

January 2015

CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

Porter settles in as new City Manager

Our new City Manager has been here for over 27 years. On January 1, Greg Porter moved into the top City job following Alan Sims' retirement.

In his own words: **"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to serve Cedar Hill as the next City Manager. Having lived, worked and raised my family here for the past 27 years, I have watched this community evolve from small town to a progressive, diverse and vibrant city. A city with vision and purpose, that has quickly established itself as a leader in the region."**

Porter received unanimous endorsement from the City Council at the December meeting when they approved his contract.

He said **"It is especially meaningful for me to succeed Alan Sims, a man I deeply love, respect and admire. Working with him has been a great personal and professional blessing that has enriched my life and those of countless others in this City. I am looking forward to building upon his legacy and working with the City Council and this amazing community to carry out its vision of becoming THE premier city it is destined to be."**

Porter said he is pleased and excited to work with the City staff put in place by Sims. City staffers know what to expect with Porter. He has worked for the City since 1987. Only a handful of employees have longer tenure.

He began his career here as a part-time intern, researching ordinances and laying asphalt. He has learned community building from the ground up. He has served roles in planning, parks & recreation, human resources, economic



Greg Porter moved into the City Manager chair Jan. 1.

development, public safety, animal control, emergency management and public works. He has adopted a deep appreciation for teamwork and service delivery at all levels.

He was named Deputy City Manager in 2008. He holds a degree in Political Science from Southern Methodist University, is an International City/County Management Association (ICMA)-credentialed city manager and a 2012 graduate of ICMA's Senior Executive Institute at the Weldon School of Public Service at the University of Virginia.

Porter serves on several boards for community and professional organizations, including Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center at Cedar Hill, Bridges Safe House Ministries and the Water Resources Council of the North Central Texas Council of Government (NCTCOG). He is currently a member of the 2015 Leadership North Texas class.

City focuses on even better neighborhoods



Leah Walker has been named Neighborhood Services Coordinator, a new position in the Code Enforcement/Neighborhood Services department, headed by Stacey Graves.

Neighborhood engagement continues to be a top priority for the City Council. As our city continues to undergo a substantial period of growth, it is our goal to show residents the tremendous value and benefits of neighborhood services. To achieve success, communication between city staff and neighborhoods is essential. To help foster this communication, the Neighborhood Services Coordinator position was created.

Leah Walker has been with the city for nearly two years, previously working at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center as the Health and Wellness Coordinator. In this position she worked closely with many residents and community leaders.

She plans to use her experience in building community and providing premier customer service to encourage the development of successful, engaging neighborhood organizations.

A Cedar Hill resident, and champion of its mission, Leah is vested in our community. She is here to partner with

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Officers receive Purple Hearts

Police Chief Steve Rhodes recently presented Officer McSwain, Detectives Woodall and Hernandez with the Department's Purple Heart Award for injuries received when a suspect they were arresting intentionally lit himself on fire. Despite their injuries, these officers took the suspect into custody, preventing him from hurting others.

Detectives Woodall and Hernandez returned to work shortly, while Officer McSwain is continuing her recovery.



Also receiving an award was Spencer Stroud, a resident who came to Officer McSwain's aid by helping to extinguish the flames on her uniform with his shirt. The City appreciates Spencer's efforts to help Officer McSwain.

Solid waste rates up less than a quarter a month

Residential rates for trash/recycling collection increased 1.8% effective Jan. 1. The new residential rate is \$13.26 per month, a 23-cent increase. The increase will be included in your next water utilities bill from the City.

Residents age 65 or over will pay \$10.03 per month, that's an increase of 18 cents.

The 1.8% increase is a Consumer Price Index adjustment to the contract with the city's solid waste handler, Waste Management. Although the contract allows the vendor to

request an annual CPI increase, they have requested it only 4 of the last 9 years.

Solid waste services include weekly trash and recycling, bulk item and monthly curbside brush collection.

If you have issues with your trash/recycling collection, including missed pickups or poor service, please call 800.772.8653.

More information about solid waste provisions is on the City website at cedarhilltx.com/recycle.

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residents to ensure our city retains its distinctive character.

She can help start or enhance neighborhood organizations to get greater participation. She can help get the word out about action and events via post cards or she can help with mailing neighborhood newsletters. She can also help add neighborhoods online at "My

Neighborhood Online" via the city's website.

For a complete list of programs, events, services, and ways you can get involved, please contact Leah or visit the Neighborhood Services website at cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood. Leah.walker@cedarhilltx.com 972-291-5100, ext. 1099



Library reprises 'Food for Fines' benefitting many

Oops, while cleaning up after the holidays did you find a book or a video that should have been back at the library a few months ago?

No worries, the Zula B. Wylie Public Library is bringing back their Food for Fines amnesty program this January.

Return overdue library items and pay no fine if you also bring in some non-perishable food items.

This program helps you avoid fines and helps the library put items back into circulation. The food items collected help benefit local families in need.

Last January the library delivered over 1,000 food items to the Cedar Hill Food Pantry. They're hoping patrons will be as generous again this year.

Offer expires Saturday, January 31. For more information, call the library at 972.291.7323.

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.



Follow your Cedar Hill Police Department at:
facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice

People make it a community

STATE CHAMPS back-to-back



CHHS Football Head Coach Joey McGuire holds the 6A Div. II State Championship trophy and celebrates with Longhorns after defeating the Katy Tigers, thanks to a closing seconds field goal by Brooks Ralph at AT&T Stadium on Dec. 20. Photo by Louis DeLuca, The Dallas Morning News.



