

October 2015



CEDAR HILL

HIGHLIGHTS

Watch your water

A number of North Texas communities have seen increases in the number of complaints from residents about higher than usual water usage. So where does our water come from, what are possible causes for higher water bills, and what can residents do to reduce their water consumption?

The City of Cedar Hill, like other cities in the Dallas area, buys water from Dallas Water Utilities. The charges for water service that residents pay covers the cost of the water and the infrastructure to deliver fresh water and process sewage. No tax dollars are spent on the water/sewer system. It is a separate function, funded by the fees charged to business and residents, based on their consumption.

The City takes the responsibility to provide pure, clean drinking water seriously.

We are nearing the completion of a city-wide upgrade to residential and commercial water meters that more accurately measure consumption at each location, and automatically report that information on a system that residents can view online to see their consumption on an hourly basis.

Ongoing checks of the meters and the system show 99% accuracy.

Upgraded technology

This project replaced old, inef-

ficient equipment with modern upsized equipment that can handle today's higher system demands. The project automates meter reading for better accuracy. The new meters allow greater flow rates to handle and measure higher water volumes.

Many of the older meters were prone to sticking open during high demand, unable to accurately meter high volume flow.

Weather factors

This year we had one of the wettest spring seasons ever, followed by very hot temperatures and near-drought conditions. During the spring, businesses and residents had no need to turn on their sprinkler systems, but by mid-June lawns had become starved for water. Heavy usage can drive up water bills.

In these cases, water was flowing through the meter, but the meter's measuring unit did not capture the flow and the customer did not get billed for all of the water used.

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Let's move! Cedar Hill

In September, Michelle Obama, invited Mayor Rob Franke and Leah Walker, LMCTC Lead, to an event celebrating local elected officials who participate in Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties.



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Leah Walker
Neighborhood Services Coordinator

This event, which hosted local officials from 450 cities and towns, was held at The White House in Washington D.C. and showcased accomplishments in fighting childhood obesity.

Let's Move Cities, Towns, and Counties(LMCTC) is a major component of Let's Move!, a nationwide program launched in 2015 to ensure that all kids grow up healthy. As part of this initiative, LMCTC calls upon local elected officials to adopt long-term, sustainable and holistic approaches to supporting healthier kids and families.

Neighborhood Services, with the help of the Parks and Recreation Department and Mayor Franke, were

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The Dallas Morning News
has recognized Cedar Hill as one of the
**top 20 neighborhoods in the Dallas/
Fort Worth metroplex.**



Our natural beauty, terrain, location, festivals, concerts and values set us apart.
See more at cedarhilltx.com/bestdfw

Water watch from page 1

Finally, older meters are simply wearing out. Many of the older meters can achieve only 70 to 80% accuracy.

New meters are almost 100% accurate, and allow approximately 25% more water flow.

Plus, the system gives users the ability to monitor water use online, frequently and easily.

A conservation mind set

Although lakes are still brimming with water from the exceptionally wet spring and many communities have relaxed watering restrictions, consumers should continue to make water conservation a priority.

What to do if you are experiencing higher water usage

- Residents with sprinkler systems are encouraged to monitor their water flow while sprinklers are on and compare to times when they are not sprinkling to understand just how much water their system uses.
- Consumers should also be alert for leaks. If not quickly addressed, they can waste a lot of water.
- View your usage online with your account information and manage your usage.

As stewards of our community's resources it is our honor to serve residents and businesses with the safest and most efficient water system possible.

For more information about automatic meter infrastructure, please watch a 7-minute video on how the new metering system works at cedarhillvideo.com/growing-green/10272014-1036.

Neighborhood know-it-all

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

CHPD rolls out body-worn cameras

The Cedar Hill Police Department began equipping every police officer with a body-worn camera in September.

Uniformed police officers aren't the only ones outfitted with the small black high-definition cameras. In fact, the new body camera initiative includes Traffic Unit officers, the Police And Community Team, and detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division.

Some civilian employees are also assigned body cameras, including the Animal Control officers and Community Service officers, who are responsible for taking many report calls.

The body camera initiative began last winter with the City Council's approval of funds to purchase 75 body-worn cameras. It represents one more way the police department is using technology to be more transparent, a movement seen across the country as police procedures are placed under increased scrutiny.

Our officers are excited about having these new cameras and in many cases recall times when having one would have been a great benefit to their cases.

The Department spent a great deal of time and effort developing a policy to provide a best practices approach to how and when the cameras should be used. The cam-



eras are not on all the time, but only when the officer is engaged in a law enforcement activity such as a traffic stop or answering a call for service.

#@\$&% typo!

It happens. Despite our best efforts, somehow typos creep into the Highlights newsletter. But now that can be good for you.

See a typo?

If you find a typo in this issue of Highlights, **email the location to corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com** and you'll be entered to win a gift card from Hillside Village in Cedar Hill. Please, only one entry per person.

Deadline is midnight, October 31. The winner will be notified via email.

West Nile Virus season continues Fight the bite



Scan the code at right with your mobile device to register your mobile phone to ensure that you receive messages for your neighborhood about mosquito control spraying by Dallas County to reduce WNV exposure.



