

# CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

Published Quarterly

## Juneteenth Celebration set for Valley Ridge Park

The City of Cedar Hill is hosting the Best Southwest Area Juneteenth Celebration at Valley Ridge Park on June 16, 2007 from 4-10 pm. Valley Ridge park is at 2850 Park Ridge Drive, just off Lake Ridge Parkway. Planners are expecting 6,000 - 8,000 visitors at the one-day event. The cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, and Lancaster are collaborating on this event to include the entire regional community. This year's theme is

"Celebrating our Texas Heroes".

Channel 8 News and their Family First Program will participate in the Juneteenth Celebration by providing advertising, posters, and live broadcasts the day of the event.

Channel 8 will be promoting the Juneteenth Celebration during a June 13 luncheon for Best Southwest mayors, council members and city managers in Duncanville. Plenty of

fun and exciting activities are planned for the Juneteenth Celebration at Valley Ridge Park.

One of the most interesting, popular and educational will be the Buffalo Soldiers Encampment which will feature demonstrations and an idea of the 19th century cavalry soldiers' lifestyle.

### Children's events:

- Rock climbing wall
- Bounce House
- Safety House, from the Fire Dept.
- Texas Junior Angler Fishing event (tackle provided and a freshly stocked pond)
- Watermelon eating contest

### Adult events:

- Car show
- Disc golf competition
- Horseshoe tournament
- Sweet Potato Pie/Tea Cake Cook-off
- Musical and performing groups

### Main Stage @ Amphitheatre:

- Opening ceremony at 4 pm
- Main concert by "Fingerprints", Jazz/R&B band, starting at 8 pm.

### We will also have:

- Arts & crafts vendors
- Food vendors
- A photography competition based on the theme "Texas and our Heroes".



The Cedar Hill Kite Festival at Valley Ridge Park in April was a big success. Flyers had over 60 kites in the air by early afternoon. The most popular kite was the 60-foot-long black and red squid kite.



Volume 4 No. 2

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## Leadership Meeting May 24th

Mayor Rob Franke's next Quarterly Leadership Meeting is scheduled Thursday, May 24th, 2007 at 6:30 pm in the community room fo the Zula B. Wylie Library at 225 Cedar Street. This quarter's meeting will feature a discussion and presentation by Cedar Hill Public Works Director Ruth Antebi-Guten. All residents are welcome to attend.

## Happening at the Rec Center

Summer is a busy time at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center for kids and grown ups. Here are just a few of the fun things happening this Summer. The center is at 310 E. Parkerville Road. For more information on any of these or other summer programs call 972.293.5288.

### Carlton Dixon All-Star Basketball Camp for kids ages 5-12

This is the most exciting and hardest-working camp in the area. Learn shooting, dribbling, rebounding, defense. The camp is hosted by the former Lincoln High School All-American and UT Longhorn All-Star player Carlton Dixon.

Registration at the Cedar Hill Rec Center ends Tuesday, May 29. The camp will be held June 11-15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 and each camper will receive a 2007 All-Star Camp t-shirt.

### Keep fit with Salsa

A new basic-intermediate Salsa class starts in May. This class is designed to teach basic ballroom salsa as well as a more unique and expressive form of salsa called "shine".

Salsa can help you gain a better sense of rhythm, balance and overall fitness. No partner necessary.

### The Art of Chess

Studies have shown that chess is one of the most effective educational training tools available. Children who are introduced to chess programs show standardized test score increases in critical skills like reading comprehension and total memory recall. And it is fun. Classes are held on Saturdays starting May 19 and are open to age 8 through adult. Cost is \$11 per session.

### Adult Softball League

The Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation Department offers summer adult softball leagues. Registration starts mid-May and closes the end of the month. Fees are \$350 per team. All games are played at Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset Dr. Register at the Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation office, 301 S. Broad St. from 8-5 Monday -Friday. Call 972.291.5130.

### Swimming lessons for kids

Swimming lessons for infants and children up to 16 years of age will be available at Crawford Park pool, 530 Krantz (off Straus Rd.) Sessions are two weeks each, Tuesdays through Fridays. \$35 per session. Sessions start June 5, June 19, and July 10. Register starting May 14 at 972.291.5130.

### Tennis anyone?

The Cedar Hill Tennis Association offers adult and youth lessons. For more information contact the Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation Dept. at 972.291.5130. Lessons are held at Crawford Park on Straus Road.

