

April 2016



# CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS



**Cutting your water bill is just a click away**

Another hot Texas summer is right around the corner. But that means more than just getting ready for swimsuit weather. Water availability is a critical issue in our State, so summer means it's time to be even more mindful of managing your water consumption. The City of Cedar Hill has made a major upgrade to your water billing system. You can enjoy the benefits of controlling how much water you use and how much money you spend by visiting the FATHOM U2You customer portal.

## It's easy and powerful

By going to [cedarhill.gwfathom.com](http://cedarhill.gwfathom.com), you can now do more than just pay your water bill. The system is designed to help you understand your water consumption and gives you the power to monitor your own water use with water management tools. Once you Sign In and Register your account you can:

- See your daily consumption for the last 30 days
- Compare your water use to neighbors around you
- Learn how your historical daily usage compares to a projected efficiency level
- Set your own consumption thresholds to better control how much you spend
- Receive text or e-mail alerts if you exceed the water threshold you set
- Receive automatic text or e-mail alerts to notify you if a water leak is detected

## Check your bill whenever you want

With the FATHOM U2You customer portal, you don't have to wait for your water bill to see how you did. You can proactively monitor your water consumption in real time to better manage water use, limit your spending and conserve water. And you can do it at a time and place that's convenient for you.

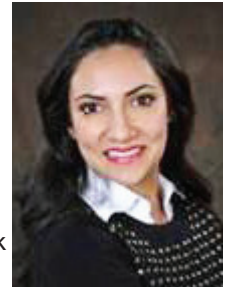
Visit [cedarhill.gwfathom.com](http://cedarhill.gwfathom.com) and start taking control of saving water and money today.

## Sign up now for severe weather alerts at CivicReady

We encourage residents to sign up all family phones to receive alerts when dangerous weather approaches. Our warning system will send your choice of an email, text message or phone call or all three. Take a few minutes now and register at <https://tx-cedarhill.civicready.com>

## A Neighborhood Love Story

by Michelle Ebanks,  
Neighborhood Services  
Coordinator



When Traphene Hickman's family moved to Cedar Hill from Dallas, in the spring of 1947, it took her only two weeks to fall in love with our quaint little town. She said "The neighborhood has changed since then, but still has a lot of good stuff."

We visited with Traphene and her husband, JR, at the 11th Annual Citywide Block Party and snapped the photo below. Later, we visited their lovely home on Lee Street where we were greeted with a warm hug and a welcoming smile.

**Traphene, why did you decide to move to Cedar Hill?** My dad retired and we moved. It was challenging, relocating from a city with a graduating class of 1800 to a town with 800 in population. It was a great time, once

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The Hickmans were photographed at the Citywide Block Party with their sign showing that they've been in Cedar Hill since 1947 (for Traphene) and even earlier for her husband JR.



## See Cedar Hill's natural appeal at Earth Day Texas

The best of Cedar Hill's premier staycation and vacation destinations will be spotlighted at Earth Day Texas at Fair Park in Dallas. This free family event will be held from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24. The City of Cedar Hill, Cedar Hill State Park and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center will collaborate to highlight our community's natural beauty and commitment to sustainability.

Come show your support for your City and learn how to preserve the environment for future generations.



## Avoiding mosquitoes is the best protection

Dallas County Health & Human Services advises residents to be aware of guidelines related to the Zika virus.

There is updated information on the City website at [cedarhilltx.com/1138/Mosquito-Control](http://cedarhilltx.com/1138/Mosquito-Control).

Avoiding mosquito bites is the best precaution for most residents. Since West Nile Virus is still an issue in this area, similar precautions work to avoid contracting both viruses.

Drain or treat all standing water sources. Use products that include DEET. Wear long, loose, light-colored clothing when outside. Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.

