

September 2017

CEDAR HILL

HIGHLIGHTS

Bond and CCPD election set for Nov. 7

In November 2017, Cedar Hill voters will consider two programs:

1) **the issuance of \$45 million in general obligation bonds**, without a property tax rate increase, to finance infrastructure, parks and recreation, and library improvements to be initiated over the next five to seven years.

2) **continuing to fund the Cedar Hill Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD)**. The CCPD designates 1/8 of one percent of existing sales tax revenue to fund crime prevention initiatives; this proposition does not propose an additional tax.

Bond Program

Since the last city bond referendum in 2003, our community has grown substantially.

Citizen input from surveys and participation in master plans indicates a desire for expanded library facilities, public pool improvements, more accessible parks and trails, and improvements to sidewalks, streets, and drainage for our growing population.

Based on this feedback, the City Council appointed residents to a Citizen Bond Review Committee in January 2017. The City Council reviewed their recommendations and financial implications and set a bond election on November 7,

Key Election Dates

Oct. 10 – Last day to register to vote
Oct. 23 – Nov. 3 – Early Voting
Nov. 7 – Election Day

2017 to ask voters to consider the following propositions:

A) **\$10 million for Streets & Drainage**, including repair and improvement of roadways and drainage facilities throughout the city; signals and equipment to help ease traffic congestion; installation of street lights for safety; sidewalks, ramps, and push buttons for pedestrian crossings; and landscaping, hardscaping, and lighting improvements along the Hwy. 67 corridor.

B) **\$20 million for a new Library Facility** to replace the current 10,000 sq. ft. library with a facility of approximately 46,000 sq. ft. for current and future needs. It would include technological enhancements, flexible program space, *See page 2*



For more information about the bond propositions or the CCPD, visit www.cedarhilltx.com/bond, and consider these ways to learn more:

Walks with the Mayor

Take a stroll with the Mayor for an active conversation about Cedar Hill.

Sept. 30, 9 a.m. at Red Oak Creek Trail, Virginia Weaver Park (631 Somerset Dr.)

Oct. 21, 9 a.m. at Bradford Park (401 W. Wintergreen Rd)

Bond 101 Informational Sessions

Learn more about the 2017 bond & CCPD election.

Sept. 28, 7 p.m. at the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center (310 E. Parkerville Road)

Oct. 17, 7 p.m. CHISD Ninth Grade Center (1515 W. Belt Line Road)



Say "Hello" to your neighbors on this special day

Michelle Ebanks,
Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Most neighbors want to have a better relationship with one another, but 36 percent of Americans are embarrassed they know so few of their neighbors' names. On National Good Neighbor Day, Thursday, September 28th, Neighborhood Services is encouraging neighbors to "Say Hello" to one another.

Being a good neighbor is easy and can start with a simple gesture. We may think we don't have anything in common with our neighbors, but we do—our neighborhoods."

Tips for being a good neighbor include:

- Gather a few neighbors to adopt an entrance to your neighborhood and keep it weeded and cleaned up.
- Say "Thanks-A-Latte" for being a good neighbor with a coffee gift card from your "local" coffee shop. Leave it on your neighbor's doorstep with a little note of appreciation.
- Clean up litter on a stretch of road in your neighborhood. – More info at cedarhilltx.com/adopt.
- Be a Good Samaritan and roll an elderly neighbor's garbage cans to or from the curb on pick-up day. – More info at cedarhilltx.com/GoodSamaritan.
- Digital neighbors are also emerging, get plugged in to Nextdoor.com and meet your online neighborhood community.

Contact Michelle at Neighborhood Services for additional details at 972 291-5100 x 1099 or michelle.ebanks@cedarhilltx.com.

Bond election Nov. 7

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and community meeting rooms.

C) \$15 million for Parks & Recreation

Improvements, including improvement of neighborhood and community parks and playgrounds in compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards; update of the creative play structure in Virginia Weaver Park for children with special needs; repairs and improvements to the Senior Center;



replacement of Crawford Park Pool; construction of the initial phase of a centrally located signature community park to provide amenities and programming for residents and visitors; and construction of multi-use trails.

The expenditures authorized in the bond election would be funded by General Obligation Bonds, which are repaid by property taxes.

It is anticipated that this program would not require an increase in the property tax rate, based on the retirement of existing debt and anticipated increases in taxable property value over the next five to seven years.

