

# May 2014



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Old computers help encourage young fans



Third grade students at Lake Ridge Elementary recently had the opportunity to discover technology, coding, engineering and robotics with a very special hands-on learning experience.

The City of Cedar Hill donated 40 obsolete computers to the school and along with them came IT Manager Earl Shipman, who helped stu-



City of Cedar Hill IT Manager Earl Shipman, left, exposes the insides of a computer to an interested audience as Cedar Hill EDC Business Retention Manager Erica Molett, right, joins a couple of component fans.

dents disassemble and learn what goes on inside.

This computer crash day was part of a career exploration series of lessons made possible by a campus-

wide grant from the Cedar Hill Education Foundation and community partners and volunteers.

### CHISD staff

Neil Bolton, Tracey Willyard, Kwanza Polk, Chris Cox, Cedric Sifflet, Bob Robinette

### Lake Ridge Elementary staff

Winnifred Goodman, Principal, Martha Ford, Teacher Coordinator, Kimberly Smith – Counselor, Carol Brazill – 3rd Grade Teacher, Amanda Ramsey – 3rd Grade Teacher, Rozica White – 3rd Grade Teacher

### Parents

Jazzy Doakes, Long Dong, Derek Dulaney, Pam Porter, Ted Goins, Rodney Grass

### City of Cedar Hill

Earl Shipman, IT Director, Erica Molett, Economic Dev. and LRE Parent.

## City Council sets sixth neighborhood Town Hall Meeting for Tues. May 20

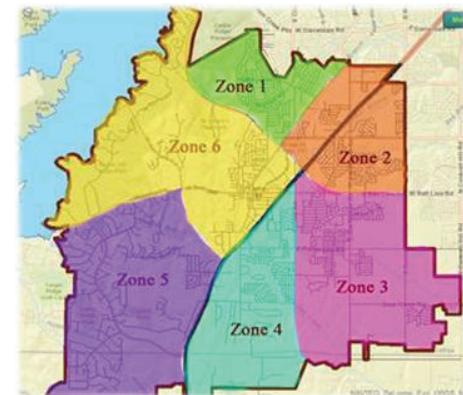
Residents of northwestern neighborhoods in the City (yellow portion of the map at right) are invited to meet with the City Council **Tuesday, May 20 at First United Methodist Church, 128 N. Roberts**. The meeting, starting at 6:30 p.m. is open to all residents.

Strong neighborhoods are the foundation of a strong city. Your Mayor and City Council members want to meet with residents to share information and hear residents' concerns and dreams for their neighborhoods.

The five previous Town Hall meetings have been well attended and residents have expressed their appreciation to City Council members and staff for the opportunity to learn about City services and speak directly to City Council members.

### City services

At these meetings, hosted by Mayor Rob Franke and the members of the City Council, residents get a brief summary of the neighborhood services provided by many of the City's departments. Then there is a short survey, with live responses, about



### City Council Neighborhood Town Hall Meetings Map

perceptions of City services.

Residents can then choose one of several smaller breakout groups for one-on-one meetings with City Council members.

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Seems like...

# Every Day is Earth Day in Cedar Hill

A record number of visitors learned how small changes can make a big impact at the City of Cedar Hill's fifth annual Earth Day April 21 at the Government Center. Over 500 attendees learned how they can help make every day Earth Day at the free family-friendly event.

Although traditionally held at the Zula B. Wylie Library, the change of location provided visitors with the opportunity to see the City's Big-Belly solar-powered recycling compactors, wind turbine and electric vehicle charging stations.

Exhibits displayed the City's plans for a legacy of sustainability through educational, interactive displays from several city departments including parks & recreation, public works, planning, tourism and the



library.

"Cedar Hill's approach to sustainability is to look at best practices and make them better," said Rhoda Savage, Director of Parks & Recreation. "We want Cedar Hill to serve as a model for other cities to emulate."

Several community organizations and vendors highlighted their environmentally-friendly services while attendees enjoyed barbecue and musical performances by Shades of Gray, the Bray Elementary Choir and Cedar Hill High School's Seven Saxes.

The City's NeighborWoods program made available a number of trees to residents and Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful and the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center distributed flowering plants.

## The Green Road Show

This year also marked the first year the City of Cedar Hill participated in the Earth Day Texas event at Fair Park in Dallas. The natural beauty and unique flora and fauna that call Cedar Hill home were highlighted by the City of Cedar Hill, Cedar Hill State Park and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center. Community members showcased the City's unique cohesive approach to incorporating sustainable practices throughout the City from recycling to water conservation to urban conservation.

For information about the City's green efforts, please visit [cedarhilltx.com/growinggreen](http://cedarhilltx.com/growinggreen).

## High school students hear from successful role models

Mayor Rob Franke, Maurice Wilson, Mike Parnell, and Kevin Franklin spoke to nearly 500 sophomores at Cedar Hill High School earlier this year. They were 1) encouraging them to make positive personal and educational choices; 2) encouraging

enrollment in career & technology courses; and 3) informing students about opportunities in manufacturing, technology, and entrepreneurship.

This event was organized by Principal Tammy Mariani, CTE Counselor Bob Robinette and Erica Molett, Cedar Hill EDC - Business Retention Manager.

Mayor Franke and Mr. Wilson (General Manager of Wal-Mart Distribution Center), spoke about the long-term impact choices have on

our future. They both shared personal stories of how negative choices impacted the lives of their families, friends, and themselves.

Mr. Wilson said, "I could have allowed others to label me, as a thug – period. But, I chose to change that period into a comma and add more to my life story including college graduate, business success, a servant to the community, and a father."

