

December 2016

CEDAR HILL

# HIGHLIGHTS

## State of the City

# Our future is 'all about relationships'



Mayor Rob Franke



City Council member Jami McCain



City Council member Steve Mason

**"Cedar Hill is the community other towns want to be,"** Mayor Rob Franke told the overflow crowd at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon in November. "But," he said, "we don't want to be like other towns."

He said the City's unique approach to community building is what makes the difference, "It's all about relationships" he said. "I challenge you to see from a different perspective, keep learning and growing."

He also mentioned about a dozen new businesses and restaurants that have opened in Cedar Hill in recent months.

City Council member Jami McCain spoke about all the buzz happening downtown, from the old Phillips' property to the proposed City



An overflow crowd at the Hill Event Center for the November Chamber of Commerce "State of the City" luncheon heard Mayor Rob Franke share news about the city and plans for the future.

Center Park to the comprehensive City Center Plan. To attract development to all of these, she said, will require infrastructure to meet our community's needs.

Council member Steve Mason gave a short history of the City Library, from 21,700 visitors in 1987 to over 108,000 this year and it's not over. He acknowledged the obvious expansion of the library beyond the walls, mentioning many of the community-benefiting programs that stem from the library staff's participation in many community events.

Mayor Franke concluded by saying our community continues to focus on attracting catalytic projects to spur City Center development. It is important, he said, to invest in our community for the next phase of growth. "We must" he said, "engage our community in the vision for our City's future".

# 'Scare' grows spooktacularly popular



**On Halloween night about 3,000 enjoyed Scare on the Square.**

The major sponsors were Kroger and Neighborhood Wal\*Mart. Participating downtown merchants included Christopher's Smokehouse BBQ, The Vintage Arah, Jessica's Flowers and Gifts, Kevin Bowens Photography, Distinct Elegance Bridal Boutique, Sly Cat Gallery, Babe's Chicken Dinner House, Cedar Hill Museum of History, the Quilt Shop and Salon on the Square.

Many thanks also to the Trunk-or-Treat volunteers and City staffers who treated the costumed multitude.



## Enjoy jolly, neighborly holidays

*Michelle Ebanks, Neighborhood Services Coordinator*

'Tis the season to be jolly! Fa la la- jolly neighbors make jolly neighborhoods! As we approach the holidays, follow these quick and easy tips to make your neighborhood the best it can be.



Let your neighbors know of holiday parties you may be hosting, and keep them in mind when considering music and other noisy activities. Ask your guests to be considerate of your neighbors and to not block driveways. Use the holidays as an opportunity to introduce yourself to neighbors.

Going out of town for the holidays? Did you know that the Cedar Hill Police Department offers a free service that checks on your home while you are away? Fill out application online at [cedarhilltx.com/200/Residential-Security-Check](http://cedarhilltx.com/200/Residential-Security-Check).

In addition to these holiday sug-

gestions, follow these neighborly tips year-round to keep your neighborhood healthy and friendly!

- Keep your property free of debris, high grass and junk cars.
- Know the names and phone numbers of at least two neighbors on your block or street.
- Don't speed on residential streets.
- Don't leave your trash bin/recycle bins on the curb after the trash pickup day.
- Remove all holiday lights when the holiday season ends.
- Call the police if you witness any suspicious activity in the neighborhood.
- Supervise your children when playing in the neighborhood.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times, and pick up after it.

*Questions, comments? Get in touch by emailing [michelle.ebanks@cedarhilltx.com](mailto:michelle.ebanks@cedarhilltx.com) or calling Michelle Ebanks at 972-291-5100 ext.1099*

### City holiday closings

**Government Center** offices will be closed for the holidays on November 24/25, December 23-26 and January 2.

#### **Recreation Center**

Closed: Dec. 22-26

Open 10 am-4pm: Dec. 31 and Jan. 2

#### **Library**

Closed: Dec. 24-26, Jan 2

#### **Animal Shelter**

Closed: Dec. 25, Jan. 2

#### **Senior Center**

Closed: Dec. 23-26

## People make it a community



### The long and short of it

As Mayor Franke often says, recognizing people at City Council meetings is some of the best work the City does.

At the November meeting, young Kaiden Rhone, a kindergarten student at Waterford Oaks Elementary School, was recognized with a STAR Student award by the City. After reading a letter of recommendation by his teachers, City Council member Wallace Swayze presented him with a plaque and a \$25 gift card.

**BELOW** Rasheed Khaleel, GIS Coordinator for the City, was enthusiastic as he spoke about GIS Day in Cedar Hill (Nov. 16) after receiving a proclamation from City Council member Jami McCain.



City Council member Steve Mason, right, presented a proclamation recognizing Nov. 26 as Small Business Saturday in Cedar Hill to Steve Smith, left, Interim Director of the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Warren Goss. Shop locally, it's good for you.



Cedar Hill was one of only a handful of cities honored with a Gold level certification in the statewide Scenic City program that encourages cities to stimulate economic growth by improving the visual aspects of the city. Mayor Franke accepted the award at the recent Texas Municipal League conference in Austin. Other benefits include improving property values and making the community more appealing for tourists and shoppers. Cedar Hill has been a Scenic City since 2011.

# CALENDAR

For the most up-to-the-minute information on events, check out the City's online calendars at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com)

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

## December: Better Sleep Month

## December

**23-26 Government Center offices closed for Christmas holiday.** Please see 'City Holiday Closings' box on the facing page for the status of other City facilities. We appreciate our police, fire, EMS, dispatch and other employees who are on duty 24/7.

Trash and recycling will be collected on regular days during the holidays.

### 29 Kwanzaa Celebration

**6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St.** Bring the whole family to celebrate and learn about the seven principles of Kwanzaa! Enjoy traditional foods of the harvest, stories and drumming.

## January 2017

**2 Government Center offices closed for New Year's holiday.** Trash and recycling will be collected on regular days.

**Recreation Center Open 10 am-4pm**

**Library Closed**

**Animal Shelter Closed**

### 10 City Council Meeting

**Cannady Room. Public briefing session begins at 6 p.m., City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m.**

### 16 City offices closed for MLK Day

Check the City website for the status of City facilities at [cedarhilltx.com](http://cedarhilltx.com).

### 22 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

**CHHS Performing Arts Center, 3 p.m. Free event.** Join in the peace march, then enjoy the Grammy-award winning acapella group Sweet Honey in the Rock. Visit [cedarhilltx.com/mlk](http://cedarhilltx.com/mlk) for more information.

### 24 City Council Meeting

**Cannady Room. Public briefing session begins at 6 p.m., City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m.**



To see more of what's going on in our community, check in with City Hub Cedar Hill at [cityhub.biz/cedarhill](http://cityhub.biz/cedarhill). The pages are updated daily. If you have a business, you should be getting exposure there.

The City of Cedar Hill is challenging all residents & businesses to get bitter for litter and pickup one million pieces of trash.



# Bitter for Litter

CEDAR HILL'S BEAUTY IS OUR DUTY  
[www.cedarhilltx.com/BitterForLitter](http://www.cedarhilltx.com/BitterForLitter)

Cedar Hill's Beautification and Environmental Sustainability Board is challenging residents and businesses to pick up one million pieces of litter in the City by Jan. 31. Join the many residents who are Bitter for Litter and are helping pick it up. Log onto the website above to report how many pieces you collected. Let's hit that million mark! Send us selfies of you and your group helping to add to the total. We'll put them on our Facebook page.



Shop locally this holiday season, and all through the year, to keep Cedar Hill strong. Support local businesses with your patronage. Let them know you shop locally and share ways they can be even better.



Watch for driving hazards on wet roads and ice on bridges.

FM 1382 and Belt Line Road are managed by TxDOT and they are responsible for sanding those roadways. City of Cedar Hill crews sand some bridges, major intersections and areas for police and fire crews. Sorry, we don't do driveways.

**There will be no disruption to trash/recycling collection during the Christmas/ New Year's holidays. Collections will run normally.**



## ALERTS

To get alerts and updates about important community-wide activities delivered immediately to your phone, visit <https://tx-cedarhill.civicready.com>. There you can add your cell number without the worry of spam. Sign up to be heads up.

## City Contacts

EMERGENCY 911

Administration 972.291.5100 x1009

After Hours (Answering service) 972.780.6643

Animal Control 972.223.6111

Animal Shelter 972.291.5335

Building Inspections 972.291.5100 x1090

City Secretary 972.291.5100 x1011

Code Enforcement 972.291.5100 x1111

Communications 469.272.2903

Economic Development 972.291.5132

Fire Department, non-emergency 972.291.1011

Human Resources 972.291.5100 x1050

Library 972.291.7323

Municipal Court 972.291.5100 x1041

Neighborhood Services 972.291.5100 x1099

Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100 x1500

Parks Adult Rain-outs 214.855.9758

Parks Youth Rain-outs 972.480.5868

Police Department, non-emergency 972.291.5100 x2400

Public Works 972.291.5126

Recreation Center 972.293.5288

Senior Center 972.291.5353

Tourism 972.291.5100 x1084

Trash & Recycling (Waste Management) 800.772.8653

Utility Billing 469.272.2931



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