### Let's go strolling

The Cedar Hill Recreation Center hosts a Walking Club. All family members are welcome at these sessions. More information is available at [laci.mckinney@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:laci.mckinney@cedarhilltx.com).

## Guidebook for the future gets update

The Cedar Hill City Council has appointed a 30+ member steering committee to assist the city's consultant with a major overhaul of the Cedar Hill Comprehensive Plan. This would be the first such update since the Plan's adoption in 1999.



Members of the committee were selected to represent all constituencies in Cedar Hill.

The city uses the framework of the Comprehensive Plan to improve and sustain residential neighborhood quality and livability, and it establishes policies and guidelines intended to direct the present and future physical, social, and economic development of the City.

The update will involve numerous meetings by the steering committee and is expected to take nearly a year to complete. Please contact the Planning Department at 972-291-5100 x 1081, for more information.



Cedar Hill Fire Marshal Randy Jordan receives a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart Manager Brad Mullen to provide smoke detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and small fire extinguishers. These life-saving devices will be distributed by emergency response crews as they visit homes in the city. They are also available to citizens by request to the Fire Department. High Pointe Baptist Church donated \$250 toward this program.

## Wildwood earns Premier award

The City of Cedar Hill Neighborhood Advisory Board has chosen Wildwood as the Premier Neighborhood Award Recipient for 2007.

This community, nestled atop the escarpment overlooking Lake Ridge, includes about 240 residences. The Wildwood Homeowners Association, organized in 1986, reaches out to their neighborhood and the community through regular meetings, special events and volunteers.

“Cedar Hill is blessed with exceptional neighborhoods,” remarked Councilman Wade Emmert. “My family and I have lived in Wildwood for the past year and a half. The people we have come to know carry with them a keen sense of community consistent with the distinctive character for which Cedar Hill is known.”

Wildwood participates in the Parks Department, Adopt-a-Park program. “The property owners’ association had a parcel of land that had been deeded to them by the developer,” noted HOA President, Mike White. “We elected to not only donate the land, but to adopt the park once it was installed.” Since its completion last summer, Wildwood Neighborhood Park has been the site of a number of events including the Wildwood HOA Annual Fall Festival.

As this year’s Premier Neighborhood, Wildwood will receive a certificate of recognition, an award plaque, a feature on the City of Cedar Hill website, a permanent sign placed at the main entrance of the neighborhood and \$250 to be used for National Night Out festivities in August.



## Independent film series continues

Saturday	May 26	The Middle of the World
	2:00 pm	A Portuguese language film with English subtitles
	5:00 pm	Carol's Journey
		A Spanish language film with English subtitles
Saturday	June 23	Miracle in Harlem
	2:00 pm	1948 African/American musical murder mystery
	5:00 pm	Rising from the Rails: <i>Pullman Porters and the Making of Black Middle Class</i>
Saturday	July 28	Let the Church Say, ‘Amen’
	2:00 pm	Documentary film about faith in the inner city
	5:00 pm	The Great Match
		A multi-language documentary film with English subtitles

## What's Up Downtown

*Mark your calendar for these downtown events scheduled in the months ahead.*

Saturday	May 26	Art in the Park
	12:30 pm– 5:00 pm	Pioneer Park Historic Downtown District
	2:00 pm and 5:00 pm	Cinema on the Square City Hall Council Chamber 502 Houston St./Historic Downtown District
Saturday	June 9	Small Town Saturday Night
	6:00 pm – 10 pm	Historic Downtown District
Saturday	June 23	Cinema on the Square
	2:00 pm and 5:00 pm	City Hall Council Chamber 502 Houston St./Historic Downtown District
Saturday	July 28	Cinema on the Square
	2:00 pm and 5:00 pm	City Hall Council Chamber 502 Houston St./Historic Downtown District

**Visit Historic Downtown Cedar Hill and Discover What's Up!**



At the April groundbreaking for the 24,000 sq. ft Cedar Hill Medical Plaza at Belt Line and Waterford Oaks city officials shovel with Economic Development Corporation members and principals from Methodist Health Systems and The Cirrus Group, L.L.C. The facility is expected to open in the fall.

## National Night Out August 1

The “24th Annual National Night Out”, a unique crime/drug prevention event, has been scheduled for Tues., August 7, 2007. The City of Cedar Hill, Neighborhood Services and the Cedar Hill Police Dept. are proud participants of this nationwide event.

Any crime prevention organization, community group or neighborhood association that was not officially registered with the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) for Night Out 2007 is invited to contact NATW now to receive information on National Night Out 2007.

