

October 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council focuses on neighborhoods

In September, the City Council and City staff met in a workshop to focus on the Neighborhood Engagement Plan. The City Council's engagement priorities are to strengthen neighborhoods, expand the City's relationship with neighborhoods and residents, maximize neighborhood vitality and instill the importance of community involvement.

They identified engagement and revitalization as needed elements for better neighborhoods.

Residents' perception of their city starts with the perception of their neighborhood.

Action on these priorities began with the City's participation in Country Day on the Hill and will continue at special events throughout the year. Plans are being formulated for Town Hall-type meetings where City Council members will be able to directly communicate with neighborhood residents.

City Council Members want residents to understand how important their involvement is to a successful community. They want to work with residents, sharing available resources and asking specific questions about how partnerships can be developed to improve the community.

Residents are encouraged to watch for upcoming meeting information in this newsletter and on the City website at cedarhilltx.com. Joining your neighborhood group is a great way to get involved and help make improvements.

WNV season not yet over

Dallas County health officials report that this year's human infection rates for West Nile Virus (WNV) have been substantially lower than last year. But they caution that the season is not yet over.

As long as there are mosquitoes in the environment, there can be transmission of WNV.

Authorities credit several factors for lower infection rates this year. More effective communication about WNV by Dallas County and city officials has increased awareness of how to avoid being bitten and mosquito abatement programs have been more aggressive, with spraying starting with the first positive tests from mosquito collection traps.

Officials warn residents to continue taking measures to control mosquito populations and avoid getting bitten using the 4D defense plan.



Drain

Remove breeding sites on your property. Drain standing water.

Dress

Wear long-sleeve, loose and lightly-colored clothing when outside.

DEET

Use repellents with DEET or other FDA approved repellents and follow instructions.

Dusk to dawn

Be aware that mosquitoes are most active from just before sunset until just after sunrise.

Stay informed

- Register your phones at cedarhilltx.com/connect

- Check the City website daily cedarhilltx.com
- Follow the City on Facebook: City of Cedar Hill, Texas - Government

- Report standing water, send email to pw@cedarhilltx.com

Register for WNV updates

Scan this code with your smartphone using any QR code reader app. It will

take you to a page to register your family's phones to receive phone calls from the City if spraying for mosquitoes is scheduled for your street.



City Council from page 1

The City is already working with 68 neighborhood organizations, 22 crime watch groups, and two public improvement districts. Based on the number of neighborhood groups, Cedar Hill has more involvement than neighboring cities.

Neighborhood Services recognizes premier neighborhoods, provides postage and printing programs, matching grant funds totaling \$8,500 a year, and online web pages with calendars and special events for neighborhood groups.

The Neighborhood Advisory Board provides organizational advice.

Neighborhoods are served by Code Enforcement staff who coordinate cleanup events citywide, present yard-of-the-month awards, educate neighbors about property maintenance standards at neighborhood meetings.

They also coordinate Hazardous Household Waste disposal and E-waste/paper shredding events twice a year.

Police and fire departments also have a number of community relations programs.

More on this topic in the next Highlights.

ELF & Friends helping again this holiday season

EMS, Law Enforcement, Firefighters or ELF & Friends is a non-profit organization operated by the Cedar Hill Fire & Police Associations. They help provide Christmas for about 200 children and senior citizens of Cedar Hill. ELF Trees, containing tags with individual needs, will be at Wal*Mart, Fire Station #211 (1212 W. Belt Line Rd.), Police Department (285 Uptown Blvd. #200) and Zula B. Wylie Library (225 Cedar St.).

Application process

Applications to receive assistance from ELF & Friends will be taken at the Grady Lamb Community Services Building, 601 E. Belt Line Rd. Saturdays only, from 10 am until 1 pm, beginning October 19 and ending November 23. Applications will not be available at any other location.

Putting a friendly face on government

When you enter the Government Center you are immediately greeted with a friendly "Hello" or "How can I help you" from a woman behind the information desk. Who is that woman?

In August, **Jean Dyer** celebrated her 15-year anniversary as a city employee.



Jean Dyer

She first worked as a Building Inspection Assistant for five years. She then became Economic Development's Assistant. She was promoted to Executive Assistant and worked directly under the department's director.

When City management started looking for someone to be the face of the City in the Government Center lob-

by, they did not want just anybody; it had to be someone who knows Cedar Hill and all of its departments and the community. Someone mentioned Jean and they knew she was the perfect person for that role.

In March of 2012 she started her new position as Customer Service Representative Specialist at the front desk.

City Manager Alan Sims told Jean, "You know, your husband is the best high school basketball coach (Desoto HS) and Jean, you are the best Customer Service Representative for the City of Cedar Hill."

The front desk has changed her as a person from day one. Not long after starting she encountered her first unusual request. Two young adults, freshly graduated from high school, had been kicked out of their house as a lesson of tough love. They came in and asked Dyer for help. For a quick minute her mind went blank but from her past jobs she knew how to handle the situation. "Each job prepared me for the next," said Dyer.

So the next time you enter the Government Center and hear someone saying "Hello" or "How can I help you" you know she genuinely means it.

No parking within 25 ft. of an alley entrance

The City Council recently amended the ordinance related to parking within the City. To help maintain clear access and sight lines when



entering or exiting alleys, the ordinance prohibits parking within 25 feet of the entrance of an alley.

This ordinance takes effect immediately.

The entire ordinance is available at <http://www.cedarhilltx.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=885>.

Contact number:

Call 972-293-5284, extension 2501. If you leave a message, include name and phone number, and please speak clearly, an ELF will return the call.

