

Highlights

The City of Cedar Hill, Texas

CEDAR HILL

September 2011

Citizens On Patrol



Citizens On Patrol includes residents who care enough to volunteer to serve hours patrolling neighborhoods. Shown are C.O.P.s Charles Gant, Joyce Duncan, Mike White and Grover Livingston. This is the first of two Citizens On Patrol vehicles to be provided by the Police Department.

Almost daily, a handful of residents put on their C.O.P. shirts, grab their cell phones and venture out to patrol the neighborhoods and shopping areas of our city.

They aren't police officers, they don't even carry guns, but they "play a valuable role in the safety of our community," according to Cedar Hill Police Cpl. Juan Herrera who coordinates Citizens on Patrol.

These residents have all completed the Citi-

zen Police Academy and additional training on operating police radios.

In addition to radios, the volunteers have access to a retired CHPD cruiser that has been specially marked for the C.O.P. patrols.



Just the presence of the C.O.P. vehicle deters criminal activity. Some volunteers prefer to patrol in their own vehicles.

They work in con-

junction with the CHPD to observe, record suspicious activities and report those activities to the police. COP volunteers are extra eyes and ears for the police department and the community.

According to Mike White, who helps coordinate the 39 C.O.P. volunteers, they make a valuable contribution to the City by providing additional patrol awareness.

He credits a recent reorganization of the group, including the

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Going Green gets easier, cleaner, safer

The City's solid waste services will change beginning the week of January 8, 2012. The goal is to increase recycling participation, promote cleaner and safer streets and neighborhoods and reduce carbon emissions.

The changes will include a free 96-gallon recycling cart provided for every single-family residence. Trash and recycling will be picked up on the same day every week. Brush pickup will continue once a month.

For those residents who prefer a rolling cart the City will provide a trash cart for a \$2 monthly fee added to the residence water bill.

"The larger recycling cart is intended to make it easier for residents to increase their household recycling," according to Assistant City Manager Melissa Stephens.

"And the same-day pickup for trash and recycling will reduce air pollution by cutting back the number of large trucks working on the alleys and streets of our community."

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City Council passes loitering ordinance

In July, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 2011-443 that addresses loitering.

Upon conviction, a person may be fined up to \$500 for loitering.

It is defined as "loitering in, on, or around any place, public or private, when such loitering is accompanied by suspicious activity, or is under circumstances that afford probable cause for alarm or concern for the safety and well-being of persons or for

the security of property in the surrounding area.

It is unlawful for a person to refuse to leave when asked by the owner, manager, proprietor or lessee of any place, public or private.

It is unlawful to loiter anywhere that "No loitering" signs are posted.

According to Police Chief Steve Rhodes officers are currently passing out informative cards at public locations.

Citizens On Patrol *From front page*

addition of Lisa Campbell as president of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, for renewed vigor among the volunteers.

In June they tallied 171 volunteer hours. That's more than 40 hours a week.

Members of the group have become qualified to teach other volunteers in the use and care of the C.O.P. car.

Police Chief Steve Rhodes has been so impressed with the dedication of the C.O.P. group that he is working on providing a second vehicle for their use.

In addition to neighborhood patrolling, C.O.P. members assist as a backup patrol in business areas when officers are pulled from their assigned area. They assist with traf-

fic control at special events like Country Day Fun Run and Parade, the Parade of Joy, Head for the Hills Bike Rally and Juneteenth. The volunteers also assisting the CHPD in areas such as officer testing, Police memorial Remembering the Fallen Officers and 9/11 Memorial Services.

Their patrols are coordinated with Cpl. Herrera to get the maximum use out of the volunteers' time. "The C.O.P.s are always ready and willing to assist with any activity the police department requests of them," said Herrera.

Mike White said new volunteers are always welcome and he encouraged residents to consider attending the next Citizen Police Academy Class.



A new City ordinance requires yard sales and garage sales to be registered. It can be done online at www.cedarhilltx.com or by calling 972.291.5100 x1090.

