

November 2014



HIGHLIGHTS

Alan Sims retiring

Alan Sims is retiring in December, after nearly 15 years as City Manager of Cedar Hill.

Alan brought to our City staff a focus on customer service, professionalism and transparency, with accountability to our residents.

The City Council has already endorsed Deputy City Manager Greg Porter to fill the City Manager spot. City staffers are expecting a smooth transition.

Sims was appointed Cedar Hill City Manager in March 2000, after serving 14 years with the City of Overland Park, Kansas.

He has helped manage Cedar Hill's growth from a population of about 32,000 to over 46,000 residents.

During his service in Cedar Hill, the city has added over 3 million sq. ft. of retail space, 1 million sq. ft. of industrial business and over 150,000 sq. ft. of office space.

Sims' legacy is woven into the fabric of our community. He oversaw most of the business boom that has made Cedar Hill the retail mecca for southwest Dallas County, with Uptown Village at Cedar Hill serving as the anchor.



Alan Sims

The qualities that make Cedar Hill special have not been lost during the growth. Sims has strived to maintain the small-town charm and protect the natural beauty that makes our community unique.

He has worked with over a dozen City Council members and one Mayor, Rob Franke. The relationship between Sims and Franke reflects our City's focus on a culture of positive partnerships to provide the highest quality services and

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Vision Statement:

We envision Cedar Hill as a premier city that retains its distinctive character; where families and businesses flourish in a safe and clean environment.



National Night Out joins neighbors

Lt. Colin Chenault, Cedar Hill Police Dept.

On Oct. 7, during National Night Out, 38 neighborhood watch groups met in 29 locations across Cedar Hill.

Police officers, joined by seven City Council members and City staffers visited neighborhood, and most were visited several times.

We were very pleased with the turn out for this year's National Night Out. We estimate that over 4000 people came out of their homes and took a stand against crime by getting to know their neighbors.

There was a lot of shared information and plenty of great food!

This year we encouraged residents at each block party to connect with the police department through social media. We provided information on how we use various social media platforms to stay informed. We Tweeted photos from each of the neighborhood block parties as a way to help our followers stay informed about the community-wide event.

The police department is online on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Nextdoor. As a result of the success from National Night Out, our Facebook page has topped 3000 likes.

Sims retiring in December

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facilities for residents and businesses. Their shared vision has set the course for planning and development of the city.

Speaking of his close friend, Mayor Franke said, "The quality of development and spirit of partnership in our city is no accident. Alan Sims is the driving force behind our premier status and culture of community.

"I consider our friendship and the opportunity to work with Alan some of the great blessings of my life and critical to our success as a city. Our focus on being a safe city, delivering customer service and developing the spirit of partnerships are all core values that Alan advanced in Cedar Hill."

Partnerships formed during Sims' term include building a shared Government Center with the Cedar Hill Independent School District, developing a Regional Dispatch Center for residents of Cedar Hill and DeSoto, construction of a shared Fire Station serving parts of Cedar Hill and Grand Prairie, and a relationship with Dallas County that has brought millions of dollars of roadway improvements and shared resources to Cedar Hill.

The City's unique relationship with CHISD includes bringing to reality the Cedar Hill Government Center, the only combined municipal/school district administration building in Texas. By combining facilities, millions of taxpayers' dollars have been saved in construction and operation costs.

Partnerships with Dallas County have helped fund and develop roadway and hike/bike trail construction. Premier roads serve as a catalyst for new business development and neighborhoods. Trail development forms the lifelines of the city's long-range Parks and Open Space Plan, developed under Alan's tenure, that will guide Cedar Hill's destiny as a city within a park.

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center is one of several unique public/private partnerships supporting greenspace protection with local, regional and national entities.

Under Sims' leadership, the Police Department achieved state-wide recognition for best practices and innovative community policing activity, and the Cedar Hill Fire Department earned the insurance industry's ISO 2 rating, for superior fire protection.

Sims supported technology advances for citizens, increasing transparency and making many City services available online so residents can do business with the city 24/7.

Sims has long been active in the community as a charter member of the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Trinity Church and Christian School.

He serves on the board of Texas City Management Assoc. and is a member of the International City/County Management Assoc.

Included among Sims' many honors are: Honorary Doctor of Laws from Northwood University, 2008; Chamber of Commerce, Man of the Year, 2012; Lifetime Achievement Award from TCMA, 2013; and 2013 Country Day on the Hill, King & Queen, Alan and Gayle Sims.

Plans are being finalized for a retirement reception on Dec. 18. Check the Events calendar on cedarhilltx.com for updates.

Sims plans to enjoy life at a slower pace in Cedar Hill, spend time with his wife, Gayle, enjoy his children and grandchildren and do some traveling.

Facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice



Officer's goal is reaching kids

Cedar Hill Police Officer Chris Walden contacted several kids who were disappointed that they could not play basketball at a "neighborhood goal." A neighbor allowed the kids to play basketball on his goal; however, he recently moved away and took it with him.