STAR students Caden Gibbons, left and Sydney Merlau, received certificates and awards from City Council members Wallace Swayzee and Jami McCain at the December City Council meeting. Caden is a 4th grade student at Bray Elementary. Sydney is a 5th grader at Lake Ridge Elementary. They were recommended by their teachers for their outstanding attitudes and performance.



Construction equipment will soon be in action at the southeast corner of Belt Line and Joe Wilson. Wal*Mart is developing a neighborhood grocery that will include a pharmacy. Included in the development is additional space for other businesses and a fuel center. An 8-foot hike & bike trail will be included along Joe Wilson and Belt Line.



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](https://www.pinterest.com/cedarhilltx).

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.



January 2015

1-31 Library Food for Fines program runs through January

Library patrons who may have a late fee for materials kept too long can bring them back and have fines waived if they bring one or more canned goods during the month of January. For details, call the library at 972.291.7323.

4-25 Cedar Hill Exhibit on display in Old Red Courthouse - Dallas

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, seven days a week at Old Red Court House, 100 S. Houston in downtown Dallas.

The exhibit focuses on the colorful history of Cedar Hill from the 1840's. It explores the social, commercial and natural history of our community. Admission is \$8, seniors/students \$5, children over 3 are \$5. Visit www.oldred.org/exhibits/current-special-exhibit.

12 Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration

7 p.m. Cedar Hill High School Performing Arts Center, 1 Longhorn Dr.

Celebrate the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through storytelling, dance and musical performances.

13 & 27 City Council meetings

6 p.m. Briefing Session, 7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting. Both are open to the public. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.

Agendas and minutes for City Council meetings and other City boards and commissions are available at cedarhilltx.com. Click on the Agenda Center icon. Agendas are posted 72 hours before meeting times.

26 Main Street Board meeting

6 p.m. Conference Room D, First Floor, Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd.

Regular monthly meeting for the board that advocates for preservation and business development in downtown Cedar Hill.

26 Harlem Ambassadors vs. Cedar Hill All Stars

6 p.m. CHHS gym

This fun, professional show basketball event is family-friendly and benefits the Cedar Hill Education Foundation. There will be door prizes and surprises. Adults \$10 advance/\$12 at the door, 18 and under \$5.

February 2015

10 & 24 City Council meetings

6 p.m. Briefing Session, 7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting. Both are open to the public. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.

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CEDAR HILL

Sims honored for his leadership and City's progress

Retiring City Manager Alan Sims was honored by legislators, fellow mayors, national organizations, community partners, and City staff at a community event on Dec. 18, 2014.

Hundreds flooded into the Cedar Hill Room of the Government Center to witness proclamations from all state legislators in this area, special presentations from City department heads and a unique set of keys to the four cities represented by Best Southwest mayors.

Alan and his wife Gayle were seated front and center to enjoy a video



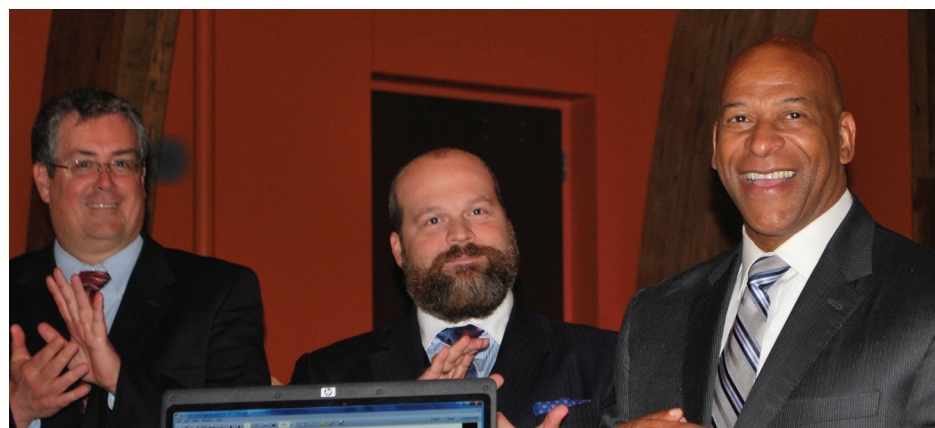
highlighting the partnerships he has shepherded and the successes of the City during his 15-year term as City Manager.

The event was hosted by Rob Franke, the only mayor Sims has served under in Cedar Hill. Among the crowd were city managers from other cities, several former city council members and all members of the sitting council.

Sims was clearly moved by the outpouring of love and appreciation for his contributions to the community.



ABOVE, Alan Sims enjoys a lighter moment during his retirement ceremony. LEFT, CHISD Board of Trustees President Doug Heyerdahl and Superintendent Orlando Riddick present plaques signifying the City/CHISD partnership. RIGHT Sims models a CityMan snuggie, representing his incredible powers, presented by City staffers.



Retiring City Manager Alan Sims, above right, is surprised to learn the Recreation Center is renamed in his honor. City Council Member Wallace Swayzee and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Parvin shared the moment at the December City Council meeting. BELOW, the Alan E. Sims Recreation Center at 310 E. Parkerville.



Recreation Center named for Sims

A full house at the Dec. 9, 2014 City Council meeting witnessed surprise on the face of City Manager Alan Sims when he heard Mayor Rob Franke read a resolution naming the Cedar Hill Recreation Center in his honor.

The Alan E. Sims Recreation Center embodies his premier standards, serving as a hub for the City's diverse community, a center for citizen engagement, a catalyst for healthy living and high quality services.

CEDAR HILL
HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

Corky Brown

Public Relations Manager

corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com