

September 2016



HIGHLIGHTS

CEDAR HILL

City delivers high value for your tax dollar

Cedar Hill's property tax rate stays the same for the fourth year in a row at \$0.69876 per \$100 of valuation, as presented to the City Council in August. Additional public hearings on the budget were held on Aug. 23 and Sept. 6.

Property values are assessed independently by Dallas and Ellis Central Appraisal Districts. Your property value may have increased as much as 9.7% since your last appraisal, so your tax bill may increase.

A look at a resident's property tax bill shows that the City portion is less than one fourth of the total; the other three fourths support Dallas County Districts and the Cedar Hill Independent School District.

Using only 24% of your total tax bill, the City provides many services you depend on daily: street maintenance, traffic signals and signage, storm drainage, police response and patrolling, fire protection, emergency medical services and transport, code enforcement, amazing parks and trail systems, animal control, maintenance of City right-of-ways including mowing and landscaping, library services, neighborhood services, building inspections, this newsletter and more.

For all of these valuable services, an average household pays only \$2.85 per day. Where else can



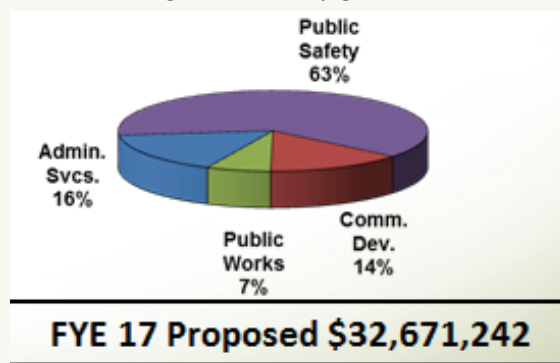
you get emergency police, fire and medical assistance in six minutes?

City of Cedar Hill services are a great value. Not only do residents receive award-winning services, they get them at a low rate. Cedar Hill's property tax rate of \$0.69876 per \$100 of property valuation is the lowest among cities of our size in this area.

Your input to the City Council influences the budget.

The City Council holds several town hall meetings during the year seeking direction from the residents.

We encourage residents to



attend meetings of the City Council, the City's boards and commissions, Public Improvement District meetings, neighborhood association and watch groups meeting to become engaged in the community and to share your comments.

You can email City Council members from links at: cedarhilltx.com/68/City-Council.

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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/

2145/DFW-Best-Neighborhoods-per-DMN

Sept. 28 is National Good Neighbor Day

Here's a word from one of our neighbors, Mayor Rob Franke.

"National Good Neighbor Day is a day to appreciate our neighbors by doing a little something special.

Being a good neighbor is an important aspect of our community's character and contributes to what makes our city premier!

As the old saying goes, "good fences make good neighbors." So, what does that say about our Cedar Hill approach to community? I think "good fences" means knowing the right boundaries while seeking stronger relationships despite the fences we build.

We have seen neighbors that truly care about each other; they share family time, help each other, share meals, and are there for each other in good times and

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City delivers From page 1

The recent community survey (see cedarhilltx.com/2208/Survey-2016) showed that residents feel very good about City services.

You can view the entire City budget at cedarhilltx.com/FY2017budget, as proposed to the City Council in August and for approval on September 13.



Mary Wash welcomes clients searching for a full-service getaway spa experience

New salon/spa brings lavish 'chill' downtown

Erica Molett, Cedar Hill's Business Retention Manager, brought to our attention a new downtown business, Lavish Retreat Salon & Spa. Located at 231 Texas St., in a beautifully renovated home, the facility gives a real sense of escape.

Owner, and driving force, Mary Wash had dreamed of opening a business in historic downtown for a while. "I just love vintage things and places," she said. "My goal is to deliver a destination experience that will serve residents and attract people from out of town," she added.

She plans to reach out and serve the community, getting involved with schools, non-profits and other downtown businesses.

With plenty of well-appointed space, Lavish Retreat offers a full range of relaxing treatments, including massages, hair care, facials and more. Be sure to ask about their special events.

Learn more by visiting lavishretreat-salonandspa.com and call 469.526.3444 to speak to a representative.

67 expansion starts in 2017

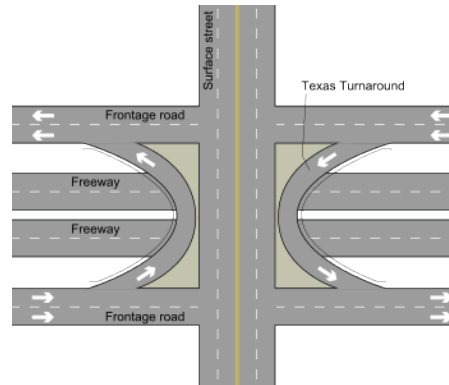
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is planning a public hearing in November so residents can learn all the details and give input related to the expansion of Hwy. 67 from I-20 to Belt Line Road in Cedar Hill. Watch the calendars on cedarhilltx.com for meeting details.

