

October 2014

CEDAR  HILL

HIGHLIGHTS



Changes coming in your water bill

In the near future you will notice a change in the look of your water bill from the City. The most important change is your new account number, effective Oct. 23.

Rates remain the same, and your billing and due dates are still the same.

After Oct. 23 you may need to contact your bank to advise them of your new account number if you use their autopay system.

If you pay using the City's online link it will look very different and you will need to enter your NEW account number.

You can continue to pay by mailing in a check or money order, by credit card over the phone with the Water Utilities Dept. or by visiting them in the Govern-

ment Center to pay in person, just note that you will have a NEW account number after Oct. 23.

Soon, you will probably see crews working their way down your street digging up old water meters, most of which are beyond their expected service life, and replacing them with new, more accurate meters. There is no charge to residents for the new meters.

One of the advantages of the new meters is that they send data from your meter directly to a data center in the Government Center. This system has proven to be more accurate and more efficient than manual meter readers.

Your data will be available to you online for your reference. You'll be able to better track your usage, so you can better manage your water bill.

Watch for more information in your water utilities bill.

Mayor's Teen Council begins second year

Assistant City Manager Melissa Valadez-Stephens swears in students to the Mayor's Teen Council.



Mayor Rob Franke established the teen council last year in an effort to connect with city youth and give them a voice. The council, which meets twice per month, crosses generational, economic and demographic barriers between city staff and the students. Franke said the city budgets at least \$5,000 toward the Teen Council.

"We want [students] to understand that we think their opinions are important," Assistant City Manager Melissa Valadez-Stephens said.

Last year's session included leadership classes, discussions with city staff, tours of the police and fire departments, attending the Texas Youth Summit and planning of student-led initiatives.

Last year's session ended with the planning of two sustainability initiatives: leading a recycling com-

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Gettin' spooky downtown

Historic Downtown will once again play host to a spooky good time Thursday, October 30, when the Zula B. Wylie Public Library and Cedar Hill Main Street present Scare on the Square,

Ghosts, goblins and ghouls!

Head to Pioneer Park at 6:30 p.m. to snap a selfie beside the photo wall and settle in for some frightful fun. Ghost stories and goblins will amuse guests until the costume parade at 7:15 p.m.

When the entertainment is completed, goblins and ghouls are invited to trick-or-treat with participating downtown area merchants until 8:00 pm.

Admission is free but we request



children under age 12 to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For more information contact Teri Nelson at 972.291.7323 ext. 1323, or visit our website at cedarhilltx.com/scare.



Smart zoning conference set for Cedarhill

Cedar Hill officials, residents and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) will meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on October 22 and 23, 2014, as part of a grant-funded technical assistance program focused on sustainable zoning codes.

City staff is partnering with NCTCOG and Smart Growth America to develop tools and strategies to create zoning codes. The vision for City Center encapsulates a mixed-use, walkable, and transit-oriented destination.

NCTCOG expects to use strategies developed during this workshop as a model for other communities in the Metroplex.

The workshop is open to the public and will begin at the Government Center's Court Room on the first floor, 285 Uptown Blvd., at 6 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Teen Council *From page 1*

petition at elementary schools and planting fruit-bearing trees along Farm-to-Market Road 1820. Fruit harvested from the trees would be donated to food pantries.

"I want them to get to know how their city works on a much deeper level," said Franke, mayor for 17 years. "My hope is that they come out of this learning to love their city."

Only Cedar Hill high school students are eligible and are selected after an interview with Franke. The council draws mostly juniors and seniors.

It's part of a larger effort connecting the city to Cedar Hill ISD. The entities already are united under a shared roof at the Cedar Hill Government Center. There, City Council and Cedar Hill ISD's Board of Trustees share a room for meetings.

"Where there are activities where our kids can grow as leaders, we want to be a part of that," said Chanda McGhee, director of student support and community services for the district. "Even the kids not on the council are aware there is a teen council, and there is a respect for the kids who do participate."

Excerpt from Nanette Light's article in Neighborsgo, Best Southwest edition.

Keeping Cedar Hill Clean

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful is looking for talented, passionate people who want to make a difference in our community. We are also inviting residents to 'adopt a street' in conjunction with our Saturday roadway trash collection from 9-11 a.m. Contact Dan Brown at 972.765.4285.