People make it a community



5 year-old Elijah and 2 year-old Mathias Hurst decided to clean out all the plastic bottles left in dugouts after a day of games at the baseball fields at Valley Ridge Park. Dad, John, said they probably spent an hour doing this. Here, they are feeding bottles to one of the "Big Belly" solar-powered compacting recycling bins at the park.

City Council Meetings

Are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, except for November and December which have only one meeting. For the full schedule of meetings and more information visit cedarhilltx.com/citycouncilmeeting.



Join the Cedar Hill Community Band

Call Donald Stockard at 214.542.8529 or email cedarhillcommunityband@yahoo.com

Saturday litter collection

Meet at the Government Center every Saturday at 9 a.m. to help keep Cedar Hill clean by collecting litter in all parts of the city. This program is supported by Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful and coordinated by Don Hughes. To confirm, if weather is iffy, please call him at 972.765.4285.

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.



OCTOBER

18 War Dog Monument Gala sponsored by Cedar Hill Pet Cemetery

6 - 9 p.m. Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

Tickets are \$25 per person, visit cedarhillpetcemetery.org for ordering information, or call 800.818.8251.

22 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, 7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting
Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.

26 Scare on the Square

3 p.m. Historic Downtown Cedar Hill

Frightful fun begins in the yard at 110 S. Broad St with creepy tales by master storytellers, then trick-or-treat at participating downtown merchants. This event is free for children accompanied by a parent or guardian.

26 Hazardous Household Waste Event

9 - 11 a.m. High School parking lot

Free disposal of dangerous chemicals, pesticides, paint, auto fluids etc. Residents only. For info visit cedarhilltx.com/HHW

26 Lake Ridge Charity Golf Tournament

7:30 Registration, 8:30 a.m. Shotgun start, Tangle Ridge Golf Course
Benefits local charities, this year including Operation Finally Home.
Call 972.965.7994 for registration information.

NOVEMBER

1 Dia de los Muertos

6 - 8 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Music, stories, treats and more, celebrating the Day of the Dead. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313

9 Dallas/fort Worth Walk to Defeat ALS (1K & 5K)

9:30 a.m. check in starts, 11 a.m. walk starts, Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Dr.

Help raise funds for patient care and research. It's an opportunity to bring hope to ALS patients and to join friends to fight for something you care about. Call 972.714.0088 or register at http://web.alsa.org/site/TR?fr_id=9250&pg=entry#.UkCU5LwYdQJ

9 E-Waste and Paper Shredding event

8 a.m. - noon Cedar Hill High School parking lot. for full information visit cedarhilltx.com/e-waste



CEDAR HILL



cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home

State law

Photo ID now required to vote in Texas

Dallas County Elections Administrator, Toni Pippins-Poole reminds voters that photo identification will now be required for voting in person.

"In Dallas we are working to make sure our voters understand the new ID requirements and have all the information they need to cast their ballots," said Pippins-Poole.

Accepted forms of ID

A voter will be required to show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location before the voter will be permitted to cast a vote:

Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS (EIC)

Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS

Texas Concealed Handgun License issued by DPS

U.S. Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph

United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph

United States Passport

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, the identification must be current or have expired within 60 days of voting.

This photo ID requirement is for voters casting a ballot in person, not by mail. Voters age 65 and older may vote by mail.

Nextdoor helps you keep up with your neighborhood

Nextdoor is the private social network for you and your neighborhood. It helps neighbors keep in touch.

Many Cedar Hill neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor's secure online tool to get the word out about meetings, watch groups, finding trustworthy service providers and more.

Sgt. Victor Vasquez with the Cedar Hill Police Department provides crime prevention tips to neighborhoods via Nextdoor.

Check it out at Nextdoor.com. Your neighbors may already be there.

Similar name notification

Election officials are encouraging voters to update their voter registrations to reflect the names on their IDs. Voters may use IDs that do not exactly match the name on their Voter Registration Certificate if the names are substantially similar but will have to sign an affidavit stating they are the same person. Voters may look up their registration at <http://vote-texas.gov/register-to-vote/> and if it is not an exact match they can also update their voter registration online at that time.

Do it now

"By preparing now, voters can help make sure voting goes smoothly when it comes time for the election," said Pippins-Poole.

The Dallas County Elections office is at 2377 N. Stemmons Frwy. Suite 820 Dallas, TX 75207. The phone is 214.819.6300.

For more information about photo ID requirements including exemptions, visit www.VoteTexas.gov or www.dallascountyvotes.org.

Information on the requirements, exemptions, and the process for obtaining an Election Identification Certificate if you do not have another form of identification can be found at www.DPS.Texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm.



For only \$25 a month, you can have your home or business alarm monitored by the same professional staff that dispatches police and fire crews for the City of Cedar Hill.

Instead of your alarm notifying someone several states away, this system connects directly into our local 9-1-1 call center.

Saving seconds can save lives.

It's only \$25 a month and there is no long-term contract required. For more information contact SWRCC at 972.230.5248.

City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1010

After Hours 972.780.6643

Alarm Monitoring 972.230.5248

Animal Control 972.223.6111

City Secretary 972.291.5100x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100x1090

Economic Development 972.291.5132

Fire Department, non-emergency 972.291.1011

Human Resources 972.291.5100x1050

Library 972.291.7323

Municipal Court 972.291.5100x1041

Neighborhood Services 972.291.5100x1084

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency 972.291.5100x2400

Public Relations 469.272.2903

Public Works 972.291.5126

Recreation Center 972.293.5288

Senior Center 972.291.5353

Tri-City Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

Utility Billing 972.291.5100x1200

Waste Management, Inc.

Trash & Recycling 800.772.8653

UPDATED



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