

December 2013



HIGHLIGHTS

State of the City message

Cedar Hill is about partnerships

The title of Mayor Rob Franke's talk was unsettling: "Cedar Hill, We Have A Problem."

But the 100 people who attended this year's State of the City luncheon, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, came away with a much more positive message.

Now in his fifth term as Mayor, Franke recalled days earlier in his time as an elected official when things weren't so rosy and were "downright challenging."

He referred back to the title of his talk when he spoke about the friction and discord as inevitable change became uncomfortable for some in Cedar Hill.

He said there were times they faced challenges and didn't know things would turn out.

But it was at those times, he said, when the people of Cedar Hill



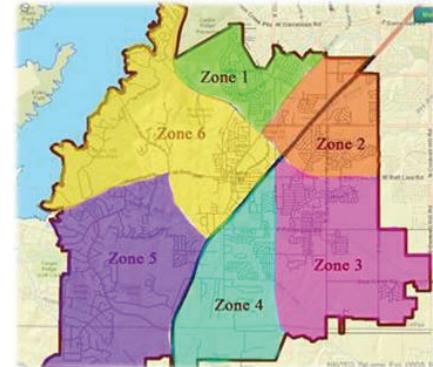
Mayor Rob Franke

learned the valuable lessons of co-operation, partnership and celebrating what they have in common.

"We are blessed with incredible natural beauty that makes Cedar Hill unique in the metroplex" he said. "We have tried to be good stewards and at the same time grow our city," he added.

Franke said City leaders learned a lot during those difficult times and one of the lessons is that there will always be problems. How we handle them is what matters.

Today, he said, there are new signs of growth and the City needs to prepare for that by building up neighborhoods and training future City leaders.



Council set for 6 neighborhood meetings

Strong neighborhoods are the foundation of a strong city. Your Mayor and City Council members have scheduled six opportunities for residents to share concerns and dreams for their neighborhoods.

These meetings, are set at locations in all parts of the city to make attendance more convenient for

Continues on page 4

Alarm Monitoring **911SWRCC**

For only \$25 a month, you can have your home or business alarm monitored by the same local 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.

City holiday closings

City offices, Animal Shelter

and Senior Center: Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Rec Center: Closed for floor resurfacing on Monday, Dec. 23, closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Open New Year's Eve but closing at 6 pm. Closed New Year's Day.

Library: Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Open New Year's Eve but closing at 6 pm. Closed New Year's Day.

Help ELF & Friends bring better holidays to Cedar Hill families

EMS, Law Enforcement, Firefighters or ELF & Friends is a non-profit organization operated by the Cedar Hill Fire & Police Associations. With local residents' assistance they help provide Christmas for about 200 children and senior citizens of Cedar Hill.

ELF Trees, containing tags with individual needs, were at the Cedar Hill Wal*Mart, Fire Station #211 (1212 W. Belt Line Rd.), Police Department (285 Uptown Blvd. #200) and Zula B. Wylie Library (225 Cedar St.).

We can all help by visiting a tree, selecting a tag or two and purchasing items listed for the individuals or families on the tags.

These new, unwrapped items, with the ELF tags attached, should be brought to Fire Station #211 or the Police Department by Friday, Dec. 13.



Don't feed the clog

If you generate a lot of cooking oil or grease, don't pour it down the drain, it can cause clogs, expensive for you and for the City.

Recycle your cooking grease by bringing it, in a closed container, to the City Service Center at 1554 S. Clark Rd. between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Check in at the office and they will assist you.

For smaller amounts, pour grease into a closeable container or wipe the warm, not hot, pan with paper towels and place them in the trash.

Putting food scraps into the trash instead of down the garbage disposal can also help prevent a holiday plumbing disaster.

Putting a face on government

Erica is a part of our growth

Erica Molett, Business Retention Manager for Cedar Hill's Economic Development Corporation, is happy to be a part of the economic growth where her kids are growing up. She has been in her position since earlier this year.

A resident for over a decade, she has experience in commercial banking, managing government funding projects, and consulting with businesses that have up to \$20 million in revenue. She feels her work has prepared her for all the many hats she wears in her new role.

