

March 2013



**Thanks to Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter, adoption cost remains the same**

## Shelter, veterinarians partner to offer free spay/neutering for pets

By Alissa Prelis, Manager, Tri-City Animal Shelter & Adoption Center

Tri-City Animal Shelter & Adoption Center has started a pre-sterilization program for animals adopted from the shelter. All of-age dogs and cats are spayed or neutered before going to their new homes.

The adoption fee remains at \$75.

Three local veterinarians, Dr. Donna Fuller with Pet Medi-

cal Center of Duncanville, Dr. Chris Gleason with The Animal Care Center in Duncanville and Chris Rose with Central Animal Clinic in Cedar Hill showed their commitment to the community and the shelter's adopted animals by emBARKing on this adventure with the shelter.

Thanks to their partnership, the shelter will now be able to do their part in lower-

ing the number of unsterilized animals going back out into the neighborhoods. This is a positive step for the animals and people the shelter serves and should go a long way in reducing the number of unwanted and stray animals in Cedar Hill and the surrounding cities.

The shelter also owes a BIG thank you Furry much to the Friends of Tri-City Animal Shelter and their supporters. Because of their tireless fundraising efforts, the cost to adopt a new pet will not increase.

The Friends have given the thumbs up, as long as the allotted funding remains, to supplement the adoption fee so that adopters will not see the increase in cost for the spay or neuter.

*Continues on page 4*

## May 11 set for Local City Council Election

Three City Council members have indicated they will run in the May 11 election.

Mayor Rob Franke, Place 2 Council Member Wallace Swayze and Place 4 Council Member Steve Mason have three-year terms that expire this year.

As of the deadline for this issue, filing to run in this election was still open. Check the city website at [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com) for a list



of all candidates after the March 1 deadline.

Early voting will begin April 29. Check the city website for times, dates and the location.

## Nextdoor moves in

There's a new kind of social media in town and your friends in the Cedar Hill Police Department hope you will be a part of it.

Nextdoor.com, the private social network for your neighborhood has recently

launched in several Cedar Hill neighborhoods. Residents are joining this free service in surprisingly large numbers.

Users say it brings back a sense of community to the neigh-

*Continues on page 4*



Nextdoor.com co-founder Sarah Leary describes her service as "Facebook for neighborhoods" with more privacy and security. She was invited to speak to neighborhood "leads," many of whom are NeighborhoodWatch captains, at a dinner in February. PACT officers can use this communication tool to keep residents informed about safety issues and security concerns.

### Get free help with filing taxes

On Tuesdays, from 10:30 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m., at the Library, volunteers from AARP will help with your taxes. They will be there until Tuesday, April 9. This is a free service. Bring your tax records.





## Wildfire protection starts in Cedar Hill

The City of Cedar Hill began working with Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) in 2008 on a pioneering project to help communities remove potentially hazardous vegetation and reduce wildfire risks.

The City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan identifies risks and outlines mitigation strategies. Former Fire Chief Steve Pollock described our community's issue as where rural land meets populated development in need of protection from wildfires.

Current Cedar Hill Fire Chief John Ballard has been working with TFS to begin a pilot project in our city.

In January, Texas A&M Forest Service

crews were dispatched to Northwood University to execute one of the needed defenses.

Crews, using powerful equipment, chain saws and hand axes created a "shaded fuel break" a forested area where trees are thinned and pruned, creating a break in vegetation but retaining crown canopy.

**A fuel break like this can reduce wildfire risks and the speed of a fire by reducing underbrush.**

Dr. Kevin Fegan, Northwood University President said "This not only helps protect our campus, but also our community. We are proud to be part of this effort."

Crews cleared a 30-50 foot-wide strip on

either side of a service road on the campus that allows emergency equipment access from Belt Line Road. About 12 acres were cleared.

Nick Harrison of TFS said this area, similar to the Texas Hill Country, is an ideal place to demonstrate wildfire control techniques because it is part of a growing urban area. Many homes adjoin woodlands.

Crews spent about 3 weeks on the Northwood campus project, according to Chief Ballard, and "will be working with us on some other demonstration areas where we can educate homeowners about fire safety aspects of vegetation, landscaping and access."

## City's EDC earns Competitive Ready recognition

Cedar Hill is the newest CompetitiveReady community. Allison Larsen of Chain Concepts awarded the CompetitiveReady seal to the Cedar Hill Economic development Corp. during a January City Council meeting.

