



Safety reputation still growing

Feel safer in Cedar Hill? You should. For the fifth year in a row, crime was down in the city. That was the key talking point of Cedar Hill Police Chief Steve Rhodes' annual report to the City Council on May 13.

Rhodes said the city's crime index, the number of serious crimes per 1,000 population, was down 9% in 2007 from 2006. Also, calls for service were down slightly.

Crimes against people were down more than 22% and property crimes were down more than 8%.

Other police statistics for 2007 included a 5:45 average response time, from call to arrival at the scene, for top priority categories, down from 6:05 in 2006.

Rhodes said traffic accidents were down

14% in the city, and down 34% on FM 1382.

The department continues to reduce the amount of time spent on false alarms from residential or commercial security systems.

Part of police work is solving crimes. The city's 35.9% rate of clearing cases was up slightly from 2007. Also, arrests were up to 1,860, from 1,748 in 2006.

Other highlights of the report included the department implementing 90% of the recommendations of a Buracker CBI Police Management Study within four months of getting the consultant's final report in July.

Rhodes said redefining the boundaries of the department's five beat areas helped improve response times.

On an experimental basis, the department is assigning officers to

regular beats.

In 2008, the police department will move to the new Government Center this summer. A second assistant police chief will be part of the staff at the new station.

The current police station will be remodeled and serve as the center of police department community services.

Civilian personnel will be housed at the current police station as part of the department's community services operations.

A new police radio system has the ability to patch with any other unit, such as Cedar Hill State Park or security at Uptown Village," he said.

This article was condensed from Cedar Hill Today newspaper. To subscribe, call 000.000.0000



Planners seek residents' input for city's future

Opinions expressed by residents in meetings in May and June of this year will help determine the future of Cedar Hill.

In February of 2007 the City Council appointed a citizen steering committee for the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of the plan committee is an extensive document that examines and makes recommendations on issues like transportation, infrastructure, housing,

development.

This Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the City Council and, when approved, will serve as a guide for the Council as they manage the city's progress and for the City administration as they implement the steps involved.

The first resident meetings included two Government classes at Cedar Hill High School. Instant polling devices *Continues on page 2*

Who will claim the title:

BBQ King of the Hill?

Does your neighborhood have a winner? Neighbor2Neighbor and Neighborhood Services are encouraging



neighborhoods to have their own BBQ cookoffs and send the best to the finals in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill.

Neighbor2Neighbor will even help with your neighborhood contest. Visit www.n2ncedar-hill.com for their toolkit to get started.

Everyone is invited to the First Annual Citywide Bar-b-que Cook Off on Saturday, June 21.

Festivities begin at 3 p.m. and, while the

BBQ is cooking enjoy live music provided by two bands.

The Kirk Thurmond Band will start things off and they will be fol-

lowed by Southbound Texas 35.

The over-qualified celebrity judges will make their BBQ King selection at 6 p.m.

Small Town Saturday night

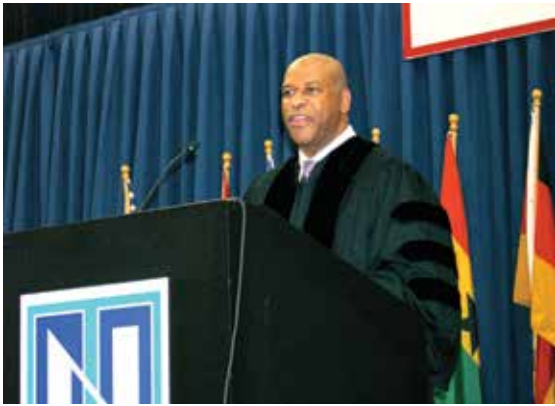
After enjoying some of the best BBQ around, stick around for Small Town Saturday Night in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill from 6-9 p.m.

This evening of friendship and celebration of Cedar Hill's

values is presented by the City and the Main Street Development and Preservation Board.

The highlight will be free, live music in Pioneer Park with the country blues sounds of the Jimmy Kaiser Band.

Sims receives honorary doctorate



Northwood University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Cedar Hill City Manager Alan Sims at its 41st annual graduation ceremony May 23.

Sims says he doesn't deserve it, but the administration at Northwood University politely begs to differ, and plenty of people in Cedar Hill would agree with the assessment.

Sims was chosen for this honor because of his outstanding professional and personal service to the community and the Best Southwest area of Dallas County. Sims was also the commencement speaker and shared his vision as to what graduates can do to become effective business and community leaders.

"Alan Sims is a strong advocate of community engagement," said Northwood Provost Dr. Kevin Fegan. "He has been very instrumental, usually be-

hind the scenes, in ensuring that Northwood University is a very strategic part of Cedar Hill's growth and development now and into the future. Alan has spoken on our campus numerous times and is a great role model for all of our students."

Sims was appointed City Manager of Cedar Hill in March 2000. Before that he was the Deputy City Manager of Overland Park, KS. He received both his bachelor's degree and his master's degree in public administration (MPA) from the University of Kansas.