## Chamber honors distinctive individuals and businesses



At this year's Chamber of Commerce, Celebrating Business Awards several City of Cedar Hill family members were award winners. Shown in the photo above are: **City Manager Greg Porter, left**, who was named Man of the Year for his contributions to the quality of life in the city, his demonstrated leadership, cooperation, teamwork and inspiration of others to better serve the community.

**Aranda Bell, center**, who serves as the Adult Services Coordinator for the Zula B. Wylie Public Library. She was honored with the Chairman's Choice Award for her year on the Executive Committee of the Chamber Board, her leadership qualities and outstanding service to the Chamber and the community.

**Jenaie Franke, right**, who was named Woman of the Year for her long-term contributions to the quality of life in the city, demonstrated leadership, cooperation, teamwork and inspiration to others. New this year are the "Growing Green" Green Project of the Year and Green Business Award of the year by Waste Management, Inc. and the City of Cedar Hill.

The Chamber recognized Hillside Village Shopping Center's efforts to include Texas native plants in their landscaping, recycling a third of all non-hazardous solid waste in 2015, incorporating SMART water meters for landscaping, and retrofitting their parking lots with energy-efficient units. These green programs are saving over \$500,000 a year.

First United Methodist Church also incorporated numerous green initiatives this past year including purchasing and scraping a dilapidated home and neglected lot, replacing all lights in their historic sanctuary with low footprint LED blubs, replacing three HVAC units with high-efficiency units and raising \$11,000 for water.org, an international water well non-profit organization.



Steve Kellar, with Waste Management helps present the Green Business Award prize to Maranda Auzenne of Hillside Village. Assistant City Manager Melissa Valadez-Cummings represented the City, which co-sponsored the award.



**In the recent city-wide survey, 89% of the residents said they like living in Cedar Hill. That's a 12% better satisfaction rate than residents reported in cities across the U.S. and 11% better than residents surveyed in Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico.**



People make it a community



**Above:** The City honored the people in Utility Services as Department of the Year at a recent City Council Meeting. Pictured are Gail May, Joe Komisarz, Leah Jones and Siomara Monart.  
**Below:** City Manager, Greg Porter congratulates Alex Lugo, of Facilities Maintenance, on his selection as City Employee of the year.



**Above:** Your Parks & Recreation Dept. won both the Marketing and Communication Excellence Award and the Arts & Humanities Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society. The award recognizes superior efforts using website and social media marketing tools to promote events as well as prioritizing commonly shared values at the Celebrating Freedom through Diversity Juneteenth event in 2015. That event brought together people from across the metroplex to celebrate art and music.  
Shown in the photo are Carolyn Skeels, Larry Foos, Dianna Lawrence and Shonda Johnson.

# 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

## April

### 22-24 Cedar Hill shines at Earth Day Texas

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fair Park, near downtown Dallas

The City's "Growing Green" programs and the natural beauty of Cedar Hill will shine at this state-wide, 3-day event. Several City Departments are involved as well as Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center and Cedar Hill State Park. Together, they are showcasing wonderful facets of our community.

### 23 Remarket

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Houston St. @ Texas St. Downtown

The City of Cedar Hill and the Cedar Hill Arts Council present Downtown ReMarket, held every 4th Saturday of the month, April - May, in Historic Downtown. This community market features fresh produce, local art and crafts, a flea market, eco-friendly goods, and more! More vendors welcome, complete the form at [chartstx.org/remarket.html](http://chartstx.org/remarket.html).

### 26 Birding by Boat

9-11 a.m. Cedar Hill State Park in cooperation with Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center

Expand your perspective with this unique opportunity to view birds from the water. For information, visit [dogwoodcanyon.audubon.org](http://dogwoodcanyon.audubon.org).

### 28 Town Hall Meeting, Zone 2

6 p.m., Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset

This year Town Hall meetings are even more fun. This is the second of three meetings set up by your City Council to meet with residents in an informal environment. Zone 2 includes neighborhoods south of Belt Line and east of Hwy. 67. This meeting will be outdoors with hot dogs and time to visit with elected officials and City staff members. Activities will be available to keep children safely occupied. For more information please visit [cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings](http://cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings).

