



Mayor says planning is legacy

Mayor Rob Franke, speaking to business and civic leaders at the November Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, said major elements of Cedar Hill's growth are planning and partnerships.

Setting a vision years ago has kept the City's focus on priorities and helped keep everything on course during the economic downturn.

The Mayor cited several large projects brought to completion in the last year, includ-

ing the Lake Ridge Fire Station, the new Animal Shelter and maintaining City staff while some other cities are seeing layoffs or mandatory unpaid furloughs.

Despite slowed development growth focusing on community priorities has strengthened our community. He mentioned the current focus on Distinctive Character, a hard-to-define quality that becomes apparent when individuals step up and do the right thing.

Partnerships have contributed to Cedar Hill's progress even from the earliest days and continues today, he said. Citing the Animal Shelter, he explained that none of the three partner cities involved could have afforded an expanded facility on their own.

He closed his presentation with a short video showing the involvement of individuals and groups in the ongoing success, the legacy, of our community.

New police recruit, high expectations

From an article by Rita Cook in Focus Daily News.

A dog is just a dog until it becomes a part of the police department and then, well, a dog becomes, quite frankly, more important than a gun sometimes.

In fact, Cedar Hill Lieutenant Colin Chenault confirms that "We have had it happen; we point a gun at someone and a lot of times people will say 'whatever', but bring that dog out and I mean to tell you their attitude changes.

"It has happened on a number of occasions where the dog has been a very effective prevention tool and a good working tool."

The Cedar Hill Police Department has the

only K-9 unit in the area.

They recently retired Shadow, one of their two dogs for health reasons and "hired" Titus, a 14-month old Belgian Malinois.

The breed is described as alert, high-energy, popular as both a police and military working dog. Titus' energy level is very high.

"He's a good natured dog" said Chenault, "we have high expectations for him."

Titus is working



with Officer J. R. Podany, who partnered with Shadow until his

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Phone alerts from the City

The City of Cedar Hill has introduced a new way to contact residents by phone for severe weather warnings, hazardous traffic or road conditions affecting local routes, and other situations that impact the safety, property, or welfare of our citizens.

To make sure you get the message, the City is asking residents and businesses to visit the Connect-CTY website, below, and add up to three more phone numbers, two email addresses and an SMS number to receive alerts from the automated system. You may also indicate which phone number is appropriate for TTY/TDD equipment. **Your contact information will not be sold or available to telemarketers.**

<https://portal.blackboardconnect-ty.com/welcome.aspx?eiid=1207B6088C3678A06B79>

Holiday safety tips

At home

Be sure to lock doors and windows every time you leave your house or apartment, even for “only a minute.”

Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a trip.

If you are away from home and not returning until after dark, turn on lights and a radio or TV so your house looks occupied.



If you are going away on a trip, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up newspapers and any visible mail. If possible, have them park a vehicle in your driveway from time to time.

Take advantage of the Cedar Hill Police Department's Vacation House Check program. Come by the Police Department at the Government Center on Uptown Blvd., fill out a form and officers will check the security of your home each day you are away.

Participate in Operation Identification and mark your valuables with a unique identification number.

Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how funds are used etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.

Shopping

Shop before dark if you can, or shop with a friend. Never park in a dark area, no matter how convenient.

Lock packages in your trunk. Keep all windows closed and doors locked.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay by check or card whenever possible.

To discourage purse snatchers, don't overload yourself with packages.

Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.

Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated.

When walking to your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings, make eye contact when passing strangers.

Scan the parking lot on the way to your car, if something appears suspicious go back in the store and call security or the police.

Fire safety

Test your smoke detectors. Replace batteries.

Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight nor when you are away from home.

Do not use extension cords that are frayed or cracked.

Place your tree and decorations a safe distance from a heater, fireplace or candles.

Be especially careful with candles around pets and children. Make sure all candles are out when you leave and before you go to bed.

If you have guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they follow them.

