



Audubon Texas to start construction of Dogwood Canyon Educational Center

In February, Audubon Texas will begin construction of a 6,000 sq. ft. education center in Dogwood Canyon, a 270-acre conservation area in Cedar Hill.

The Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center project involves public and private partners, including the City of Cedar Hill, for the purpose of preserving a very special place.

The site is within easy access of 6.2 million people. When the center opens in 2011 it is expected to serve up to 40,000 visitors annually.

Dogwood Canyon, which contains habitat for threatened bird species and rare plants, is located in an environmentally sensitive area near the Northwood University campus, off FM 1382.

During a visit to the site last year, John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society said, "To be able to conserve 270 acres of important wildlife habitat

in a major metropolitan area is incredible."

"Dogwood Canyon will unveil a world many people in the area have never seen, an unrivaled classroom where people of all ages and backgrounds can come to experience, understand, and care for the natural world."

Dogwood Canyon is named for the flowering dogwoods that are found in the canyon, though they are generally absent from shallow clay soils. Dogwood Canyon is home to a unique combination of flora and fauna.

The center will serve

Audubon's mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Once the center opens, citizens from Cedar Hill and visitors from near and far will be able to hike the canyon, enjoy a nature-related class or participate in a variety of volunteer related opportunities.

For more information please visit <http://www.tx.audubon.org/Dogwood.html>

Savage to direct Parks & Recreation

The City of Cedar Hill has named Rhoda L. Savage as the City's new Director of Parks and Recreation. She replaces former Director Steve Meadors who retired after 16 years with the City.

While a graduate student at Texas A&M University, Savage began working for the City of College Station in the Parks and Recreation Dept. In addition to a B.S. degree in Biology, she earned her M.S. degree in Exercise Physiology at A&M. She also holds an M.S. degree in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Savage brings 20 years of experience in municipal parks and recreation management. Most recently, she served as Parks and Recreation Director in Highland Village, Texas and has also served as P&R Director for the City of Allen, Texas.

Her background in P&R management includes working with boards, councils, economic development corporations and special project teams.

"I look forward to being a part of the City of Cedar Hill management team," Savage said, "and helping set the stage for a world-class park system in the most beautiful part of



the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex."

Cedar Hill is blessed with some of the most beautiful topography, spectacular views and open spaces. As a result, the City has made it a priority to maintain, protect and preserve these precious resources for generations to come.

The City of Cedar Hill maintains over 750 acres of parks, greenways, special facilities and open space for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. In partnership with Audubon Texas, the City has set aside 270 acres of unique habitat, for conservation, recreation and education.

The western border of Cedar Hill includes the 1,826-acre Cedar Hill State Park on Lake Joe Pool. The park offers over 300 camp sites, biking and hiking trails, and a historical site that celebrates Texas' farming heritage.

For more about Cedar Hill Parks & Recreation, visit www.cedarhilltx.com/parks

Library offers amnesty

The Zula B. Wylie Library is forgiving any outstanding fines for patrons who return late items in January. Bring in the items, speak with a customer service representative and your slate will be wiped clean.

Lost a book or DVD? You can replace an item with a new or slightly used one and your rights at the Library will be restored.

Don't delay. Library amnesty ends Jan. 30.

Your contact is Winfred Thompkins at 972.291.7323.



Police Officer Logan Forbess receives a plaque and Life-Saving bar from Chief Steve Rhodes. The commendation said swift action by Officer Forbess saved the life of an injured young woman when he pulled her from a burning automobile after an accident.



Assistant City Manager Paulette Owens-Holmes holds the plaque she received from the International City-County Manager's Association (ICMA) honoring her for 20 years of service in local government. She is joined by Mayor Rob Franke, former Denton City Manager Chris Hartung and Cedar Hill City Manager Alan Sims.



Justin Tigner points out family members who attended the swearing in ceremony for him as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Also sworn in during the Dec. 14 event was Robert Burluson, center, who was promoted to Driver/Engineer. Chief Steve Pollock officiated and City Secretary Lyn Hill administered the oath.

Transit Oriented Development Committee looks at the future of the City Center

The Transit Oriented Development Committee held its third meeting in December and decided that, of the available locations for a commuter rail stop, a Midtown location is the best.

