The Open Government Movement

Revolutionizing Citizen Engagement With Transparency and Technology

Daniel Zappala

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City of Cedar Hills

Open Government

1. bring government into the digital age
2. make public data open by default
3. create new opportunities for civic engagement through the use of technology

– Code for America

How to be Open

Interact Through Social Media

Daniel Zappala
September 10

Cedar Hills residents: How late should bands be able to play in Heritage Park? We have residents who backyards right up against the park, with small kids who go to bed at 8pm so they can get up early for school the next day. How about an 8pm end for music from Labor Day to Memorial Day on weeknights, 9pm on weekends? And then 9pm weeknights during summer and 10pm on weekends? Curfew (for hanging out, playing basketball, etc) could still be 10pm year round.

Thoughts?

Like · Comment · Promote · Share

👍 6 💬 20

Debbie Ann Burraston, Angela Madsen, Janelle Low and 3 others like this.

Marisa Nielson Wright When buying a property right next to a park one has to take into account that there will be more noise. Also they need to be patient with the noise and excess people near their yard.

I live next to the federal forest. I need to be patient with the deer and how they destroy my plants every winter. It bothers me but I try to be patient and make adjustments.

I would say 8 or 8:30pm is a fair time to end concerts during the school year. 9 to 9:30pm is fair in the summer.

Encourage City Council Blogs

Cedar Hills Blog

by Daniel Zappala

12 Nov 2013

Joint Meeting

On Tuesday evening, November 12th, the Planning Commission and City Council held a joint meeting on the commercial development, with Doug White, the developer, and Cory Shupe, with Blu Line Designs. Blu Line Designs Cory Shupe gave a presentation on the proposed development, discussing the master site plan that includes...

Continue ...

12 Nov 2013

Developer Tour

Today the developer, Doug Young, took city staff and a couple members of the

Build an App

1708 ST ROCH AVE   **+ WATCHLIST**

Case: HCEVU-10-01178   **Case: Open**

INSPECTION	NOTIFICATION	HEARING	JUDGMENT	RESOLUTION

>	Case Filed	8/11/10	A case for this property was created
>	Inspected	8/11/10	Property was inspected
>	Notice Sent	9/30/10	A notice of hearing was sent to the property owner.
>	Inspected	11/5/10	Property was inspected
>	Case Heard	11/9/10	A judgment of **Guilty** was reached

Show Historical Cases

Additional Information
- This property is scheduled for **sheriff sale** on **11/7/13**

Search for more information
via the Orleans Parish Assessor's website

Common Questions

> If I have information about a property, how can I get it to the City?

View All Questions >

Data Sources

Data in BlightStatus comes from:

- City of New Orleans Permits &

Welcome To

HONOLULU ANSWERS

Find answers to your questions about Honolulu city services.

| Try driver license, jobs, or registration... | SEARCH |

Most Popular Categories:

Animals

What do I do about wild roosters? - How do I register my dog for a license tag?
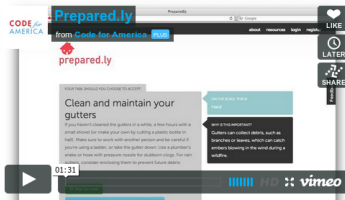
prepared.ly

Welcome, let's get started.

Make staying prepared for wildfire fun and easy.

Already a user? Log in here.

take the tour   **Create an account**

In 2011, over 1300 homes were destroyed in Bastrop County due to wildfire.

We don't want that to happen to you. We've developed an easy-to-use application that brings together a variety of checklists and fire tools, and gives them to you in a manageable, timely, and actionable form. Get to know Prepared.ly a little better by checking out our video. We're brought to you by the City of Austin and Code for America, and we're here to help you stay more prepared for wildfire.

Prepared.ly from Code for America on Vimeo.

★ ★ CRIME *in* CHICAGO ★ ★

An interactive analysis of crime in Chicago's 50 wards (beta)
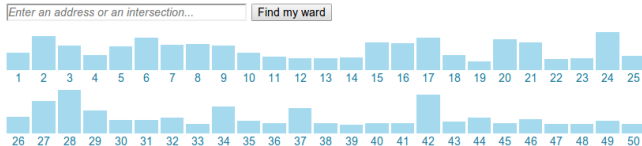
GET THE POSTER

1. Select year

2002   2003   2004   2005   2006   2007   2008   2009   2010   2011   2012   2013

2. Select wards

Enter an address or an intersection...   [Find my ward]

Choose one or more wards to see crime data.

