

# CEDAR HILL HIGHLIGHTS

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## Red Light Cameras are Coming to Cedar Hill!

*Digital cameras and recorders will be positioned at select intersections with the hope of reducing automobile accidents.*

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, red light running is the leading cause of urban crashes, with more than 1.8 million crashes at intersections each year. During a 6-year period from 1997 to 2002, nearly 6,000 people died in red light running crashes and another 1.2 million people were injured. The financial cost to the public is estimated to be more than \$14 billion each year. Red light running is often a result of aggressive driving and is completely preventable.

enforce red light violations. According to City Ordinance 2006-306 establishing a Photographic Traffic Enforcement System and passed by City Council in November 2006, a violation for running a red light is a civil penalty that carries a \$100 fine. By city ordinance, collected fines will be placed in a traffic safety fund. This fund may be expended only for costs of the automated signal enforcement program, public traffic or pedestrian safety programs, traffic enforcement and intersection improvements.

The City of Cedar Hill has adopted a proactive intersection safety program which utilizes high resolution digital cameras and recorders to prevent and

The City has contracted with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. to install digital cameras and recorders at selected intersections after vehicle inventory studies for red light violations were conducted at all signal light intersections in Cedar Hill during the months of November and December. Five intersections with the highest number of violations were chosen for camera installation. The first cameras should be operational in mid April 2007 with a warning period for the first 30 days. Registered owners of vehicles that run a red light will receive a courtesy warning notice by mail. In May 2007, the warning period will be over and notices of violation will begin to be mailed out with instructions of how to pay the fine or appeal.

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## Mayor's Leadership Meeting February 8

Mayor Rob Franke's next Quarterly Leadership Meeting is scheduled Thursday, February 8th at 6:30 pm in the Topaz Room of the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd. This quarter's meeting will feature a presentation of the soon-to-be updated Comprehensive Plan by City Planning Director Rod Tyler. The Mayor and Mr. Tyler will explain the importance of developing and updating the comprehensive plan and illustrate how the plan serves as our City's roadmap for the future. All residents are welcome to attend.





(Continued from page 1)

Recipients of a notice may view digital images and a video clip of the red light violation online at [www.Violationinfo.com](http://www.Violationinfo.com). To log on, a person will need their unique notice number and pin number printed on the front, right corner of the mailed notice. Payment may also be made on line. There will also be a toll free customer service number available (1-866-790-4111) for frequently asked questions and assistance.

## NeighborWoods® Offers Free Trees

A partnership between the City of Cedar Hill and Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful, NeighborWoods® celebrates its third year of distributing free trees to eligible residents. The citywide initiative to enhance our neighborhoods was approved by the City Council and is available through Neighborhood Services, with assistance from the Parks Department.

Volunteers will soon be canvassing neighborhoods, placing cards on the door handles of eligible homeowners. Cedar Hill residents with no trees in their front yard may receive up to two trees; those with one tree may

receive only one. Residents with two or more trees in their front yard are not eligible to participate in the program at this time.

To receive the free tree(s) a resident must agree to plant it in their front lawn and to water it regularly for two years. Residents may select Live Oak or Shumard Red Oak. These trees were chosen for their beauty, shade and long life. The trees will be delivered in 5-gallon containers and will be four to eight-feet tall. If you qualify and would like to receive a free tree while supplies last call 972-291-5100 ext. 1002 and leave a message.

# GET FIT!

## FOR LESS THAN \$13 PER MONTH



The Cedar Hill Recreation Center has state-of-the-art equipment for every fitness level, drop-in child care, and a huge choice of classes to fit any busy schedule. **NO INITIATION FEES!**

### Other services include:

- Three-lane indoor track
- Two hardwood basketball and volleyball courts
- Chair Massage Therapy
- Personal Trainers
- Large Game Room w/ video games & computers

**All Annual  
Memberships receive  
FREE child care.**

Tidwell	Parkerville	
Hwy. 67 N	8 Clark ⊗	Joe Wilson

310 E. Parkerville Rd.  
PH: 972-293-5288  
[www.cchrec.com](http://www.cchrec.com)



**Cedar Hill**  
RECREATION CENTER  
*A premier center for fitness, fun, and friendship.*

## H2...UH-OH!!!

Even with current temperatures well below what most Cedar Hill residents are used to, one still remembers the various stages of water conservation that City officials recently implemented. A lot of people tend to forget that Texas is still in a drought when Winter comes and the weather cools down that, and recent rains did nothing to alleviate the current drought conditions.

