

# May 2015

# HIGHLIGHTS



**Cedar Hill is really safe**

## Crime rates drop in Cedar Hill

At the April 14 Cedar Hill Cedar Council meeting, Police Chief Steve Rhodes and his executive team gave a review of the department for the past year and reported that Cedar Hill is the safest city in the Best Southwest area.

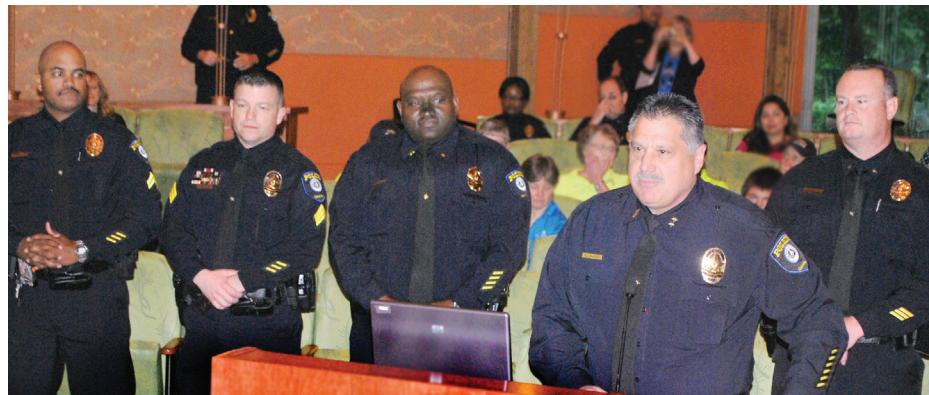
Based on a 33.41 per 1,000 population crime index rating, **Cedar Hill is one of the safest communities in Dallas County.**

Cedar Hill data showed a 16.2 percent decrease in the Crime Index

Rate over the last 5 years. Those results were achieved with no increase in sworn staff.

In 2014, burglaries dropped 9.4 percent and property crime was down 5.5 percent compared to the previous year. A lot of that improvement is due to the P.A.C.T. officers who work closely with neighborhood groups and individual neighbors to establish trusted communication in the community.

Chief Rhodes said "the profes-



During Police Chief Steve Rhodes' presentation to the City Council, he introduced recently promoted officers (left to right) Corporal Jeramie Byrd, Sergeant Jason Praytor, Lieutenant Ernest Jenkins and Assistant Chief Steve Lafferty.

**Follow your  
Cedar Hill  
Police Dept.  
on Facebook at**



[facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice](http://facebook.com/cedarhilltxpolice)

sional men and women of the Cedar Hill Police Department are dedicated to providing the highest quality service that promotes and maintains a safe environment, in partnership with the community, consistent with our values."

Customer service surveys by the department showed a 97% overall customer approval rating for police services.

During the presentation, Asst. Chief Lafferty shared information about the department's use of crime analysis data to increase the number

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## Tell us about your great neighborhood



Leah Walker  
Neighborhood  
Services  
Coordinator

Your neighborhood can win one of two citywide Love Your Neighborhood Awards this year.

The Neighborhood Advisory Board will recognize one neighborhood organization for improving the quality of life in the community with the Premier Neighborhood Award. It recognizes outstanding communication, organized activities, membership, community partnerships, leadership and beautification.

This year the Neighborhood Services Department is partnering with the BES (Beautification & Environmental Sustainability) Board to offer the Growing Green Neighborhood Award to recognize a neighborhood working to preserve our city's natural beauty. Criteria for this award include planting a neighborhood garden, cleaning a park or pond, establishing regular community clean-up days, or achieving majority participation in recycling.

In the past, the Neighborhood Advisory Board has nominated and evaluated neighborhoods internally, but this year established neighborhood and crime watch groups can apply for these awards until May 29.

The winner of each award will receive \$250 for community building and nature-preserving activities. runners-up will receive \$100.

