

January 2013



# It's all about the *Vision*

Planning for change has helped Cedar Hill weather changing times. Having a vision is critical. That was a key element of Mayor Rob Franke's State of the City message at the December Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Northwood University.

Maintaining stability in an unstable world is a challenge that our community has faced and achieved, he said, from the boom days of the 90s through the recent lean years.

The level of plan-



Mayor Rob Franke

ning by our City Councils and administration is unmatched, he said. That planning has positioned us for upcoming opportunities. "It's all about envisioning what we can be."

## Still progressing

On screen, his graphics showed the flat growth recently. "But what we sometimes overlook" he said, "is the progress we have made. Our bond ratings, the measuring stick of a city's

financial state, are steady or improving and we have many intangibles."

City staff does an amazing job of providing a high level of service to residents. They do it from the heart. Innovative and cost-saving ideas spring from our employees.

Our police and fire departments have been recognized far beyond our City for their achievements.

And we continue to improve, he said, in ways like our Growing Green initiative that has brought solar panels, electric vehicles and more long-term, innovative ideas.

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

City administration has located and qualified us for well over a million dollars of state and federal grant funding in the last year.

## Getting greener

We have substantially increased our recycling as a community, reducing our contribution to limited landfill space. Our once a week trash/recycling collection has reduced carbon emissions and made our streets safer by reducing the number of trucks in our neighborhoods.

Speaking of safety, we continue to be the safest city in South-

west Dallas County. Our police department clears cases at 45%, more than twice the rate of other cities.

You voters recently approved the Crime Control District that will, with no new tax revenues, support our Police And Community Together (PACT) division that works directly with neighborhood residents to reduce crime.

## Heart of the City

Historic downtown is becoming an amazing place where we see movement toward transit-oriented development opportunities. "Walkability" he said,

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## SPECIAL ELECTION Set for Jan. 19

The City Council selected January 19, 2013 as the date for an election to fill the unexpired term of Cory Spillman who resigned due to a job transfer.

Polling place details and names of the candidates are available on the City website at [cedarhilltx.com/special-election](http://cedarhilltx.com/special-election).



ACCESS  
Cedar Hill



Click on this button on the City website at [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com) to find answers and request services from the City.

## Our vision: still relevant in change

- Need to "Connect" in new and different ways
- Need to show the power of our ISD
- Need to build on our assets: people and place
- Need to promote the opportunity in our city
- Need to encourage entrepreneurial spirits
- Need to build our plans to establish our place in DFW

## City Center Plan works better with your input

The Planning Department staff, working with other staffers and engaged citizens, is beginning a year-long planning campaign for the heart of Cedar Hill.

### Cedar Hill 3.0

At the recent kick-off meeting of the latest phase of input and planning for downtown, Mayor Rob Franke gave a short history of development in Cedar Hill and said version 3.0 offers exciting opportunities for our community.

Don Gore, City Planner, said our City Center can be a memorable destination. But, he told the group, it requires input and participation from residents, businesses, grant funding, developers and possibly a special bond.

The City Center Plan aims to create a walkable place to live, work, shop and play.

Uptown, Midtown and historic Downtown will complement each other and highlight our local character. A regional rail station will serve workers, shoppers and visitors.

More than just a transit stop, downtown development will include vibrant public gathering spaces, new types of housing and the kinds of businesses that will make downtown Cedar Hill a destination, bringing visitors from out of town



here to enjoy our city. Sustainable development will help preserve the long-term



These photos show some of the exciting possibilities as Historic Downtown Cedar Hill develops into a destination.

viability of our city, making it unique in this area.

As plans are refined, the City seeks input from everyone. A committee of 15 citizens, appointed by the City Council, will meet regularly throughout 2013.

Residents are invited to be a part of those meetings. Visit [cedarhilltx.com/citycenter2](http://cedarhilltx.com/citycenter2) for a schedule.

You can also follow along on social media platforms at [facebook.com/CedarHillPlanning](https://www.facebook.com/CedarHillPlanning) and [twitter.com/CHPlanningDept](https://twitter.com/CHPlanningDept).



## Vision From front page

is the appealing future of our City core from downtown, through midtown, to Uptown Village. This is a priority for our administration.

People are what make a community special, he said, and we have really outstanding residents, some of whom we have been recognizing, but all of them we welcome with their great ideas and desire to make a positive difference.

We are glad to see improvements in the relationship between our City and CHISD. There are a number of partnerships already making a difference in things like community gardens throughout the City, safer schools and improved communication for all residents.

### Better neighborhoods

Our neighborhoods are getting engaged. The National Night Out event has grown, in just a few years, from single-digit participation to over 30 neighborhood groups hosting many hundreds of residents.

Our Library has been putting 10 lb. programs in a 5 lb. bag in

their highly-used facility. We've seen a 46% increase in the number of programs they provide.

### Open opportunities

We are seeing opportunities to promote the God-given beauty that surrounds us. We offer a sense of place not available anywhere else in North Texas. We want to be good stewards of the great place we enjoy, targeting 20% of our city as open space/park land as we develop.

It may be a challenge to leave 20% of our land undeveloped as we grow, but we think it is worth it to attract those who want to share this unique place.

We're about to roll out a new brand for the community, new ways to reach out to bring visitors, residents and businesses.

Mayor Franke mentioned that he recently left his job to spend more time in Cedar Hill. "I want my business to be here, he said.

The people of Cedar Hill are engaged in new ways. More share the same vision and are determined to make a difference.