The City of Cedar Hill purchases water from Dallas Water Utilities (DWU). Dallas uses surface water from six sources: the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and Lakes Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Grapevine, Ray Hubbard and Tawakoni. Lake levels on these lakes are still 5-7 feet below water conservation levels.

It's important to understand how individual water usage can make an impact on a community's water supply. There are several ways that residents can improve the efficiency of water usage in their homes and in their landscaping endeavors. It's impossible to prescribe one solution since weather, variances in sprinkler systems and different types of grass and soil will change how much water is needed. There are some basic changes that homeowners can make to save water. Some helpful tips are: Early morning is the best time of day to water yards, when nothing else in the home drains pressure from the irrigation system and the grass soaks up water before the sun dries the yard. Bermuda grass, which is the most common grass in the area, only requires 1-2 inches of water per week.

More helpful tips can be found by taking a virtual tour of the Watersaver Home at [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org).

## What's Up Downtown

### *Main Street and Library team up for Cinema on the Square*

The City Hall building on the square in historic downtown has served as the center of government in the City of Cedar Hill for over forty years. At the time of its completion in 1961, the building featured three large bays on the east side that housed equipment for the volunteer fire department. The Administration office, under the direction of the City Secretary, was located here, as were the offices for the parks and recreation, public works, planning and tax departments, and the public library as well. Dallas County Sheriff's Deputies also had a substation located here because the City did not have an official police department at the time.

Over the years the building has been remodeled (the current City Council Chamber replaced the fire equipment bays in 1987) and has had more incarnations than can be imagined, that is until now. Soon to be transformed once again, when Cedar Hill Main Street and the Library team up to present Cinema on the Square.

These family friendly films are made available to the Library through the Film Movement Series, a subscription service of Recorded Books, LLC. Film Movement provides award-winning, first run, independent and foreign films from the top festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto

and New York, to subscribers for one-time viewing. Two films will be screened the fourth Saturday of each month in the City Council Chamber of City Hall, located at 502 Cedar Street, until the building is vacated some time in 2008. The first film screening will be Sat., Feb. 24th at 2:00 pm and the second feature at 5:00 pm.

The Friends of the Cedar Hill Library are a volunteer organization that provides support for the library through advocacy, fundraising, event assistance, awareness, and in the case of Cinema on the Square, financial assistance for the purchase of a home theater system in the City Council Chamber. Technical assistance has been provided by Alan Gordon, Dir. of the City's Information Technology Department and additional support comes from the Main Street Development and Preservation Board.

"Using the Council Chamber as a movie theater is a clever idea," noted Main Street Board Member, Amanda Hall. "Not only are we taking the best possible advantage of city facilities, but we are bringing people back downtown and that's very exciting."

Admission to Cinema on the Square is FREE, and seating capacity in the City Council Chamber is limited, so plan to come early.

### *Mark your calendar for these downtown events scheduled in the months ahead.*

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 24</b> 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 24</b> 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm
<b>Saturday/ Sunday</b>	<b>April 28 – 29</b> 10 am – 6:00 pm and 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

**Cinema on the Square**  
City Hall Council Chamber  
502 Houston St./Historic Downtown District

**Cinema on the Square**  
City Hall Council Chamber  
502 Houston St./Historic Downtown District

**2nd Annual Arts Fair on the Square**  
City Hall Square/Historic Downtown District

**Visit Historic Downtown Cedar Hill and Discover What's Up!**

# Citywide Neighborhood Block Party

## Saturday, February 24th, 10 am – 2 pm

The City of Cedar Hill will host the Second Annual Citywide Neighborhood Block Party, Saturday, February 24, 2007, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center located at 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 Greg Patton, "and Neighborhood Services has some new 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, 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. And 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 Patton. So be sure to mark February 24th on your calendar for a fun-filled day with your neighbors and friends.

## Free Tax Filing Assistance Available

AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) Tax Assistance will be available at the Zula B. Wylie Library located at 225 Cedar Street in Cedar Hill, Texas beginning February 6 from



10:30 – 2:30 pm on Tuesdays through April 10. The free tax help is for taxpayers with low and middle income, with special attention to those who are age 60 and older.