EDC is more than just attracting new businesses to town. About 80% of the economic growth in a city is the result of expansions and growth of existing businesses within the city.

"Here in EDC we do our best to support local business," Molett said. She works with existing and new businesses in Cedar Hill by listening to their needs and serving as a liaison when they require other city departments' involvement.

During her first few months, Molett has discovered that businesses have diverse needs and priorities. They range from concerns about the triple port taxes and the Panama Canal widening to questions about how to find skilled workers and ways to give back to the community. She

fulfills these questions and concerns by making sure business leaders are informed about innovations in the industry and have data geared toward their special markets.

One way Molett hopes to expand the growth of business is through the Cedar Hill Businesses Forum, a series of events throughout the year to bring relevant information to Cedar Hill businesses.

Each event will discuss areas of interest to local businesses that are unique to their needs.

When Molett is not working with businesses, one might find her camping with her family at Cedar Hill State Park.

"I love Cedar Hill and all the natural amenities," said Molett.

Cedar Hill has become an active destination for businesses; several projects are currently in the works. Combining a clean, safe community with easy access to transportation lifelines, Cedar Hill is an attractive business location.



Saturday litter collection

Meet at the Government Center every Saturday at 9 a.m. to help keep Cedar Hill clean by collecting litter in all parts of the city. This program is supported by Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful and coordinated by Don Hughes. To confirm, if weather is iffy, please call him at 972.765.4285.



Join the Cedar Hill Community Band
Call Donald Stockard at 214.542.8529 or
email cedarhillcommunityband@yahoo.com

People make it a community



Over 200 people attended the recent Inspiring Women's Health Luncheon to hear two doctors from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston share the latest information about women's cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This was a community event underwritten by several Cedar Hill residents, hosted by Trinity Church and supported by local retail and other businesses.



Volunteers for the Inspiring Women's Health Luncheon included a City Council member, employees from the City, Trinity Church and Chamber of Commerce, all rallying around Dr. Peggy Wilson, in blue.



At a recent City Council Meeting, Friends of the Tri-City Animal Shelter were recognized for their long-term support of the work at the animal shelter that serves Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville. Shown are Alissa Preliss, Former Shelter Director, Janet Hale, Barbara Detmore, Dr. Donna Fuller DMV, B.J. Farmer, Stacey Copeland, Leslie Cromwell and Tammy Miller, current Shelter Director.

City Council Meetings

Are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, except for November and December which have only one meeting. For the full schedule of meetings and more information visit cedarhilltx.com/citycouncilmeeting.

CALENDAR

For the most up-to-the-minute information on events, check out the City's online calendar by scanning this QR code with your smartphone. Free QR scanners are available in your phone's app store.



DECEMBER

Holiday Membership Special

Cedar Hill Recreation Center

20% off annual membership and \$10 off 3-month membership through Jan. 5, 2014, excluding corporate memberships. For more information, call 972.293.5233.

17 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

6 p.m., T. W. "Turk" Cannady Cedar Hill Room, Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd. Regular meeting. To receive an agenda, email rod.tyler@cedarhilltx.com.

19 Polar Express Night

Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Enjoy a magical journey to the North Pole. Wear pajamas for train rides, stories, hot chocolate. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313.

30 Kwanzaa Celebration

Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Learn about the seven principles of Kwanzaa, enjoy storytelling performances and taste traditional foods. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313.

JANUARY

1 Day One Trail Run

10 a.m. Cedar Hill State Park

The 20K and 5K courses will wind through the hilly, scenic woods and lakeside prairies of the 15+ miles of hike and bike trails available in Cedar Hill State Park. Enjoy New Year's Eve in Downtown Dallas and make New Year's Day 2014 one to remember at the Day One Trail Run at Cedar Hill State Park! For information call Michelle Varnell at 972.291.5940 or visit dayonetrialrun.com.

21 Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting #2

6:30 p.m. Trinity Church NAB Dining Hall, 1231 E. Pleasant Run Road

This meeting will be in the northeast section of the city. The City Council has made it a strategic priority to engage and strengthen Cedar Hill neighborhoods. City Council members invite residents to engage in two-way communication about the present and future of our community. They seek residents' input about issues and opportunities. For a map of the neighborhoods served by each of the meetings visit www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?nid=1685. For more information contact Neighborhood Services at 972.291.5100 X1094.