Neighborhood engagement is a top priority for your Mayor and City

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## Hillside Uptown Village getting new look

The changes at Hillside Village are more than a new name. A multi-million dollar makeover will soon give the beloved center a garden-like look to match our community. New stores are coming. H&M has already started construction on their huge store and other retailers are planning to move in. For more information visit [shophillsidevillage.com](http://shophillsidevillage.com).

## REMARKET

DOWNTOWN CEDAR HILL

EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, 9 AM-2 PM, APRIL-SEPTEMBER

Some good old, new-fashioned ReMarket events are coming to Historic Downtown Cedar Hill this spring and summer.

On the fourth Saturday of each month, from now through September, vendors will set up downtown to offer fresh produce, local art, crafts, vintage items, eco-friendly goods and other cool stuff. Watch for more events downtown that reflect the vitality and development opportunities in the city core.

Look for the fun just south of Belt Line on Broad St. Booths open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m., rain or shine. This event is supported by the Zula B. Wylie Public Library and the Cedar Hill Arts Council.

For more information, please visit [www.chartstx.org](http://www.chartstx.org).

## Tell us

*From page 1*

Council. Award applications will be evaluated by demonstrated City Council values, including people and relationships, stewardship, highest ethical standards, behavior and integrity, and servant leadership.

Applications are available online at [cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood](http://cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood) or in the Neighborhood Services office, 285 Uptown Blvd., 2nd floor.

## CHPD training to build trust

The Cedar Hill Police Department is one of only a handful of departments invited to participate in upcoming innovative law enforcement training practices called Procedural Justice.

The program is sponsored by the Center for Public Safety and Justice and is hosted at the University of Illinois.

Procedural justice is built on the pillars of fairness and consistency of rule application, impartiality and decision maker neutrality, participation in the process of law enforcement, and transparency and openness in process.

### Crime rate drops

*From page 1*

of arrests. That information is shared with other departments and they frequently cooperate to solve multiple crimes with one arrest. He also spoke about several cases where residents helped alert police to criminal activity and one case where a resident's tip to a Citizen on Patrol partner helped in an immediate arrest.

Lt. Colin Chenault spoke to the City Council about the incredible growth and influence of the department's Facebook page. Social media, he said, helps build relationships in the community.

View the Police Department's 2015 Annual Report and additional information about the department at [cedarhilltx.com/96/police](http://cedarhilltx.com/96/police).

### What is procedural justice?

Procedural justice can describe the department's relationship with individual officers and the relationship between a law enforcement official and a member of the community.

It includes respect, clear communication of expectations, and transparency about decision making. By establishing trust and fairness, police departments can avoid perceptions of polarization.

CHPD has been a regional leader in community policing policies that engage residents in the process of law enforcement.

### How does it work?

Successful law enforcement programs build and maintain trust through transparency with each personal contact, resulting in positive relationships between the police and the community.

This program supports those practices and encourages transparent and fair decision making processes, both at the department organizational level and on the street with each contact between a police officer and a member of the public.

Police Chief Steve Rhodes encourages residents to feel free to contact the police department with questions and encourages everyone to follow CHPD on Facebook at [facebook.com/cedarhillpolice](http://facebook.com/cedarhillpolice).

# Citizens serve the community on boards and commissions



Members of the Beautification & Environmental Sustainability (BES) Board posed for a photo with City Council members and City staff at the Appreciation Banquet.

The City Council recently hosted an appreciation dinner for nearly 200 residents representing 16 boards and commissions. These members are appointed by the City Council to serve multi-year terms. They meet to study, discuss and advise the City Council about many facets of our community.

Mayor Rob Franke hosted the event and spoke about how our city thrives because residents are engaged at many levels. He said, "Ours is a community that loves people and partnerships." He praised those in attendance because they help the City succeed in its mission.

City Manager Greg Porter spoke of his appreciation for the service and care that these residents give to benefit the community. He expressed how much the City values the recommendations and wisdom shared by these servant leaders.

In addition to regular meetings, many board and commission members volunteer their time to participate in community events that promote the vision of the City Council.

Each board and commission works with one or more City staff liaisons, who serve as coordinators for their board.

