



CEDAR HILL

# HIGHLIGHTS

## PLAYGROUND RE-DEDICATED AT PARTY IN THE PARK

Cedar Hill families enjoyed donuts and hot chocolate while visiting with City officials at the year's first Party in the Park celebration at Calf Pasture Park. The event also featured the re-dedication of the new playground at the park, which was completed earlier this year.

The playground and other park improvements were the first neighborhood park project completed in the bond program approved by voters in November 2017. The program included \$15 million for parks improvements, including funding for reinvestment in neighborhood and community parks focused on safety and accessibility upgrades.

The Neighborhood Advisory Board will host another Party in the Park on March 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Virginia Weaver Park. Neighbors will enjoy free food and drinks and celebrate the opening of the newly rebuilt creative playground.

MARCH 2019

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CEDAR  HILL

# PEOPLE

MAKE IT A COMMUNITY



Mayor Rob Franke presents a proclamation to retiring Police Chief Steve Rhodes. Chief Rhodes served the Cedar Hill community for more than 30 years.



Members of the Mayors Teen Council and L.E.A.D. Council led the community peace march as a part of Cedar Hill's annual MLK celebration. This year's event featured keynote remarks from Martin Luther King III, the oldest son of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King.



City Council Members recognize finalists of the 2019 Amazing Shake Longhorn Style Competition at CHISD.

## ELY REYES NAMED CEDAR HILL POLICE CHIEF

City Manager Greg Porter has appointed Ely Reyes Chief of the Cedar Hill Police Department. Reyes is currently Assistant Chief of Police of the Austin Police Department, where he has served in numerous capacities for more than 20 years.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as the Chief of Police for the Cedar Hill Police Department," says Reyes. "The Department consists of dedicated men and women who proudly serve their community and have built a reputation of trust and respect with the community. My goal will be to build upon those relationships and continue on the path of making Cedar Hill one of the safest cities in the region."



Over the course of his career in the Austin Police Department, Reyes has served in many facets of police work, including patrol, community engagement and partnerships, criminal investigations, traffic operations, communications, fleet and facility services, internal affairs, and training.

"Chief Reyes is an experienced and innovative leader with a demonstrated passion for the well-being of families, community policing, and neighborhood engagement," says Porter. "Those qualities make him an ideal fit to steward our special community and to lead our innovative and high performing Cedar Hill Police Department, and I am excited to have him join our team."

Reyes earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas State University and is a graduate of the Certified Public Manager Program, the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) Leadership Command College, and the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) at Boston University. Prior to his law enforcement career, Reyes served in the U.S. Army for 6 years with overseas tours in Panama, South Korea, and Cuba.

Assistant Chief Rodney Thompson has served as Interim Chief since the retirement of Chief Steve Rhodes in January. Chief Rhodes served the Cedar Hill community for more than 30 years and was appointed Chief of Police in October 1995.

Reyes is expected to begin his duties as Police Chief on April 1.



# SAVE WATER AND MONEY WITH SPRINKLER CHECKUP

For many homes, a lawn irrigation or sprinkler system is the single most water-consuming system in the home. A sprinkler system can increase a residential water bill up to 10 times more than the average monthly consumption. Residents can conserve water and save money by having systems inspected each year and understanding how their system works.



Before starting up irrigation systems each spring, a professional irrigation technician should conduct a checkup to ensure the system is working efficiently, identify any necessary repairs, and prolong the life of your system. Fine-tune your system with these tips:

**Maintain your system** - Homeowners should watch the sprinklers run and make sure no heads are broken or crooked, all plants are getting watered, no brown patches exist in the yard, and the system isn't drenching the house, sidewalks, and driveway.

**Install a rain sensor** - Experts say to avoid water waste and over-watering; use a simple sensor that shuts programmed irrigators off based on soil moisture levels.

**Vary watering by plant type** - Grass and plants in landscaped beds require different amounts of water. Work with your trained irrigator, landscape professional or university extension office to designate separate watering zones based on plant needs for your area and the time of year.

