

Fire Chief leaves to serve at state level

Chief Steve Pollock, who brought an increased sense of professionalism to the Cedar Hill Fire Department, is taking a position with the Texas Forest Service.

He started in the fire service in 1976, serving as Fire Chief in Odessa, TX before joining Cedar Hill in 2004.

Cedar Hill City Manager Alan Sims said, "Steve Pollock raised the bar and took the Cedar Hill Fire Department to a whole new level. His legacy will be helping our fire department become one of the best in the Metroplex. We will miss his leadership!"

During Pollock's tenure with CHFD the department has:

- Improved the City ISO Public Protection Class to a Class 2, potentially lowering property owners' insurance rates
- Opened Fire Station 214 in April 2009, sharing expenses with the City of Grand Prairie to improve the coverage in Lake Ridge
- Completed renovations and updates at all existing fire stations
- Improved the fire fleet – added a second quint (five-function



Fire Chief Steve Pollock

engine: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders) and added a new compressed air foam engine

- Received two SAFR grants for a total of 15 firefighter positions (\$1.6 million)
- Developed a partnership with CHISD for the Shattered Dreams anti-DUI program
- Established the annual Citizens Fire Academy
- Established the annual Fire Department Open House
- Developed the regional Task Force RED for mutual aid deployments
- Engaged CHFD personnel on the State Type III Incident Management Team
- Secured AFG grants for station exhaust removal and wild land PPE.

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CiRC

keeps you in the loop

Contacting the City about Code Enforcement issues or Building Inspection questions just got easier. Visit www.cedarhilltx.com/circ 24 hours a day, seven days a week and you can:

- read FAQs,
- ask a question,
- make a request,
- track your service request.

Code and Building are the first two departments to use the

new, vastly improved software that not only allows a resident to enter a request at a convenient time, but makes it easier for City staff to communicate the status of a request back to the resident.

If you prefer, you can make your Code Enforcement request anonymously. However, you will not be updated on the progress of your request.

FAQs and request procedures for several more departments is being added now. This tool is very robust and

will simplify the process for residents and stimulate more communication between staff and residents.

Almost every department is working on getting their FAQs online and developing their internal procedures to handle the requests online.

A great resource

When it is fully rolled out, CiRC's extensive FAQs will be a great resource for residents looking for answers about City services.

"Internally, this soft-
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Can we count on you?

Questionnaires for the 2010 Census will be delivered to Cedar Hill residents by mail in mid-March. Help to ensure that everyone is counted by completing and returning your Census form on or before April 1. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. Follow-up personal visits to locate those who did not mail the form are very expensive.

What is the Census?

- A count of every person living in the United States.
- U.S. Constitution requires a count every 10 years.
- It's easy, takes about 10 minutes to complete the form by mail.

Why is the Census important?

- Census data directly affects how \$400 billion per year in federal funding is allocated.
- The Census will count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010.
- The Census provides a snapshot of the nation, which helps define who we are and population trends.

Is my information safe?

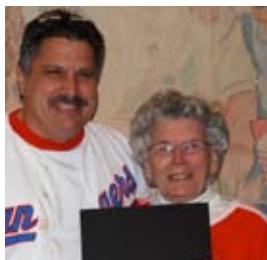
- Answers are protected by law and strictly confidential.
- Information collected is used for statistical purposes only and IS NOT shared with any other local, state, or federal agency.

Cops honor superior performance

At the Third Annual OTYs (oh-tees) Awards Banquet in February, Cedar Hill police officers celebrated with a ballpark theme.

Chief Steve Rhodes used the opportunity to let the force know that the site visit from the Texas Police Chiefs Association's Recognition Program was completed and not only will our police department be recognized, but the on-site investigators said the CHPD staff could teach other law enforcement agencies how to apply for TPCA recognition.

Rhodes said this recognition means that when the best departments in the state are discussed, the Cedar Hill Police Depart-



ment will be included in the conversation.

Mayor Pro Tem Cory Spillman and City Manager Alan Sims spoke briefly to the officers and family members at the event. Both expressed appreciation for their professionalism and positive

Above, honorees and their spouses include Jeremy Byrd, Officer of the Year, Gary Green, Civilian of the Year and Steve Lafferty, Supervisor of the Year. Left, Chief Rhodes presents a certificate recognizing volunteer service by Willie McNeely.

approach to policing our community.

Lt. John Densmore's Emergency Response Team members scooped up most of the awards for physical fitness, marksmanship and community service.