The CR seal means a "green light" for site selectors. This designation certifies that the right preparation has been completed and the community is ready for new investment, with a workforce, sites for development, incentive and financing programs and other key components in place.



According to Allison Thompson, Cedar Hill's EDC Director, the CR seal speeds the decision timeline for site selection.

Describing Cedar Hill, Larsen said the community is positioned for light industrial and office use. It is known for its high-quality lifestyle and recent sustainable planning efforts can be regarded as best practices.

CR seal certification is scored in 10 development categories. Cedar Hill scored highest in living environment, mitigated risk and physical infrastructure.

## Women's History Month Theatre

Black Women Standing Tall, Standing Proud will be performed by Toni Simmons Black Women at 7 p.m. March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Library. With the use of poetry and song, Toni Simmons brings to life the stories of Margaret Garner, Ida B. Wells, Rosa Parks and Ellen Sturup.

## Saturday litter collection project

Supported by Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful, volunteers meet at the Government Center every Saturday at 10 a.m. to help keep Cedar Hill clean by collecting litter in the city. Call coordinator Don Hughes at 972.765.4285 to confirm, if weather is iffy.

**Notify Me** will send you an email or text message update whenever new information is posted on the City website about topics of interest to you. Want to know when there's a related news item or calendar event posted?



Scan this code with your smart phone to sign up for the information you want, or email [corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com)

## Make the Library your help place

Tax help is available on Tuesdays until April 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. first come-first served. Provided by AARP volunteers.

Homework help is available for students in grades 3-6 on Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Program is supervised by a certified teacher. Register at 972.291.7323 x1312.

## Alarm Monitoring



For only \$25 a month, you can have your home or business alarm monitored by the same 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.



## Please don't block the path for emergency vehicles.

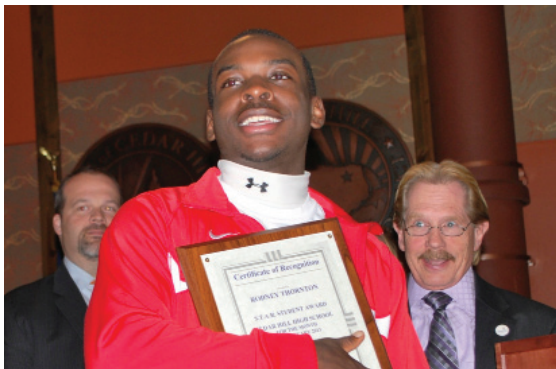
Parking in a marked Fire Lane for 'just a minute' could cost you a \$162 citation.



## People make it a community



Newly-elected City Council member Jami McCain, left, was sworn in at a February meeting. She was joined, following the meeting, by former City Council Member Peggy Wilson who served from 1996-98.



Rodney Thornton, a CHHS senior, received his STAR student award from City Council Member Daniel Haydin, right, at the Feb. 12 meeting.



CHISD fourth-grader Elvin Rodriguez, right, was joined by CHISD Superintendent Horace Williams at the Nationwide Writing Contest for Bilingual Students where he won first prize in the elementary grade category. He attends Highlands Elementary School. Principal Sylvia Lewis said Elvin is a local and national bi-literate role model whose story is inspiring more students to write with passion and purpose.

Yard sales and garage sales are required to be registered at [cedarhilltx.com/garagesale](http://cedarhilltx.com/garagesale) or by calling 972.291.5100 x1090. Register by Thursday.



It's free and it will advertise your sale on the list published Fridays on the City website.

# 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)

## March

### 26 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.

### 23 Household Hazardous Waste Event

9-11 a.m. in CHHS parking lot.

Get rid of yucky stuff safely, responsibly and for free. Some stuff just shouldn't go in the trash. For more information about what you can safely dispose of at this event please visit [cedarhilltx.com/hhw](http://cedarhilltx.com/hhw).

### 23 Cedar Hill Green Run

5:30 - 9 p.m.

Come out and help paint the town green, celebrating the inaugural year of Cedar Hill's Green Run! Visitors will enjoy a fun run, entertainment and an after party at the Village Green in Uptown Village. Admission is \$25 per runner. For more information, visit [cedarhilltx.com/greenrun](http://cedarhilltx.com/greenrun) or call 972.291.5130.