After the holidays

Immediately after the holidays mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers.

Avoid leaving boxes for TVs, video game consoles, computers etc. out on the curb for trash pickup. Cut up the boxes and put them in an opaque trash bag.

If you do not already have them, purchase fire extinguishers and smoke detectors for your home. Post-holiday sales are a great time to buy these items.

During the first week of January, take down, inspect, and store all decorations to make sure that they are safe for use next year.

Discard broken or faulty lights.

Separate outdoor from indoor decorations. Label accordingly.

Use the gripping area of the plug when unplugging lights and appliances to avoid damaging the wires and insulation, possibly leading to an electrical shock or fire.

Make sure all electrical lights, toys and appliances bear the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency, such as CSA, Intertek Testing Services or Underwriters Laboratories.

Send warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers so that they can notify you promptly in case of a recall.

The Cedar Hill Police Department P.A.C.T. (Police And Community Together) Unit and the Cedar Hill Fire Department wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. To help keep you safe they extend these reminders:

Distinctive Character



Carol Essex-Rice and Grantland Rice were honored by the City of Cedar Hill during Country Day on the Hill for their three children: Devin Berry, Kiaya Essex, and Keaundra Essex who are all serving in U.S. military forces. Gary Poplin, Commander of Cedar Hill's American Legion Post 111 presented the triple blue star banner.



Billy Jerome Crawford, center with his son, Boston, was honored by the Cedar Hill Police Dept. for his assistance in the apprehension of burglary suspects. Mr. Crawford noticed suspicious activity at a business and notified the police.



Toni Thomas, Athletics Supervisor, center, was honored by Recreation Superintendent Sandy Martin and Mayor Rob Franke as she was honored by Texas Amateur Athletic Federation for her years of service to the TAAF Games of Texas.

Community Calendar

December

24-25 City Administration offices will be closed.

25 Trash will not be collected on Friday Dec. 25

January

1 City Administration offices will be closed.

1 Trash will not be collected on Friday Jan. 1

4 Readers on the Hill Book Club

7 p.m. at Zula B. Wylie Library 225 Cedar St.

Literary group meets the first Monday of each month Call the library at 972.291.7323 for more information, or email linda.keane@cedarhilltx.com

11 Neighborhood Advisory Board meeting

6:15 p.m. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., Conference Room D

12 City Council Meeting

Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd.,

T.W. 'Turk' Cannady/Cedar Hill Room on the first floor

Briefing Session begins at 6 p.m. City Council Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

To receive information and agendas for upcoming City Council meetings, please visit the Notify Me page on the City website at <http://www.cedarhilltx.com/list.aspx>.

12 Dallas Area Writers Group

7 p.m. at Zula B. Wylie Library 225 Cedar St.

Open to beginning and seasoned writers, this group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. For more information visit www.dallaswriters.org.

21 Visual Artists of Dallas

7 p.m. at Zula B. Wylie Library 225 Cedar St.

25 Main Street Advisory Board Meeting

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

26 City Council Meeting

Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd.,

T.W. 'Turk' Cannady/Cedar Hill Room on the first floor

Briefing Session begins at 6 p.m. City Council Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

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To submit your community organization's activity to be considered for this Community Calendar and to be listed on the City's website, please email complete information (including date, time, location, a contact number or email to corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com.

Saving Seconds Can Save Lives

Residents of Cedar Hill can have their home or business alarms monitored by the same service that handles 9-1-1 calls for emergency services in our community.

Connecting your alarm system directly to Southwest Regional Communication Center (SWRCC) eliminates delays associated with a typical commercial monitoring center.

Instead of your

alarm notifying someone at an alarm center that may be hundreds of miles or even several states away, this system connects your alarm directly to the local 9-1-1 dispatch office.

Other remote monitoring services respond to your alarm by calling our local 9-1-1 office over regular phone lines via a non-emergency number and someone verbally passes your information who in turn



dispatches police, fire or medical services to your home or business. That communication procedure can cause critical delays.