Selections will appear below. More info »

Height = no. of crimes

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

3. Compare

Lower   Higher

Darker squares indicate higher volume of crime.

Clear all

Select a ward above or search by address to see details.

Meet **Textizen**

Open civic dialogue to new participants with a powerful mix of offline outreach and online engagement.

We're **citizen feedback** for the **digital age**.

Looking to hear from your community? Textizen can help.

Our platform for text-message surveys empowers communities to reach residents where they are. Now anyone with an opinion and a minute can join the civic dialogue.

- Watch our story in one animated minute.

WHERE'S MY SCHOOL BUS?

Where's My School Bus? is a location information app allowing parents to track their child's bus in real time.

Built during the 2011 Fellowship year for the City of Boston by Joel Mahoney, Karla Macedo and Talin Salway, Where's My School Bus offers real-time school bus tracking for parents.

A student's bus is displayed on a detailed map, showing both its recent and current location. Waiting at the stop for a late bus? Blizzard got traffic moving at a crawl? Use your smartphone or computer to instantly check the bus location. Tracking your student's bus has never been easier, faster or more accurate.

To try the app visit schoolbus.bostonpublicschools.org.

WANT THIS APP?

CONTACT US

OVERVIEW

Where's My School Bus? is a location information app allowing parents to track their child's bus in real time.

https://schoolbus.bostonpublicschools.org/

CREATED BY

2011 Fellows Joel Mahoney, Karla Macedo and Talin Salway for the City of Boston

Wait a Minute!

How Does My City Get An App?

Civic Hacking

building apps to help local government connect with citizens
                                    – *BYU Open Source Lab*

helping cities create 21st century interfaces to government that are
simple, beautiful and easy to use
                                    – *Code for America*

▸ Jennifer Pahlka TED Talk

How To Get an App

- commit to open government data
  - housing violations
  - street sweeping schedule
  - budgets and finances
- identify a small, well-defined need
- find interested volunteers
  - talk to ▸ Code for America about organizing a Brigade
- encourage collaboration between city officials, and volunteer developers, designers and researchers
- often results in an app for a city and a startup opportunity for the developers
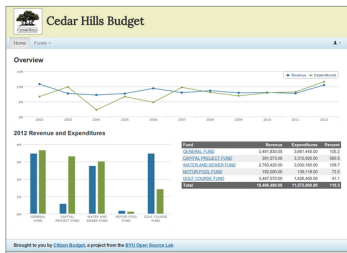
Open Source

- code is available, free of charge, for anyone to use or modify
  - licensing terms vary
  - typically allows commercial use
  - may require to to contribute your changes so everyone benefits
- why provide code for free?
  - public service
  - collaboration
  - security
  - reputation
  - sell service and support
- often requires some expertise to deploy it
- definitely requires expertise to modify it

BYU Open Source Lab

Citizen Budget

Open Finances — Open Source

Fork me on GitHub

A beautiful home page

A page for each fund

Explore details of each fund

deployed at   ● budget.cedarhills.org

Citizen Budget

- started with a Code for America project, had students customize it, eventually rewrote it
- any city can use it, see ▸ citizenbudget.org
- plans to improve it
    - enable staff to edit explanations on each page
    - allow user comments and responses from staff
    - write additional converters for municipal budget packages
    - convert into a centralized site, available for any city, small fee for maintenance and support

The Next App

- customer service portal
  - resident takes a photo, enters complaint in Smart Phone app
  - begins a dialogue with city staff as they work on fixing the problem
  - problems marked Open, Working, Closed
- staff uses web app and phones to track progress of customer service items
- report track record to mayor on a weekly/monthly basis

The Next App

- digital feedback
  - city posts short, targeted questions on current agenda items
  - *what should the curfew be for city parks?*
  - residents can provide feedback, vote each other up or down
  - similar to Textizen, but via smartphone app, more interactive
- council can use feedback to guide decisions

Vision

Vision

- BYU Open Source Lab hosts R&D for city apps
  - joint research with Political Science, Digital Arts, Computer Science to study citizen engagement through deployed apps
  - funding via Sunlight Foundation, Knight Foundation, others

- collaboration with developer community through Code for America Brigade
  - organize a hack night that meets at least once a month
  - foster relationships with local government partners

- foster service and entrepreneurship
  - Textizen
  - BlightStatus $\rightarrow$ Civic Insight
  - Honolulu Answers $\rightarrow$ Department of Better Technology

Interested?

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