Kevin Franklin (IT Director for MDHA) and Mike Parnell (owner of P&W Machines) explained how businesses are waiting to hire skilled young people. Success can start with the technical courses offered at Cedar Hill High School.

They said manufacturing and technology industries are struggling to find skilled workers to replace their retiring workforce. They recommended CTE courses offered in high school.



### Help us get back in touch

If you've cancelled your home phone you may no longer be receiving important messages from the City. Please register your mobile phone number(s) at our secure site: [cedarhilltx.com/citymessage](http://cedarhilltx.com/citymessage)

### Keeping Cedar Hill Clean

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful is looking for talented, passionate people who want to make a difference in our community. We are also inviting residents to 'adopt a street' in conjunction with our Saturday roadway trash collection from 9-11 a.m. Contact Don Hughes at 972.765.4285.

People make it a community



CHISD STAR students recently honored at City Council meetings include **ABOVE** Dawson Khademazad from the Ninth Grade Center with Jami McCain and **BELOW** Susan Vuong, an 8th grader at Permenter Middle School, with Wallace Swayzee and Tyrese Franklin a 7th grader at Beskie Coleman Middle School with Steve Mason.



West Nile Virus season is back.  
Protect yourself and your family;  
check [cedarhilltx.com/wnv](http://cedarhilltx.com/wnv)

# 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.



[cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home](http://cedarhilltx.com/calendar/home)

## May

### 23 & 30 Cinema on the Square

Patton's Barn, SE corner of Texas and Houston St.

Movies begin at dark (about 8:30) bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Classic movie series set in historic downtown Cedar Hill, outside, in the evening. On May 23 see "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1938). The series concludes on Friday, May 30 with "Singin' In the Rain" (1952).

### 26 City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

City offices in the Government Center will be closed all day. **Residents can make water bill payments, pay citations, register and pay for Parks & Recreation classes anytime at [cedarhilltx.com/payonline](http://cedarhilltx.com/payonline).** Please check the city website [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com) to see holiday hours for the Library, the Recreation Center, the Tri-City Animal Shelter and the Senior Center.

### 27 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, 7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting  
Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.  
Agenda available at [cedarhilltx.com/agenda](http://cedarhilltx.com/agenda).

### 31 Dedication of War Dog Monument

9:30 a.m. to noon at Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.  
More information at [cedarhillpetcemetery.org](http://cedarhillpetcemetery.org).

## June

### 6, 13, 20, 27 Music in the Park Series

Friday evenings in June, at Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater  
Concerts begin at 8 p.m.

Bring the whole family for these free outdoor concerts set in a beautiful corner of Valley Ridge Park. Bring a picnic, or enjoy food truck cuisine. No alcohol or glass containers allowed. Blankets and lawn chairs encouraged. See all the bands at [cedarhilltx.com/music](http://cedarhilltx.com/music).

### 7 Grrrage sale benefitting Tri-City Animal Shelter

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Tri-City Animal Shelter, 1150 E. Pleasant Run Road  
Microchipping for \$10, lots of bargains.

### 14 Best Southwest Juneteenth Festival

5-9 p.m., Armstrong Park, Duncanville  
The Best Southwest cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and Lancaster join together to honor the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in Texas. Includes food, children's activities, entertainment featuring the Memphis Soul Revue. Admission is free.

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CEDAR HILL

Cellular telephone providers and the FCC are cooperating to send wireless emergency alerts (WEA) to your cell phones when warnings have been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). These alerts will be sent via cell towers within or touching the severe weather polygon as defined by the NWS.

When you receive one of these weather alerts pay attention. Check local TV or radio or a good weather app for more information at the time of the event.

Emergency alerts sent to mobile



devices will include Tornado Warning, Extreme Wind Warning, Flash Flood Warning and Dust Storm Warning.

The four big cell provider networks (AT&T, Sprint-Nextel, Verizon and T-Mobile) have signed on for the program. If you have another carrier you may need to check with them for availability.

## Council/Neighborhoods

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Data collected during these meetings will be collated and made available to the public and used as indicators for future plans.

### What's it all about?

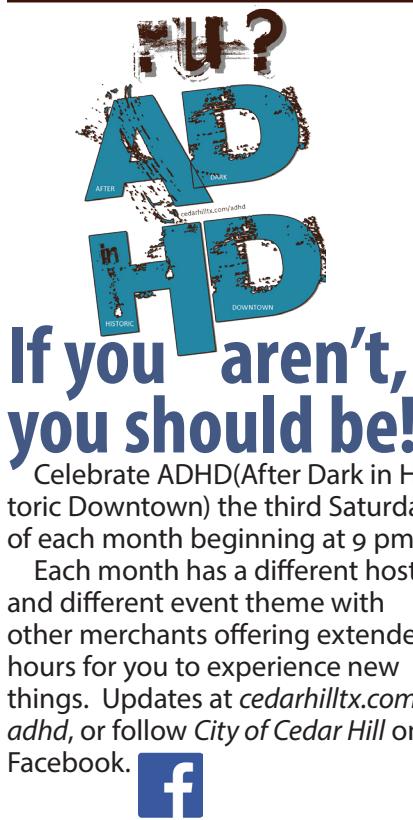
Meetings with neighbors help maintain Cedar Hill's small town feel, help the City focus services on needs expressed by residents, and improve communication.

The goals are to find out what the City and neighbors can do, working together, to bring about positive changes.

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](mailto:graves@cedarhilltx.com).



**City Manager Alan Sims, City Council member Jami McCain and Mayor Rob Franke, top right, listen to a resident's question during a breakout session at a previous Town Hall meeting.**



## 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 Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1010

After Hours (Answering service)  
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

Trash & Recycling (Waste Management)  
800.772.8653

Utility Billing 972.291.5100x1200



## CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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