



PLUMMER: Police arrest two, community shows up

Within two days of a break-in at Plummer Elementary, Cedar Hill Police had arrested and charged two men.

Early in the morning on November 10, police allege Manuel Conception Chavez, Jr. and Adrian Garcia broke into the school, ransacked classrooms

Daily News reporter Rita Cook wrote, "It's a city that works together when problems arise that makes it more than just a place to live, but becomes a community where people care. One more time Cedar Hill has proven to be just that kind of community."

That afternoon and evening the community showed up to clean up. Plummer Principal Linda Cronenberg described the turnout as "a strong outpouring from the community."

The clean up effort included CHISD staffers, high school students, members of the South Hills Neighborhood Watch group, parents and even a student group from a church in Midlothian. Well over 100 people helped.

"We were overwhelmed with the work effort of all who came out to help" said Kim Lewis, Chief Operating Officer for CHISD.

Most of the cleanup was done by 8:30

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and offices and took electronic equipment.

The vandalism was so extensive that the school had to close and send 600 students home for the day.

The CHISD phone alert system worked very well, and all children were picked up just a few hours after the school was closed.

After Cedar Hill police and Dallas County investigators collected evidence, the school was opened for clean up.

Then, the story turned positive. *Focus*



Mayor notes challenges, opportunities

"What makes Cedar Hill so special?" Mayor Rob Franke asked members of the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce at their November 19 meeting at Northwood University.

That was the theme for his 'State of the City' message he delivered to over 100 Chamber members and guests. His challenge to them and all of Cedar Hill is: "What is the cost of premier?"

His message wasn't all good news. As in previous years the mayor reviewed financials that reflect the current down economy.

"We held the tax rate steady for 13 years

as the city grew substantially," the mayor explained. "We doubled our tax revenues but recent reductions in property values, coupled with flat sales tax revenues, have force us to make cuts in recent City budgets."

He said the City has been able to cut \$6 million in the last few years without any significant reduction in services.

Some new programs and equipment have been delayed. But the mayor said "it's not about the programs, it's about the people."

He showed charts making it clear that keeping Cedar Hill safe is a priority, with over 65% of the City

budget going toward police and fire services.

Providing those services to a growing community costs more every year, he said. He mentioned the addition of a new fire station, in partnership with Grand Prairie, and an additional 12 firefighters as an example of continuing costs.

The mayor said his long experience working with other city leaders has convinced him that Cedar Hill has great city employees. Besides sharing a clear focus on providing service to residents, "We get along

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Tripping for the holidays? CHPD will check your home

If your holiday plans include a trip, you should know that the Cedar Hill Police Department offers a free service that checks on your home while you are away.

Go to the application online at <http://www.cedarhilltx.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=51>, fill it out, and drop it off at the Police Department at 285 Uptown Blvd., north lobby, before you leave town.

This free service by the CHPD will provide inspections of the accessible exterior of your home while you are away, minimum of three days, maximum of 30 days-excluding the day of departure and day of return.

The Residential Security Check program is available to Cedar Hill residents.

Be aware that you cannot have anyone else at your residence, feeding animals or tending plants during this time. And be sure to notify CHPD immediately if you return early or if other information on the form changes.

Helpful Tips

- * Do not let shrubbery obscure doors and windows so a burglar can work undetected.
- * At night, leave a few lights on outside and inside your home.
- * Windows and doors should be securely locked.
- * Do not leave "hidden keys" outside.
- * Try to make your home look occupied while you are away. Stop mail and/or newspaper delivery.

Home for the holidays safety tips

- *Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows at all times.
- *Don't display gifts and other valuables where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- *If you go out in the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house looks occupied.
- *After Christmas, don't advertise your new electronics and/or other new valuables by putting the boxes out in the trash. Break the boxes down and fold them so the words are on the inside, or bag them.

Use 911

Help your neighbors, help your police department keep your community safe. Please call 911 if you see a crime in progress or even if you see suspicious behavior.

Now is a great time of year to get involved in your neighborhood's watch group. Call Sgt. Jerry Busby for information about one in your area at 972.291.5181 X2145.

Or locate your Police And Community Together (PACT) officer on the City website at www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?NID=1053.

