

March 2012

# Highlights

CEDAR HILL

The City of Cedar Hill, Texas

## Severe weather on the horizon

Spring is always welcome in Texas, serving as a brief respite between the chilling winters and blistering summers.

But spring also brings some of the most dangerous weather of the year. Thunderstorms can be dangerous, with high wind, heavy rains, possible flooding and hail.

Tornadoes also start showing up in the spring.

Getting ready for spring storms means:

### Be prepared

Have the basics that your family needs in case of a power outage. There are kits you can buy or make your own with help from one of the websites linked to the QR code at right. Have an evacuation plan in case of high water or serious damage to your home. Talk to everyone about a place to meet, communication and so on.

### Be informed

Don't let dangerous weather surprise you. Keep an eye on the sky and turn to radio and TV sources for current and predicted weather. Make sure everyone

turn in at night. Don't depend on storm sirens to wake you. You may not hear them indoors.

NOAA weather radios are the best warning. Available where

electronics are sold, they are a small investment for your safety.

### Be location aware

Know what to do if you are away from home, on the road, or at an event. Take a few minutes and read up at the provided web links on how to deal with high water, high winds, and other travel-related weather issues.

Know your location and, if outside, be aware of approaching weather. Notice where you can take shelter and get there early.

Do not drive if you cannot see. Pull well off the roadway. Do not drive into standing or flowing water.

### Be aware of help

In case of widespread major damage in your neighborhood, use your portable radio or car radio to find out where you can go to be safe.

Use your laptop or smart phone to check the City website for shelter information.

The City supports a Community Emergency Response Team made up of residents who are trained to assist neighbors in case of a disaster. Learn how you can join at [cedarhilltx.com/cert](http://cedarhilltx.com/cert).

Check out the links at the QR code or visit the City website at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com), search for "weather" to help learn how to stay safe.



Scan this code with your smartphone for links on preparing for severe weather.

Free QR scanners are in your phone's app store.

in your home knows when storms are in the forecast. Check on elderly or disabled family members, neighbors and friends to make sure they are prepared.

If storms are predicted, check the latest forecast before you

## Lightning Math

Count the seconds between a flash of lightning and when you hear the rumble of thunder, and then dividing by 5, to estimate your distance from the strike in miles. A 5-second delay means the strike was only 1 mile away. A thunderstorm can easily cover a mile in a minute or two. Don't wait to take shelter.

# 911 Emergency service starts here

**When emergency help is needed you want it “now!”**

Proper use of our area’s 911 service can speed up the process of getting help to your location.

Here are a few tips from the staff at Southwest Regional Communication Center (SWRCC), the 911 call center servicing Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville.

**Make sure you are in a safe location.** If you are at the scene of an accident, park your vehicle off the roadway away from the vehicle(s) involved before calling 911. Move away from any burning vehicle or structure or any location with gas or vapors that may be explosive or dangerous.

**Whenever possible,**

**call from a land line.**

It is easier for SWRCC operators to determine your exact address on a land line and your connection may be better if cell coverage is weak.

**Know your location.** Be able to give the address (including city) or use landmarks, cross streets or mile markers if on a highway. If you are calling from a cell phone (70% of calls to SWRCC are from cell phones) the operator may not know exactly where you are.

**Know your phone number.** Give it to the operator. If you get disconnected, the 911 operator may need to call you back. Don’t hang up until instructed to do so.

**Briefly and clearly** state your emergen-

cy so the operator can begin dispatching the proper services. Be aware that help is being sent while the operator is speaking with you.

**Do not let children play with cell phones.** Many phones enable 911 calls even when the keypad locked. In an average month SWRCC receives nearly 1,000 “hang up” calls that are accidentally dialed.

**Do not put 911 on speed dial.** How long does it really take dial 3 numbers? Accidental calls from speed dials and pocket dials consume valuable time as the operator attempts to determine if your call is an actual emergency.