At an August meeting in Cedar Hill, TxDOT officials told about 80 residents from area communities that the project could begin construction as early as next summer.

Ashton Strong, the TxDOT project manager, said current plans for the \$50 million project do not include any toll or managed lanes.

She said the improvements will increase capacity, improve access to businesses along Hwy. 67 and reduce congestion at major intersections.

The main roadway will be expanded from 2 lanes to 3 lanes in each direction. Additional turn lanes will be added to access roads at selected intersections. At Belt Line and FM 1382 crossings, Texas U-turns will be added to allow vehicles to make a U-turn before entering the intersection.



U-turn lanes allow drivers to reverse direction without entering the intersection. These are planned for Hwy. 67 at Belt Line and FM 1382

Completion of the expansion is predicted to be in the Summer of 2019.

Cedar Hill's Mayor Rob Franke said this project is one of the highest priorities in this TxDOT region. By separating it from other improvements scheduled for I-35 from downtown Dallas to I-20 it was possible to expedite this project.

Good Neighbor From page 1

during life's challenges. These neighbors make for stronger communities, safer neighborhoods, and a sense of hometown.

We have also seen the flip side, neighbors who argue, blame each other for problems, and would rather call the city to resolve differences than talk directly to each other.

As we celebrate National Good Neighbor Day, please consider your own neighborly attitude. Do you focus on the fence or neighbor? Do you share our Cedar Hill core values of people and relationships or do you seek taller fences?

My hope and prayer for Cedar Hill is that we all consider people and relationships to be more important than good fences. I hope we take this time to reach over the fence and build stronger community connections and a culture of caring for each other as much as we care for ourselves!"

National Good Neighbor Day was instituted in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter who said "As our nation struggles to build friendships among the peoples of this world, we are mindful that the noblest concern is concern for others. Understanding, love and respect build cohesive families and communities. For most of us, this sense of community is nurtured and expressed in our neighborhoods where we give each other an opportunity to share and feel part of a larger family.

How to Celebrate?

- Smile and say hello.
- Make an effort to get to know a new neighbor – have them over for coffee.
- Bake cookies and share them with your neighbors.
- Offer to do something helpful for a neighbor in need.
- Organize a block party.
- Roll your neighbor's trash bin back to their house.

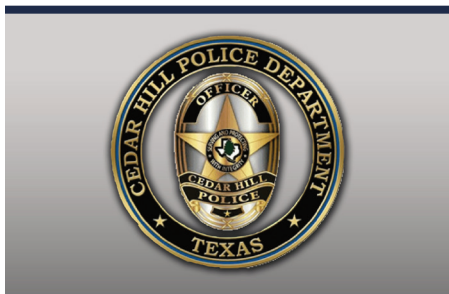
National Good Neighbor Day will kick off with a proclamation at a City Council meeting Sept. 27, and continue with a full day celebration at the Government Center in the lobby on Wednesday, Sept. 28th.

Why not use National Good Neighbor Day as an opportunity to lend a proverbial cup of sugar and get to know the people who live nearby?

People make it a community

ADOPT CEDAR HILL

Show how much you care about your community by adopting a park, trail, or street today! Adopt Cedar Hill encourages families, neighborhoods, civic groups and businesses to get involved in the preservation and enhancement of the City parks system and right-of-ways. Participation contributes to the quality of life enjoyed by residents and provides a foundation to foster ongoing economic and commercial development of the community. For more information, visit cedarhilltx.com/ADOPT.



Executive staff of the Cedar Hill Police Department presented the 2015 Annual Report to the City Council in August. By any measure, our police officers, the volunteers who work with them and all community members who watch out for each other are doing amazing things.

Here are some of the highlighted statistics:

In the past 5 years the Crime Index Rate has decreased 12.7%.

In just the last year:

Number of burglaries dropped 29.2%

Number of aggravated assaults dropped 21.6%

Crimes against persons reduced 10.9%

Overall crime clearance rate is up to 40.9% (which is nearly double the state rate)

Citizens on Patrol, volunteers who have completed the Citizen Police Academy, and additional training, increased their patrol hours by 17%.

Our police department is receiving local, regional, state and national recognition for the programs they have introduced and the relationships they are building in the community.

This recognition has helped our police participate in innovative programs to better serve and protect our community.

Learn more about our police department and find useful information on their web page at cedarhilltx.com/police. Follow them on facebook. [com/cedarhilltxpolice](https://www.facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice).