Plummer

From front page

that evening and 600 students were able to return to classes on Thursday.

Members of the Plummer PTA brought breakfast for staff on Thursday and the local Chick-fil-A brought breakfast on Friday.

Principal Cronenberg said "It was so affirming, the support that everyone gave us."

Cedar Hill police said that they hope to recover more stolen goods as the investigation continues.

Free wi-fi
Free wireless internet connection is available at the Zula B. Wylie Library and at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

State of the City

From front page

and we get things done," he said.

Mayor Franke said we have been in a recession for several years and there is concern for the near future.

He called up the image of Joseph in the Bible and his example of storing up during the good years. "We were able to put funds in reserve during the growth, and we've had to use those reserves to maintain our services the last few years."

Our focus, he said, has always been on two things: the natural beauty of this area, and the people who choose to live here.

We have natural beauty here like no-



Ambulance subscription cuts the financial pain

An emergency trip to the hospital in an ambulance can easily cost over \$700. To help residents deal with that cost, the City of Cedar Hill offers an optional ambulance subscription plan that reduces your cost for emergency ground ambulance transport.

For only \$60 per year the City of Cedar Hill will bill your pri-

mary insurance carrier or Medicare. Whatever amount is not covered by either one will be written off by the City.

Don't let an emergency trip injure your budget

This program covers ground emergency transport to an emergency room. It covers dependents living in your home up to age 25.

Citizens on Medicaid do not qualify for this program.

You can make your payment by check, cash or money order. An installment plan allows you to pay \$5 each month on your water bill.

Enrollment forms are available at the Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd. and the fire station at 1212 W. Belt Line; or call 972.291.1011 during business hours to have the form mailed to you.

The City of Cedar Hill, through the emergency medical services provided by the Fire Department, is committed to providing quality, affordable emergency ambulance care to all residents of Cedar Hill.

where else in the Metroplex, he said.

Our strength going into the future is the people of Cedar Hill. We want our community to be the kind of place where people want to come and live, a place where our kids want to settle down.

He cited the willingness of the people of Cedar Hill to help make things special that has made so much possible.

He said look around and you'll see that every major event in our town depends on deeply committed volunteers.

We have a lot of people here who know just how much premier costs.



City Photo Gallery shows our distinctive character

Have you noticed the “City Photo Gallery” link under “Popular Links” on the home page of www.cedarhilltx.com? This new feature has several galleries of photos taken at community events like Scare on the Square, Country

Day on the Hill, National Night Out and even a collection of photos from the great snow of early 2010.

Watch for new galleries to be added.

You can access the photo albums directly at www.tinyurl.com/cchphotos.



CHISD STAR students for November were honored by the City Council with a plaque describing the qualities that make them standouts among over 8,000 students in the district. Mayor Franke said it is important to recognize those students, and their families, who show the self-discipline and initiative to succeed.

Above, Jaren Cooper, an eighth grader at Permenter Middle School receives his Star award from Mayor Rob Franke.

Below, Alyssa Gonzales, an eighth grade honor student at Bessie Coleman Middle School listens as Council Member Cory Spillman reads her plaque at the Council Meeting.



Community Calendar

December

14 City Council meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, public meeting
7 p.m. City Council meeting
Government Center, Cedar Hill Room

24, 27, 31 City offices closed

City offices in the Government Center will be closed for the holidays on Friday, Dec. 24, Monday, Dec. 27 and for New Year's on Friday, Dec. 31.

January 2011

3 Recreation Center 20% off annual membership offer ends

Visit the Rec Center at 310 E. Parkerville to set up your membership and save 20%. Only need 3 months at a time? Save \$10.