**Do not text 911.** They cannot accept texts.



## Cedar Hill State Park Our wilderness next door

During the past two decades no place has come to epitomize the importance of urban green space more than Cedar Hill State Park. Located on FM 1382, bordering Cedar Hill on the northwest, CHSP is an 1,800-acre peaceful retreat next to Lake Joe Pool’s 7,500 surface acres of water sports.

CHSP is known as one of the area’s top mountain biking destinations.

\$6 million in recent improvements enhanced the 300+ camp sites, solar hot water

heating systems, roadways and RV pads.

Penn Farm, an original homestead established in 1854, contains numerous historical structures and replicas depicting the region’s rural farm life in the late 19th century. Interpretive farm tours are available.

For more information call the park at 972.291.3900 or visit [texasstateparks.org/](http://texasstateparks.org/)

Thanks to local visionaries and state leaders CHSP hasn’t changed much while the communities around it have grown.

## Alerts



The City of Cedar Hill uses a recorded message system to quickly distribute important information to residents.

**If you no longer have a home phone, the City may not be able to get the message to you.**

The City asks that you visit the website below and add your cell phone number(s) and email address. Your information will not be available to telemarketers.

Messages are sent as recordings, emails and/or text messages. They will always clearly indicate that they are from the City of Cedar Hill.

Please register; it only takes a couple of minutes and we want to keep in touch.  
[cedarhilltx.com/connect](http://cedarhilltx.com/connect)

## Trash can yelps for help when full

Yes, the trash receptacle in the photo is green on the outside, but it’s really saving green, via email.

Located at the Police entrance to the Government Center this “Big Belly” unit includes a solar-powered trash compactor so it doesn’t have to be emptied as often. Solar power allows placement in parks and other remote locations without electric hookup.

When it gets full, it

emails the Facility staff to tell them it needs to be emptied.

The City is looking



into using these trash receptacles in other locations to avoid trash overflows and lower labor costs involved in having staff check trash containers almost daily.

It is expected that the labor savings could more than offset the additional cost of these units.



# Community Calendar

www.cedarhilltx.com/calendar.aspx

## March

### 24 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

9-11 a.m. Cedar Hill High School parking lot, US67 at Cooper St. Proof of residency required. Residents may bring all those nasty chemicals stacked in the garage. Don't bring explosives, computers or tires. For a full list, visit [cedarhilltx.com/HHW](http://cedarhilltx.com/HHW).

### 24 Walk the Light Arts Festival

5-10 p.m. in Historic Downtown. Artists of all art genres will display or perform their craft inside historic downtown businesses, in Pioneer Park and on the streets. For more information visit [cedarhilltx.com/walkthelight](http://cedarhilltx.com/walkthelight).

### 27 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, Regular City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room. Agenda posted online and at the front door of the Government Center at least 72 hours before meeting at [cedarhilltx.com/agenda](http://cedarhilltx.com/agenda).

### 31 Women's Health Expo

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library Meeting Room, 225 Cedar St. Free mammograms and information about maintaining optimum health and wellness. Registration required. 972.291.7323 x1313.

## April

### 7 Library Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Library Amphitheater, 225 Cedar St. This is a free event. For details email [toni.simmons@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:toni.simmons@cedarhilltx.com).

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### 12 High Pointe Public Improvement District Meeting

6:30 p.m. High Pointe Baptist Church, 101 High Pointe Ln. The High Pointe Public Improvement District (HPPID) provides maintenance and improvements to existing landscaping, irrigation systems, sign/wall monuments, fencing and hardscape in the High Pointe common areas

### 14 Spring Community Cleanup and Arbor Day Tribute

9 a.m. Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset. Keeping our community clean and neat is more fun when we do it together. Registration for door prizes begins at 9 a.m. Cleanup, at the location of your choice, continues until 11 a.m. Wrap it up with a free hot dog lunch, thanks to the Lions Club, and an Arbor Day Tribute celebrating trees. Volunteers will receive a Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful t-shirt.

### 21 Earth Day & Community Garden Celebration

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library 225 Cedar St. Visit with experts and neighbors who are interested in community gardening. Learn how to start one in your neighborhood.

