

## Cedar Hill and Grand Prairie break ground on new fire station



At the groundbreaking for Fire Station 214, on April 19, there was much talk about cooperation.

This station will be operated under an unusual joint agreement between the cities of Cedar Hill and Grand Prairie that specifies a 50/50 split on capital

their fire departments helps spread the cost, so taxpayers in each community benefit while receiving premier city services.

Station 214, at 1505 Lake Ridge Parkway, is expected to be operational by next February, at a cost of over \$3 million.

Pitching in at the groundbreaking were Tom Hanley and Jerry Mull of Steele & Froner, construction management; Grand Prairie Fire Chief Clif Nelson, Cedar Hill Fire Chief Steve Pollock, City Manager Alan Sims, Mayor Rob Franke, CHFD Chaplain Joel Berthelesen, City Council members Cory Spillman, Daniel Hayden and Greg Patton



and construction costs and a 75/25 split on staffing and operation costs.

As Cedar Hill Mayor Rob Franke said at the groundbreaking, cooperation between the communities and

Within its 10,000 square feet will be apparatus bays, living areas, a kitchen, fitness area and bedrooms.

It will house a new Pierce Velocity Advance Life Support Engine and a minimum staff of

three paramedics/ fire-fighters.

The facility will be built with the capacity to handle the addition of an ambulance and up to 7 personnel on each 24-hour shift.



## Everyone is looking as Uptown Village opens

Uptown Village in Cedar Hill is officially open. Speeches have been made, ribbons have been cut and balloons have been released.

So what does it mean to our community? The 725,000 square feet of shopping is expected to bring in more than \$3.2 million per year in property and sales tax revenue once it is filled.

That revenue will improve city infrastructure and help keep the property tax rate down

for homeowners. It will help pay for the new fire station in Lake Ridge.

The city's Economic Development Corp. will receive up to \$600,000 to recruit new business and the Community Development Corp. will get the same amount to enhance parks and recreation venues in Cedar Hill.

Cedar Hill EDC Director Allison Thompson said the launch

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Addressing the crowd at the ribbon cutting, Cedar Hill Mayor Rob Franke is flanked by City Manager Alan Sims and Gar Herring of the Herring Group development company.

## Uptown Village from page 1

of Uptown Village is drawing attention from other developers of high-end retail facilities. "We have a lot of people looking for the right location and looking at the traffic it's generating," she said.

Dillard's, one of the center's anchors, is reporting brisk business. The Barnes & Noble book store has

just opened and Dick's Sporting Goods is expected to open in July.

According to the Uptown Village web site, about 50 stores and restaurants are already open or scheduled to open by this summer.

Adding to the fun, Uptown Village sponsors special events like free concerts by local musicians, classic car cruises, an Earth Day kid event and visits by area radio stations.

Uptown Village is located on Pleasant Run Road just West of US 67.

Regular shopping hours are Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



The Village Green fountain at Uptown Village is especially dramatic at night as it adds to the streetscape ambiance of the Center. Biker police, above, are just some of the obvious security elements that help make the Uptown Village experience pleasant.



## Who will claim the title of BBQ King of Cedar Hill for 2007?

Does your neighborhood have a winner? Neighbor2Neighbor and Neighborhood Services are encouraging neighborhoods to have

their own BBQ cookoffs and send the best to the finals in Historic Downtown Cedar Hill.

Everyone is invited to the First Annual Citywide Bar-b-que Cook Off on Saturday, June 21.

Neighbor2Neighbor will even help with your neighborhood contest. Visit [www.n2ncedarhill.com](http://www.n2ncedarhill.com) for their toolkit to get started.



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



## Opening day at new ball park



There were plenty of ribbon cutting opportunities shared by members of the City Council and Luke Spencer, left, the Cedar Hill Baseball Association Board, below, and others. Players waited patiently, below, and the grounds crew put the finishing touches on the playing fields.

Hundreds of players, coaches and parents were attracted to opening day at the new Valley Ridge baseball complex in April.

