

May / June 2019



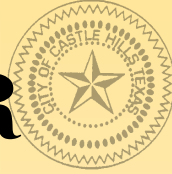
# *The Castle Hills* **Reporter**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I would like to take this opportunity to express a sincere and heartfelt “thank you” to all of Castle Hills – each of the residents, the City staff and departments that keep this city running, as well as the Council that sets rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of everyone who lives, works and passes through here. As of election day, which is coming up on May 4, 2019, I will be passing the baton to a new mayor, and giving up the position that I have held and treasured for the past 6 years.

Leaving this post is bittersweet. Being an alderman and mayor for the last 20 years has provided me with some of the greatest experiences of my life, and has deepened my love for the City of Castle Hills. It has also broadened my abilities to include leadership, an ability to recognize the value of compromise, and a view to the future in addition to an appreciation of the past. It has also opened my eyes to the great responsibilities of any elected official, and I hope my successor will be open to learning from my experiences – I am certainly willing to share!

Perhaps most importantly, I have learned that being in City government means being a force for positive growth. There are a lot of ways a city can grow, and balancing the fiscal needs of the City with quality of life for the residents is an ongoing challenge which I hope the next mayor will be up for this task. This balance includes growth within our business community to ensure a healthy tax base, quality infrastructure such as road, drainage and utilities to meet the needs of the residents and improve their lives, and an open dialogue for City government to engage with and understand the needs of both residents and businesses.

I will be offering my skills and time to assist the next mayor on this last front. I have always been a passionate advocate for business growth in Castle Hills, and I plan to continue that. I will focus my efforts on promoting our business community, and hopefully can be a welcome liaison between them and City government when needed. But as a lifelong resident of our fair City, I can also be a positive influence for improving the lives and experiences of our residents. Whether you are a resident, a business owner, or both, please reach out to me and let's see how we can partner to help keep Castle Hills growing into a better City to live and work.

Again, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support over the past 20 years. I wish all of you the best, and hope you will keep in touch – I certainly plan to continue to be a force for positive change for years and years to come.

My very best,  
Timothy A Howell  
Mayor, City of Castle Hills

*“The statements and facts contained in newsletter articles from the Mayor and City Council Members are their own personal views and should not be considered official city sponsored statements or facts and should not be relied upon as such.”*

## CITY COUNCIL

**Tim Howell**  
Mayor

**Clyde R. McCormick**  
Place 1

**Maretta Scott**  
Place 2

**Amy McLin**  
Place 3

**Lesley Wenger,**  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 4

**Douglas Gregory**  
Place 5

## CITY STAFF

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**Melissa L. Gonzalez**  
City Secretary, (210) 293-9681

**Vacant**  
Finance, (210) 293-9674

**Jerry Riedel**  
Interim Fire Department Chief  
(210) 342-2341, ext. 217

**Johnny Siemens**  
Police Department Chief  
(210) 342-2341

**Rick Harada**  
Public Works & Animal Control  
Department Director  
(210) 293-9676

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& POLICE CALL 911**

Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

## Monthly Meetings

All meetings are held at  
City Hall unless otherwise posted.

### City Council

2nd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

### Architectural Review Committee

1st Wednesday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

**Board of Adjustment**  
4th Monday, 5:30 p.m.  
Upon Request

**Zoning Commission**  
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

**Crime Control & Prevention  
District**  
3rd Monday, 5:30pm  
As Needed

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager

### Leveraging Partnerships and Branding our Community!

In March, the City Council approved the second phase of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), or capital improvement program for drainage. Now that the CIP has been developed, the City now has a comprehensive planning document which provides an updated probable cost for all streets and drainage. The CIP includes a prioritization schedule over a five-year period and outlines a total of \$42 million in street/drainage needs.

The City of Castle Hills currently has \$3.2 million in street/drainage funds for infrastructure projects. These funds are infused by revenue from sales tax, digital billboards, and stormwater billing/fees. However, the City will eventually need to find alternate funding for most future infrastructure projects. The City will need to borrow, leverage partnerships, and/or attempt to obtain grant funding to offset costs of future projects.

In August 2018, Councilman McCormick initiated and City Council approved an Ad Hoc committee to identify, review, and assess potential transportation projects in an effort to submit to the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) for current funding cycles and programs. The committee made substantial progress on identifying a potential transportation project to improve the congestion along the West Avenue corridor from Jackson Keller to Loop 410.