Local alarm monitoring via SWRCC is only \$25 a month and there is no long term contract. For more information, call SWRCC at 972.230.5248

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

New, improved fire rating can mean premium savings for homeowners and businesses

At a time when everything financial is very tight, the City of Cedar Hill is pleased to announce that the CHFD has earned an upgraded rating from Class 3 to Class 2 from Insurance Services Office. That carries with it the potential for lower insurance premiums for property owners in our community. The new rating will go into effect January 1, 2010.

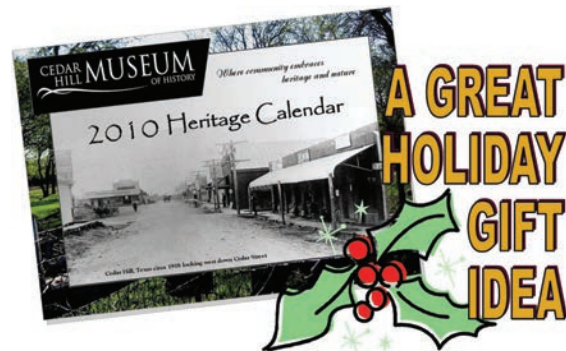
Fire Chief Steve Pollock said "This improved rating is an endorsement of the efforts made by each and every firefighter to step up the level of service and it also reflects the high degree of support the department has received from the City Council and the citizens of Cedar Hill. It also shows the support from the Public Works staff as they continue to upgrade the infrastructure and water supply that we depend on."

Homeowners and businesses are urged to contact their insurance companies to determine what discounts may be available due to the new rating.

The ISO investigators conducted an extensive examination of the CHFD equipment, personnel, training, response times, water pressure and delivery systems and determined that the higher rating was merited.

The improved rating is evidence of better fire protection for everyone, another example of the premier service provided by the City for those who live in, work in and visit Cedar Hill.

Heritage Calendars a hit



The Cedar Hill Museum of History 2010 Heritage Calendar is now on sale. The 12-month calendar celebrates the cultural history of our premier city.

With a year's worth of photos, events, fun facts, and helpful numbers, the calendars are great for home or office use.

Purchase your calendar at the Cedar Hill Museum of history or

look for displays at the Cedar Hill Government Center and other locations throughout town. Your purchase benefits the Cedar Hill Museum of History, currently in temporary quarters at 332 Cedar St.

You can order your calendars online at www.cedarhillmuseum.com for only \$10 plus \$3 shipping and handling. Don't delay, quantities are limited.



Mayor Pro Tem Cory Spillman, left, discusses options for Mansfield Road development with area residents and Dallas County officials at a recent public meeting. Stakeholders were invited to discuss context-sensitive development of this scenic roadway from the Ninth Grade Center west to the City limit.

In recent months public meetings were held for development of East Pleasant Run and Lake Ridge Parkway.

new dog from front page

retirement a few months ago.

Acquisition of a police dog usually runs between \$8500 - \$10,000 said, Chief Steve Rhodes. But the department was fortunate to secure Titus for less than that. And at a recent City Council meeting the Cedar Hill Baseball Assn. contributed \$2500 toward the cost of the new dog.

Selection of the new police dog was a 2-day process at the Mississippi breeder's facility.

"We look for different types of drive in the animal and Titus has a very high ball drive, which indicates to us that he is going to be a good tracking dog. We use our dogs a lot for tracking and apprehension work" said Chenault.

During 12 weeks of training for the new dog, Podany will be building a bond and working with Titus on obedience, criminal apprehension or bit-

ing work and they'll be working on locating narcotics. After the training Titus will be ready to hit the streets with Podany.

The CHPD started the K-9 unit in 1997. Chenault has been supervising it for two-and-a-half years.

"Our K-9 program has always been premier and has established a reputation of excellence in the Metroplex," said Rhodes. "Although Shadow will be missed, the new dog has high drive and will provide outstanding service."



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