

# December 2015



# HIGHLIGHTS



## State of the City



"Cedar Hill is entering a competitive era," said Mayor Rob Franke "but we're not trying to be like any other city," he told over 100 people who attended the Cedar Hill Chamber luncheon in November.

Cedar Hill is about people and place, he said. Our place is, of course, about natural beauty. Our culture respects individuals and as a community we have been able to get past those skin deep issues and get into the heart level.

The State of the City message is an annual event where the mayor shares the year's developments and progress.

This year, instead of charts and tables, that are all available in the City's Annual Report, he spoke about the values of our community.

Cedar Hill, he said, is about people

and place, the strong, progressive people who have seen and helped become the distinctive character of our city.

Ours is a place of people who value servant leaders, it's part of our nature. And preserving nature is part of our culture.

### More opportunities here

We have a unique position with our natural beauty and our location in the less developed part of the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex. There is so much opportunity here but we want to learn from mistakes made in other areas.

So where do we look for progress? That was a question at a recent City Council retreat. For one, we are focusing on our City Center, a large

*Continues on page 2*

## Please recycle your live trees

Christmas isn't here yet, but your city has already partnered with Waste Management to provide three options of disposing of live Christmas trees.

**1.** Recycle your live Christmas tree. Put it at the curb of your home on Wed., January 6 or Wed., January 13.

**2.** Recycle your tree between Tues., January 5 and Thurs., January 14, by taking it to one of the tree only recycling bins at these sites:

**Cedar Hill Recreation Center –  
310 E. Parkerville Road**

**Hillside Village at Cedar Hill –  
305 W. FM 1382**

Trees must be free of lights, ornaments, tinsel, spray snow to be recycled. One contaminated tree in a recycling bin can cause the entire load to be rejected.

**3.** Set out your tree as a bulky item for trash collection. It will not be recycled will add to the volume in the landfill.

Christmas trees set out for regular trash collection should be set out no later than 7 a.m.

## Christmas and New Year's trash/recycling

Residents north of Belt Line Road and East of US 67 who have regular Friday trash/recycling collection will see a change on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Collections will not be made on those holidays, but make-up collections will be on the following Saturdays, December 26 and January 3.

# City

From page 1

part of the core of our city. We want premier development in the area from the retail center at the north end of the City Center plan, through the central section with Midtown



**Chamber Executive Director/CEO Amanda Skinner hosted the Chamber's State of the City Luncheon. It was catered by FireHouse Subs.**

multi-family and the Government Center, all the way through historic downtown and on south. The City is already working on a low-impact park along the creek behind the Government Center that will provide a natural, walkable oasis for residents.

Cedar Hill has chosen a course of being green...setting aside 20% of our land as open space. It is of value and many want to share. We can't slam the door, we choose careful and relevant growth.

Our city, he said, is always willing to partner and has a history of partnerships with those who share the values of a strong and diverse economy, distinctive character and desire to help Cedar Hill continue to be a place where businesses and families flourish.

## Running 'one more time'

After 19 years of service to the community, Mayor Franke is still passionate. He said he will run for another term as mayor again this spring.

# Volunteers turning the tide on litter

On a cool Saturday morning in November about 250 volunteers from nearly a dozen self-organized groups spent hours picking up litter in the city. It was an interesting mix of groups from neighborhoods, schools, school service clubs and members of the City's Beautification & Environmental Sustainability Board (BES Board).

They worked in neighborhoods, along major thoroughfares in parks and undeveloped lots to improve the appearance of our community.

If we could all do just a little picking up and a little less littering, watch our trash containers and report litter hot spots to Code Enforcement we can help keep Cedar Hill green and clean.

Groups participating included neighbors from Stonewood Heights, Winding Hollow, Springfield neighborhood.

Student volunteers were from Bessie Coleman Athletes, Cedar Hill High School DECA, Cedar Hill Collegiate "P Cubed", Collegiate Prep Community Service Club, Cedar Hill Collegiate HS Envi-



**Stonewood Heights residents tackled litter with tools and teamwork.**



ronmental Club, Highlands Elementary Student Ambassadors and the Mayor's Teen Council.

City Parks crews helped collect the bags of litter.

BES Board members, Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful members and City staffers from Neighborhood Services and Administration helped coordinate the event.

## #@\$&% typo!

It happens. Despite our best efforts, somehow typos creep into the Highlights newsletter. But now that can be good for you.

## See a typo?

If you find a typo in this issue of Highlights, **email the location to [corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com)** and you'll be entered to win a gift card from Hillside Village in Cedar Hill. Please, only one entry per person.

Deadline is midnight, December 31. The winner will be notified via email.

The winner for the October issue drawing is George Green.

## Partnerships make everything better

Parks & Recreation Dept. Director Larry Foos is pleased to announce partnerships with the Cedar Hill Girls Softball Assn. and the Cedar Hill Youth Baseball Assn. to fund \$30,000 of the cost to add shade structures for the open seating areas and over the playground at the girls' softball fields.

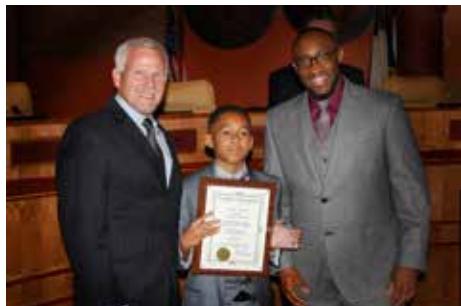
These enhancements will make the facilities more enjoyable for local players and fans and will also help our City attract additional tournaments during the summer months. These tournaments provide revenue to support the Parks & Recreation department's activities.