Dads & daughters make Valentines memories

Special memories were created that will last a lifetime at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center's 2010 Daddy/Daughter Valentine Dance held Feb. 6.

The event featured a pair of two-hour danc-

es with DJ Rudy Duron, a light lunch, a professional portrait and a gift for each girl.

"Fathers and their daughters look forward to the dance each year," said Betty Minshew, Special Event

Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department. "This is their time together and it is so special."

New to the event this year was the opportunity for participants to receive a free photo on



For only \$25 a month you can have your home or business alarm monitored by the same professional staff that dispatches police and fire crews for the City of Cedar Hill.

Instead of your alarm notifying someone several states away, this system connects directly into our local 9-1-1 call center.

Saving seconds can save lives.

It's only \$25 a month and there is no long-term contract required. For more information contact SWRCC at 972.230.5248.

site instead of through the mail. Thanks to the expertise of the photographer, Tony Guillory with Just Say Cheese Photography, each photo was created instantly. This was a big hit among the participants.

Attendance was way up this year as over 300 fathers and their daughters enjoyed the festivities.

Don't forget Mom

This year's Mother/Son "All Star" Dance is set for May 1. Visit cedarhilltx.com for more information about this and other upcoming events at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.



Dads & daughters had a blast "getting down" at the Daddy/Daughter Dance

PD hosts K-9 trials

The Cedar Hill Police Department is hosting the 2010 United States Police Canine Association Region 20 Certification Trials March 15-19. Nearly 50 handlers are expected.

On March 17 and 18, from 1 to 6 p.m., everyone is invited to watch officers and their canines certify and compete at the Trinity High School Stadium at 1231 E. Pleasant Run Road. Admission to the event is free.

See the agility of the canines as they complete the obstacle course jumps and crawls. Observe the obedience, critical for their work.

Watch as canines search for a hidden suspect. See a demonstration of their scenting abilities as they locate a decoy in one of six identical boxes.

Watch the canines as they pursue and make an apprehension under fire.

Thanks to Cassity Jones and Sherwin-Williams for supplying the materials and to Boy Scout Troop 1 for helping build the obstacles. They will be used for weekly training of the dogs.

Officer McCorkle said tremendous support from businesses and individuals in the community has made it possible to host the trials, including meals, lodging and materials, at no cost to the City of Cedar Hill.

Fire department honors their best of the year

At the Cedar Hill Fire Department Awards Banquet in February, Chief Steve Pollock praised all of his firefighters and staff for their incredible accomplishments in 2009.

He mentioned the millions of dollars of property they had saved and achieving the ISO Class 2 rating, which put CHFD in the top 2% of fire departments in the country.

He acknowledged their thousands of hours of training and called out Capt. John Denison for his leadership in the remodeling of several stations.

Specific awards included Bryan Wallen as Rookie of the Year, Ashley Edmondson as Firefighter of the Year, and John Denison as Officer of the Year.

Leadership awards were presented to Kevin Cunningham,



Chief Pollock and Bryan Wallen, Rookie of the Year



Chief Pollock, Ashley Edmondson, Fire Fighter of the Year



Chief Pollock, John Denison, Officer of the Year

Glen Clark and Richard Dixon.

Esprit de Corps honorees were Adam Whitney, Kevin Driggs, Ashley Edmondson, Trip Samples, Robert Burlison, Jerry Pena, Richard Dixon and Norman Prewitt.

Fire chief

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In his new position Pollock will work with multiple jurisdictions in the Houston/Galveston area to develop resources, training, responding with the State Type II and Type III team, and working with the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System.

CiRC

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ware integrates with the job tracking software we've been using for years," said Stacey Graves, Code Enforcement Supervisor.

CiRC contributes to the City's goals of efficiently providing superior service and maintaining open communication with our residents.

Free wi-fi

Free wireless internet connection is available at the Zula B. Wylie Library and at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Community Calendar

March

13 Hazardous Household Waste Collection

9-11 a.m. Cedar Hill High School parking lot

For information about acceptable items and recycling options, please visit www.cedarhilltx.com/hhw

22 Main Street Advisory Board Meeting

6 p.m. Government Center, Conference Room D on First Floor
Public is invited.

23 Free AARP tax help

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Library Meeting Room
Free assistance to all taxpayers

23 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, open to public
7 p.m. City Council Meeting
Government Center, Cedar Hill Room
To view/print the upcoming agenda, visit www.cedarhilltx.com, click on "Agendas and Minutes" in the left column.