There is no cost to register or participate. Once registered with NATW, local coordinators receive an organizational kit full of ‘how to’ materials including planning suggestions, sample news releases, artwork, and promotional guides – and interim updates throughout the year.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to:

- Heighten crime prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Along with the traditional outside lights and front porch vigils, most cities and towns now celebrate National Night Out with a variety of neighborhood events such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local law enforcement and safety fairs.

## Historic Downtown hosts Small Town Saturday Night

Think back to a simpler time when friends gathered downtown for good old-fashioned fun and entertainment in a safe and clean environment. Well those days are back as the City of Cedar Hill and the Main Street Development and Preservation Board host Small Town Saturday Night, June 9 from 6 pm – 9 pm on the Historic Downtown City Hall Square.

Last year marked the return of Small Town Saturday Night where residents gathered in Pioneer Park to enjoy music, fun and the updated historic downtown streetscape improvements. “The historic district is becoming quite a unique destination with all

the recent improvements,” noted downtown business owner Frances Reed of Distinct Elegance Bridal, “and the period lighting makes the area much more pedestrian-friendly.”

This year’s event will feature old-fashioned games, a classic car show around City Hall, food, prizes, and live entertainment on the stage in Pioneer Park provided by Cedar Hill’s own Tim Jones Band.

Activities will begin at 6 pm and continue to 9 pm. Admission is FREE and everyone is invited to join in the fun.

To get to Historic Downtown travel west on Belt Line Road from U.S. Highway 67 to Main Street. Turn south on Main to Cedar. Convenient on-street parking can be found around town and additional parking is available on the corner of Texas and Broad streets across from the Parks and Recreation Building.





During the recent, very cool Spring Cleanup, Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful President Sheri Borth and board member Margot Bucholz huddled up with Cody the Cleanup Coyote (KCHB ex officio member Sandy Martin of the City Parks & Recreation Dept.)

## Many brave the chill for KCHB Spring Clean Up

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful held their 9th Annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 16, 2007. Despite the cold weather, there were approximately 250 volunteers cleaning up trash in city right-of-ways.

Hot dog lunch was provided by Cedar Hill Lions Club. Over 30

other organizations sponsored the event, including retail businesses, churches, realtors, developers, service businesses, health care facilities, higher education campuses and involved individuals. T-shirts and door prizes provided by sponsors were given to volunteers at the event.

## Making trees a priority

The City of Cedar Hill is in the process of drafting a Tree Preservation Ordinance. This has been a long and complex process, but it will help to preserve the unique and natural character of our premier City.

The Planning Department has received valuable input from both the development community and concerned citizens, which will be

summarized and presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission at an upcoming meeting.

Please contact the Planning Office at 972-291-5100 x 1081, for more information. You may also visit the planning department's web page to view a copy of the proposed ordinance and upcoming Planning & Zoning Commission agendas.

## Virus threatens local dogs

This area is experiencing an outbreak of Parvovirus among the dog population. It is important that you vaccinate your dog against this disease whether your dog is an indoor or outdoor dog. Taking your dog for a walk in the park can potentially expose him to this dangerous virus. Here are some facts about this deadly disease:

- Young dogs and puppies are more susceptible to the virus. The most vulnerable time is 2-6 months of age, however older dogs are at risk as well, especially if they are not vaccinated.
- The virus is extremely hardy and can survive up to 6 months in the environment; even in inclement weather.
- It is transmitted by the healthy dog ingesting feces from a dog with the virus. (Your dog can get the virus simply by walking in the area where a sick dog has been).
- Survival is possible but not guaranteed if caught and treated immediately. Treatment can be costly.
- Symptoms usually show up 7-10 days from contact with the virus and include vomiting and diarrhea followed by dehydration. Watch for a change in your dog's behavior. Lethargy and loss of appetite are often the first signs of Parvovirus.
- Prevention is by far the best medicine, so make sure to keep up with your dog's vaccinations.

If you suspect that your dog may be ill with this disease, contact your veterinarian immediately. For a list of local veterinarians, you can contact the Tri-City Animal Shelter at (972)291-5335.

## Neighborhood Matching Grant funds available

Cedar Hill neighborhood organizations are invited to take advantage of project funding offered through the Neighborhood Services Department. The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program provides matching funds for eligible neighborhood organization and business association projects. Grant funding is available on a 50/50 match basis, up to \$1,000, for a neighborhood sponsored project. Each

application is reviewed by the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) and requires City Council approval.

