

October 2016



CEDAR HILL

HIGHLIGHTS

On the road...



to a big finish



Steve Schell, Cedar Hill's project manager for the Mansfield Road gateway project reports that work is progressing well, "slightly ahead of schedule."

He would like to personally thank drivers, neighbors and all impacted by the project for their patience. "And that comes from all the subcontractors, vendors and the like," he said.

Construction began over a year ago, and to date 2.2 miles of the old, two-lane street have been excavated. About 121,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock have been excavated and graded to form the new roadway, sidewalk and hike & bike trail locations.

Underground installation of utilities, water lines and wastewater lines has

been completed and over 120,000 yards of concrete have been poured into forms while generally maintaining traffic with few disruptions or detours.

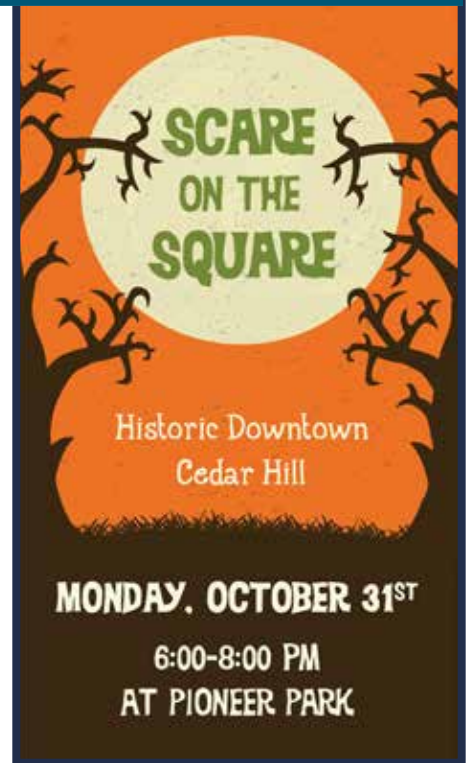
By mid-November, we expect completion of the majority of the west-bound street pavement.

Finishing up this spring

Going into next year we will complete the Mansfield Road at Lake Ridge Parkway intersection improvements, including the new signal light, and City of Cedar Hill gateway branded signage.

Remaining projects include completion of the bridge over Baggett Branch Creek, streetlights in the median, and

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City grants aid neighborhoods

*Michelle Ebanks
Neighborhood Services Coordinator*

The Neighborhood Matching Grant program began in 2005, on recommendations from the City Council.

Under the program, Cedar Hill will match up to \$2,500 for selected neighborhood improvements and up to \$500 for community engagement projects. Last year, over \$8,000 was awarded. The purpose of the program is to provide an incentive for neighborhood associations to undertake beautification projects.

Those beautification projects will result in an improved quality of life for the neighborhood and City of Cedar Hill residents. Projects can range from a
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On the road From page 1

landscaping. Weather permitting, and if all the many moving parts of this project continue to synch like they have, life will return to normal by spring.

You can check progress on the project at cedarhilltx.com/MR.



Looking westbound across the Baggett Branch bridge it's easy to see the generously wide hike & bike lane to the right of the traffic lanes. The Mansfield Road project is adding substantial mileage to the citywide trail system.

Cedar Hill grows greener with another award

The City of Cedar Hill was recently recognized for its comprehensive approach to sustainability at the North Texas Corporate Recycling Association's gR3een Awards.

Cedar Hill's commitment to Growing Green is visible all over our community. The Government Center features conservation projects like solar panels on the roof, a vertical axis wind turbine, two all-electric Nissan Leaf fleet

vehicles, four electric vehicle charging stations, a solar trash compactor and drought-resistant landscaping. Our residents support sustainability efforts by recycling over 500 tons of material annually, keeping it out of landfills. Water conservation has become a priority.

Growing Green includes our City Council's commitment to preserving 20% of our land mass as open space, more than double the national average.

City grants From page 1

simple neighborhood identification sign to major landscaping improvements.

Application for grant projects would be required to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Strengthen and improve neighborhood organizations
- Improve the appearance of City neighborhoods
- Advance inter-neighborhood cooperation

The grant program is open to homeowners' associations, neighborhood associations and crime watch groups. For additional information, please contact Michelle Ebanks, Neighborhood Services at neighborhoods@cedarhilltx.com or 469.272.2801.



Accepting the gR3een Award for Cedar Hill were Gregory Glover, Chairman of the Cedar Hill Beautification & Environmental Sustainability Board and Assistant City Manager Melissa Valadez-Cummings, with Lora Hinchcliff, President of NTCRA.



CHISD Pride in Education

The Cedar Hill Independent School District recently announced that Cedar Hill ISD, as a whole, "Met Standard" for 2015-16, which is Texas Education Agency's highest rating.

Cedar Hill ISD excels in football, graduation rates, college readiness and career prep.

It is the third year in a row that the district has earned the distinction, but the first time since 2013, when a new accountability system went into effect, that all of Cedar Hill ISD's schools also achieved the highest standard.

All of the district's campuses have

"Met Standard" under the Texas Education Agency's accountability system.

Collegiate High 'Best in Texas'

This spring, Cedar Hill Collegiate High School was named among the best high schools in the nation by *Newsweek* for 2016. CHCHS ranked 111th overall in the nation and was the 3rd highest ranking Early College High School in the nation.