The city's previous bond program, approved in 2003, was also completed without an increase in the property tax rate. These projections are based on current financial conditions, trends, and forecasts and may change based on future market and economic conditions.

Continue funding CCPD

Voters will also be asked to consider extending the Crime Control and Prevention District for an additional 15 years. Approved by voters in 2012, the CCPD designates 1/8 of one percent of sales tax revenues to fund community safety and crime prevention initiatives. Since creation of the CCPD, the overall crime index rate has decreased by 10 percent.

Water utility bills...

You are in control

Since 2015, Cedar Hill has continuously introduced technology to help residents easily monitor and thereby control their water usage. This technology makes it possible to transact all utility business without leaving home.

The City has moved to a customer-centric service model, giving the customer complete choice on when and how they transact utility business; and how much they pay each month.

Fathom's recently enhanced customer service portal, Fathom U2You, allows customers to track and monitor their water consumption in near real time, set consumption alerts and alert thresholds, and pay their utility bill online. Consumption data is downloadable and can be monitored across variable date ranges, compared to previous periods and compared to similar users.

Customers can access this recently-improved portal and phone app by

following these instructions:

Portal: <https://cedarhill.u2You.gwfathom.com>. For new users, locate and click on the "Sign up" menu item at the bottom left of the home page and follow the instructions on the Sign-up page. If you registered on the old site, use the same log-on credentials you used previously for the portal (not the usage history log-on).

Once at the site, you'll be asked to complete a short survey to reestablish your residential parameters so you can be compared to the correct comparable households.

Smart Phone App: If you've downloaded the old app, delete it, then download the new app (FATHOM U2You Mobile) from the Apple Store (iOS) or Google Play Store (Android). If previously registered, your old log-on credentials will work with the new app.



**Rod
Tyler**



**LaShondra
Stringfellow**



**Alison
Ream**

Changes bring new skills to the City staff

Planning Director Rod Tyler retired from the City of Cedar Hill in August. He began his service in Cedar Hill in 1997 as the City's first planning director and has successfully guided the City through periods of tremendous growth. We thank Rod for 20 years of leadership, friendship, and dedicated service to Cedar Hill.

Please join us in welcoming LaShondra Stringfellow as the City of Cedar Hill's second-ever Planning Director. LaShondra is a certified planner with over 16 years of planning experience in Texas cities, and she has served as Assistant Director of Planning in Cedar Hill since 2016.

The City also welcomes Alison Ream as Communications Director. Alison comes to Cedar Hill from the City of Denton, where she coordinated communications and citizen engagement efforts. She replaces Corky Brown, Public Relations Manager, who retired from the city in January.



Lt. Chenault, head of the Police And Community Team (PACT) unit, introduces members to the City Council as he concludes his report on recent work and service provided by the members, including relationships with neighborhoods and effective programs for youth during the summer.



A resident hugs one of the police officers who helped save her from a house fire. Two officers and three firefighters received awards for their life-saving efforts, cooperating to evacuate her, by ladder, from the second story of a burning home. Receiving Fire Dept. awards were: Engineer Darrell Wolf, Firefighter Chris Bullard and Firefighter Jason Patrick. Receiving Police Dept. Awards were Officers Robert Ryder and Roy Rodriguez.



Asst. Police Chief Steve Lafferty receives a plaque from Rotary President Larry Horner, appreciating the officers who helped with safety and traffic control during this spring's "Head for the Hills" bike rally. Nearly two dozen local organizations benefit from the proceeds of the bike rally.



Mayor Rob Franke presents the proclamation for Constitution Week in Cedar Hill to a representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



6 a.m. to Midnight

Remember Cedar Hill charities as you give.

Search at the link below for "Cedar Hill" programs and consider supporting worthy non-profits in our community that need assistance. northtexsgivingday.org.



CALENDAR

For the most up-to-the-minute information on events, check out the City's online calendars at cedarhilltx.com

September

9 Annual Reunion for Cedar Hill Students (1931-1981),

1-4 p.m. Bray Elementary Gym, 218 N. Broad St.

Individual class photos at 2 p.m. Don't have to be a graduate, all who attended those years are welcome. Contact Pat Bateman at batemanp3@sbcglobal.net.

12 & 26 City Council Meetings, Government Center,

T. W. "Turk" Cannady Room

6 p.m. Briefing Session, 7 p.m. City Council Meeting. Both meetings are open to the public. Agendas are available 72 hours before meetings at cedarhilltx.com/archive.aspx.