The facility includes a concession stand with restrooms, shaded playground equipment and five immaculately maintained fields.

At least one coach was overheard telling his team these were the best fields they would ever play on.

As players took the field for one of the first games, a young player was heard to exclaim, "Finally!"



## Cedar Hill safer than last year, trend continues

Cedar Hill is one of the safest cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area according to data in the Cedar Hill Police Department Annual Report for 2007. The rate of major crimes dropped 9%, continuing a trend of lower Crime Index ratings that started in 2002.

Chief Steve Rhodes said "We are a safe community with a no-nonsense approach to crime prevention. Our known reputation and message to criminals is, don't come to the Hill to commit a crime because we (police) will catch you!"

Crimes Against Persons, which include murder, rape and aggravated assault were down 22.3% last year and property crimes dropped 8.4%. Violent crimes were down 13.7%.

Police activity for the year was up, measured by citizen-initiated calls, and even the number of officers' self-initiated responses were up. Response times for all categories improved in 2007.

Accidents on FM 1382, which runs through the commercial heart of Cedar Hill, were down 34% last year and injury accidents were down 14%.

According to Chief Rhodes, "Our successes are attributable to the dedicated men and women of the department and partnerships developed within the community."

## Library fills youngsters' summer with reading

Shanla Brookshire, the Children's Librarian at the Zula B. Wylie Library, has assembled a summer full of story times and fun action events:

**May 27** Summer Reading Program Sign up starts. "Texas Reading Club Jubilee: 1958-2008 and "Texas Teens Read: Game On! TTR.08"

**June 11, 10:30 a.m.** Story Time

**June 12, 2 p.m.** Story Time

**June 13, 10 a.m.** "Slappy" and "Monday" from Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey Circus

2 p.m. Amazing Attractions presents "Dinomania" puppets

**June 18, 10:30 a.m.** Story Time

**June 19, 2-4 p.m.** Both Green Sand Art, \$5 per bottle

**June 20, 10:30 a.m.** Story Time

**June 25, 10:30 a.m.** Miss Jo will perform

**June 26, 2 p.m.** Story Time

**June 27, Miss Jo will perform**

July and August schedules will be posted on the City website at [www.cedarhilltx.com/library](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/library), click on "Children/Youth Services"

# Community Calendar

## May

### AED/CPR Course

Tuesday, May 22, 6-10 pm, Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Road For ages 13 and up. Class fee is \$40. Rec Center information 972.293.5288

## June

### Music in the Park

Every Friday evening in June, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Valley Ridge Park Amphitheater 2850 Park Ridge Drive

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, a picnic dinner and enjoy free concerts throughout the month by various artists while relaxing under the stars.

June 6	Crawfish	Variety
June 13	Drop Top Rocket	Rockabilly-50's
June 20	Fingerprints	Jazz/Urban
June 22	Island Boogie	Steel drum/Latin

## July

### Moving into the new Government Center

In early July, City government and CHISD employees will move into the new facility on Uptown Blvd. The weekend of July 12-13, City offices, including Administration, and Police, will move from several buildings into the new Government Center. Offices are expected to open at 8 a.m. Monday, July 14. For the latest information about which offices are moving and where they will be located in the Government Center, please visit the websites for the City and CHISD.

### Every week

#### Fun Time Live

Saturdays, 7-11 pm, Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Road. \$10 per child, for 3rd grade through 8th grade. Live DJ, karaoke, dance contests, inflatables, basketball, soccer, tug-o-war and more. [www.funlivelive.com](http://www.funlivelive.com) or call Cedar Hill Recreation Center at 972.293.5288.

### Every month

#### Readers on the Hill

Literary group meets the first Monday of each month at the Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. Call the library at 972.291.7323 for more information.

#### Dallas Area Writers Group

Open to beginning and seasoned writers, this group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St. For more information visit [www.dallaswriters.org](http://www.dallaswriters.org).