When breaking down the national rankings, and looking specifically at schools located in Texas, Collegiate was the #1 ranked Early College High School in the state and ranked #9 overall!

College readiness, graduation rates and state standardized assessments are among the broad range of data *Newsweek* considers to develop their annual high school rankings.

People make it a community



Two members of CHFD's Life and Family Safety clown troupe, **above**, clowned around at a recent City Council meeting for the Fire Department as part of National Preparedness Week.

Left, Fire Chief John Ballard received the Preparedness proclamation from Mayor Pro Tem Steve Mason.

Below, Alumni of the Citizens Fire Academy and Citizens Emergency Response Team members were there backing community readiness.



Above, Friends of the Library and Library staff members joined Director Toni Simmons as she received a proclamation declaring Library Card Sign Up Month in Cedar Hill from City Council member Daniel Haydin. During Citizens Forum, residents spoke about the quality service provided by the library staff and encouraged the Council to support better Library facilities because popular events there are crowded.

October is: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

November is: National Diabetes Awareness Month

December: Better Sleep Month

Having trouble keeping up?

Get the latest calendar events sent directly to your mobile device. Go to cedarhilltx.com/notifyme, enter your email address and scroll down to the Calendars heading, where you can select from a dozen special interest calendars. "Events" is the most popular City calendar, but consider adding others from the list.

CALENDAR

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

cedarhilltx.com/calendar

October

20 Hillside Village Wine Walk

5:00 p.m., Check in at the Village Green, 305 W. FM 1382

Hillside Village is host a free Wine Walk event from 5 pm to 8 pm with complimentary wine and food samplings for guests. Several merchants will have promotions available to Wine Walk participants. More info at shophillsidevillage.com.

22 ReMarket

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Houston St. @ Texas St. Downtown

This outdoor community market features local vendors, fresh produce, arts and crafts, live music, food and more! Held every 4th Saturday of the month, September-November, in Historic Downtown.

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.

29 Christmas in October Craft Fair

10 a.m., Cedar Hill Senior Center, 1740 Mansfield Rd.

Vendors with lots of gifts and gift ideas for everyone on your list.

27 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.

November

2 Dia de Los Muertos Celebration

6 -7:30 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.

Bring the whole family to experience the Day of the Dead holiday with altar offerings, live entertainment, food and more!

5 Ninth Annual Lake Ridge Charity Golf Tournament

7:00 a.m. Registration, Start at 8:30.

Registration is open at lakeridgecharitygolf.org

Proceeds this year will support Bridges Safehouse, Mission Cedar Hill, CHAT, PAWS for Reflection, Lake Ridge Elementary Special Education Program, Cedar Hill Dads, Inc., Children First, Inc., Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op, and Cedar Hill Shares.

17 Mayor's State of the City Address/ Chamber Luncheon

11:30 a.m., Location undetermined at press time, check cedarhillchamber.org.

Mayor Franke will share the story of Cedar Hill, chapter 2015-16, and recognize the progress of our community in many areas over the past year. See how the vision of the past becomes our future as we continue to follow our positive community values, build strong partnerships and support sustainable development.



Open air market open Oct. 22

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.

Thrillist found us

Thrillist's, Dallas blog, focused on themes of fun, happening places and interesting dining establishments, recently listed Cedar Hill as one of the "Underrated North Texas Towns You Need to Spend More Time In."

They described Cedar Hill as the 'hill country of Dallas,' with Austin-like topography, a charming Downtown and tons of fun outdoor action.

"For your caffeine fix, stop by White Rhino Coffee House," and "don't leave without visiting Cedar Hill State Park, home to 1,826 wooded acres with bobcats, coyotes, foxes, armadillos and raccoons."

A 'Must Do' is enjoy over 45 miles of multi-purpose trails and bikeways and the DORBA trail in Cedar Hill State Park, among the best mountain biking trail in the state.

Checkout <https://www.thrillist.com/dallas>



Is your child in the right seat?

Every 33 seconds, a child under the age of 13 is involved in a crash. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 1-12 years old.

The Cedar Hill Police Department offers car seat checks and education on properly installing car seats.

When used and installed properly car seats, boosters, and seatbelts can help prevent deaths and injuries of children. Unfortunately, they're often not used correctly or not used at all.

Thanks to Safe Riders, Texas Department of State Health Services and Texas Department of Transportation, CHPD has also been providing free car seats to those in need.

This service is available by appointment only at the Cedar Hill Police Department located at 285 Uptown Blvd., Cedar Hill, Texas.

Email tammie.cooper@cedarhilltx.com for an appointment.

A clarification from the editor

In the September issue, in the "City delivers..." article, we described some of the services funded by property tax revenues and included "emergency medical services and transport...". Several kind residents reminded us that they had to pay a transport fee when taken to the hospital by ambulance. That is correct and we apologize for lack of clarity.

Tax revenue funded the cost of the ambulance, the fire station where it is based, maintenance, fuel, insurance, equipment, staff salaries and benefits, training and supervision to make

the service available to residents when needed. The transport charge to the hospital is assessed to those who actually use the service.

Other instances of user fees charged in connection with tax revenue funded services include the membership fee at the Recreation Center, athletic field rental fees and false alarm fees charged by the Police Department.

If you have comments about or corrections to the content of Highlights, please send them to the address at right.

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



Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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