The TOD Committee consists of 15 residents, including two members of the City Council. Their assignment from the City Council is to prepare a framework for future development of the City Center. A large part of that development is planning for rail-based mass transit along the existing railway that runs through the city.

Three public meetings have been held so far, starting in August, 2009.

The City is building upon its strong traditions of community-based planning and



Map showing the area included in the TOD Committee study

citizen involvement to realize a mixed use, walkable City Center.

The Planning Department is coordinating the meetings, with assistance from HDR Engineering Inc. consultants.

Research shown to the committee indicates that commuter-serving regional rail service will bring up to nine trains

through Cedar Hill daily. The committee is interested in development around the proposed rail station to attract workers and visitors to Cedar Hill in addition to providing trips into Dallas for residents.

For more information on the TOD Committee, visit <http://www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?nid=1173>.

Pleasant Run Public Meeting set for Jan. 28

The second Public Planning Session for the expansion of Pleasant Run from US67 to Duncanville Road has been set for Jan. 28 and all interested residents are invited.

This project, to widen Pleasant Run to four lanes with turn lanes, is a joint project between the City and Dallas County.

Engineers and Public Works officials met earlier with residents and have collected suggestions. Those, along with other solutions, will be

discussed at the upcoming meeting.

Ruth Antebi-Guten, Public Works Director for Cedar Hill said "It is very important to include input from all the stakeholders along the roadway and from those who use it."

This portion of roadway involves several challenging issues including pedestrian crossings for apartment developments, neighborhoods, public and private schools and the Tri-City Animal shelter.

An additional consideration is where the road intersects with Duncanville Road. The City of DeSoto's participation will be required to adequately address that high-traffic intersection.

Walkways/bikeways are in the proposed plan along with landscaping and unique lighting ideas.

For more information about the location and time of the meeting visit www.cedarhilltx.com/prr.



Free wi-fi

Wireless internet connection is available at the Zula B. Wylie Library and at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Yep, That's the Word

By Chris Parvin, City Councilmember

For several years now, if you asked almost any city official what the vision for Cedar Hill is, almost robotically you might hear the City's official and oft-cited vision statement: "We envision Cedar Hill as a Premier City; where families and businesses flourish in a safe and clean environment."



Since being elected to the City Council in June, I have had to spend some time learning about that vision. After all, it was set for our City years ago by other people (some still on the Council, some not). As a new Councilman, I knew I needed to either buy into it or contribute to charting a new vision for the City. For me to buy into it, I would have to actually believe in every word of it, otherwise my principles wouldn't allow me to follow it.

I've got to be honest. Before taking office, I heard the vision statement and didn't completely believe it. Though I've always loved our city, I wouldn't have used the word "premier" to describe it. After all, we aren't the wealthiest city around. Our streets aren't all pot-hole free; we don't have a snazzy municipal golf course or a majority of gated neighborhoods protecting million dollar homes. Why, then, use such a particularly elevating word to label our little town? I didn't get it then, but now I do. Since being elected I've seen it first hand. We truly are special. Different. Distinct. Yes, I believe we are Premier.

To each person, being "premier" might mean something different. To some, it may be a city with a balanced budget or great facilities. It may be a town that's filled with churches or an active business community. It may mean parks, great restaurants, unique shops, tree-lined streets, etc. Yes, while I agree that all those things are important (especially since we already have all of that), I've seen that it's about something more. It's about you.

Cedar Hill is a Premier City because of the quality of people here. Not only do we have doctors, lawyers, pastors, business and civic professionals but among these, we also find something less common: a city of true leaders who volunteer their time and resources to shape our small town into that city on a hill that we call home. It is those neighborhood associations, church boards, city committees, civic clubs, charities, Chamber members, and individuals who, using their diverse backgrounds and beliefs, work tirelessly together to forge Cedar Hill into the community that we love. To me, being a Premier City is not merely about a city facility, or even a destination we're striving towards. To me, rather, it's a mindset that causes us to contribute. To me, People Make Us Premier.

Community Calendar

January

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>.

16 Cedar Hill Star Party

Sunset, J.W. Williams Park, 1065 High Pointe Ln. by West Intermediate School.