Applications for grant projects are required to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Strengthen and improve neighborhood organizations
- Improve the appearance of neighborhoods

- Advance inter-neighborhood cooperation.

"Grant funds are currently available and members of the NAB are ready to assist with the application," remarked NAB Chairman David Boatwright. The Board is accepting applications virtually year round in hopes that the greater flexibility will make project planning easier and more convenient for applicants.

The NAB will review applications for 2007 funds up to August 1, 2007. All grant-funded project components must be completed no later than fiscal year end September 30, 2007.

Grant projects may include, but are not limited to landscaping, seasonal decorations, safety equipment, beautification, park development and/or improvements, clean-up or after school activities, crime watch programs and neighborhood signage.

Neighborhood organizations are required to match the requested amount either with their own funds or in-kind services. Each neighborhood, including Public Improvement Districts, is eligible to receive one grant per fiscal budget year.

To be eligible for grant application a neighborhood organization must be registered with the City of Cedar Hill Neighborhood Services Department, must show proof of regular membership meetings, provide a copy of their bylaws or articles of incorporation that includes a list of officers, and an organization budget.

For a printed copy of the application call Neighborhood Services at 972-291-5100, extension 1084 or download it at [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com).



Residents of the Cedar Trails neighborhood mingle with city officials during a special "blessing" of their new basketball court built by the city. The neighborhood group, headed by Clara McGinnis, organized the event to thank the city for investing in their neighborhood.

## Litter survey gives high marks

Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful members recently conducted their annual survey of litter in Cedar Hill.

"We are so proud of our residents for keeping our city so clean," said Sheri Borth, president of KCHB.

Group members and volunteers fan out once a year on a two hour driving tour of the city. Areas that get the most scrutiny include land near Mount Lebanon Road, Pleasant Run and Cedar Hill roads, areas near Joe Wilson Intermediate School and residential areas near City Hall.

"Tire debris was probably the most offensive thing we found because it's so hard to dispose of," said KCHB member Sandy Martin. But most areas were improved over last year. Borth, city code enforcement officer Stacey Graves and KCHB member Kathy Draxler organized the volunteers.

Volunteers include Lois Cannady, Norman Patten, Otha Atherton, Patty Palmer and George Boles. They are just a few of the many people who volunteer their time for the benefit of our city.

## Library activities splash into summer

“Sail away with books” or “¡Navega lejos con libros!” is the 2007 theme for the summer Texas Reading Club, designed to encourage kids to read for pleasure, especially while school is out. Governor Rick Perry asks all Texans to join in ensuring that the children across our great state become accomplished readers.

The Zula B. Wylie Library invites all children in the community to join in. Sign up for the reading club begins May 29 and activities extend all summer. At the end of the summer the library will host a party for readers and present prizes for hours spent reading.

Also this summer the Heavy Machinery Petting Zoo will make a return visit so kids can get up close and personal with equipment they see working in our community.

Miss Jo will be reading stories this summer and Sand Art with Beth Green will return and many other activities are available for readers of all ages.

Story Time continues on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:30 for pre-school and other children who want to listen and create a craft.

More information about summer programs at the library are available on the library web site [www.zulabwylie.lib.org](http://www.zulabwylie.lib.org). Or call the Children’s Librarian, Shanla Brookshire at 972.291.7323

## Music in Park enters 12th year

There’s nothing like live music outdoors as dusk turns to evening. The Music in the Park concert series returns to the Lake Ridge Park amphitheater again this summer. Bring the kids, grandma and grandpa, even load up the neighbors for a great Friday evening. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, picnic if you like. Food and drink vendors will be available.

This year’s concert series starts Friday, June 1 with Dennis Cavalier & Zydeco Texas (cajun/New Orleans/variety). On June 8 enjoy Texas Gypsies (Pop/swing/hot jazz). Crawfish (eclectic 70s & 80s) performs June 15. Quebe Sisters (country/swing/bluegrass) close the series on June 22.

## Babe’s Chicken roosts in City Hall

Babe’s Chicken Dinner House is bringing its stick-to-your-ribs fare to Cedar Hill.

The home-cooking restaurant, which currently has five north Texas locations, first opened in Roanoke in 1993. It will take possession of the City Hall building on Cedar Street in July 2008 and will begin renovations. The city expects to move into offices in the new municipal building shared with Cedar Hill Independent School District in May 2008.

Paul Vinyard, the owner and proprietor of Babe’s, estimates that the Cedar Hill location will draw 375,000 to 400,000 customers per year shortly after opening.