We have a scope and a probable cost and probable cost; however, this will involve the development of a partnership with the City of San Antonio, specifically working with the Transportation and Capital Improvement (TCI) Department. Moving forward, the City will need to develop an interlocal agreement with the City of San Antonio to define responsibilities of each entity and that breaks out the funding requirements/obligations. Leveraged partnerships will help when projects are being scored and will help achieve a higher or more favorable rank in a call for projects by the AAMPO. During this process, the City will be competing against other suburban communities and other cities in the metropolitan area creating more reason to leverage partnerships.

Another project which would require a partnership and laying the

ground work with the City of San Antonio is their upcoming bond in 2022. This project would address the need to improve the drainage along Lockhill-Selma to reduce the conveyance of stormwater through Castle Hills and improve drainage on many of the streets within the City of Castle Hills.

The Ad Hoc committee has now expanded is purview to review other projects related to infrastructure, transportation, and community development. This committee will need to identify future projects in order to work with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County with the hope of leveraging partnership and dollars to improve our community's infrastructure.

The City has been engaged with the AAMPO, as well as the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) group, to identify potential revenue sources for future capital projects. As I mentioned in a previous article, it is vital and imperative the City of Castle Hills work with our regional partners to communicate the needs of our City. We have to leverage and/or partner to address these needs of our community. I believe intergovernmental cooperation is essential in working with our regional partners like San Antonio and Bexar County.

The City of Castle Hills needs to be connected and we can't continue to be isolated and alone on an island. Last year when we were developing the budget, I noticed a continual escalation and increase and in our landfill fees. We made the appropriate action to program and adjust the line item. However, it would be helpful to reduce the amount we take to the landfill by exploring the feasibility of a partnership with City of San Antonio/CPS Energy and working towards the ability for our residents to drop-off bulky waste/refuse and brush in combination with the idea to promote even more recycling and reduce the overall tonnage delivered to the landfill with hopes of bringing down the overall cost of sanitation/garbage fees to the City of Castle Hills.

Another area of focus is the need to brand our community and distinguish the City of Castle Hills. A well-defined brand can stimulate economic development and differentiate a community from

*Continued on page 4*

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Castle Hills Resident

other cities. A brand can communicate who we are, where we came from and where we're headed. A brand will help define the personality of our community and further foster the message this is a great place to live and work.

Branding is used by cities to define themselves and attract positive attention to create pride and showcase a community. Creating an identity involves understanding all of the attributes that make up a community, and being able to convey them to the outside world. This idea is much more than a communications strategy, a tagline, visual identity, or logo. It is a process for development of a long-term vision for a City that is relevant and compelling to residents, businesses and visitors. At the end of the day, a brand image influences and shapes positive perceptions of a community.

As a part of this branding, the vision should incorporate a visual identity and/or logo which would unify and consistent branding message for every street sign, City website, fleet vehicles, letterhead, gateway signs, City Identifications/Badges for employees and uniforms. For example, Mayor Howell sent a letter to SAWS with a request to partner on the West Avenue Elevated Water Tank Project. SAWS will be doing some rehab work including the painting of the elevated tank. This elevated storage tank in our community is a focal point at the intersection of West Avenue and NW Military and has needed rejuvenation. I believe it is important the City partners with SAWS to have our City's branding or some type of tag line which defines Castle Hills. SAWS will began working on this project in the Fall.

#### **Below is an update on projects around the City:**

- **Street Maintenance Program (SMP) – Seal Coat Bids** – The City has identified street candidates and developed a list of street segments to include in the 2019 SMP. The 2019 SMP for Seal Coat Projects will include, but not limited to, approximately 29 different streets for an approximate total length of 9.28 miles. City will accept bids until May 8 and a report on the bid will be provided to the City Council at its May 21 City Council meeting.
- **Phase III Antler Drive Roadway Improvements** – Project has been awarded and construction will commence in May.
- **Reconstruction of Banyan and Watershed III Drainage Improvement Phase I (Banyan Drive and Glentower Drive)** – Engineering design is underway and is about 50%; next step is to advertise bids for construction.
- **Watershed II Drainage Improvement Phase I (Mimosa/Krameria to West Avenue)** – Engineering design is underway and is about 50%; next step is to advertise bids for construction.
- **South Winston Lane and West Castle Lane Intersection** – The City put in a claim in with a contractor which damaged utility and street infrastructure in 2017. The City has been compensated for the damages and work now select a contractor to repair the area at or near the intersection.
- **Sidewalks on Honeysuckle next to Castle Hills Elementary** – As part of the partnership with NEISD, residents can now utilize the walking track and playground at Castle Hills Elementary. Last month, City Council approved an MOU with NEISD for construction of new sidewalks. The new sidewalks will encompass the connection of existing sidewalks at Honeysuckle and Loop 410. NEISD will fund 40% of the cost and manage the construction project.

