

January 2014

HIGHLIGHTS



CEDAR HILL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS



Why is Cedar Hill Going Green?

For you, our community, the environment

At a recent City Council Meeting Assistant City Manager Melissa Stephens updated the Council on the City's Sustainability Action Plan (SAP).

The benefits to be gained from our SAP are social, economic and environmental.

The City's SAP sprang from elements in the City Council's 2009 Strategic Plan, defining what it means to be a premier city; including, clean, safe and efficient infrastructure, distinctive character, vibrant parks and natural beauty and a strong and diverse economy.

A Department of Energy grant in 2010 led to the Energy Conservation Master Plan which in 2011 was adopted as the Sustainability Action Plan for 2011-2016.

The SAP envisions "...Cedar Hill as a regionally-engaged sustainable community that manages resources wisely, conserves natural beauty and promotes open space." The mission statement "... is to invest in practical planning today for a sustainable community tomorrow."

Funding for most of the SAP elements came from grants awarded to the City from various sources. Originally, the goal was \$250,000 in grants. To date the City has been awarded over \$1.7 million, five times the goal.

The City's "Growing Green" website at www.greencedarhill.com covers much of what's happening under the SAP and has more extensive information on the City's environmental programs.

Solar & wind energy

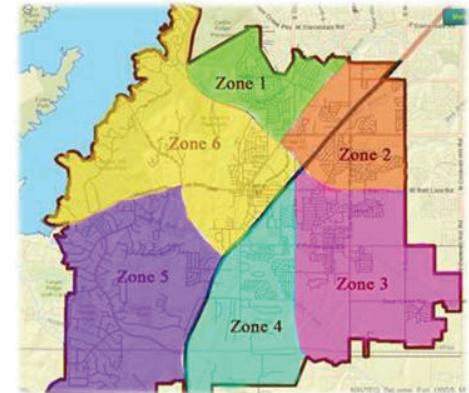
Almost 500 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Government Center in 2011 as the first major Green Cedar Hill project. The panels have generated over 563,000 kWh, saving the City over \$56,000. The system's generation of electricity is equivalent to saving over 45,000 gallons of gasoline and planting over 10,000 trees a year. The panels provide about 8% of the building's electrical needs.

A vertical wind turbine on the south lawn of the Government Center looks like yard art on steroids. This 4.5 kW system, completely funded by grants, also provides energy for the City and CHISD offices. Visitors can see real-time information of the solar and wind generated energy on a monitor in the lobby.

Reduce & recycle

Recycling is a big part of the SAP and one where residents play the biggest role. The City distributed 96 gal. recycling bins to all

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City Council getting into the neighborhoods

Strong neighborhoods are the foundation of a strong city. Your Mayor and City Council members have scheduled six opportunities for residents to share concerns and dreams for their neighborhoods.

The December meeting in High Pointe was well received by about 80 residents.

At these meetings, hosted by Mayor Rob Franke and the members of the City Council, residents will get a brief summary of the neighborhood services provided by many of the City's departments. Then there will be a short survey, with live responses, about perceptions of City services. Residents can choose one of several smaller breakout groups for one-on-one conversations with City Council members.

These meetings, are set at locations in all parts of the city to make attendance more convenient for residents. Officials hope for a good turnout so they can collect first-hand information.

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residents in January 2012 and set up weekly trash and recycling collections. Recycling includes our businesses too.

Compared to 2010, recycled tonnage for the year 2012 was up 208%, diverting over 5,400 tons from landfills.

Residents and visitors can even recycle in our parks using one of the Big Belly solar-powered recycling collectors in Valley Ridge Park. These smart containers compact contents and email a City staffer when they need to be emptied. They were 100% funded by a grant from North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Better lifestyle

The City's SAP has a large community gardening component. The City has cooperated on setting up garden plots at the library and on several CHISD campuses, encouraging healthy eating and outdoor activity.

Several miles of new hike & bike trails will be coming online by this spring. They promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce the use of gasoline powered vehicles. Trails connect common destinations like the Recreation Center, schools and parks.

Your city is also taking steps to reduce vehicle fleet emissions. Two all-electric vehicles replaced gas cars last year. Green fleet procurement practices are in effect.