Free opportunity to view stars and planets. Bring your own telescope or use one provided by the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas. Call to confirm meeting status, 214.800.6000

18 Library Remembers Martin Luther King, Jr.

6:30 p.m. Library Meeting Room, Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.

Celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. with stories, his "I Have a Dream" speech, performed by Mr. Jimmy Pierre, and songs by Ms. Audrey Anderson.

21 Visual Artists of Dallas

7 p.m. Library Meeting Room, Zula B. Wylie Library 225 Cedar St.

25 Market & Career Research Using Reference USA

7 p.m. Library Meeting Room, Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.

ReferenceUSA is a top source of information on business and people for researchers, students, job seekers and government agencies. Learn the many uses of this powerful database to create mailing lists, develop client lists, or to research your competition.

Call 972.291.7323.

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.

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>.

February

6 Daddy Daughter Valentine Dance

Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville, Rd.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 4-8; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 9-12

\$30 per couple or \$15 per person. Registration closes on Feb. 3.

Register online at www.cedarhilltx.com/index.aspx?NID=643, or at the Front Desk. Call 972.293.5288 for more information.

Each dance includes a photo, refreshments, gift for each girl and live DJ.

Check out the calendar on www.cedarhilltx.com for more events.

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.



The following items may be recycled:

- Newspapers, magazines and telephone books, junk mail, envelopes, cardboard boxes
- Aluminum beverage cans, steel/tin cans
- Glass bottles, clear and colored
- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and containers (HDPE & PET)

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

Holiday on the Hill cheerful and chilly

Despite chilly temperatures, over a thousand friends and neighbors enjoyed Holiday on the Hill Dec. 3, sponsored by the City and downtown merchants. Santa, arriving by fire truck, lit the tree and kicked off an evening of seasons greetings.

Choirs and choruses



from Highlands, Bray and High Pointe Elementary performed, as did the combined Joe Wilson and West Intermediate choirs. Over 200 youngsters got a visit and free photo

with Santa. Donations and the proceeds from the "Fun on the Go" train benefitted ELF and Friends, a local benevolence program of the Police and Fire department employees.

Above, Jessica Hahn serves welcome hot chocolate. Left and below, groups from Bray and Highlands Elementary Schools enjoyed entertaining. Lower left, "Vocal Magic" carolers added a nostalgic touch.



Civic engagement includes you

*Corky Brown
Public Relations Manager*

There has been a lot of talk lately about the relationship between government and the people. Nowhere is that relationship more tangible and visceral than at the local/city government level.

City Council members live, shop, worship and sometimes work among their constituents. When was the last time you stood in line at Wal*Mart with one of your Senators?

Why is it important for citizens to be involved?

Because it is the right thing to do. Engagement supports the principles of a democratic system, allows equal opportunity to influence public decision-making.

Because it works. Citizen engagement creates more effective solutions. A participatory process enhances legitimacy and decreases conflict.

Citizen engagement improves citizens' knowledge, communication and empowerment. It increases trust in community government and organizations.

The Cedar Hill City Council encourages citizen involvement. Council meetings are public, residents are invited to meetings about road developments, citizen committees hold public meetings about future City Center development.

The City distributes this newsletter to every Cedar Hill home and supports a highly functional website for the education and involvement of residents.

You are encouraged to do your part. Read, attend, vote, engage.

City staffers go more than extra mile

City employees, were recently challenged by the Human Resources department to "Walk Across Texas."

They didn't actually leave town, but used pedometers donated by the City's health insurer, to keep track of miles they walked at work, while working out and just living their busy lives.

Nine teams including 72 participants walked halfway around the world, logging over 12,700 miles during the 8-week challenge.

Top walkers included Officer David Bowen with 524 miles and India Benjamin of the Recreation Center with 441 miles.

"Walk" is just one way the City is working to help workers stay fit and reduce insurance expenses/premiums for the City.

"Walk Across Texas" is recognized as a Best Practice Physical Activity Program by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Since 1986 thousands of Texans have participated. For more information visit www.walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu.



Published by the City of Cedar Hill
Corky Brown,
Public Relations Manager
972.291.5100.x1032
corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com