People make it a community

Your City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays every month, except November and December when they meet only on the first Tuesday.



Monster Mash

Community Safety Fair and 1K Dash

October 31

**11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
at Hillside Village**

This event is a partnership between our Fire and Police departments, the Library, Neighborhood Services, Tri-City Animal Shelter, Hillside Village, and a number of community partners.

There will be lots of family events, including a 1K fun run (costumes welcome) and educational fun. For more information check the Events calendar on the city website at cedarhilltx.com



October

17 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Cedar Hill High School Parking Lot.

Bring your environmentally hazardous materials for safe disposal. Staff will be available to unload your vehicle. Proof of residency is required. More info at cedarhilltx.com/hhw.

29 Scare on the Square

6:30 - 8 p.m. in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill.

This festival is free to children accompanied by a parent or guardian. This ghoulish event features creepy tales by master story tellers and trick-or-treat opportunities at downtown merchants. For more info visit cedarhilltx.com/1168/scare-on-the-square.

29 Wine Walk at Hillside Village

5 - 8 p.m. at Hillside Village shopping Center. Registration opens at 5 p.m. Age-verification ID required. Sip and shop with friends, sample some free food, enjoy live music and some exclusive discounts.

November

7 E-Waste Recycling and Paper Shredding

8 a.m. - Noon, Cedar Hill High School parking lot. Proof of residency required.

Items to be recycled include CD/DVD players, cell phones, copiers, fax machines, printers, satellite TV equipment, VCRs, TVs up to 32" Paper shredding is available while you watch, up to 3 boxes per household. Not for commercial use. More info at cedarhilltx.com/e-waste.

3, 10, 17, 24, Fall Festival of International Cultures

11 a.m. - 10 p.m., International Museum of Cultures, 411 US 67 Frontage Road, Duncanville. Enjoy a series of Saturday events focusing on different cultures from around the world, including a Saturday evening film. Admission is \$5 for adults, students are free.

24 Dogwood Canyon Volunteer Work Day

9 a.m. - Noon, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 West FM 1382.

The staff at DCAC needs help with trail-building, habitat management and much more. Volunteers help make this nature preserve even better for visitors. For information, email jcolkins@audubon.org and mention "Fourth Saturday."



For the latest...

Let the latest goings-on in Cedar Hill come to you via social media.

Like us on Facebook, look for City of Cedar Hill, Texas-Government.

You can tweet with the City at twitter.com/CedarHillTX.

Pin with us on Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx.

Find our website at cedarhilltx.com.



CEDAR HILL

cedarhilltx.com/calendar

Cedar Hill shines on DFW Solar Tour

Cedar Hill was a bright spot on the 6th Annual DFW Solar Tour, early in October. The tour showcased efforts to conserve and apply natural resources. Locally, a number of residents and businesses are reducing their energy costs with clean, solar panel installations.

The event was organized by the North Texas Renewable Energy Group (NTREG), part of the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) national solar tour.

On the tour, homeowners, business owners and NTREG volunteers met one-on-one, sharing their experiences with alternative energy technology; including the process, benefits and financial savings.

The Hendons, on Lakeview Drive in Cedar Hill, provided a residential example of solar panel usage.

The Cedar Hill Government Center showcased the 152 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system that helps power the Government Center, the City's

Nissan LEAFs at the public Electric Vehicle charging stations, and the 4kW wind turbine that contributes even more clean, energy.

The City of Cedar Hill incorporates solar and wind-generated power to conserve the area's natural beauty and support sustainability in the community. The Cedar Hill Government Center's rooftop solar PV system annually generates over 210,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, and saves residents over \$21,000 in energy costs.

This is equivalent to powering 12 and-a-half homes, planting 35 acres of trees, or removing 24 vehicles from the road each year. About 8% of the Government Center's electricity is generated from the solar panels.

Residents and visitors can see the Government Center's innovative energy systems up close by taking a tour during business hours. Visit the Information desk in the lobby for a tablet-guided tour.

Let's move!

From page 1

able to highlight existing community health and wellness programming as well as create a plan to achieve goals of LMCTC and expand community awareness of the program. For these efforts, Cedar Hill was awarded 11 medals for achievements toward 5 LMCTC Goal Benchmarks which ranks us third among Texas cities participating in the program.

First Lady Obama challenged attendees to "double down" on their efforts to expand health and wellness programming in their cities.

Mayor Franke issued a proclama-

tion in celebration of the Let's Move initiative during the regular city council meeting on September 22.



Leah Walker joins Mayor Rob Franke for the Let's Move! proclamation reading at a recent City Council meeting.

Yes, the city website works great with mobile devices. You can get full functionality on a desktop, tablet or phone. cedarhilltx.com



City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100 x1009

After Hours (Answering service)
972.780.6643

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

Building Inspections 972.291.5100 x1090

City Secretary 972.291.5100 x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100 x1111

Economic Development 972.291.5132

Fire Department, non-emergency
972.291.1011

Human Resources 972.291.5100 x1050

Library 972.291.7323

Municipal Court 972.291.5100 x1041

Neighborhood Services
972.291.5100 x1099

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100 x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency
972.291.5100 x2400

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 972.291.5100 x1200

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HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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