For more information, call 972-291-7323, or look online at [www.zulabwylie.lib.org](http://www.zulabwylie.lib.org)

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

**Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 9:00am to 11:00am (or when the truck is full)**

**Cedar Hill High School parking lot, #1 Longhorn Blvd.**

**Free to all Cedar Hill residents**

**Bring proof of Cedar Hill residency, i.e. driver's license or water bill**

**PLEASE NO TIRES, MEDICAL WASTE OR COMPUTERS**

This is a great time to dispose of your old paint as well as automobile oil. Remember it is hazardous waste and SHOULD NOT be put with regular trash, but disposed of properly to protect our environment.

**For questions, please call  
972-291-5100 Ext. 1094.**

## City Employees Lighter on Their Feet for the New Year

Eighty-five city employees, approximately 25% of the city's workforce, participated in the first annual Operation St. Nicho "loss" Challenge in an attempt to beat the "Holiday Bulge" and create friendly competition between co-workers and peers. Their success resulted in a total weight loss of 164 pounds across the City and provided a jumpstart to many New Year's resolutions.

The Challenge required employees to weigh in at one of five locations throughout the City between December 1st and December 5th, then again January 1st through January 5th. The male and female employee who lost the highest percentage of body weight after the final weigh-in received the "Lester Loser" and "Lucy Loser" award in addition to a \$100 Visa gift card. Patty Bushart of Neighborhood Services was the top "loser" when she dropped eleven pounds, 7.7% of her body weight; and Wade Couch of the

Water Department was right behind her with 12 pounds, equal to 6.1% of his body weight. Bushart and Couch were among 49 employees who lost or maintained weight during the holiday season, which was the goal of the challenge.

Operation St. Nicho "loss" is just one of the programs developed as a result of an aggressive wellness initiative spearheaded by City Manager Alan Sims and his team of Department Directors. The overall Wellness Program has been branded PH3 – Project Health 3, a balance of fitness, nutrition and lifestyle. Many studies show that creating an environment that places value on healthy living and promotes wellness results in a workforce that is more productive, performs at a higher level and is likely to reduce sick time utilization.

Don't be afraid to ask Cedar Hill city employees what the latest "Wellness Craze" is with their employer.

## Fire Academy

The Cedar Hill Fire Department is proud to announce its Third annual Citizens' Fire Academy. Classes are set to begin Thursday, March 29, 2007. The Citizens' Fire Academy (CFA) is open to persons 18 or older who either live or work in the City of Cedar Hill. This 10-week program includes approximately 30 hours of instruction. Sessions are approximately 3 hours in length and held at Central Fire Station, 1212 Belt Line Rd, Cedar Hill, Texas. Class size will be limited to 12 students. Some classes will be held at the Desoto Fire Department's training facility depending on the specific topic of the class.

Citizens' Fire Academy is designed to help the citizens of Cedar Hill to learn more about how the fire department is organized and operates. The Cedar Hill Fire Department encourages Academy graduates to return to their neighborhoods and relay to their friends and neighbors the proper procedures to use to become a more safety conscious citizen. Contact Randal Jordan at 972-291-1011.

## Neighborhood Advisory Board Welcomes New Member

The City of Cedar Hill City Council recently approved the appointment of Mr. Jan Lovell of the Heritage at High Pointe subdivision, to fill the Neighborhood Advisory Board position in the northwest quadrant left vacant by the departure of Paul Nielsen last summer. "I've been attending the Advisory Board meetings for a couple of months now and look forward to the opportunity to serve the City and its neighborhoods

in this capacity," remarked Mr. Lovell. "I believe in the City Council's vision of retaining our distinctive character and hope that my work on the Advisory Board reflects that vision."

Mr. Lovell joins returning board members David Boatwright, Jerome Donaldson, Richard Hicks, Clara McGinnis, Roy Salinas and Reginald Williams. The board will assist in

the upcoming Citywide Neighborhood Block Party at the Recreation Center later this month.

The Neighborhood Advisory Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:15 pm in the conference room of City Hall, 502 Cedar Street. If you have an interest in serving on the Advisory Board, please contact Patty Bushart at 972-291-5100 ext. 1084.

## City Approves Parks Master Plan

The Cedar Hill City Council unanimously approved and adopted a Parks Master Plan for the city parks and recreation system on Jan. 12, 2006.

The Parks Master Plan is the result of a year's worth of work by the Parks and Recreation Board, City Staff, and consulting firm Duncan, Sims, & Stoffels, Inc., who presented the plan to the City Council.