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.



September

17 E-Waste Recycling and Paper Shredding Event

8 a.m. - Noon, Cedar Hill High School parking lot, 1 Longhorn Blvd

Recycle your old electronic gear for free and keep it out of the landfill. Just drive through this event and your stuff will be unloaded for you. Paper shredding is done on-site. This is for residential use only, proof of residency required.

20 Taste of Cedar Hill & Business Expo

5 p.m. - 8 p.m., Alan E. Sims Cedar Hill Recreation Center

The 15th Annual "Taste" will have over 60 vendors in the 54,000 sq. ft. space. Get a great vision of Cedar Hill businesses and dining establishments in one location. For more information, please contact Alysa Hunter at the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, 972.291.7817.

22 North Texas Giving Day

6 a.m. - Midnight, Online at NorthTexasGivingDay.org

North Texas Giving Day is an online giving event for people across the nation (and the world!) to come together to raise as much money as possible for North Texas non-profits on one day. Search for Cedar Hill non-profit programs at the link above, and please, consider supporting those who support our community and those who most need assistance.

24 Household Hazardous Waste Event

9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Cedar Hill High School parking lot, 1 Longhorn Blvd

A great, safe way to dispose of old chemicals, fertilizer, auto fluids, paint, pesticides, pool chemicals and cleaning liquids. See the list of what to bring and what not to bring at cedarhilltx.com/hhw.

October

4 National Night Out

Tuesday, Oct. 4, locations throughout the City.

Get the latest information about events in neighborhoods and joint events in other community venues on the City website at cedarhilltx.com/1619/National-Night-Out.

8 Country Day on the Hill

9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Historic Downtown Cedar Hill

Celebrate our community's past, present and bright future at an all-day fun festival with live music, exhibits, booths, and fair food! Learn more at cedarhilltx.com/1026/Country-Day-on-the-Hill.

10 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

6:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.

Celebrate with bilingual storytelling, crafts and more at this family-fun night.

29 Micro A-Kon Anime Fest

10:30 a.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.

Enjoy a lot of the same things you can do and get at A-Kon, like cosplay, games and special guests. Enjoy a fun day of anime and more.

31 Scare on the Square

6 - 8 p.m., Historic Downtown

Bring the whole family to our annual Scare event. There will be a costume parade, trunk-or-treat, entertainment and more Halloween fun. Visit cedarhilltx.com/scare for more info.

cedarhilltx.com/calendar

REMARKET DOWNTOWN CEDAR HILL

Open air market open Sept. 24

This community market features local vendors, fresh produce, arts and crafts, food, live music, and more! It's held on the 4th Saturday of the month 10 a.m.-3 p.m., September-November, in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill. For more info visit cedarhilltx.com/remarket.



We're still not out of the woods

All summer, Dallas County has been monitoring mosquito collection units placed throughout the city. If an infected mosquito is detected, the County will spray the zone where the mosquito was trapped. The City sends messages by phone, text message and email to alert residents to spraying.

For a map showing the collection/spraying zones, and more information about spraying procedures and avoiding West Nile Virus, visit cedarhilltx.com/wnv.

We encourage residents to sign up to receive messages from the City about ground spraying and other important community information at <https://tx-cedarhill.civiready.com/Subscriptions>.

Under "Alert Type" we recommend you at least sign up for all 4 levels and under "Notification List" sign up for "Community Messages." Those are the local messages generated by the City. The messaging lower on that page comes from state and national alert sources.

Remember to:

- **Apply repellent with DEET**
- **Wear long sleeves**
- **Avoid being outdoors around dawn and sundown, when mosquitoes are most active.**
- **Eliminate standing water or treat with dunks, free to residents at the 2nd floor counter in the Cedar Hill Government Center.**

Government Center to host early voting



Times change, but your vote is always important

The Cedar Hill Government Center will host **Early Voting** for the November election on:

Oct. 24-28 from 8 am to 5 pm

Oct. 29 from 7 am to 7 pm

Oct. 30 from 1-6 pm

Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 from 7 am to 7 pm

Volunteer your video to help solve crimes

CHPD invites residents to register their exterior security cameras to help reduce neighborhood crime.

The Community Camera Registration Program gives residents an opportunity to partner with the police department to allow for a quick reference of locations where video evidence may be available following a crime.

The CCRP is voluntary and does not provide police access to privately-owned security camera systems.

The program is designed to speed up identification of valuable evidence in cases where, previously, door-to-door canvassing was necessary to find out where camera systems were located.

To register for this voluntary program, please contact Officer Ann McSwain at 972.291.5181 x 2511.

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

CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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