To encourage residents to consider lower-polluting vehicles, the City has installed electric vehicle charging stations at the Government Center for public use.

Reducing vehicle use, while saving water and helping residents become more conscious of their usage are all elements of a new project to replace old water meters with digital ones that do not require meter readers. Partially funded by a Bureau of Reclamation AMI Smart Meter grant the digital water meter program will allow the City to eliminate four meter-reading vehicles and identify

Serving the long-term residents

Barbara Scott manages seniors

By Ariel Smith

Barbara Scott, Cedar Hill's Senior Center Manager knows how to keep a smile on the elderly men and women of Cedar Hill. Each week she provides a safe environment for the elders to enjoy their next chapter of life.

She has worked at the City's Senior Center for nine years, overseeing daily operations. Prior to joining the Cedar Hill Family she worked for the Cities of Hurst, Desoto, and Grand Prairie.

She had been living in Cedar Hill for a while when the opportunity opened to become the City's Senior Center Manager. Scott loves her city and wanted to give service to her beloved Cedar Hill and its elders.

During her first year she planned a big Halloween costume party. The party was a success; everyone at the center dressed up in all sorts of cos-

leaks sooner. Residents will be able to monitor their water usage online and see how it impacts their bill.

Sustainable everything

Sustainable living is becoming ingrained in almost everything the City is doing or plans to do.

The City Center Plan, guiding responsible development in a large part of the center of the city, includes many elements of walkability and a planned Transit Oriented Development surrounding a possible passenger rail station.

More awareness, education and locating funds are all critical.

Sustainability is not just a buzzword for Cedar Hill, it is becoming a way of life for City departments and residents.

Your City Council members have set our community a path to dramatically increase sustainability, becoming a leader in smart growth. They recognize the long-term benefits of goals, actions and awareness that will provide social, economic and environmental benefits to residents and businesses for generations.

tumes. There was a flasher, bumble bee, many ghoulish witches, and a married couple dressed up as mice. Scott was overfilled with joy knowing that party put smiles on so many faces that night.

Before working for the cities, Scott taught dance classes and was a tap, jazz and ballet dancer. She wanted to bring her hobby of dance to the Senior Center so she taught line dancing as a center activity. In late July her leg began to cause her problems and had to stop the class. By spring of 2014 she plans to begin teaching the class again.

Dance is one of the many activities Scott plans for the Senior Center. To find out more information about the many activities the center provides visit the City's website at cedarhilltx.com and click on "City Services" select "Parks And Recreation", and select "Senior Center" in the Parks and Recreation Tap. Or stop by and meet Barbara Scott.

Highlands students honor City Council members



Stephanie Lane from Highlands Elementary brought a group of students in the Student Council and Character Kids Club to the December City Council meeting where they presented each Council member a certificate of appreciation. The Mayor and all City Council members joined students and parents for photos and conversation after the meeting. BELOW Council member Chris Parvin filled in as photographer with help from Mayor Rob Franke.



People make it a community



ABOVE Madison Watkins, a third grader at Bray Elementary shows off her STAR award presented by City Council Member Clifford Shaw. BELOW Kennedy Doakes received her star and certificate from City Council member Wallace Swayze.



City Council member Dan Haydin, Jr., ABOVE, at a Nov. meeting, presents a STAR award to Tom Anderson V, a second grader at High Pointe Elementary. BELOW, City Council member Jami McCain reads engraving on the star of Caleb Webb, a second grade student at Waterford Oaks Elementary.



City Council Meetings

Are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, except for November and December which have only one meeting. For the full schedule of meetings and more information visit cedarhilltx.com/citycouncilmeeting.

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.



cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home

JANUARY

is amnesty month at the Library. Return all materials, along with 1 non-perishable food item and have all fines waived!

13 Martin Luther King Celebration

6:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar

Celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through storytelling, dance and musical performances.

21 Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting #2

6:30 p.m. Trinity Church NAB Dining Hall, 1231 E. Pleasant Run Road

This meeting will be in the northeast section of the city. The City Council has made it a strategic priority to engage and strengthen Cedar Hill neighborhoods. City Council members invite residents to engage in two-way communication about the present and future of our community. They seek residents' input about issues and opportunities. For a map of the neighborhoods served by each of the meetings visit www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?nid=1685. For more information contact Neighborhood Services at 972.291.5100 x1094.

