

June 2016



HIGHLIGHTS



City recognized as 'StormReady'

Cedar Hill has earned 'StormReady' status for our emergency operations readiness, related to weather awareness and our notification systems.

Severe thunderstorms with associated lightning, high winds, flooding rain and tornadoes can occur any time of year in our area, but are most common

during the spring and summer months.

Cedar Hill Fire Chief John Ballard, who serves as our community's Emergency Services Director, said, "No community is storm proof, but StormReady preparations can help protect from the impacts of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness."

The criteria to qualify as a Storm-Ready community include:

- Establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center, including redundant communications systems to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public.

- Promoting public readiness through community seminars, and developing a formal hazardous weather plan which includes severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Cedar Hill and local communities cooperate through Regional Emergency Management Operations Coordinator, Tonya Hunter, to gather and distribute severe weather data from the National Weather Service, our spotters and those in communities beyond our borders.

Whenever threatening weather approaches, day or night, the City of Cedar Hill stands up the Emergency Operations Center, in the lowest level of the

Continues on page 2



Each year, Americans cope with an average of 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and 1,000 tornadoes. Communities now rely on the National Weather Service's **StormReady®** program to help them be prepared and stay informed about severe, developing weather.

Survey Says!

In the recent city-wide survey, residents' satisfaction with customer service received from City employees was 20% above regional and national averages.

Visit cedarhilltx.com/2208/ for complete survey results.

You are your neighborhood

Michelle Ebanks

Neighborhood Service Coordinator

Are you new to Cedar Hill or to a different neighborhood in the city? There are several ways to get involved and love your neighborhood.

Cedar Hill is a community based on relationships. It starts with neighbors and grows into support for our community values. Getting to know your neighbors will enrich your life as you share experiences.

Your neighborhood might already be a part of a Homeowner's Association (HOA), Public Improvement District (PID), or Crime Watch Group. Cedar Hill has 63 vibrant and active neighborhoods currently registered.

Being an organized group with a voice in the neighborhood is a great start to seeing improvement in your neighborhood. Neighbors create synergy and that "neighborhood" feel that can often set an example for others.

Being organized will also give your neighborhood a clear, organized way to improve two-way communication

Continues on page 2



StormReady From page 1

Government Center, and staffs it with emergency-operations trained representatives of Fire, EMS, Police, Communication and Cedar Hill Independent School District representatives.

City employee storm spotters are assigned to strategic locations at the borders of our community to watch weather developments. This information is added to radar information to give us the best understanding of our local weather situation.

Spotters have been activated for over 20 years and have included Shawn Ray and Clifton Felts in Parks, Horace Hughes and Mike Farr in Public Works, Terry Jenotte in Police and current Fire Chief John Ballard as well as our current City Manager, Greg Porter.

After a storm, each spotter surveys a section of town, driving main roads to check for downed power lines, tree limbs or other traffic impediments to get them removed. They also check traffic signals.

Be weather aware, check local radio and TV for weather forecasts and especially when severe weather is near.

Don't depend on outdoor sirens for warnings. Sign up for Cedar Hill's severe weather alerts on your phone, by text or email at <https://tx-cedarhill.civicready.com>.

Consider getting a NOAA weather radio with a tone to wake you in case of a weather alert: nws.noaa.gov/hwr.

Download one or more of the following smart phone apps from local TV stations and set them notify you in the event of dangerous weather:
FOX 4 - fox4news.com/weather
NBC 5 - nbcdfw.com/mobile
WFAA 8 - wfaa.com/weather
CBS 11 - weather.dfw.cbslocal.com

For more information about how to prepare for severe weather visit <https://tx-cedarhill.civicready.com>. You can register there to receive City alerts by phone call, email or text message.

Neighborhood know-it-all

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



How much does it cost to water your lawn?

If you don't know the answer, it starts with checking your water usage online. You can use <https://www.cedarhill.gwfathom.com> to see exactly how much your water bill increases on days when you water.

But that's only part of what you need to know. How much water does your lawn need? It can vary a lot based on grass species. You can ask your lawn

care specialists or find out online. Adjust your system or your sprinkling habits accordingly.

And finally, you need to know how much moisture nature is providing. For most lawn irrigation system soil moisture sensor kits are an easy add-on to measure moisture at the root zone. They will allow your irrigation system to run only when needed.