Understanding their disappointment, Officer Walden went to an area retail store and, with his own money, bought a new, stand-alone basketball goal. Photo above was taken by a fellow officer who was present when he delivered the new goal. Officer Walden helped assemble the goal. All were happy with the outcome.

This report comes from the CHPD Facebook page. Follow at facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice

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.

People make it a community



The City Council recently recognized CHISD S.T.A.R. student Victoria Jarmon, who attends Plummer Elementary. City Council member Stephen Mason presented her a certificate and her award.



October was National Code Compliance Month and our City Council issued a proclamation recognizing Cedar Hill's Code Enforcement Officers as "dedicated, highly-qualified professionals who share the goals of preventing neighborhood deterioration, enhancing and ensuring safety, and preserving property values through knowledge and application of housing, zoning, and nuisance codes and ordinances". Shown with Mayor Franke are Code Enforcement Officers Michelle Gomez, Reba Smith and Tina Mitchell. At right is Stacye Graves, Code Enforcement Manager.

CHISD seeks Community Conversations on Innovation

Superintendent Orlando Riddick invites all residents to a series of public meetings to discuss new developments in Cedar Hill schools and how they will impact the education of our next generation. Meetings will be from 6 - 7:30 p.m. on:
Nov. 11 at Cedar Hill Recreation Center
Nov. 18 at Lake Ridge Elementary
Dec. 9 at High Pointe Baptist Church.
For more information visit chisd.org



More social than ever

Keep up with the latest goings on in Cedar Hill via social media. You can tweet with the city at twitter.com/CedarHillTX. Like us on Facebook, look for City of Cedar Hill, Texas-Government. Pin with us on Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx.



November

18 Mobile Apps Sharing Party

7:00-8:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library.

Discover the latest trends with mobile applications. Learn how to download apps to your mobile devices, use an app as a tool, receive app resources, and more. Share your favorite apps with others and have fun exploring apps that allow you to customize your phone or mobile device to suit your specific set of wants and needs.

27-28 City facilities closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Check the City website cedarhilltx.com for details.

December

4 Holiday on the Hill

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill

Historic Downtown will once again sparkle Thursday evening, December 4, when the City of Cedar Hill, Main Street Development and Preservation Board, Parks and Recreation, and downtown area businesses present Old Town Holiday on the Hill, the annual tree-lighting and holiday celebration. Santa will arrive at 6:30 p.m. to help Mayor Franke light the tree, then he will climb aboard his sleigh to pose with children for free pictures.

5 Cinema on the Square

6:00-8:00 p.m., Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill

Tonight's film is a 1947 classic that features Cary Grant as an angel with a twist. Also starring are Loretta Young and David Niven in "The Bishop's Wife" in celebration of Christmas. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and favorite snacks. The film will begin at 6:00 pm. Admission is free. Zula B. Wylie Public Library and Main Street present the First Friday Fall Film Series.

9 City Council Meeting

6:00 p.m. briefing session, 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting. Both are open to the public. This will be the only City Council meeting in December. Agendas and minutes for City Council meetings and all City boards and commissions are available at cedarhilltx.com, click on the Agenda Center icon. Agendas are posted 72 hours before meeting times.

18 Retirement reception for City Manager Alan Sims

Look for details on cedarhilltx.com in the Events calendar.

25-26 City facilities closed for Christmas holiday

Check the City website cedarhilltx.com for details.



CEDAR HILL

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

Don Hughes honored for community service

The City Council recently recognized Don Hughes for his efforts to maintain the beauty of Cedar Hill. For the past 6 years Don has picked up litter throughout the city, collecting over 600 bags of trash and 300 bags of recyclables. He also works with youth, educating them about the importance of preserving the environment.

Don is also committed to the care of animals. This year 326 feral cats have been brought to the Tri-City Animal Shelter. Each week Don drives feral cats to Kaufman and pays for them to be sterilized through a trap, neuter and release program.

He is actively promoting a dog park for Cedar Hill and has collected almost a thousand signatures on a



petition for the park.

At the City Council meeting Mayor Rob Franke presented Don a plaque recognizing his tireless efforts, a safety vest signed by the City Council members and keys to a pickup truck for a new Citizens Litter Control program. Citizens who would like to volunteer to clean up litter may contact our City's Administration office to use this vehicle.



Can we alert you?

It is critical that you are informed about important or potentially dangerous events. We use an automated phone system to call hundreds of residents' phones per minute.

But our database is out of date

because many residents no longer have a home phone.

We need you to register your mobile phones. Your safety may depend on it. If you have eliminated your home phone, you won't get messages unless you register your cell phones.

Visit cedarhilltx.com/citymessage and register your mobile phone and the phones of all who live at your home so we can know you are getting the message. You can also register to receive emails or text messages. Your phone numbers are safe, we will not sell or give access to your numbers to anyone else.

Register your mobile phone online at cedarhilltx.com/citymessage

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.

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

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Published by the City of Cedar Hill

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