February

8 Daddy/Daughter Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball

6:30 - 9 p.m. Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 Parkerville Rd.

All ages welcome. \$40 per couple, \$10 per additional daughter.

Grab your mask and put your dancing shoes on. Get ready to create memories that will last a lifetime. Dinner and soft drinks provided. Tickets available online at cedarhilltx.com/ddd or at the Center. For information call 972.293.5288.

10 Black History Month Family Fun Night

6:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar

Annual celebration of African and African-American history with storytelling, special performances and more.

18 Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting #3

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone Bible Church, 981 E. Parkerville Road

Speak with your mayor and City Council members; let them know your hopes and dreams for our community. Learn about the many services the City provides residents from representatives of many City departments.

March

1 Citywide Block Party and Recreation Center 10th Anniversary

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 Parkerville Rd.

A fun-filled celebration for the whole family. Children's activities, entertainment, giveaways and more. Take advantage of learning about the many services and opportunities that Cedar Hill offers. Free souvenir Tshirts to the first 700.



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Council/Neighborhoods

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information about what it will take to strengthen neighborhoods.

The January 21 meeting, for residents in Zone 2, will be 6:30 - 8 p.m. January 21 at Trinity Church, 1231 E. Pleasant Run.

Here are the rest of the meetings:

Zone 3, February 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Bible Church 981 E. Parkerville Road.

Zone 4, March 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Cedar Hill Church of Christ, 535 S. Clark Rd.

Zone 5, April 15 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.. Ninth Grade Center, 1515 W. Belt Line Road.

Zone 6, May 20: TBA.

These meetings are a great way to learn about services the City provides to residents. The one-on-one sessions with City Council members are a great way to be sure your ideas and suggestions are heard.

Meetings with neighbors help maintain Cedar Hill's small town feel, help the City focus services on needs expressed by residents and improve communication.

The goals are to learn the concerns residents have about their neighborhoods and find out what the City and neighbors can do together to bring about positive changes.

The City works with 68 neighborhood organizations, 22 crime watch groups, and two public improvement districts. Based on the number of neighborhood groups, Cedar Hill has more involvement than neighboring cities.

Please check cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood for more information regarding dates and locations of these town hall meetings.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stacey Graves, Neighborhood and Code Services Manager at 972.291.5100 ext. 1094 or stacey.graves@cedarhilltx.com.

Neighborhood know-it-all

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



B. J. Stevenson, Member Services for the Cedar Hill Recreation Center received the Community Outreach Award from Sylvia Dunnavant, Founder of Celebrating Life Foundation

Recreation Center receives Community Outreach Award

The Cedar Hill Recreation Center received the Community Outreach Award from the Celebrating Life Foundation for support of the Sister to Sister Fitness Festival since 2010.

"Educating people about health lifestyles is a community effort. This year we wanted to honor those that have been in the forefront of our effort for breast cancer awareness," said Sylvia Dunnavant, Founder of the Celebrating Life Foundation. The Celebrating Life Foundation honored the Cedar Hill Recreation Center during a recent reception at the African American Museum.

The Celebrating Life Foundation is a non-profit organization devoted to educating the African American community and women of color about the risks of breast cancer, and the benefits of early detection and treatment. The next Sister to Sister Fitness Festival is scheduled for Oct. 4, 2014 at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center. For information contact the Celebrating Life Foundation at 972.501.9981 ext 110.

Alarm Monitoring

911SWRCC

For only \$25 a month, you can have your home or business alarm monitored by the same local professional staff that dispatches police and fire crews for the City of Cedar Hill.

Instead of your alarm notifying someone several states away, this system connects directly into our local 9-1-1 call center.

Saving seconds can save lives.

It's only \$25 a month and there is no long-term contract required. For more information contact SWRCC at 972.230.5248.

City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1010

After Hours (Answering service)
972.780.6643

Alarm Monitoring 972.230.5248

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

City Secretary 972.291.5100x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100x1090

Economic Development 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
972.291.5100x1094

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency
972.291.5100x2400

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 972.291.5100x1200



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Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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