Registration is free and it will get your sale on the list that is published weekly on the city website at www.cedarhilltx.com/garagesale.



Click on this button on the City website at www.cedarhilltx.com to find answers and request services from the City.



Stay up to the minute; follow Cedar Hill on Twitter



No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. seven days a week from May 1 to Sept. 30

From May 1 to September 30, outdoor watering is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fines for violators start at \$200 for the first offense.

The City requests no outside watering at all on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays to allow the system to re-

plenish supplies in the water storage tanks.

There is a lot more information about Drought Response Stages on the City website at tinyurl.com/CHwater.

Refer to the home page of the City website www.cedarhilltx.com for drought response updates.

Going Green *From front page*

Solid waste, recycling, bulky item and brush pickups will cost \$12.76 a month for most residences, an increase of 70 cents. Residents 65 and over will pay \$9.64 per month, an increase of 68 cents. Business and

commercial accounts in the City will also see increases.

In August, the City Council approved a new contract with Waste Management, the firm that has handled the City's solid waste since 2006.

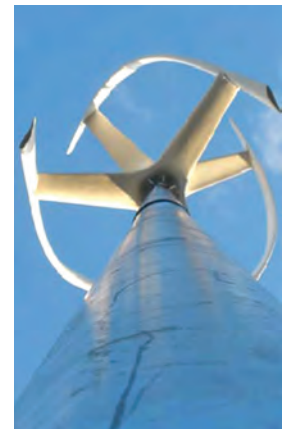
City wins \$50,000 grant for wind turbine installation

The Texas State Energy Conservation Office recently awarded the City a \$50,000 grant to install a grid-tied 4.335 kW vertical axis wind turbine at the Government Center.

This project will provide education, public outreach and training on wind generation. The City is dedicated to increasing awareness of energy conservation and clean alternative energy sources.

The wind turbine will generate about 4300 kW in a 13 mph wind.

Wind-generated electricity will be wired in with the solar panels already in place on the roof of the Government Center.



At the City Council Meeting July 26, 2011



Waste Management scholarships of \$1,500 each were presented by Steve Kellar, right, to Benjamin Toney and Mayaria Johnson. Kathleen Cervenka, left, Manager of Library Services, said this was the fourth year of the scholarship program.



Parks Director Rhoda Savage watches Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Haydin read the National Parks and Recreation Month proclamation. Savage introduced the new "Adopt A Park program and invited everyone to the the Vocal Trash concert at Valley Ridge Park on October 1.



Lucille Ames, right, of the Old Chisholm Trail Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presents Mayor Pro Tem Haydin a plaque of the preamble of the Constitution during the City Council's recognition of Constitution Week, September 17-23.



Community Calendar

September 2011

10 & 11 Audubon Center at Cedar Hill Grand Opening

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Noon to 5 p.m. Sunday
Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center at Cedar Hill, just past Northwood University on FM 1382
Free admission all weekend at the Center as they introduce the facility to the public. Program activities are scheduled for both days including guided hikes, building tours, animal encounters, lectures, children's activities and more. Off-site parking and shuttle service will be provided from Uptown Village at Cedar Hill.

11 9/11 ten-year anniversary

1 p.m. at Uptown Village at Cedar Hill
Procession, national anthem, prayer and special speaker.

17 Lake Ridge POA fund-raising golf tournament

7:30 a.m. registration, 8:30 shotgun start. Tangle Ridge Golf Course. This event will benefit the Cedar Hill Fire Department and local charities. For information visit <http://www.lakeridgegolfclub.com/>

October 2011

01 Sister to Sister Festival and 5K

6 a.m. to noon.
A day of breast cancer educational activities, fund raising and awareness. Visit www.celebratinglife.org.