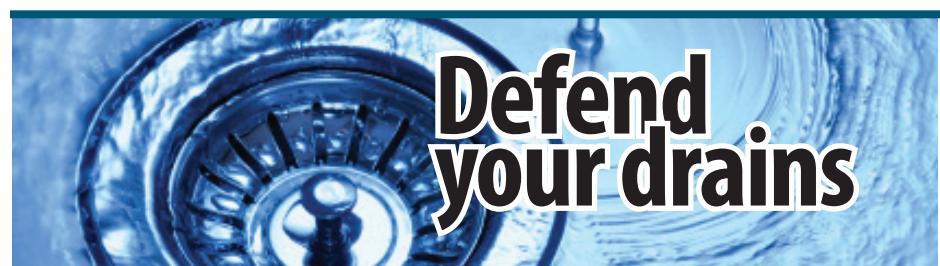
Neighborhood From page 1

between city government and your neighbors.

We would love the opportunity to help get your neighborhood association started or elevated if already in place.

There are many benefits available to organized neighborhood organiza-

tions such as free printing and postage, neighborhood matching grant funds, neighborhood awards (money awarded), a neighborhood website and much more. Learn more at cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood.



Defend your drains

Many things don't belong in your sink, bathtub or toilet drains. Things like wipes, dental floss, medicines, cleaning products and paint.

Putting anything that won't dissolve in water down your drain can clog your pipes and cost you a big plumbing bill.

Wipes, paper towels, Q-tips, personal hygiene care items and hypodermic needles won't break down and they can tangle and clump together. This can clog pipes and cause sewage to back up into your home or others'. Safely dispose of these items in the trash.

Fats, oils and grease can cause clogs because when they cool they become almost solid and can block your sewer

line. Pour them into a safe container, let cool and dispose in the trash.

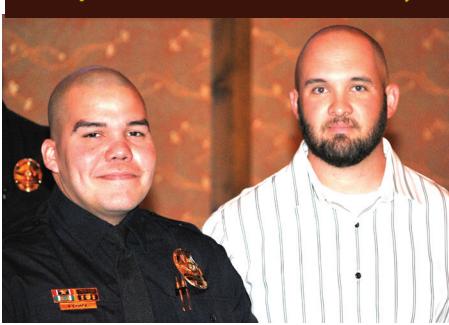
Putting medicines, paint and chemicals down the drain can damage your pipes, and negatively impact our water quality.

Unneeded medication can be dropped in the drug disposal unit in the lobby of the Police Station at the north entrance to the Government Center. It is open 24/7. No questions asked.

Chemicals and paint can be disposed at the twice-a-year Household Hazardous Waste events in the High School parking lot. Watch the city website at cedarhilltx.com for dates.

You know your toilet is not a trash can, flush wisely.

People make it a community



Above: Cedar Hill police officers Isai Chapa and Andrew Rhoden were honored at a recent City Council meeting. After a man's leg was severed in an auto accident, their quick action, applying a tourniquet, saved his life.



Above: City Council Member Steve Mason read the City's proclamation for National Police Week in May and presented it to Honor Guard Officer Chad Cooley.



Above: Hundreds of neighbors turned out for three Town Hall meetings this spring, where they visited with City Council members and City staffers in three different parks.



Susan McNabb was honored by Elaine Cook, with Friends of the Library, for 20 years of volunteer service to the library and the people of our community.

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.



June

Music in the Park Concert Series (every Friday in June)

8:00 p.m. , Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater, 2580 Park Ridge Drive

Live music in Cedar Hill's beautiful amphitheater every Friday in June. Sample the offerings of food vendors or bring your own. Lawn chairs, blankets recommended. No alcohol, glass containers or smoking in the park. Bring the family, invite your neighbors for an evening of outdoorable fun and music.

Summer Camps for Kids in Cedar Hill

CHAT Summer Camp at Cedar Hill Recreation Center

Engage your kids in reading, sports, art and field trips. Ages 5-13. Weekly rates begin at \$90, early and late pick up available. Sessions end August 19. Register in person at Alan E. Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville.