Sims serves on the North Texas Tollway Authority board of directors, is a charter member of the Cedar Hill Rotary Club, and was president of the North Texas City Management Association in 2006. He is a member of the Cedar Hill Lions Club and serves on the board of directors of the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, Trinity Church and Christian School Board of Trustees.

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gave the students an opportunity to express their opinions when alternatives were shown in a PowerPoint presentation hosted by Mayor Rob Franke.

The instant polling made it possible for everyone to see the responses to the multiple choice questions. Participants, city planners and City Council members present could all see which issues were agreed on and which areas left room for disagreement.

Mayor Franke was impressed with how quickly the students grasped some pretty complex city planning and development issues.

Similar meetings, open to all residents at the Recreation Center on May 28 and June 12 were scheduled to allow residents to record their responses to issues facing Cedar Hill in the next 10 years. This data will be included in the final 2008 Comprehensive Plan document when it is delivered to the City Council later this summer.

City Planning Director Rod Tyler said citizens on the steering committee and those who attended the meetings will actually influence the direction of the city in the next decade.

Up-to-date information about the 2008 Comprehensive Plan is available at www.cedarhilltx.com/planning.

Juneteenth

The City of Cedar Hill is a sponsor of the Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration on June 14. This year it is hosted by DeSoto in Moseley Park, 1300 Honor Dr.



City offices moving into new Government Center July 14

Construction workers at the Government Center on Uptown Blvd. will soon be replaced by City workers and Cedar Hill School District employees.

All City offices in City Hall are scheduled to close at the end of business on Friday, July 11 and open at 8 a.m. on Monday July 14.

School district offices are moving the second week in July and the Police Department will be moving from their location on E. Belt Line Road into the Government Center late in July.

The Police Building will be renovated to house Community Ser-

vice and Crime Victim Services of the Police Department.

City offices in the Government Center will be located in the 4-story central portion of the building on the first, second and fourth floors. The Police Department will occupy the two-story building on the northeast end and CHISD offices will be in the southwestern 2-story building and the third floor of the center building.

Floorplans will soon be posted on the city website (cedarhilltx.com) and will be available from the main lobby receptionist.



At a recent City Council meeting Mayor Rob Franke presents S.T.A.R. Student Awards to Cedar Hill students. The S.T.A.R. program is a way the City Council recognizes outstanding students in CHISD.

Awards are presented monthly to students in all grades, who are recommended by their teachers and principals for overall achievement and quality character.

City Council members support the vision of CHISD to provide our community with a world-class education system.

Free wi-fi
Wireless internet connection is available at the Zula B. Wylie Library and at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Be a part of the solution

Apply to serve on a City board

Volunteer service to the community is a noble and necessary calling. Participation by engaged and caring citizens makes it possible for many aspects of city government to function.

About this time each year, the City seeks volunteers who are interested in serving on the following advisory boards. More information on each board and the application form is available on the City website under Departments/Administration, or contact Lyn Hill at 972.291.5100 x1011.

Board of Adjustment

This five-member quasi-judicial board reviews requests for variances, administrative appeals, and special exceptions to the zoning ordinance.

Building Appeals & Advisory Board

This nine-member board has jurisdiction over appeals regarding building, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical codes.

Capital Impact Fee Advisory Committee

The committee advises and assists the City in adopting and updating land use assumptions, capital improvements plans and impact fees.

Cedar Hill Industrial Development Corporation Board

This corporation considers only industrial manufacturing projects that propose to use industrial revenue bonds to finance new or expanded projects.

Community Development Corporation Board

This seven-member board administers the 1/2-cent community development sales tax.

Economic Development Corporation Board

This five-member board administers the 1/2-cent economic development sales tax.

Main Street Development and Preservation Board

This nine-member advisory board is responsible for organizing and maintaining a community effort to revitalize Cedar Hill's historic downtown.

Neighborhood Advisory Board

This nine-member board is advisory to Neighborhood Services and the City Council relative to matters involving neighborhoods and community affairs.

Parks & Recreation Board

This nine-member board works with the Parks & Recreation staff on matters relating to this department.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission is a board that is appointed by the City Council to serve in an advisory role regarding land use and land development issues.

Tri-City Regional Animal Shelter Advisory Committee

This nine-member committee is advisory to the city councils of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville on matters relating to the Tri-City Animal Shelter.

Zula B. Wylie Library Board

This nine-member board is advisory to the City Council regarding present and future needs of the library as well as its policies.

Community Calendar

June

Music in the Park

Every Friday evening in June, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater
2850 Park Ridge Drive

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, a picnic dinner and enjoy free concerts throughout the month by various artists while relaxing under the stars.

June 6	Crawfish	Variety
June 13	Drop Top Rocket	Rockabilly-50's
June 20	Fingerprints	Jazz/Urban
June 22	Island Boogie	Steel drum/Latin

July

Moving into the new Government Center

In early July, City government and CHISD employees will move into the new facility on Uptown Blvd. The weekend of July 12-13, City offices, including Administration, and Police, will move from several buildings into the new Government Center. Offices are expected to open at 8 a.m. Monday, July 14. For the latest information about which offices are moving and where they will be located in the Government Center, please visit the websites for the City and CHISD.