After \$14.5 million in renovations and improvements to its historic downtown area in the last few years, the city is focused on drawing people in.

“I know it’s going to be tremendous, positive traffic in the downtown area, because Babe’s doesn’t take reservations and people will wait a long time to be seated, which will create a lot of foot traffic,” says Patty Bushart, neighborhood services/Main Street manager for Cedar Hill. Babe’s will

hire six managers and 125 employees at the new location, many of whom will come from the local high school.

“Since we don’t serve alcohol and we control cursing, we are one of the larger employers of teenagers, which helps build their personalities,” says Vinyard. “We try to teach them how to be a good employee so they can hold a job in the future.”

That involvement in the community is another reason why Cedar Hill found Babe’s so enticing. Matthew Mabeol, president of Dallas hospitality consultancy Surrender Inc. said Cedar Hill is experiencing unprecedented population growth.

“Because it’s a growing area, Cedar Hill is getting more chains, but some people don’t want to eat at chains. They want authentic food, and Babe’s certainly has figured out how to do high-quality home cooking.”

Some customers have been known to drive up to 45 minutes to dine on the family-style meals.



City of Cedar Hill  
P.O. Box 96  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106

### City Council

Rob Franke  
Mayor

Cory Spillman  
Mayor Pro Tem

Clifford Shaw

Daniel C. Haydin, Jr.  
Wade Emmert  
Greg Patton  
Makia Epie

### City Manager

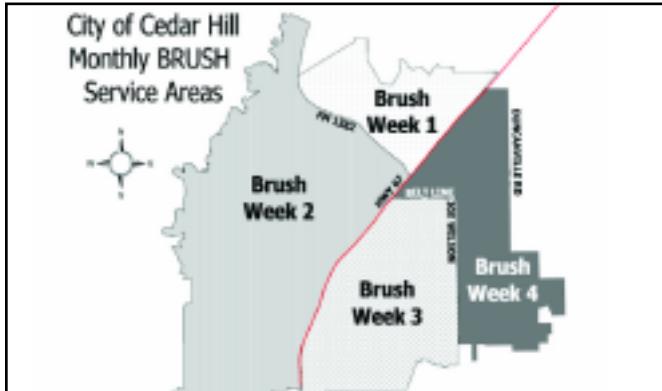
Alan E. Sims

Phone 972.291.5100  
Fax 972.291.5107  
[www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com)

**BULK RATE**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
CEDAR HILL, TX  
Permit No. 25

### Postal Customer

## Brush and bulk curbside pick up



#### What is allowed:

- Ten cubic yards can be placed within 3 feet of curb.
- **Do not** have brush out earlier than 6 pm on the Friday before collection week to avoid a citation.
- For amounts over 10 cubic yards, please contact Waste Management to negotiate a pick up price.
- Brush need not be bundled.
- Brush may not exceed 4 ft. lengths or branches over 6 inches in diameter.
- Don't put brush on water meters or under power/phone lines.
- This service is not for residents utilizing professional tree trimming services, which must be removed by contractor.

#### IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS Area Code 972 unless noted

Abandoned Vehicles	
Private Property .....	291-5100 x.1090
Public Property .....	291-5181
Administration .....	291-5100 x.1010
After Hours .....	293-4611
Alarm Permits .....	291-5181
Animal Control .....	223-6111
Building Permits .....	291-5100 x.1090
Cert. of Occupancy .....	291-5100 x.1090
Chamber of Commerce .....	291-7817
City Secretary .....	291-5100 x.1011
Code Enforcement .....	291-5100 x.1090
Community Center .....	291-5353
Crawford Park Pool .....	291-5318
Dallas County Clerk .....	(214)653-7559
Voter Registration .....	(214)653-7192
Economic Development .....	291-5132
Finance Department .....	291-5100 x.1060
Fire Non-Emergency .....	291-1011
Food Pantry .....	293-2822
High Grass Complaint .....	291-5100 x.1090
Historical Society .....	293-3806
Human Resources .....	291-5100 x.1050
Library .....	291-7323
Municipal Court .....	291-5100 x.1041
Neighborhoods .....	291-5100 x.1084
Parks & Recreation .....	291-5130
Parks Field Rain-Out .....	(214)855-9758
Planning & Zoning .....	291-5100 x.1081
Police Non-emergency .....	291-5181
Public Works .....	291-5126
Recreation Center .....	293-5288
Utility Billing .....	291-5100 x.1200