29 Book Signing - Ramona Logan

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Library Meeting Room
Ms. Logan is a Cedar Hill resident, consultant and former broadcast journalist. For more info visit rlimageadvantage.com.

April

1 Citizens Fire Academy Starts

Thursday evenings for 10 weeks at Central Fire Station, 1212 W. Belt Line
Class is limited to 12 students. Some classes will involve field trips.

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18 Texas Junior Anglers Fishing and Family Kite Fly

1-4 p.m. Valley Ridge Park
These are great low-cost family events. Bring your own tackle and kites or use the materials provided at the park. The pond will be stocked and the Texas spring winds are set to blow.

Visit the calendar on www.cedarhilltx.com for more events.

**For the latest information, follow your City on Twitter.
Visit twitter.com/cedarhilltx**

To receive the latest emergency and priority information, we encourage residents to sign up for Connect-CTY. Visit the City website at www.cedarhilltx.com, and under "Popular Links" click on "Sign up for Connect-CTY City Messages."

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 <i>Non-emergency</i>	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 <i>Non-emergency</i>	972.291.5100x2400
Public Relations	972.291.5100x1032
Public Works	972.291.5126
Recreation Center	972.293.5288
Senior Center	972.291.5335
Tri-City Animal Shelter	972.291.5335
Utility Billing	972.291.5100x1028

City election set for Saturday May 8

Mark your calendar: Saturday, May 8 is election day in Cedar Hill. Now is the time for action to make sure you are eligible to vote.

Free elections are one of the greatest benefits Americans enjoy. Take advantage, get engaged.

April 8 is the last day to submit a voter registration application in time to vote at the election or to

request a transfer of registration in time to vote in a new precinct not in the same county and territory.

Voter registration cards may be obtained at the front reception desk at the Cedar Hill Government Center, the Zula B. Wylie Library or any post office.

Monday, April 26 thru Tuesday, May 4 are early voting dates.

There are three places up for possible election on May 8:

Mayor – this position is an at-large position; candidates are required to live within Cedar Hill.

Place 3 – must reside in Cedar Hill on the west side of Highway 67

Place 5 – must reside in Cedar Hill on the east side of Highway 67.

Committee developing City Center Plan to feature sustainability, walkability

The goal of the Transit Oriented Development (TOD)/City Center Vision Plan is to use a commuter rail station as an anchor to link the old historic downtown, midtown and Uptown Village areas in an energy-efficient and sustainable way.

The plan includes walkable street environments, increased land use intensity and a “circulator” system to move people among the three sectors. The guiding statement says “We envision the City Center as a premier transit-oriented destination, building upon unique local character, promoting safe community interaction, and expanding local opportunities for a sustainable future.

The goals are:

- **Develop the City Center as a series of three complementary districts connected by a supportive mobility network**
- **Reinforce the City's premier status by concentrating employment, retail, entertainment, and a diversity of residential uses in City Center**
- **Take advantage of transit by offering high-capacity accessibility development within a ten-minute walk of the station**
- **Ensure that future development is of the highest quality and reflects Cedar Hill's distinctive natural and historic character**
- **Provide multiple opportunities for personal interaction in a series of safe gathering spaces**
- **Develop sustainably to preserve the long-term environmental, community and economic viability of the City**

The Vision Plan was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy to develop a long-term strategy for energy efficiency and conservation. The City submitted and has received recommendation for an additional grant for \$125,000 from the North Central Texas Council of Governments. This grant will help develop more detailed plans and regulations to guide development of the City Center vision.

The committee, including two City Councilmembers, has been engaged since August, 2009. They were charged by the City Council with preparing a framework for future direction of development in the City Center. They held four public meetings/workshops, working with assistance from City staff and a consultant, and produced the TOD/City Center Vision Plan.

The committee of 15 residents approved the plan at their January meeting and presented it to the City Council in February. Additional meetings will be announced when funding is in place.

Helping families become homeowners

The North Texas Housing Coalition (NTHC), is a non-profit HUD-approved housing counseling agency.

NTHC works to educate North Texas families through the Homeownership Center of North Texas (THC), a free community resource, providing homeownership preparation through one-on-one home ownership counseling, foreclosure prevention workshops, counseling and homebuyer education classes.

NTHC provides foreclosure prevention workshops and offers one-on-one loss mitigation counseling, credit counseling, debt reduction, budgeting, post-purchase counseling and an 8-week homebuyer education class.

For more information on NTHC services visit www.nthcinc.org. Or, to set up an appointment, please call 214.946.3500.



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