#### Cedar Hill Star Party

Third Saturday of each month, Sunset until 11 pm, J.W. Williams Park, 1065 High Pointe Ln. (Beside West Intermediate School)

Telescopes provided by members of the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas. For more information, please visit [www.tasobserving.org](http://www.tasobserving.org). For status and cancellation information, call 214.800.6000.

### City Council meetings

are scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesday of most months. Meetings are open to the public and citizens can address the City Council members during the Citizens Forum portion of the meeting.

### Visit [www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com) to see more events

## Quicker alarm response can save lives

If you have an alarm system in your home, consider switching to the City of Cedar Hill's alarm monitoring service. It saves valuable and possibly life-saving

time by reporting your alarm directly to the appropriate 9-1-1 emergency dispatcher.

Cedar Hill's 9-1-1 Call Center offers home and business alarm

monitoring. The Center uses emergency dispatchers to provide the quickest alarm response available.

For more information, call 972.223.6111.

# 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

www.cedarhilltx.com



## Citizens save with new ambulance subscription

An emergency trip to the hospital in an ambulance can easily cost over \$500.

To help residents deal with that cost, the City of Cedar Hill offers an optional subscription plan that reduces your cost for emergency ground ambulance transport to only \$60 per year. That amount covers dependents living in your home.

Citizens on Medicaid do not qualify for this program.

You can make your payment by check, cash

or money order. An installment plan is available which allows you to pay a \$5 assessment each month on your water bill.

Enrollment forms are available at City Hall and the fire station on Belt Line.

The City of Cedar Hill, through the Emergency Medical Services provided by the Fire Department, is committed to providing quality, affordable emergency ambulance care as a service to all residents of Cedar Hill.

## Pet vaccinations can prevent the dangers of rabies virus

Three rabid skunks have been captured and destroyed in separate incidents in Cedar Hill this year. Although skunks are normally nocturnal animals, each of these skunks was out during the day and acting in other unusual ways.

Pets are at high risk to contract the rabies virus from an encounter with an infected wild animal.

When a pet comes into contact with what may be a rabid animal, the pet's owners may release the pet to the City for euthanasia and rabies testing, or, if the animal is current on rabies vaccination, isolate the pet for 45 days. If not current on vaccinations the animal

must be quarantined for 90 days.

Cedar Hill ordinances require that all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies annually and that pets wear their rabies vaccination tag at all times. Animal Control officers can ask for documentation of an animal's vaccination. Failure to keep vaccinations current can result in a citation.

Rabies is caused by a virus. An animal, or human, gets rabies through the saliva from a bite.

Residents are urged to contact Cedar Hill's Animal Control at 972.223.6111 or call the police whenever they see unusual wild animal behavior.

## New City website gives answers when you want

The new city website ([www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com)) puts hundreds of pages of information about the city, its programs, services, facilities and people at your fingertips. It is quick and simple to use. Many already find the site is their primary source for news and information.

Since the website is available 24/7, it's like having the city constantly at your fingertips.

There is usually more than one way to find the information you want. One of the quickest is to use the search box in the top left portion of the home page. Type in a key word or two, related to the information you want, hit the "GO" button and you will receive several options in just a couple of seconds.

Place your mouse on one of the five main menus: City Hall, Departments, Living in Cedar Hill, Business or Visiting and open a list of all the main pages in that section. Move the mouse down over each link and sub-page links will fly open to the side. You can click on any link to visit that page.

To get back to the home page, click anywhere on the logo at the top of the page.

Some of the most frequently visited links are those in the left column. Download the latest agendas and minutes for the City Council and other boards. Apply online for job openings in the

City. You can be added to a Notify Me list to be emailed when the information you specify is updated.

The Online Access link allows you to go directly to online bill paying links, an online directory of City employees and other online services.

The Question or Comment link is a quick way to give us your comments via a simple form.

The gold FAQs button opens a list of all the frequently asked questions (and their answers) from City departments. The Online Services button takes you directly to online payment links for Utility Billing and the Recreation Center.

The Special Events button is a new feature that links to a page listing interesting activities scheduled in our community.

Take some time and browse around your City's site.

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

**CEDAR HILL**  
*Highlights*

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