Camp Cedar Hill at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center

Your youngster gets lunch, field trips, a T-shirt, programming and adventure starting at \$120 a week. Weekly programs run through July 29. Register on site at 1206 W. FM 1382.

Summer Fun Youth Camps at Cedar Valley College in Cedar Hill

Weekly sessions for students age 8-17 include App Attack, Code Breakers, Inspiring Young Entrepreneurs, Young Entrepreneurs Dishing Out Business and more. Tuition runs between \$50 and \$125 per week. To register call 972.860.0816 or visit cedarvalleycollege.edu. The campus is at 207 N. Cannady in Cedar Hill.

Dog Day Sundays (Every Sunday from now on)

9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. , Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center

Enjoy the beautiful, natural trails every Sunday with your furry friend. Please follow basic rules: use a leash, clean up your mess, and have fun! For more information, call 469.526.1980.

Summer Continuing Education at Cedar Valley College@Cedar Hill

Evening classes starting in July

Add to your skill set with classes in MS Word, Quickbooks, Building an Online Business, Office Skills Training and Grant Writing. For information visit cedarvalleycollege.edu/ContinuingEducation/

July

1-3 Love Your City Theater presents "Mary Poppins" The Broadway Musical

Friday, July 1 at 7 p.m.; Saturday July 2 at 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday, July 3 at 5 p.m.

Trinity Church, 1231 E. Pleasant Run Road

Enjoy live musical theater at one of four performances. Admission is only \$10, or \$20 for VIP seating. Call 469.454.8456 for information or visit loveyourcitytheater.com.

4 Red, White & Pool

1-5:45 p.m. , Crawford Park Pool, 401 Straus

Family-friendly competitions and games will allow the whole family to participate.

4 Independence Day - City closings

In observance of Independence Day, July 4, City offices will be closed. The Cedar Hill Recreation Center will be open reduced hours, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Library, Senior Center and Animal Shelter will be closed Monday, July 4. Trash and Recycling schedules remain the same.

cedarhilltx.com/calendar



Time with nature can make you smarter

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center staff partnered with Cedar Hill ISD educators on a study to determine if hands-on science programs at the nature center could impact state test scores.

Students go on field trips every week in North Texas. Many come to Cedar Hill's Dogwood Canyon. The Center staff wanted to see just how well their custom Eco Investigations programs impact student achievement.

Based on benchmark test results for CHISD students, Dogwood Canyon adjusted its standard program to address areas where students need to improve in science.

Custom Eco Investigation programs provided hands-on, powerful learning experiences on food chains and food webs.

Students who were in the program at the nature center, **outperformed nonparticipants by 20% or more on six eco-science questions on the state's STAAR test.** That's a remarkable increase.

In Texas, no other study on outdoor science programming has ever been linked to state testing improvement.

"We are so pleased to partner with Dogwood Canyon to bring these exceptional hands-on learning experiences to our students," said CHISD Superintendent Orland Riddick. He adds, "It really

is amazing to watch the teaching and learning that happens in our classrooms connect to the real world investigation and discovery opportunities for our students at the Audubon Center."

Dogwood Canyon's Director, Haily Summerford, commented, "I see students connect with nature almost every day. You see the excitement on their faces! This study demonstrates what we suspected all along, our programs do make a difference in the classroom and on standardized tests."

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center provides custom Eco Investigation programs for several school districts. For additional information, contact Haily Summerford at 469-526-1990 or hsummerford@audubon.org.

The study was made possible by a donation from Bruce and Billie Ballengee.

Dogwood Canyon is only 16 miles from Downtown Dallas and is open daily. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. It includes a 6,000 sq. ft. Learning Center and several easy-to-navigate hiking trails.

This unique, natural space is part of a 6,000 acre green space that includes CH State Park, and adjacent preserves. Cedar Hill has pledged to set aside 20% of its land area for natural open space and parks.

This is another in a series of articles about the benefits of Cedar Hill's natural beauty. — Corky Brown

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 your family's phones at <https://tx-cedarhill.civicready.com>



- **Apply repellent with DEET**
- **Wear long sleeves**
- **Eliminate standing water or treat with dunks, free to residents at the 2nd floor counter in the Government Center.**

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/2145/DFW-Best-Neighborhoods-per-DMN

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



HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

Corky Brown, CPC
Communications Manager
corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com