their property.

City website is there for you

Up late surfing the web? Wondering what's going on? We're here for you 24/7. Up-to-the-minute information about what's going on in Cedar Hill is at www.cedarhilltx.com.

On the City's website you'll find not only the latest goings on but links to much more information and contact information to help you know where and how you can get involved.

On the front page of the website you'll find Community News with info about current events. and on the right side is the Calendar listing upcoming events with links to more information.

Recently added to the column on the left is "Street Closures" a link to current street construction that may affect your drive to work.

Under the Departments menu check out Neighborhood Services' links where you can find out about your street's Crimewatch group, neighborhood cookouts, seasonal parties, neighborhood group meetings and other ways you can get involved and get to know your neighbors. Good neighbors make great neighborhoods.



Published by the
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Free Music in the Park Series
June 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 8 p.m.
Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater