

Mayor is positive as city enters new year

“This is an incredibly exciting time in Cedar Hill. The state of Cedar Hill is very, very good.”

That was the beginning of the message Cedar Hill Mayor Rob Franke delivered at



a recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Northwood University.

Following his introduction by Chamber Chairwoman Sheila Hood, the mayor gave attendees an overview of the city going into 2008.

“We don’t take the attitude that there’s an end to all this. We take steps along the continuum of what we’re

going to be,” he said.

The mayor indicated that it is the people of our city who have made and are making it a special place. “What we have are people who are committed to all facets of the city,” and he added, they are willing to embrace the blessings and the challenges of growth.

Mayor Franke said Cedar Hill has a young and growing population, the city has been blessed with areas of unique natural beauty and that residents have a relatively high income.

The city is strong financially, he said. The city’s bond rating, the measurement by which financial institutions set inter-

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City debuts improved website; fresh, informative, user-friendly

For the latest information about what’s going on in the city, visit www.cedarhilltx.com. The new City website has a fresh, contemporary look and offers tons of information in an easy-to-use format.

New information is being added to the site daily.

The new site is organized with five main menus under the banner. The menus are **City Hall, Departments, Living in Cedar Hill, Business and Visiting**. By moving your mouse over the menu titles, all the choices under each menu open up. Drag your mouse down over

those selections and even more page links will fly out. It is easy to get deep into the site right from the home page.

Left column

In the left column of the home page are links to **Agendas and Min-**
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Firefighters show Christmas spirit

It wasn’t Santa but members of the Cedar Hill Firefighters Association who brought Christmas joy and surprise gifts to a Cedar Hill family in need.

After hearing that a local family was about to have their electricity turned off in late De-

cember, Cedar Hill firefighters paid the \$490 bill and then provided groceries for the family.

Seeing that it was going to be a grim Christmas for the children, Driver/Engineer Richard Dixon collected wishlists and, thanks to contributions from

many firefighters, made a difference for this family at Christmas.

Dixon expressed his thanks to all who opened their hearts and wallets for this family and wished everyone could have been there when Q211 delivered the toys on Christmas.



Saturday February 23

At 1 p.m.
“Miracle in Harlem”

At 5 p.m.
“Girl in Room 20”

Films are shown in the Council Chamber in City Hall. Admission is free.

Uptown Village sets opening celebration for March 12



The grand opening for the Lifestyle Center at Uptown Village has been set for March 12. The 725,000 sq. ft. center will include retail and office space. It is the largest shopping venue south of I-20.

Uptown Village at Cedar Hill will combine the best attributes of an open-air shopping environment and a diverse mix of shopping and dining venues. Its unique design and superior location will meet the demands of the increasing population of educated and affluent customers in Cedar Hill and surrounding areas.

At a recent City Council meeting, Gail Thompson, the marketing director for the site, described some of the amenities included in the center: a 2,500 sq. ft. children's play area, a village green with an interactive fountain and smaller fountains, a chess and checkers set with almost human-sized chessmen, bronze sculptures and more. The green will have artificial turf and be pet-friendly, she said, including water bowl areas and pet pick-up stations.

The public spaces are designed to integrate the center into the community by hosting many types of special events of interest to residents and visitors.

The shopping center will have five entrances, including from Pleasant Run Road, Cedar Hill Road, FM 1382 and Hwy 67.

Library adds on-demand videos

Welcome to the brave new world of today's public library. To keep pace with the interests of modern library patrons, the Zula B. Wylie Library is offering a video-on-demand service that is available from anywhere a broadband internet connection is available.

That's right, you don't have to be in the library to access these videos. All you need for this free service is a library account in good standing and high-speed internet access. This virtual video library branch is open 24/7.

Currently over 450 videos are available, including Antiques Roadshow, America's Test Kitchen, Rick Steves' Europe, Today's Homeowner, independent films from Film Movement and an array of classics. MyLibraryDV is constantly adding entertaining and educational programming.

Fitness on Demand TV offers a number of videos including:

D's Hip-Hop Aerobics, help you burn fat, tone, tighten and increase your energy. You'll learn the hottest moves during a 45-minute routine. You'll be dancing like a pro.

Firefighter's Workout, presented by a New York City firefighter. This workout is based on the normal regimen of New York's bravest. Achieve top physical conditioning and strength.

Kabbalah Yoga: Ambitious Beginners, combines two unique forms of spirituality, ancient Jewish philosophy and the Eastern form of spiritual fitness. This program provides basic yoga movements and routines.

Look Great Naked: Abs, is based on a best-selling book and includes a high-energy workout you can do at home to chisel a terrific midsection.

Miracle of Life Pregnancy Workout, presents a 60-minute program aimed at the pregnant woman looking to stay in shape.

For more information about the video-on-demand library, call the Zula B. Wylie Library at 972.291.7323.

Shelter starts chipping to help locate owners

The Tri-City Animal Shelter has started a new program in which all adopted and redeemed animals will be microchipped before leaving the shelter.

This will increase the number of animals that are returned to their owners if they are picked up as strays, because chipped animals will be easily identified when scanned.

The microchip contains data including contact information for the owner. Microchips are a superior means of identification because a collar can come off, but the microchip is implanted under the skin.

The Shelter does not offer the microchipping service to pet owners, but it is available at several area veterinarians.

Local alarm monitoring improves response times

Cedar Hill's 9-1-1 Center offers home and business alarm monitoring within the city of Cedar Hill. The Center uses emergency dispatchers to provide the quickest alarm response available.

Traditional alarm companies have an extra step which consumes valuable time. After receiving your alarm signal, they must call the local 9-1-1 center serving your area and verbally pass the information on to the dispatcher, who in turn dispatches the appropriate police, fire or medical unit to your home.

Using Cedar Hill's alarm monitoring service eliminates this extra step and reports your alarm directly to the appropriate 9-1-1 emergency dispatcher.

More information is available at 972.415.5563.



Construction starts on Uptown office space

Site work has begun at 610 Uptown on a 75,000 sq. ft. Class A office building.

This premier facility will offer underground parking, marble and granite finishes, 10-foot-tall insulated glass, state-of-the-art mechanical systems and views of the Dallas skyline.

Construction is expected to be complete before the end of this year.

Developed by Sandler Southwest Corp., 610 is the first Class A office development in Cedar Hill. Leasing information is available at 972.612.2600 or email astrauss@sandersw.com

Community Calendar



Citywide Neighborhood Block Party set March 1

The City of Cedar Hill will host the Third Annual Citywide Neighborhood Block Party, Saturday, March 1, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

All Cedar Hill residents are invited to come out to meet their neighbors and City representatives. “We have a great many services available through our City,” noted Councilman Clifford Shaw, “and Neighborhood Services has a great many programs for residents to take advantage of, including a matching grant program for neighborhood improvement projects.”

Residents will also be treated to demonstrations and activities presented by several City departments, local area merchants and civic organizations.

Check out the newest firefighting equipment, pick up crime watch and prevention information, have your child fingerprinted, register bicycles and get valuable safety tips and much more.

Also planned are fire prevention and safety

instruction, severe weather information and demonstrations, compliments of Cedar Hill Fire Department personnel.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be on hand to sign up sports leagues, Recreation Center memberships, and to preview a host of fun activities available to Cedar Hill residents.

With summer on the horizon, water and boating safety information will also be available.

Seniors can explore residential and recreation opportunities or learn about special services available throughout the City and residents can enjoy food, fun, games and live entertainment while gathering information about goods and services from local area merchants.

“This is an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors and learn more about what our great city has to offer,” said Councilman Dan Haydin. So be sure to mark March 1st on your calendar for a fun-filled day with your neighbors and friends.

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 or call Cedar Hill Recreation Center at 972.293.5288.

Cinema on the Square

Fourth Saturday of each month, 2 pm & 5 pm, City Hall, 502 Cedar Street. Bring the family to a double feature and enjoy FREE award-winning films. Call the library at 972.291.7323 for more information.

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. For status and cancellation information, call 214.800.6000.

February

Daddy-Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 9

Ages 4-8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; ages 9-12 from 2 to 4 p.m.

\$20 per couple, \$10 per additional child. At Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Dances will include a live DJ, a Daddy and Daughter photo, pizza, punch and a gift bag for each young lady.

Registration deadline is Feb. 2. Call the Cedar Hill Recreation Center at 972.293.5288

Mayor's Leadership Meeting

Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 in the Pecan Room of the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Road.

Mayor Rob Franke's next quarterly leadership meeting, open to everyone, will include a look at the City's new website. Public Relations Manager Corky Brown will demonstrate innovative and easy-to-use tools available on the City's premier communication tool. The site is available now at www.cedarhilltx.com.

March

Citywide Neighborhood Block Party

Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Road.

See information in article at left.

Hazardous Household Waste Collection Event

Saturday, March 22, 9-11 a.m. Cedar Hill High School parking lot.

Bring household chemicals and other materials for proper disposal. For details visit <http://www.cedarhilltx.com/CurrentEvents.asp?EID=695>

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.

Visit www.cedarhilltx.com to view the Calendar. Click on "View All" to see even more events happening in the city.

Contacts

After hours
972.780.6643 **NEW!**

Alarm Permits
972.291.5181x1

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

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Household hazardous waste event provides safe disposal

On Saturday, March 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the High School parking lot the City of Cedar Hill will sponsor a Hazardous Household Materials Collection event.

Proof of residency is required. This is a free opportunity for citizens to dispose of unwanted household chemicals, lawn and garden chemicals and other dangerous items.

Accepted materials include: acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze, brake fluid, craft/hobby chemicals, degreasers, drain cleaners, fertilizer, fluorescent lights, herbicides, motor oil, paints/stains, paint thinners, pest strips, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, oil filters, solvents, transmission fluid, varnishes.

Unacceptable items are: ammunition, explosives, medical waste, propane and butane cylinders, radioactive materials (smoke detectors), tires, business waste.

For your safety and to expedite the unloading process, please bring liquid paint sorted by type. Keep chemicals in their original containers, place leaking containers in a second container of like material. If a container has no label, please make a label or clearly mark the contents.

Do not transport chemicals in the passenger compartment of your vehicle.

Unloading of materials will be provided at the collection event. Please stay in your vehicle.

Can you believe it?

Ordinary cooking oils can be hazardous waste

Cooking oil and grease put down a drain can cause serious problems with your plumbing and the city sewer system. As these materials cool they condense to clog plumbing and can block sewer lines, often requiring expensive cleanout.

Dump fatty foods in the trash, not the garbage disposal. Wipe grease from your pot and pans before washing. After cooking, collect small amounts of oil in a paper towel and place it in the garbage.

For larger amounts of used oil, such as after deep frying, collect the oil in a container and bring it to the Household Hazardous Material Collection event for proper disposal.

Mayor, continued

est rates for bonds that finance infrastructure construction, was recently upgraded by both Standard and Poor's and Moody Investors Service.

He added that "we have a City Council that puts aside personal agendas and works together for what's best for the city."

Franke said that the Council recently completed a workshop examining long-term goals for the city and reaffirmed commitment to the city's six Premier City State-

ments:

Cedar Hill is clean.

Cedar Hill has a strong and diverse economy.

Cedar Hill has vibrant parks and natural beauty.

Cedar Hill is safe.

Cedar Hill has excellent, safe, efficient transportation.

Cedar Hill has Texas schools of choice.

He acknowledged that some areas are still works in progress and encouraged all facets of the city to work together.

City website, continued

utes for City Council meetings; **Employment**, which features an online application process that allows job seekers to see a list of current openings. Then they can fill in and submit an application, including a resume. The application process is not only convenient for applicants, it streamlines the workload for our HR staff.

Also in the left column is **Notify Me**, a link allowing you to select a topic and receive an email notice when new information is posted about that topic.

Online Access is a very useful collection of links to information and services.

Resources is a growing list of organizations that enhance and support our community.

The two most obvious elements in the left column are a **FAQ** button linked to frequently asked questions and the answers, and an **Online Services** button that links to a page for online payment of utility

bills and online registration for classes and programs at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center.

Center column

Community News items are in the center column. There is information on the home page, with a link to the complete article.

Right column

On the right is the **Calendar** module that shows a few upcoming items on the home page, but click on "View All" and it opens a page of all calendar events sorted by department.

We are interested in your suggestions about the site. Send your comments to Corky Brown at the email address below.



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