## Coming change:

**New Council members**

**New demographics**

**New logo and brand**

**New plans for downtown, parks, trails**

**New ideas for history, library and more**

**New bond vision**

**New regional road developments,**

**Loop 9, Hwy 67, FM 1382**



**The Police Department will check your home while you are away on vacation. Download the request form on the City website at [bit.ly/chpdvac](http://bit.ly/chpdvac)**

**Pay Municipal Court Fees Online**  
[cedarhilltx.com/warrants](http://cedarhilltx.com/warrants)



## People make it a community



**Above:** Trinitee Adler, a fourth grader at Bray Elementary introduces family members after receiving a December STAR student award from City Council member Chris Parvin. **Below:** David Godsey points out his family while holding his STAR student award from City Council member Steve Mason.



Three Rec Center karate students qualified for the Aok and Tko state finals. **Left:** Julio Padron, Jr. took 2nd in 11 and under Advanced Belt Specialty. **Center:** Drake Chalmers received 1st in 11 and under Jr. Black Belt Specialty (State champ) **Right:** Jaden Williams is the state champion in 12-17 Intermediate Specialty.



The Cedar Hill Recreation Center has added new equipment including a Matrix Functional trainer and other machines. For more information and videos on the new equipment visit [cedarhilltx.com/fitness](http://cedarhilltx.com/fitness).

# Community 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.



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

## January 2013

### 8 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session.

7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting

Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room. Agenda posted online at [cedarhilltx.com/agenda](http://cedarhilltx.com/agenda) and at the front door of the Government Center at least 72 hours before meeting.

### 12 Animal Shelter - Second Saturday

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tri-City Animal Shelter, 1150 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Low cost pet microchipping (\$20 instead of usual \$25 charge) includes registration.

### 19 Special Election - City Council

The City Council has called a special election to fill the remaining term of Council member Cory Spillman who has resigned. More information is available on the City website at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com).

### 22 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session.

7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting

### 26 Intro to Yoga Workshop

10 a.m. - Noon. \$20 per person. Call 972.293.5288 for information.

## February

### 9 Daddy/Daughter Dance

4-6 p.m. for ages 4-8; 7-9 p.m. for ages 9-12

Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville

\$30 /couple and \$10 /additional daughter. Each 2-hr. dance featuring a DJ will include dinner, a souvenir photo and more. For information call 972.293.5288.

## March

### 16 Walk the Light

Historic Downtown Cedar Hill

Walk the Light and the City of Cedar Hill will host their 3rd annual arts festival. Applications for artists, vendors and venue hosts are now being accepted. View all the details at [www.walkthe-light.org](http://www.walkthe-light.org). Application deadline is January 30, 2013.



## Contacts

After Hours  
972.780.6643

Alarm Monitoring  
972.230.5248

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 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

Tri-City Animal Shelter  
972.291.5335

Utility Billing  
972.291.5100x1200

## Simmons named library manager

Toni Simmons was recently named Manager of the Zula B. Wyllie Public Library. She joined the library in July 2009.

Toni is an award-winning professional storyteller who has raised library programming to a whole new level.

A graduate of Fisk University, she majored in speech and drama. After receiving a Master's degree in Library Science she worked at public libraries in Miami, Des Moines and Minneapolis before coming to Cedar Hill.

She has been a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpiece touring artist and is a Texas

Commission on the Arts Touring Artist.

Toni has made many contributions to the library, creating new programs, partnering with other City departments, stimulating participation and performing in her storytelling role.

Toni says "Our vision for the Library is to be the third place after home and work." Even though we are small, Premier Customer Service is our goal.

Toni and her staff plan to take the library to the community by reaching out to them in person or via our virtual library.

For more information visit [www.cedarhilltx.com/librarymgr](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/librarymgr).



## Trail takes shape

Red Oak Creek Trail will, when completed by the end of 2013, connect Virginia Weaver Park to Dot Thomas Park, and the Cedar Trails neighborhood to the Rec Center. Pedestrians will have access to Permenter Middle School and the High School.

Three miles in length, this trail is the next segment in a city-wide trail system, part of the Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Visioning Master Plan (to download the plan visit [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com) and in the search box enter "open space")

The trail will be concrete, 12 feet wide, with landscaped ame-



nities. It will be handicapped accessible and wide enough for walking, running, biking and roller blading.

Most of the funding (\$2,500,000) is a grant from Dallas County. The City's Community Development Corporation is funding the remaining \$500,000.

The final implementation of the trail includes many revisions resulting from public meetings staff held to solicit input.

Although it's already under construction, a formal groundbreaking is planned in January. Watch the city website for details.

## Alerts



The City of Cedar Hill uses a recorded message system to quickly distribute important information to residents.

**If you no longer have a home phone, the City may not be able to get the message to you.**

The City asks that you visit the website below and add your cell phone number(s) and email address. Your information will not be available to telemarketers.

Messages are sent as recordings, emails and/or text messages. They will always clearly indicate that they are from the City of Cedar Hill.

Please register; it only takes a couple of minutes and we want to keep in touch.

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



The Cedar Hill Race Festival returns to Cedar Hill State Park this year on Feb. 9-10 for a two-day festival of bike races, hill climbs and other events.

Registration is available at [www.bikereg.com/events/?et-1&rg+TX](http://www.bikereg.com/events/?et-1&rg+TX), scroll down to "Cedar Hill Race Festival."

Over 300 entrants are expected to com-

pete in five events over the two days from 7 a.m. until after 8 p.m.



Published by the City of Cedar Hill  
Corky Brown,  
Public Relations Manager  
972.291.5100 x1032  
[corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com)