

November 2013



# HIGHLIGHTS

## City Council meeting with local neighborhoods

The City Council has made it a strategic priority to engage and strengthen Cedar Hill neighborhoods.

It is obvious that strong neighborhoods are the foundation of a strong City, help minimize crime and enhance safety, protect citizen investment and increase property values. Connected neighborhoods

help maintain Cedar Hill's small town feel, communicate needs and priorities more effectively, and groom our future leaders. People's perception of the City starts at the neighborhood level.

City Council members will be leading Town Hall meetings monthly starting this month to engage resi-

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## Old Town Holiday on the Hill

Historic Downtown will once again sparkle Thursday evening, December 5th, as Cedar Hill Main Street and the Parks and Recreation department present Old Town Holiday on the Hill, the annual tree-lighting and holiday celebration.

Come enjoy musical presentations, dance performances and caroling by local area students.

Santa will arrive to help Mayor

Franke light the tree, then climb aboard his sleigh to pose for free pictures with the children. Downtown merchants will offer festive activities, specials and treats.

Smart shoppers can get a head start on holiday gift purchases! Join us **Thursday, December 5, 2013, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, at Pioneer Park in Historic Downtown**. For information call 972-291-5100 ext. 1084.



## Country Day... 'Picture perfect'

Despite early sprinkles, the second Saturday in October was a great day for the thousands who turned out for the 76th annual Country Day on the Hill.

It is a time to remember our roots and chart our course. A celebration of heritage and dreams for everyone who is part of the Cedar Hill experience.



Music provides a common language we share from generation to generation, and Country Day is a great place to enjoy it.



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# Kids on the Hill draws over 1,000

The Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department and the Zula B. Wylie Library hosted about 1,000 children and their families from all over the DFW Metroplex who came out and enjoyed the Kids on the Hill Creative Arts Festival at Valley Ridge Park in September.

They celebrated art, creativity and family. The Radio Disney Dallas Road Crew was a big hit and everyone enjoyed music from the Que Pastas and stories from local adult and youth storytellers.

Sponsors for this event included Resource 1 Credit Union, Friends of the Library, Texas Commission on the Arts, Cedar Hill Home Depot, Visual Expressions Creative Arts School, Cedar Hill Schlotzsky's, Cedar Hill State Park and the City of Cedar Hill.

See pictures of kids and families having a great time at this event at [cedarhilltx.com/kidsonthehill](http://cedarhilltx.com/kidsonthehill).

## Help ELF & Friends bring better holidays to Cedar Hill families

**EMS, Law Enforcement, Firefighters or ELF & Friends** is a non-profit organization operated by the Cedar Hill Fire & Police Associations. With local residents' help they help provide Christmas for about 200 children and senior citizens of Cedar Hill.

By Nov. 22 ELF Trees, containing tags with individual needs, will be at Cedar Hill Wal\*Mart, Fire Station #211 (1212 W. Belt Line Rd.), Police Department (285 Uptown Blvd. #200) and Zula B. Wylie Library (225 Cedar St.).

We can all help by visiting a tree, selecting a tag or two and purchasing items listed for the individuals or families on the tags.

These new, unwrapped items, with the ELF tags attached, should be brought Fire Station #211 or the Police Department by Friday, Dec. 13.

## Putting a face on government Judge values his role as educator

Cedar Hill's Juvenile Judge, Cedric Mims is a graduate of Cedar Hill High School, Class of 1999.

He grew up in Cedar Hill and after graduating from Cedar Hill High School he attended UT Austin, then went to law school in California. He always knew he would return to the Dallas area, but never imagined he would work for the same city he grew up in. "I didn't expect to be a judge, I sort of fell into the position," said Mims.

As Municipal Court Juvenile Judge for the City, he handles Class C misdemeanor cases that can be punished with a fine or community service. He presides over trials such as animal cruelty and property hearings and works with the police department to review and sign warrants.

As a Cedar Hill Judge, Mims gets to interact with the community more than if he was a judge in a larger city. Those interactions help him understand each case because each is unique. Parents have sent him "Thank You" cards explaining how he has impacted their child's life

### Saturday litter collection

Meet at the Government Center every Saturday at 9 a.m. to help keep Cedar Hill clean by collecting litter in all parts of the city. This program is supported by Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful and coordinated by Don Hughes. To confirm, if weather is iffy, please call him at 972.765.4285.

## City holiday closings

**City offices, Animal Shelter and Senior Center:** Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day; and New Year's Day.

**Rec Center:** Closed for floor resurfacing, Monday, Dec. 23, 2013, closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Open New Year's Eve but closing at 6 pm. Closed New Year's Day.