01 Music in the Park - Vocal Trash

This nationally-acclaimed, high-energy band puts the fun into recycling, using instruments recycled from trash. Visit environmental booths, demonstrations, food and more

04 National Night Out

This annual event celebrates cooperation between residents and the Cedar Hill Police Department to keep our community safe. Many neighborhoods have get-togethers. Visit www.cedarhilltx.com/nno

07 Old Settlers Reunion

4:30 -8 pm, Historical Downtown Cedar Hill
An evening of fun, friends and family under the big tent. Join the fun and witness the beauty of long-term friendships and the joy of making new friends.

08 Country Day on the Hill

10,000 visitors jam historic downtown Cedar Hill for a good old-fashioned fall festival with great things to eat that are not on your diet. Visit cedarhillcountryday.com

10 City facilities close at noon for Cedar Hill Day at the State Fair of Texas

City offices including the library, recreation center, animal shelter and senior center will close at noon.

22 Hazardous Household Waste Disposal

9 a.m. -11 a.m. at the high school parking lot
It's easy! Just drive through, we unload your car and you get rid of environmentally harmful materials safely. Visit www.cedarhilltx.com/hhw.

For the latest updates, visit the City Calendar on
www.cedarhilltx.com
Click on "View All"

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 Rain-outs
214.855.9758
- Parks Special Events
214.890.6977
- 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

CHISD achieves 'Recognized' status

Even though standards were tougher, the Cedar Hill Independent School District moved up to 'Recognized' status according to the Texas Education Agency for the first time.

The rating is based on TAKS scores from the 2010-2011 school year, completion rates and other criteria.

This rating places Cedar Hill schools among the top 9 districts in Dallas County.

Last year the CHISD completion rate was 92.3%, up 4 points

from the previous school year.

CHISD Board President Dan Hernandez said "Achieving the TEA Recognized District designation is a first for CHISD, and is a major milestone for our district.

"However, we must recognize that this is just one of many more milestones we, the students, staff and community will pass on our continuing journey to be a premier district providing our community with a world-class education system."



Look for this button on the home page of the City website at www.cedarhilltx.com.

Access Cedar Hill is some amazing technology that makes it simple for residents to learn about and request City services.

It is a 2-way communication tool so City employees can keep residents informed about requests they have made.

Clicking on the Access Cedar Hill button, shown above, on the City website opens a page showing a search box, a list of most popular topics and about 30 general topics.

Clicking on a topic may lead to a short list of specifics where you can read information or make a request for a

City service or report an issue for the City staff.

If you make a request for service the system will forward your contact information to the person working on your request so you can be updated.

You can report an issue anonymously. But since there will be no contact information we will not be able to keep you updated.

Buttons on the first page will take you to locations where you can download smart phone versions of the Access Cedar Hill tool so you can report an issue anytime or anywhere.

u n c o r k e d



Thanks to so many

First of all, I'd like to thank those who responded to help review the hundreds of pages on the City website to check for dead links and other issues. I really appreciate the help.

I also want to acknowledge about 100 residents who serve on the City's various boards and commissions.

Many thanks also to the hundreds, maybe thousands, who are already volunteering with youth sports organizations, churches, and in many other ways in our community.

Incredible evening

This month I also want to thank Cedar Hill Police Officer Kristine Hill who allowed me to join her on a night-shift ride-out in her patrol car in August.

Officer Hill, I am very impressed with the way you manage all the information and responsibilities in a constantly changing environment.

Your professionalism and concern for all the people we encountered was apparent by the careful and caring way that you treated them.

Riding in your vehicle was an impressive show of good judgment, technology, co-

operation, training and communication.

It is a comfort to know we have officers like you watching over us when we are most vulnerable.

Beyond the adrenal-rush, I am left with a greater admiration for those of you whose workspace includes a steering wheel and a rarely silent radio.

I know I will continue speaking to others about my experience. I wish every citizen could see how well you handle the challenges on your shift.

Thank you for your continued service, thank you for putting up with my ignorance and answering my questions. It was an incredible evening.
Corky

Thank you to those who serve on neighborhood boards and watch groups.

Are you engaged?



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