### 30 Drug Disposal

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Walgreens, 501 E. Belt Line Road

Cedar Hill Police and IMPACT Cedar Hill will safely collect unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications for disposal. No questions asked. Please, no inhalers or injection supplies.

## May

### 7 City Council Election

7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Vote at the Government Center, 285 Uptown

This Joint Election is coordinated by Dallas County. This year only the City Council seat for Place 2 is contested. Incumbent Wallace Swayze is challenged by Shenita Cleveland. None of the CHISD Board positions have challengers this year. For other voting locations visit [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org).



### 21 Head for the Hills Bike Rally

Hillside Village, north parking, enter from Pleasant Run

This is the tenth annual Head for the Hills Rally and it keeps getting better. This year there are 20, 40 and 60-mile courses. For more fun visit Historic Downtown Cedar Hill on the Friday night before, May 20) for two free events, open to everyone, including "Rock the Square" live music concert and "Cinema on the Square" featuring an outdoor showing of a classic film musical.

Register at [headforthehills.org](http://headforthehills.org).

### 26 Town Hall Meeting, Zone 3

6 p.m., Crawford Park, 401 Straus Rd.

This year Town Hall meetings are even more fun. This is the last of three meetings set up by your City Council so they can meet with residents in a more informal environment. Zone 3 includes neighborhoods south of FM 1382 and west of Hwy. 67. This year's meetings will be held outdoors with hot dogs and opportunities to visit with elected officials and City staff members. Activities will be available to keep children safely occupied. For more information please visit [cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings](http://cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings).

# Drug disposal box open in Police lobby



Thanks to grant funding from drug and alcohol abuse organizations, residents can now dispose of unused and expired medications any time, any day, in Cedar Hill.

The police lobby now has a MedReturn Drug Collection Unit that provides a secure place for safe disposal of drugs.

The City still supports Drug Takeback

Cutting the ribbon on the drug collection unit in the Police Lobby are Adam Philyaw, Cedar Hill PD Sgt. Victor Vasquez, Asst. City Manager Melissa Valadez-Cummings, Stacy Davis and Lance Koppa.

events, like the ones at Walgreens, but this location is available for smaller quantities at any time.

Securing the funding for this collection box was a matter of cooperation between drug abuse prevention groups and the City of Cedar Hill.

## Neighborhood love *From page 1*

school started in the fall, I was selected as a cheerleader and loved it.

**What's been the biggest change over the years?** The population has increased a little, we used to know everyone in town. People took care of each other. It still has that same small town feeling today.

**In one word, how would you describe Cedar Hill?** Supportive. Anytime I ask my neighbors if they can come and help me, they stop and come over with no questions asked. We are a family; sometimes you have weird family members, but still a family. We love our city family; they take care of us, it's comforting.

Though retired from her service to the community, Traphene continues her passion for storytelling to audiences throughout the DFW metroplex.

## What can be disposed?

The lobby unit will accept prescriptions, patches, ointments, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, samples and pet medications.

## What's not allowed

Hydrogen peroxide, thermometers, inhalers, needles, medication from businesses or clinics, aerosol cans, non-prescription ointments/lotions/liquids.



**For the latest...**

Keep up with Cedar Hill on social media:

- [twitter.com/CedarHillTX](https://twitter.com/CedarHillTX)
- [facebook.com/CityofCedarHill](https://facebook.com/CityofCedarHill)
- Find our website at [cedarhilltx.com](http://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

Communications 469.272.2903

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



**Every 4th Saturday, March-May  
from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Houston St. @ Texas St.

Eco-friendly goods, flea market,  
local art, fresh produce & crafts.  
Visit [chartstx.org/remarket](http://chartstx.org/remarket).

## 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/](http://cedarhilltx.com/)

2145/DFW-Best-Neighborhoods-per-DMN

CEDAR HILL

# HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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