Dennis Sims, a principal with Duncan, Sims, & Stoffels, Inc., said the plan is an important step to help the city improve and plan

for growth during the next five to ten years. The plan was developed after the consultants conducted an inventory of the city's current amenities and parks and collected demographics that would indicate future development.

Citizen input on issues and priorities, both from the Parks Board and the

public at open forums, was also crucial in helping them prioritize their recommendations. The major priorities of the public were an indoor aquatic

growth at build out within several years, the community will need more than twice that amount to accommodate recreational needs. The plan recommends the development for another community park in the southeast quarter of the city, which not only lacks a community park but also will have some neighborhoods without a neighborhood park. Sims advised the City Council that with the pace of development in the city, land prices might rise steadily in the near future so land acquisition will be vital to keep up with park services.



center and trail development. More basketball areas, tennis courts, a new senior center, a park for skate boards, and colorful landscaping were also requested.

Cedar Hill currently has 654 acres of park land; however, based on projected

Rick Cooks, Recreation Board Chairman, introduced Mr. Sims to the City Council and thanked them for giving the Board an opportunity to work on the plan. Mayor Franke and other members of the Council thanked Mr. Cooks and the Board for bringing in a successful plan.

## Ambulance Subscription Program

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. This subscription program is an optional plan, available to all citizens of our community.

Participants will pay only \$60.00 per year for emergency ground ambulance service. This fee can be paid through an annual payment by check, cash, or money order. Or an installment plan is available in which the fee is remitted through a \$5.00 per month assessment that is included on each month's water bill. Residents

of multi-family complexes can enroll in the subscription program through an annual payment plan. This program runs annually from October 1st. through September 30th.

### ELIGIBILITY

All residents of Cedar Hill, Texas. Coverage of head of household, spouse, and any unmarried children under age 25.

Other residents must have court documented guardianship papers.

### BENEFITS

No out-of-pocket expenses for emergency ground ambulance use.

Unlimited medically-necessary transports. Coverage for all household members.

Applications are available at City Hall, 502 Cedar St., Utility Billing Department and the Central Fire Station #1, 1212 W. Belt Line Rd., Monday through Friday, 8:00 am until 5 pm. The application is available on-line at [www.cedarhillfire.net](http://www.cedarhillfire.net)

For more information, contact Dorinda Rupert at the Fire Dept. Administration office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, 972-291-1011.

## Plan Update

Walk-able downtown, more open space, less congestion, more leisure opportunities; who doesn't want these in their Community? But how do you get there? These are the questions the Cedar Hill City Council will be asking its citizens as the updated of the Cedar Hill Comprehensive Plan gets underway.

The Comprehensive Plan serves as the City's blueprint for land development that will occur over the next few decades. This blueprint for development then can be used by the City Council to verify that new development measures up, and to help them make decisions that will lead to the results the citizenry have asked for.

The last update of the Cedar Hill Comprehensive Plan occurred in 1997, involving a 30-member citizen's steering committee to help guide the planning consultants in the preparation of a plan that was reflective of the citizen's wants and wishes and took 18-months to complete. Adopted by the City Council in early 1999, it has served as the basis for zoning and land development decisions, as well as decisions for large capital projects like road and water system improvements.

This update will include a Visioning Character Survey that will allow participants to make choices of the types of preferred development based on photographic examples. This new update will also use instant polling devices to obtain instant feedback from Cedar Hill residents and business. But, probably the most challenging and yet most beneficial will be the community outreach whereby residents and business can be informed and make comment about Cedar Hill's plan for the future.

## 80 New Homes, Now Let's Make Them Stick.

The Tri-City Animal Shelter found homes for 80 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens in the Holiday month of December. This is always a busy adoption time and we never tire of seeing shelter pets leave our care to go to their forever homes. The genuine smiles of children and adults alike as they beam at their new family member are always heartwarming to see.