## Second Saturdays

### Cheap Chip

The Tri-City Animal Shelter hosts low-cost microchipping for pets on second Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shelter, 1150 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Those who adopt a pet on Cheap Chip Saturdays will have their picture made and can enter a drawing.



Victoria Lyons, right speaks to visitors at a recent City Council meeting after she received the S.T.A.R. student award from City Council member Wallace Swayzee, left. Lyons is a sixth grader at West Intermediate.



Toni Thomas, right, was recently inducted into the Texas USSSA Hall of Fame for her significant impact and outstanding contributions to the game of slow pitch softball. She was congratulated by former USSSA Executive Vice President Ron Neely, left.



Pat Bateman receives a plaque from her former boss, Deputy City Manager Greg Porter as she was recognized by the City Council for retiring with 29 years of service to the City of Cedar Hill.



Cedar Hill firefighter Capt. Chris Tancred lights some of the dead grass being removed at a prescribed fire at Cedar Hill State Park in February. Several Cedar Hill firefighters joined Texas Forest Service crews to safely remove excess fuel and help restore natural balance to some of the native grassland areas in the park.

# Contacts

- After Hours  
972.780.6643
- Alarm Monitoring  
972.230.5248
- Animal Control  
972.223.6111
- City Administration  
972.291.5100x1010
- City Secretary  
972.291.5100x1011
- Code Enforcement  
972.291.5100x1090
- Economic Develop. Corp.  
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



Leaks, on average, can account for 10,000 gallons of water wasted in a home in a year.

Fixing leaks can easily save a homeowner 10% on a water bill every month.

Obvious leaks are drips from faucets, running toilets or damp areas related to

irrigation systems.

Leaks can be detected by checking your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter moved, you have a leak.

A leaky faucet dripping once a second can waste more than 3,000 gallons a year.

A running toilet can leak up to 200 gallons a day.

If you've seen a sudden increase in your water bill that you can't explain with additional people in your household or increased irrigation or pool-related uses, you may have a leak in your water supply line.

Call Utility Billing at 972.291.5100 x1201 if you have an unexplainable spike in water usage. They will check your meter. If the leak is on your side of the meter you are responsible for repairs.

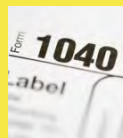


## Who answers your alarm?

You can have your home or business alarm monitored by our local 911 Center. Get the fastest possible response. Find out about 3 months free at 972.230.5248.

## Get free help with filing taxes

On Tuesdays, from 10:30 a.m. until about 2 p.m., at the Library, volunteers from AARP will help with your taxes. They will be there until Tuesday, April 10. This is a free service. Bring your tax records.



## Need a little 'wild' life?

### Consider adopting a park or a trail.

Any recognized park or trail in the city is eligible and worthy of an Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail partner.

You can adopt as an individual, a family, a neighborhood, a civic group or a business. By becoming a City of Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail partner you can:



- Help beautify your parks and community
- Gain a sense of community and park pride
- Uphold the area's distinctive character
- Promote cleanliness
- Help preserve our natural resources
- Enjoy the benefits of outdoor activity
- Keep Cedar Hill safe
- Lead by example
- Meet new people
- Help recruit more groups to participate
- Contribute to the quality of life in Cedar Hill
- Help us build a better tomorrow.

One of the cool perks is that the Parks Dept. will acknowledge your commitment and dedication with a sign in your adopted park or along your adopted trail, upon fulfillment and completion of the adopted period.

Once you and the P&R Dept. make your adoption selection, you agree to help maintain the area for a minimum of one year. During the year you or your group agree to perform maintenance a minimum of six times per adopted year, scheduled through the Parks & Recreation Dept.

Maintenance can include such things as litter pick-up, debris removal, minor park/trail maintenance, etc. The Parks & Recreation Dept. will provide support for each group during the adopted period and coordinate staff support at the site when needed.

You'll get a cool certificate too.

For links to more information and an application for the Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail program visit [cedarhilltx.com/parks](http://cedarhilltx.com/parks) and look under the "Tree City USA" icon or call Parks & Recreation at 972.291.5130.



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