City closings for holidays

City Administration offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's Day. To check holiday hours for other City facilities please visit cedarhilltx.com or call facilities directly using numbers on the back page of this newsletter.



CEDAR HILL

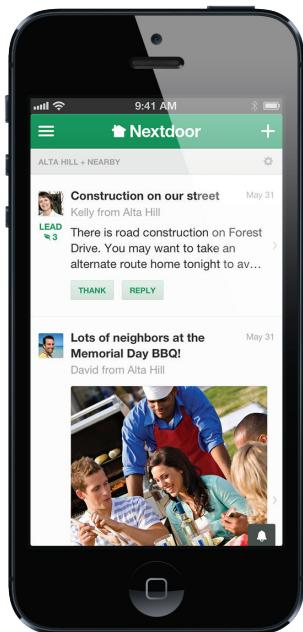
cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home

Nextdoor.com helps brings neighborhoods together

Nextdoor.com is the private social network for you and your neighborhood. It helps neighbors keep in touch. Check it out at Nextdoor.com. Your neighbors may already be there.

Sgt. Victor Vasquez and other members of the Cedar Hill Police Department PACT unit provide crime prevention tips to neighborhoods via Nextdoor. While neighbors can send information to the PACT unit, it is not an emergency service. Police officers cannot see messages between neighbors.

Many Cedar Hill neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor's secure online tool to get the word out about meetings, watch groups, finding trustworthy service providers and more.



Nextdoor.com now has a mobile app for smartphones so you can keep up with your neighborhood when you're on the go. Available at Apple and Android online app stores.

Each member must verify their address to join so you know you can trust who you are sharing with. The company has pledged it will never share your information with third parties. Read their commitment to privacy on their website Nextdoor.org.

Each website is password-protected and not accessible by search engines. Over 25,000 neighborhoods are enrolled in Nextdoor.

It's a way to share just what you want with neighbors and to involve them as a resource. While you may not want to share like you would with friends on Facebook, on Nextdoor you can ask a neighbor's opinion on the best dry cleaner nearby, or have him alert you if he noticed you left your garage door open. It's a great way to keep up with neighborhood meetings.

Council/Neighborhoods

From page 1

residents. Officials hope for a good turnout so they can collect first-hand information about what it will take to strengthen neighborhoods.

The November 19 meeting was held after the closing date for this newsletter.

The next meeting will be January 21 at Trinity Church, 1231 E. Pleasant Run.

The February meeting is set for the 18th, with the location to be determined.

The March 18 meeting will be held at Cedar Hill Church of Christ, 535 S. Clark Rd.

On April 15 the meeting will be held at the Ninth Grade Center, 1515 W. Belt Line Road.

The May 20 meeting location has not been confirmed.

Engaged neighbors help maintain Cedar Hill's small town feel, communicate needs and priorities more effectively, and become our future leaders. People's perception of the City starts at the neighborhood level.

At these meetings residents will have opportunities to speak directly with the

Mayor and City Council members. The goals are to learn the concerns residents have about their neighborhoods and find out what the City and neighbors can do together to bring about positive changes.

There will be discussions about resources needed and best ways to communicate between the residents and the City.

Please check cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood for more information regarding dates and locations of these town hall meetings.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stacey Graves, Neighborhood and Code Services Manager at 972.291.5100 ext. 1094 or stacey.graves@cedarhilltx.com.



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

City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1010

After Hours 972.780.6643

Alarm Monitoring 972.230.5248

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

City Secretary 972.291.5100x1011

Code Enforcement
972.291.5100x1090

Economic Development 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
972.291.5100x1094

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

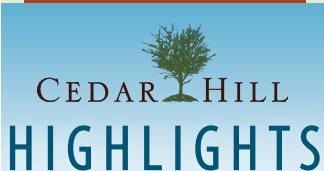
Recreation Center 972.293.5288

Senior Center 972.291.5353

Tourism 972.291.5100 x1084

Utility Billing 972.291.5100x1200

Waste Management, Inc.
Trash & Recycling 800.772.8653



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