**Mulch to conserve water** - Adding 2 to 4 inches of mulch to beds keeps moisture in the ground, according to the Falls Church, Va.-based Irrigation Association, an industry group that promotes efficient irrigation techniques. It reduces evaporation, lessens temperature changes, and controls weeds.

**Cut down weeds** - Weeds, fungus, and disease can suck up 20 to 40 percent more water than a healthy yard and negatively affect plant health, says Kurt Thompson, irrigation training and technical director at highly rated Massey Services in Orlando and member of PLANET, a national landscape industry association.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## City Council Meetings

Mar 12 & 26; Apr 9 & 23 at 7 p.m.

Cedar Hill Government Center

285 Uptown Blvd

View agendas at [cedarhilltx.com/agenda](http://cedarhilltx.com/agenda).

## Party in the Park:

### Virginia Weaver Park

Mar 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Virginia Weaver Park

631 Somerset Dr.

Enjoy food, drinks, and games and stay for the re-dedication of the Creative Playground at Virginia Weaver Park.

## Easter B'egg Hunt

Apr 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Virginia Weaver Park

631 Somerset Dr.

Bring your four-legged friends to join in on doggie egg hunts, vendors, food, and fun.

## Miracle Weekend

### Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Virginia Weaver Park

331 Somerset Dr.

Find details at [cedarhilltx.com/pard](http://cedarhilltx.com/pard).

## Earth Fest: An Earth and Arbor Day Celebration

Apr 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Hill Government Center

285 Uptown Blvd.

Visit with environmentally conscious vendors and enjoy sustainability tours, food, tree giveaways for Cedar Hill residents.

Find details at [cedarhilltx.com/earthfest](http://cedarhilltx.com/earthfest).

**VIEW THE FULL CALENDAR AT  
CEDARHILLTX.COM, OR SUBSCRIBE  
TO 'THIS WEEK IN CEDAR HILL' AT  
CEDARHILLTX.COM/TWICH.**

# APPLY NOW FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, Waste Management and the City of Cedar Hill provide two \$1,500 scholarships for Cedar Hill graduates. Eligible recipients must be 2019 graduates of Cedar Hill ISD or Cedar Hill residents with a minimum 2.6 GPA. The application requires submission of an essay describing their role in creating a sustainable community, two letters of recommendation, and a desire to further their education by attending a university, junior college, or trade school. Apply online at [cedarhilllibrary.org](http://cedarhilllibrary.org) or in person at the Zula B. Wylie Public Library at 225 Cedar Street.

## INSIGHT CEDAR HILL: EGRETS

### Q: What can I do if egrets settle near my neighborhood?

A: Migratory birds, such as cattle egrets, are commonly seen in Texas as they journey annually between the United States and Canada. While migratory birds are beneficial to our ecosystem in many ways, they can also be a nuisance when settled near populated areas.

The best way to avoid impacts from noise, odor, and other environmental issues is to scare them away before they form a nest.

Residents can use noisemakers or hang moving objects in trees to discourage egrets from forming a nest in the area. The rookery, or colony nesting area, is protected by federal law once an egg is present. For more information on migratory birds, visit [cedarhilltx.com/egrets](http://cedarhilltx.com/egrets).



What do you want to know? Email your question for Insight Cedar Hill to [admin@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:admin@cedarhilltx.com)

# CONTACT CITY OF CEDAR HILL

Emergency	911
Administration	(972) 293-1467
After Hours	(972) 780-6643
Animal Control	(972) 223-6111
Animal Shelter	(972) 291-5335
Building Inspections	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1090
City Secretary	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1011
Code Enforcement	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1111
Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency)	(972) 291-1011
Human Resources	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1054
Library	(972) 291-7323
Municipal Court	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1041
Neighborhood Services	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1099
Parks & Recreation	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1500
Police Dept. (Non-Emergency)	(972) 291-5100 ext. 2400
Public Works	(972) 291-5126
Recreation Center	(972) 293-5288
Senior Center	(972) 291-5353
Tourism	(972) 291-5100 ext. 1084
Trash & Recycling	(800) 772-8653
Utility Billing	(469) 272-2931

STAY CONNECTED

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