### 29 City offices closed for Good Friday

## April

### 7 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

7:30-8:30 a.m. Recreation Center 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

Join members of the community for a light breakfast provided at no cost by a sponsor. Prayers will be offered for all facets of the city. This quarterly event is coordinated by Transformation Vision. Visit [transformationvision.org](http://transformationvision.org) for more information.

### 9 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session.

7 p.m. Regular City Council Meeting

Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.

### 14 Tail Wagging Tutors

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St.

Children of all ages are invited to read aloud to friendly, trained dogs from Dog Training Club of Dallas County.

### 20 Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library, 225 Cedar St.

Bring out the entire family for a special Earth Day celebration including a tribute to Arbor Day and tree dedication. A limited number of free trees will be available for qualifying Cedar Hill citizens. Enjoy storytelling, musical performances, kid-friendly recycled crafts, tour the community gardens and more! For more information call 972.291.7323.

### 23 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session.

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Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room.

## More social than ever

Keep up with the latest goings on in Cedar Hill via social media.

You can tweet with us at [twitter.com/CedarHillTX](https://twitter.com/CedarHillTX).

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

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



# 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



## Who answers your alarm?

You can have your home or business alarm monitored by our local 911 Center. Get the fastest possible response. Find out about 3 months free at 972.230.5248.

## Citizens Fire Academy starts April 4

The Cedar Hill Fire Department's Citizens Fire Academy is set to begin Thursday, April 4. There's still time to register, but space is limited.

The Citizen's Fire Academy (CFA) is open to persons 18 or older who either live or work in the City of Cedar Hill. This 10-week program includes 30 hours of instruction. Sessions are approximately 3 hours in length and held at the Central Fire Station, 1212 Belt Line Rd.

CFA helps citizens of Cedar Hill to learn more about how the fire department is organized and operates.

Participants in the Citizens Fire Academy will learn the diverse services that are provided to our community.

CFA participants will:

- receive basic CPR



instruction

- receive fundamental knowledge in first aid
- learn how to react in a positive manner in case of fire or medical emergencies
- gain awareness and knowledge to keep the home and workplace accident-free
- learn why and how the Fire Department conducts itself in an emergency
- interact with and address community concerns.

Applications are available at the Central Station at 1212 Belt Line Rd. or can be submitted at [cedarhilltx.com/CFAapp](http://cedarhilltx.com/CFAapp).

For more information please visit the Fire Department webpages or contact Fire Marshal Randal Jordan at 972.291.1011.

## Nextdoor.com gets neighbors talking *from page 1*

borhood. It allows communication between neighbors but still maintains personal privacy. Users control how much information they want to share.

One of the keys to the success of Nextdoor is that everyone must register with their real name. And everyone who can view or post in your neighborhood must prove residency in your neighborhood.

Cedar Hill officers on the Police And

Community Together (PACT) team can post information to the residents in the beat areas they cover, but they cannot view posts put up by neighbors.

Nextdoor is being used by residents to discuss community issues. Users say that only local participation and real-name registration keeps the conversations polite.

## Shelter saves lives, money *from page 1*

The adoption fee will remain \$75.00 – an incredible deal for everything that is included in the adoption. For dogs it includes spay or neuter, current vaccinations (DA2PP, Bordatella and Rabies), dewormer, microchip with registration of the chip, collar and a leash. For cats it includes spay or neuter, current vaccinations (FVRCP and Rabies), dewormer, microchip with registration of the chip, collar and card-

Neighbors use Nextdoor to make recommendations of stores or service providers. Crime and safety is a popular topic, as are neighborhood and community events.

To join in visit [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com) and see if your neighborhood is already involved. If not, sign up to be the lead for your neighbors.

board carrier). The process to adopt an animal is as follows: Fill out a pre-adoption application, make a match and fall in love, fill out the necessary adoption paperwork, pick up your new pet at one of the participating clinics the following day or day after.

For more information, please contact the shelter directly at 972.291.5335.

Be sure to Like the shelter and the Friends Facebook sites.

## Free Audubon Thursdays

Audubon's Dogwood Canyon Center in Cedar Hill is currently offering free admission on the first Thursday of each month. Get more information, download a trails map and learn more at [dogwoodcanyon.audubon.org](http://dogwoodcanyon.audubon.org).

Teachers are encouraged to check out the academic programming for pre-K - 12th grade.

Included are Expedition Science programs and Conservation Workshops led by Dogwood Canyon Audubon staff. Call Tania Homayoun at 469.526.1986 or email her at [thomayoun@audubon.org](mailto:thomayoun@audubon.org).



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