**Library:** Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Open New Year's Eve but closing at 6 pm. Closed New Year's Day.



**Judge Cedric Mims**

by informing the child of the many negative outcomes of breaking the law. "Ignorance of the law is not an excuse," said Mims. As a judge, he feels one of his main goals is to educate the community, especially the youth, of local and national laws and how they pertain to them and their community.

Judge Mims knows exactly what it is like growing up in Cedar Hill. While serving on the bench he does much more than fairly judge cases; he has an impact on the youth of our community, and that affects everyone.



**Join the Cedar Hill Community Band**  
Call Donald Stockard at 214.542.8529 or  
email [cedarhillcommunityband@yahoo.com](mailto:cedarhillcommunityband@yahoo.com)

## People make it a community



At the Country Day on the Hill opening ceremony, Mayor Rob Franke (at microphone) presents a Blue Star Banner with three stars to the Jim and Caren Chapman family for their three sons serving in the U.S. military.



City Manager Alan Sims, left, and his wife Gayle hold the Lifetime Achievement Award from Texas City Management Assn. which was presented to him by TCMA President Don Johnson. Mayor Franke, at the City Council meeting, said Sims had achieved in 13 years in Cedar Hill what many others seek for a lifetime and never attain.



Above, Council Member Wallace Swayze presents a STAR Student award to Asia Satter, a fourth grade student at Plummer Elementary. Below, Council Member Stephen Mason presents a STAR student award to Michelle Cruz, a fourth grade student at Highlands Elementary.



# C A L E N D A R

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.



## NOVEMBER

### 27 Computer Basics: A Brief Tour

2-3 p.m. Zula B. Wylie Public Library

This class has been designed for people who have little to no experience with computers. Learn about using a mouse and keyboard, the parts of a computer, e-mail, and Internet searching. We are also eager to help you with other issues, so bring your questions. Space is limited. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1311.

## DECEMBER

### 1 Holiday Membership Special

Cedar Hill Recreation Center

20% off annual membership and \$10 off 3-month membership through Jan. 5, 2014, excluding corporate memberships. For more information, call 972.293.5233.

### 5 Old Town Holiday on the Hill

Pioneer Park in downtown Cedar Hill

At the annual holiday tree lighting celebration, Santa arrives for photos in his sleigh, plus kids activities, treats and live entertainment. Visit [cedarhilltx.com/holiday](http://cedarhilltx.com/holiday)

### 7 Library Holiday Open House

Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Meet Mr. & Mrs. Claus, create holiday crafts, buy children's books. Remember your camera. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313

### 19 Polar Express Night

Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Enjoy a magical journey to the North Pole. Wear pajamas for train rides, stories, hot chocolate. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313

### 30 Kwanzaa Celebration

Zula B. Wylie Public Library

Learn about the seven principles of Kwanzaa, enjoy storytelling performances and taste traditional foods. For more information call 972.291.7323 X1313

### City Council Meetings

Are usually held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, except for November and December which have only one meeting. For the full schedule of meetings and more information visit [cedarhilltx.com/citycouncilmeeting](http://cedarhilltx.com/citycouncilmeeting).

### City closings for holidays

City Administration offices will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's Day. To check holiday hours for other City facilities please visit [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com) or call facilities directly using numbers on the back page.



CEDAR HILL

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

## Council/Neighborhoods

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dents in two-way communication about the present and future of our community. Residents will be invited to regional neighborhood meetings at several locations. City Council members seek residents' input about:

- What are the concerns or issues of your neighborhood?
- What can the City do to help strengthen your neighborhood?
- What can you do to help strengthen your neighborhood?
- What resources do you need to be successful?
- What can we do collectively to make your neighborhood premier?
- How can we communicate with you? As a resident? As a neighborhood?
- How do you want to communicate with the City?

**Please check [cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood](http://cedarhilltx.com/neighborhood) for more information regarding dates and locations of these town hall meetings.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Stacey Graves, Neighborhood and Code Services Manager at 972.291.5100 ext. 1094 or [stacey.graves@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:stacey.graves@cedarhilltx.com).

## Alarm Monitoring

# 911SWRCC

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

## Country Day

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Country Day brings out the love in our community.



Love being in a parade...



Hunka love leaving the building...



Love seeing old and new friends, neighbors and family...



Love seeing novel things, celebrating traditions. Mark the date for Country Day 2014, second Saturday in October, in beautiful Cedar Hill's Historic Downtown.

## City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100x1010

After Hours 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 972.291.5100x1084

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

Utility Billing 972.291.5100x1200

Waste Management, Inc.  
Trash & Recycling 800.772.8653



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