11 City Council meeting

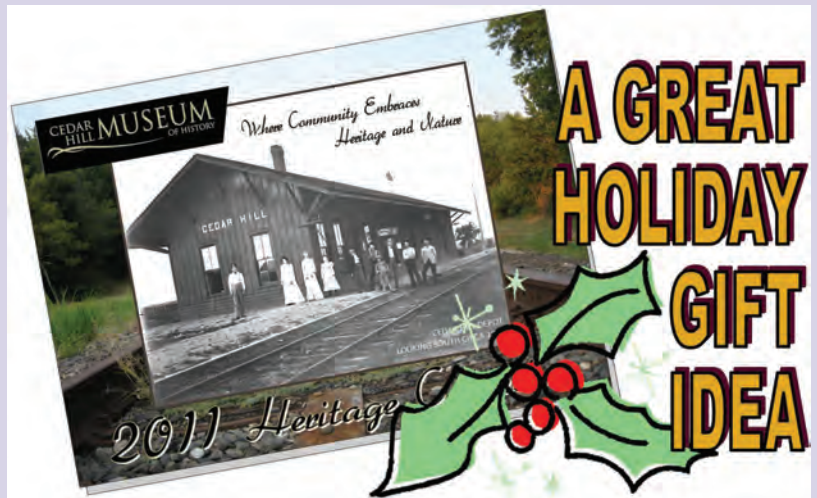
6 p.m. Briefing Session, public meeting
7 p.m. City Council meeting
Government Center, Cedar Hill Room

11 Citizens Police Academy

6:30 p.m. Grady M. Lamb Bldg. 601 E. Belt Line
First of 12 weekly classes to increase citizen awareness of and understanding of law enforcement. More information and application at <http://tinyurl.com/CHPDclass>

12 Citizens Emergency Response Team Meeting

7 p.m. Fire Station at 1212 W. Belt Line
Monthly C.E.R.T. meeting. For more information on CERT please visit www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?NID=1197



Speaking of calendars...

the 2011 Cedar Hill Museum of History calendar is now available for only \$10. Call 972.293.3806 for purchase locations. The calendar contains a year's worth of historical photos, facts and helpful numbers. It makes a great gift.

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 info (including date, time, location, a contact number or email) to corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com.

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 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



Setting the record straight

Top administrators team up to spread good news

Superintendent Horace Williams, left and City Manager Alan Sims share the truth about the Cedar Hill community and schools with realtors

and services while saving taxpayers' money."

Sims listed the joint City/CHISD Government Center, the Tri-City Animal Shelter, Fire Station #4, shared with Grand Prairie, and tri-city emergency dispatch as examples of successful partnerships.

Superintendent Williams began by telling when he moved to Cedar Hill four years ago to take his current job a realtor told him not to buy a house in Cedar Hill because the schools weren't that good.

"Our schools today," he said, "rival other great districts in the metroplex. We have three Exemplary schools and seven Recognized schools."

He told the group of realtors that the Collegiate High School, which has been Exemplary since it opened in 2008, allows high school students to earn 60 college credits by the time they graduate.

He asked, "Will that help you sell a home in Cedar Hill?"

Cedar Hill is a safe, vibrant, growing community with good schools and excellent leadership. That was the message City Manager Alan Sims and CHISD Superintendent Horace Williams delivered to an influential group of realtors in November.

Sims and Williams told the MetroTex Board of Realtors Tri-City Chapter meeting in Desoto that much of the "common knowledge" about Cedar Hill is out of date or flat wrong.

City Manager Sims told the group "We have strong neighborhoods, and a range of homes from less than \$150,000 to several

million dollars." "And" he added, "we have views and topography unmatched in the Metroplex."

He stressed the safety of Cedar Hill saying, "41 neighborhood groups participated in the recent National Night Out. We have had a lot of growth in Cedar Hill, but we are one of the safest cities in the area."

Sims said harmony among City Council members has led to incredible progress in the community. Last year Cedar Hill elected officials were named City Council of the Year by the Texas City Managers Assn. for their innovative partnerships.

"The spirit of partnerships," he said, "has led to premier facilities



The City of Cedar Hill sends warnings by phone for severe weather, hazardous road conditions and other situations that impact the safety of our citizens.

To make sure you get the message, even if you're not at home, the City asks that you visit the website below and add your cell phone and email address. If you have an unlisted home phone you will not receive City warnings by phone unless you register your number at the site below. Your information will not be available to telemarketers.

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

The City uses the regular white pages listing for home numbers, but we need residents to visit the website below and add cell phone numbers, unlisted numbers and email addresses.

<https://portal.blackboardconnectcity.com/1228101>



Who answers your alarm?

For only \$25 a month you can have your home or business alarm monitored by our local 911 Center. Call 972.230.5248 for intro specials.



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