A word of caution to all who made the commitment of a new family pet this season: Be steadfast in your promise to your new pet. Inevitably, Baxter will start to chew on the leg of the dining room table and Fluffy will try her claws out on the "oh so inviting" sofa. Don't wait for these normal behaviors to occur, start

now with prevention. Here are some tips: Don't leave Baxter unattended. When you leave home, make sure he is contained in an area with minimum temptation such as a baby-gated laundry room or bathroom. Make sure he has lots of safe toys to chew on. Check with your local pet store to see what items they recommend. When you are at home with your pet, keep a constant eye on him. It is always best to catch him just as he is thinking about how good that table leg looks and give him one of his toys instead. Remember, he doesn't automatically know the difference between his chewy and your prized antique. If you start to feel that Baxter is just "not getting it", call the shelter before you come to your wits end. The staff may be able to offer you some additional tips or refer you to some helpful outside resources.



Now back to Fluffy. One way to prevent your sofa from becoming her favorite scratching post is to invest in an actual scratching post (or if you are the industrious type, build one of your own). The scratching post needs to be at least as tall as your cat is long - front paws to back paws. Stretching up the full length of her body, extending her claws, and scratching is a natural and necessary behavior for her. Once you have the scratching post, encourage her to use it by either sprinkling catnip on it, or playing with her and her favorite toy on and around it. If she starts to scratch the sofa you can startle her by either clapping your hands, or giving a quick squirt of a water gun near her.

Again don't wait until a problem becomes intolerable before addressing it. Waiting until the owner just can't take it any more is the reason why most animals are relinquished to animal shelters. Most dog and cat issues can be helped or prevented if proactive and immediate steps are taken. The following helpful books are available in the Cedar Hill Library. For dogs: The Culture Clash, The Power of Positive Dog Training, The Other End of the Leash, Help for Your Shy Dog, and The New Knowledge of dog Behavior. For cats: Complete Guide to Cat Care, Cat Be Good, What Your Cat Needs, What's Up With My Cat, The Cat Lover's Survival Guide and many more.

For more information or if you have questions, please call the Tri-City Animal Shelter at (972)291-5335.



City of Cedar Hill  
P.O. Box 96  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106

### City Council

Rob Franke  
Mayor

Cory Spillman  
Mayor Pro Tem

Clifford Shaw

Daniel C. Haydin, Jr.  
Wade Emmert  
Greg Patton  
Makia Epie

### City Manager

Alan E. Sims

Phone 972.291.5100  
Fax 972.291.5107  
[www.cedarhilltx.com](http://www.cedarhilltx.com)

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## Grease Impacts Sewer

In March 2005, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) initiated a policy to persuade publicly owned treatment works (POTW's) with compliance issues related to overflows from sanitary sewer collection systems. The TCEQ, in cooperation with the USEPA, has been seeking the participation of local municipalities in a program called the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Initiative ("SSO Initiative").

The City of Cedar Hill has responded favorably to their request and is currently developing a plan for submittal to the TCEQ and USEPA for approval. The City of Cedar Hill, as well as the TCEQ, recognizes that no matter how diligently and prudently the city operates the sanitary sewer infrastructure, there will always be the potential for sanitary sewer overflows due to excessive rainfall and sewer blockage by roots, grease build-up, sedimentation and debris.

#### ***What can you do?***

Sewer backups can be greatly reduced if grease is not put down household drains. Grease and cooking oil should be poured into a can or other disposable container and put in the garbage. If all residents and businesses would dispose of grease and oil properly, sewer line problems would be significantly reduced.

#### **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS** Area Code 972 unless noted

Abandoned Vehicles	
Private Property	291-5100 x.1090
Public Property	291-5181
Administration	291-5100 x.1010
After Hours	293-4611
Alarm Permits	291-5181
Animal Control	223-6111
Building Permits	291-5100 x.1090
Cert. of Occupancy	291-5100 x.1090
Chamber of Commerce	291-7817
City Secretary	291-5100 x.1011
Code Enforcement	291-5100 x.1090
Community Center	291-5353
Crawford Park Pool	291-5318
Dallas County Clerk	(214)653-7559
Voter Registration	(214)653-7192
Economic Development	291-5132
Finance Department	291-5100 x.1060
Fire Non-Emergency	291-1011
Food Pantry	293-2822
High Grass Complaint	291-5100 x.1090
Historical Society	293-3806
Human Resources	291-5100 x.1050
Library	291-7323
Municipal Court	291-5100 x.1041
Neighborhoods	291-5100 x.1084
Parks & Recreation	291-5130
Parks Field Rain-Out	(214)855-9758
Planning & Zoning	291-5100 x.1081
Police Non-emergency	291-5181
Public Works	291-5126
Recreation Center	293-5288
Utility Billing	291-5100 x.1200