Every week

Fun Time Live

Saturdays, 7-11 pm, Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Road.

\$10 per child, for 3rd grade through 8th grade. Live DJ, karaoke, dance contests, inflatables, basketball, soccer, tug-o-war and more. www.funlivelive.com or call Cedar Hill Recreation Center at 972.293.5288.

Every month

Readers on the Hill

Literary group meets the first Monday of each month at the Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. Call the library at 972.291.7323 for more information.

Dallas Area Writers Group

Open to beginning and seasoned writers, this group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. For more information visit www.dallaswriters.org.

Cedar Hill Star Party

Third Saturday of each month, Sunset until 11 pm, J.W. Williams Park, 1065 High Pointe Ln. (Beside West Intermediate School)

Telescopes provided by members of the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas. For more information, please visit www.tasobserving.org. For status and cancellation information, call 214.800.6000.

City Council meetings

are scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesday of most months. Meetings are open to the public and citizens can address the City Council members during the Citizens Forum portion of the meeting.

Visit www.cedarhilltx.com to see more events

Quicker alarm response can save lives

If you have an alarm system in your home, consider switching to the City of Cedar Hill's alarm monitoring service. It saves valuable and possibly life-saving

time by reporting your alarm directly to the appropriate 9-1-1 emergency dispatcher.

Cedar Hill's 9-1-1 Call Center offers home and business alarm

monitoring. The Center uses emergency dispatchers to provide the quickest alarm response available.

For more information, call 972.223.6111.

Contacts

After hours
972.780.6643Alarm

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
Non-emergency
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
Non-emergency
972.291.5100x2400

Public Relations
972.291.5100x1032

Public Works
972.291.5126

Recreation Center
972.293.5288

Senior Center
972.291.5353

Tri-City Animal Shelter
972.291.5335

Utility Billing
972.291.5100x1200

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Waste Management adds eyes and ears for safety

They move slowly through our community everyday, passing homes at least twice a week. Who better to keep an eye on things than the drivers for Waste Management, our city's solid waste disposal company?

The company's Waste Watch program trains drivers to watch for the unusual as they work their routes.

They train to identify emergency situations, hazards in the neighborhoods, code violations and to watch for lost children.

They are not trained to intervene, but to contact the proper authori-

ties about a situation.

According to Steve Kellar, of Waste Management, the company has had success with this program in communities across the country.

He said they have helped locate vehicles the police were searching for and found young children who strayed away from home.

The drivers receive no extra pay or other incentive to take the training and help keep communities safer.

It's just a matter of pride, said Kellar, and a way to be "a positive part of the communities we serve."



If you feed 'em, fix 'em

A stray cat shows up; it looks hungry so you offer it some food.

Every year the Tri-City Animal Shelter takes in hundreds of kittens from citizens who start feeding a neighborhood cat, wait until her kittens are born and bring her and her kittens to the shelter to find them homes.

Despite our efforts, last year we euthanized 174 kittens in the single month of June. We would prefer that the kittens come here instead of staying on the

street where they will continue to reproduce, starve or worse.

If you are feeding cats outdoors, please have them spayed or neutered so we can lower the number of kittens and cats euthanized.

If the cats are feral (untouchable), please contact us at 972-291-5335 or your local veterinarian to receive information on how to safely handle these cats. We can provide you with a list of the local veterinarians. Remember – if you feed 'em, fix 'em.

What can the city website do for you?

The city website (www.cedarhilltx.com) is almost six months old. City staff has added hundreds of additional pages to the site since its launch. And new information goes up nearly every day, seven days a week.

A recent addition is the Trash/Recycling/Landfill link in the left column of the home page.

This link will open a summary page with a short description of available services and links to maps, schedules and everything you need to know.

Trashy topics include: Residential Trash Service, Recycling Service, Brush Service, Hazardous Household Waste Disposal, Landfill Access, Proper Disposal of Oil, Tires and Grease.

The Trash/Recycling/Landfill link is also available under Living In Cedar Hill in the main menu.

The right-hand column on the Home page offers a Calendar, FAQs and Popular Links. While the function of these modules is pretty obvious, did you know that if you click on those headings you can view a complete list of each? Clicking on Calendar shows featured events, a mini-month calendar with days with events underlined, and a full list of events in each department.

Similarly, clicking on FAQs opens a page listing all the FAQs from all departments.

And clicking on Popular Links opens a lengthy list of links

made available by departments.

Remember, if you can't recall where some information is located you can always use the search box in the top left portion of the page. Enter a word or two click on the "Go" button and the site will quickly display locations including that word in the site.

For example, if you type "trash" in the search box, the first link that appears will take you to the previously mentioned summary page.

We're doing our best to make your city site quick and simple to use. Many already find the site is their primary source for news and information.

If you have an idea how we can make it better, click on Question/Comment? in the left column of the Home page and let us know about it.

Since the website is available 24/7, it's like having the city constantly at your fingertips.

Next time you are on the site please click on the CodeRED sign-up link under Popular Links and register your emergency numbers, just in case.



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