Learn more about the City's boards and commissions at [cedarhilltx.com/76/Boards-Commissions](http://cedarhilltx.com/76/Boards-Commissions).

Advertise your **garage sale** on the City website at [cedarhilltx.com/1426/Garage-Sales-List](http://cedarhilltx.com/1426/Garage-Sales-List).



## May

### **19 Town Hall meeting for northeast residents**

6:30 p.m. Hillcrest Baptist Church, 265 W. Pleasant Run Road

This is the second of three 2015 Town Hall meetings to help keep residents more connected to the community. Hosted by City Council members, this meeting will focus on residents in the northeast portion of the city, north of FM 1382 and East Belt Line Road. The meeting will consist of a brief update on issues that matter to residents, then the audience will break out into three smaller groups, providing more direct interaction with City Council members. For more information, visit [cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings](http://cedarhilltx.com/1685/Neighborhood-Town-Hall-Meetings).

### **21 Free spay, neuter & rabies vaccination clinic**

Spay and neuter by appointment only, for residents of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville. Call 972.472.3500. \$20 deposit required for appointment, refunded after surgery. Preventative services are free at Duncanville Library, 201 James Collins Blvd.

### **23 ReMarket in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Broad Street, just south of downtown  
Community market featuring fresh produce, local art and crafts, a flea market, eco-friendly goods and more. For information, visit [chartstx.org](http://chartstx.org).

### **25 City offices closed for Memorial Day**

### **26 City Council Meeting**

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.

## June

### **5, 12 & 26 Music in the Park concerts**

8 p.m. Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Drive

Free outdoor concerts in the beautiful amphitheater. Different live music each week. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. More information online at [cedarhilltx.com/1960/2015-June](http://cedarhilltx.com/1960/2015-June).

### **7 Down & Dirty Obstacle Race at Cedar Hill State Park by Subaru**

3-mile and 6-mile courses for adults and Adventure Kids races of 100 yards and 1 mile. Packet pickup opens at 6 a.m. This is the Dallas stop on this race tour that stops in 10 major U.S. cities this summer. The course is in Cedar Hill State Park and Lake Joe Pool. Online registration at [downanddirtyobstaclerace.com/event-registration](http://downanddirtyobstaclerace.com/event-registration).

### **9 City Council Meeting**

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.

### **20 Juneteenth Arts & Music Festival in Cedar Hill**

5 - 10 p.m. Valley Ridge Park, 2850 Park Ridge Drive

The City of Cedar Hill and Best Southwest cities join together for the largest Juneteenth celebration in the DFW metroplex. Enjoy live music, a variety of art by local artists, crafts in the Kids on the Hill Creative Arts Zone, food vendors, and much more.

CEDAR HILL

## People make it a community



STAR student awards were presented at an April City Council Meeting to Gregory Francis, left, by City Council member Steve Mason, and to Katherine Blanco, right, by City Council member Wallace Swayze. Gregory is an 8th grader at W. S. Permenter Middle School, and Katherine is an 8th grader at Bessie Coleman Middle School.



Mayor Rob Franke, right, presents the "National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week" proclamation to Southwest Regional Communications Center Director Karima Dash and Communications Manager Tamara Bell. Assisting was Deputy Fire Chief Ricky Pendley



Zula B. Wylie Public Library staff members display food collected during the overdue fine amnesty earlier this year. Over 1,000 non-perishable items were donated to the Cedar Hill Food Pantry to help support needy families living within the Cedar Hill School District.



Mayor Franke presented a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day in Cedar Hill to members of the City Parks & Recreation staff and members of the Parks Board.



Cedar Hill's Municipal Court staff was honored with a Texas Department of Transportation Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives grant earlier this year. Serving Cedar Hill residents on the court staff are:

City Marshals Aubrey Kirk, Leland Herron and Jack Wallace, Juvenile Case Manager/Certified Court Clerk Sakina Jackson, Court Administrator Debbie Blevins, Judge Michael Petty and Court Clerks Karen McAlister and Terri Watson

## City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1009

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  
972.291.5100x1099

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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