## People make it a community

Your City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays every month, except November and December when they meet only on the first Tuesday.



Rasheed Khaleel, right, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator for the City presents Evan Peters, GIS Technician, Robert Woodbury, Engineer and Mary Horschief, Public Works Asst. to Mayor Rob Franke after a reading of the GIS Day Proclamation.



Mayor Franke joins City Council Member Steve Mason during presentation of S.T.A.R award to Zarius Easley, a 5th grader at Waterford Oaks Elementary.

**Below:** Brandon Campbell a 4th grader at High Pointe Elementary admires his S.T.A.R. award from City Council Member Clifford R. Shaw.



Keep up with the latest in Cedar Hill by visiting [www.cityhub.biz/cedarhill](http://www.cityhub.biz/cedarhill) for a free daily dose of news and events around town. This free service is updated daily and provides a window on the people and places of our community. Check it out now.



## Christmas and New Year's trash/recycling

Residents north of Belt Line Road and East of US 67 who have regular Friday trash/recycling collection will see a change on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Collections will not be made on those holidays, but make-up collections will be on the following Saturdays, December 26 and January 3.

## December

### 1-22 Photos with Santa at Hillside Village

He will be there daily for photos, times vary. Located next to Chico's. Visit [shophillsidevillage.com](http://shophillsidevillage.com) for details and exact times.

### 24-25 City offices closed

City offices in the Government Center will be closed for the holiday. Online systems will still be operational.

### 29 Kwanzaa Celebration at the Library

6 - 8 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St. Bring the whole family to celebrate and learn about the seven pronuclei of Kwanzaa. Enjoy traditional foods of the harvest and live entertainment

## January

### 1 City offices closed for New Year's Day

City offices in the Government Center will be closed for the holiday. Online systems will still be operational.

### 1 First Day Hike

3-4:30 p.m., Cedar Hill State Park entrance on FM 1382. Take a leisurely walk in nature and learn about plants and animals at Cedar Hill State Park

### 10 City offices closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

City offices in the Government Center will be closed for the holiday. Online systems will still be operational.

### 25 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration

For details, check the Events calendar at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com).



## For the latest...

Let the latest goings-on in Cedar Hill come to you via social media.

Like us on Facebook, look for City of Cedar Hill, Texas-Government.

You can tweet with the City at [twitter.com/CedarHillTX](http://twitter.com/CedarHillTX).

Pin with us on [Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx](http://Pinterest.com/cedarhilltx).

Find our website at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com).



CEDAR HILL

[cedarhilltx.com/calendar](http://cedarhilltx.com/calendar)

# Cedar Hill Shares gains supporters

For over 25 years, the Cedar Hill Food Pantry, now known as Cedar Hill Shares, has provided meals to a growing number of people in this area.

For Thanksgiving, Cedar Hill firefighters provided a holiday meal for 14 Cedar Hill Shares families in our community. Firefighters donated the money to buy the turkeys and Senior Fire Staff donated all the fixins for a Thanksgiving meal. They delivered them just before the holiday.

Cedar Hill Shares is also now supported by seven different faith-based organizations who have representatives on the Cedar Hill Shares Faith Council.

Assistance these days goes beyond food to help with utility bills, emergency fuel, Medicaid assistance and other services.

In addition to feeding the hungry and responding to the needy, the pantry and New 2 You Thrift Store make giant steps toward fostering and nurturing strong community relationships and collaborations.

Cedar Hill Shares Director Gene Sims says their work impacts clients, neighbors and volunteers.

**The Dallas Morning News** has recognized Cedar Hill as one of the **top 20 neighborhoods in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.**



Our natural beauty, terrain, location, festivals, concerts and values set us apart. See more at [cedarhilltx.com/bestdfw](http://cedarhilltx.com/bestdfw)

**Yes**, the city website works great with mobile devices. You can get full functionality on a desktop, tablet or phone. [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com)



The City of Cedar Hill now provides you a way to see your water usage online, on a monthly, weekly, daily and even hourly basis. With that information you may be able to determine your heavy water usage patterns and adjust them.

1. Go online to see your water usage and compare a high bill to last year during the hot season. Go to <https://cedarhill.gwfathom.com>. To set up your account you will need information from your last water bill. Once set up you can click on Usage History to see your usage by the month, week, daily or hourly.

2. You can quickly check for a leak by turning off all the water sources in your home. Locate your water meter, and check the number on your meter. After an hour or so check it again. If it moved, you probably have a leak, a dripping faucet or a running toilet.

3. If you are sure there is no leak, and still feel there is a problem with your bill, call Utility Billing at 469.272.2931 on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Find more water-saving tips at [cedarhilltx.com/1044/Conservation-Links](http://cedarhilltx.com/1044/Conservation-Links).

## City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100 x1009

After Hours (Answering service)  
972.780.6643

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

Building Inspections 972.291.5100 x1090

City Secretary 972.291.5100 x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100 x1111

Communication 469.272.2931

Economic Development 972.291.5132

Fire Department, non-emergency  
972.291.1011

Human Resources 972.291.5100 x1050

Library 972.291.7323

Municipal Court 972.291.5100 x1041

Neighborhood Services  
972.291.5100 x1099

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100 x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency  
972.291.5100 x2400

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 469.272.2931

## CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the City of Cedar Hill

Corky Brown

Public Relations Manager

corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com