Join the Cedar Hill Community Band
Call Donald Stockard at 214.542.8529 or email cedarhill-communityband@yahoo.com/
The band is looking for a rehearsal room, Monday nights.

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.

People make it a community



To recognize the completed improvements on Lake Ridge Parkway the City held a ribbon cutting attended by dignitaries from the region including Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price who, along with Mayor Rob Franke, assisted City Engineer Regaynal Poplion with the ribbon. Lake Ridge neighbors, city and county employees and contractors provided encouragement.

Improvements along the roadway include new lanes and new pavement on almost the entire project and a hike/bike trail, sidewalks and drainage and erosion control projects.

In his comments at the event, Deputy City Manager Greg Porter said this project exemplifies the kind of partnerships, between residents, vendors, the City staff and County officials that make Cedar Hill special.



Cedar Hill Police Dept. joined the Facebook world in July and already their page has nearly 3,000 followers. Lt. Colin Chenault and the PACT team provide fresh content that is useful and interesting. Check it out at facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice.



More social than ever

Keep up with the latest goings on in Cedar Hill via social media. You can tweet with the city at twitter.com/CedarHillTX. Like us on Facebook, look for City of Cedar Hill, Texas-Government. Pin with us on Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 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.



October

23 Tourism Advisory Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Government Center, 4th floor Conference Room.
Monthly meeting of the board.

28 City Council Meeting

6:00 p.m. Government Center, First Floor, Cannady Room.
Briefing session starts at 6 p.m., regular City Council meeting starts at 7 p.m.
Agenda available at least 72 hours before meeting at cedarhilltx.com/archive.aspx

30 Scare on the Square

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Historic Downtown.
A terrifyingly terrific time, presented by the Zula B. Wylie Public Library and Main Street board. It all begins in Pioneer Park with scary tales by master storytellers, then trick-or-treat through Hysterical Downtown with participating merchants. In addition to the free frightful fun, there will be a picture booth and a costume parade. This event is free for children accompanied by a parent or guardian.

November

7 Cinema on the Square

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pioneer Park, Historic Downtown
Zula B. Wylie Public Library and Main Street present the First Friday Fall Film Series. Tonight's free movie is Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" featuring Gene Wilder, Madeline Kahn and Marty Feldman. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and favorite snacks.

11 City Council Meeting

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Briefing session starts at 6 p.m., regular City Council meeting starts at 7 p.m.
Agenda available at least 72 hours before meeting at cedarhilltx.com/archive.aspx

18 Mobile Apps Sharing Party

7:00-8:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library.
Discover the latest trends with mobile applications. Learn how to download apps to your mobile devices, use apps as a tool, receive app resources, and more. Share your favorite apps with others and have fun exploring apps that allow you to customize your phone or mobile device to suit your specific sets of wants and needs.

27-28 City facilities closed for Thanksgiving

Check the City website cedarhilltx.com for details.

cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home



How can we get ahold of you?



**If something happened,
or is about to happen on
your street, near your
house, how can we let
you know?**

Your City takes safety very seriously. So it is important to us that you are informed about important or potentially dangerous events. We make every effort to reach you, using an automated phone system that can dial hundreds of residents' phones per minute.

But the system depends on a current database. Ours is out of date because many residents no longer have a home phone. The dramatic shift to cell phones is great for convenience, but a challenge for the city to contact you with important or safety messages.

We depend on you to register your phones. Your safety may depend on it. If you have eliminated your home phone, you won't get messages unless you register your cell phones.

Please help us help you. Visit cedarhilltx.com/citymessage and register your mobile phone and the phones of all who live at your home so we can know you are getting the message. You can also register to receive emails or text messages. Your phone numbers are safe, we will not sell or give access to your numbers to anyone else.

Research shows that fewer than half of all homes still have a land line. Yet, nearly 90% of our population has a cell phone.

Stay in touch.

Register your mobile phone at cedarhilltx.com/citymessage

Don't feed the clog



If you generate a lot of cooking oil or grease, don't pour it down the drain, it can cause clogs, expensive for you and for the City.

Recycle your cooking grease by bringing it, in a closed container, to the City Service Center at 1554 S. Clark Rd. between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Check in at the office and they will assist you.

For smaller amounts, pour grease into a closeable container or wipe the warm, not hot, pan with paper towels and place them in the trash.

Putting food scraps into the trash instead of down the garbage disposal can also help prevent a holiday plumbing disaster.

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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