16 Paws, Claws & Outlaws Fundraiser, 6 p.m.

Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$675 for a table. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available.

Visit tricityfriends.org/gala2017 for more information and tickets.

16 Environmental Collection Day, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cedar Hill High School Parking Lot

This quarterly event for residents includes Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding. Space is limited, registration is required. Visit cedarhilltx.com/ECD to register and view the vehicle line live stream.

19 Taste of Cedar Hill, 5-8 p.m. Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

The 16th Annual Taste of Cedar Hill and Business Expo brings together residents and over 60 local businesses. Lots of fun and samples, too. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids and seniors. For information, call 972.291.7817 or learn more online at cedarhillchamber.org.

23 Cedar Hill Creative Arts Festival & ReMarket,

10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Historic Downtown

A fun-filled day featuring art, FREE kids' activities, local ReMarket vendors, live music, food trucks and more! Presented by the Zula B. Wylie Library, Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Dept., and Cedar Hill Arts Council.

October

3 National Night Out, 5:30 - 9 p.m. at neighborhoods

across the city. Each National Night Out neighborhood event that registers with the city will receive a visit from our police officers, firefighters, City Council members and city staff. More info at cedarhilltx.com/nno.

7 Blessing of the Animals 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Cedar Hill

Pet Cemetery Hwy. 67 at Mount Lebanon

Rev. Jeff Garrett of First United Methodist Church will officiate. Bring your pets and enjoy a fun day out with your family. Snacks will be provided for the kids and pets. Visit cedarhillpetcemetery.org or call 469-337-0645 for more information.

BBQ helps get this fire engine going

What does it take to restore an old fire engine that served the Cedar Hill community in the middle of the last century? Apparently a lot of barbecue helps.

The Cedar Hill Fire Historical Society with cooperation from the Cedar Hill Fire Department is raising money for the restoration of the Fire Department's 1924 American LaFrance Fire engine.

They will host a Barbecue cook-off fundraiser on Saturday, October 7 at Virginia Weaver Park (631 Somerset Dr.) from 11 a.m. 'til dark.

Grab some barbecue and donate to a good cause.

The Fire Department hopes to completely restore the engine to its original glory. When restored, the engine will be one of very few fully-functional museum and parade-ready antique fire engines.

The antique engine has already participated in notable events such as the Adolphus Christmas Parade, Cedar Hill's Big Machine Expo and Christmas parade, and Dallas's 911 stair climb.

Under the leadership of Chief Charles Ray Sims, the Cedar Hill Fire Department (CHFD) purchased two 1924 American LaFrance Fire Engines from the Dallas Fire Dept. in 1953. In 1977, the one



Ron Osborn is helping restore this 1924 fire engine that once served Cedar Hill.

remaining LaFrance owned by CHFD was sent to Huntsville Prison for restoration. Due to budget constraints, the truck was not painted the correct colors and gold leaf was not used on the fire truck.

In the late 1990s, the LaFrance fire truck was donated to a local museum to be displayed and refurbished. In 2014, CHFD reacquired the engine and volunteers have been restoring the engine as donations are available.

LaFrance BBQ Fundraiser

Saturday, October 7

11 a.m. – Dark

Virginia Weaver Park,
631 Somerset Dr.

Cedar Hill Fire Historical
Society Amateur Cook-off

80th Country Day on the Hill, October 14

A grand parade downtown will kick off the day-long event with FREE live music, competitions, games and demonstrations to accompany food and craft vendors. The 80th annual fair is preceded Friday night by the Old Settler's Reunion beans and corn bread dinner, followed by BINGO and prizes, under the Cedar Street tent on the square.

80th Country Day on the Hill, October 14, Historic Downtown, 469-272-2902, cedarhillcountryday.com. Photo by Patty Bushart.



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 Works 972-291-5126

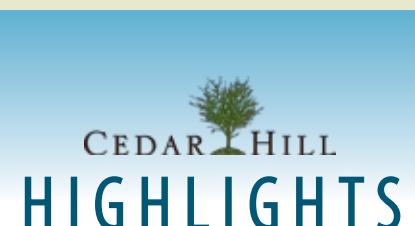
Recreation Center 972-293-5288

Senior Center 972-291-5353

Tourism 972-291-5100 x1084

Trash & Recycling (Waste Management)
800-772-8653

Utility Billing 469-272-2931



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