Please contact me at [rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov) or at the office at 210.293.9673 if you have any questions on projects or need assistance with services from the City of Castle Hills.



## COUNCIL COMMENTS



**CLYDE R. McCORMICK**  
PLACE 1

Yes, there is an organization that provides training for newly elected city officials and Aldermen/women. The Texas Municipal league (TML), an association of Texas cities, provides a two-day course designed for all newly elected officials. Also, the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) provides a similar course. All of our Castle Hills Councilmen/women, including the Mayor, have attended one or the other of these courses. Both TML and the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) have helpful websites with a lot of good information and publications available on-line. I have personally attended about one full day of such training classes every month.

Now a little history: Our city used to be governed by a "Council-Mayor" style of government. This was the default style under Chapter 22 of the Texas Local Government Code for cities like Castle Hills. The Mayor acted as city manager or the city may have hired an administrator but the Mayor had broad powers and responsibilities with regard to managing the city. Essentially the Mayor was the chief executive/administrator and the supervisor of all our employees. Made for a really tough job for the Mayor under this system. The Council & Mayor served as the Governing Body, controlling budget and setting policy and guidance for the Mayor based on their view of the best course for the city and desires of the citizens. We no longer operate as a "Council-Mayor" city and have not since about 1963!

Our City long ago decided to adopt the "Council-City Manager" form of government described in Chapter 25 of the Texas Local Government Code (TLGC). The City Manager is full time and takes over ALL the administrative duties regarding municipal business formerly handled by the Mayor. The Mayor now has very limited direct authority except for appointment of the Architectural Review Board and Zoning Commission and other very limited specific duties set by law or delegated by the council. The Mayor is no longer directly in the chain of command of our employees and Department Heads; the City Manager is their boss (See TLGC 25.029). The good thing is that the City Manager can be a professional who devotes his entire time to the administration of the city. The City Manager is appointed by and serves at the will of the Governing Body (see TLGC 25.028). The City Council and the Mayor, who constitute our Governing Body, are responsible for supervising the City Manager to ensure that his administration is done efficiently (see TLGC 25.029). The City Council is still responsible for review and approval of the budget proposed by the City Manager and for providing guidance and setting policy for the City Manager. The Governing Body is responsible to the voters for the good management of the city.

The Mayor acts as our head marketing advocate and the ceremonial face of the city. He is still the presiding officer of the City Council acting in accordance with the rules of order and procedure adopted by the Council, but has no vote in the Council except in the event of a tie vote when his vote may be applied to break the tie. The Mayor's responsibility and authority is now quite limited, though he may promote his ideas in the council through reasoned argument and

persuasion. The Mayor no longer directly supervises our employees, department heads or the City Manager and is not directly in their chain of command except as a member of the City Council, the Governing Body. The Governing Body normally acts through the City Manager. (see TML 2017 Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers Page 17 ff).

An understanding of the way our government is really supposed to work should go far toward resolving some of the misunderstanding and misguided expectations that might arise from misconception of just how our city is governed. Take some time to get a grip on the facts.

You may be interested to know that our Federal Government has prepared a "Consumer Action Handbook". The latest edition (2017) is available free on-line. The book describes exactly how to avoid or handle almost every kind of consumer scam or problem, complete with government agency addresses, phone numbers and e-mail info. Available in English or Spanish- Get it free at [www.usa.gov/handbook](http://www.usa.gov/handbook)

I'd really like to know just how we can foster pride in our city and get more folks to participate in local activities. If you have some ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear them! Feel free to call – 210-383-8941 or e-mail [CMCCOR5683@AOL.COM](mailto:CMCCOR5683@AOL.COM).

**BE EXCELLENT TO ONE ANOTHER!**



**MARETTA SCOTT**  
PLACE 2

Writing this article has been a difficult task this election season. I do not yet know whether to say thank you for re-electing me to serve you for another two years, or thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past two years.

When I asked you two years ago to allow me to represent you on City Council, I did so to use my education in Environmental Design to help our city manage our infrastructure needs and have a person on council with a background in design to help balance out the attorneys, business/finance people, to keep form, function, and aesthetics of our city in check. I also did this to show my children, especially my daughter, that women have a place to serve and lead wherever their talents take them.

It has been an eye-opening experience that I quickly realized had a steep learning curve and chose to rise to the occasion to take all of the continuing education classes on best practices for small cities no matter what the issue as long as Castle Hills had a need not being met that my learning how to address it could then protect our citizens.

My only regret if this is my last article to you was not being able to secure our finances at the recommendation of our City auditors. Our finance software is out of date, needs daily excessive hand entries leaving room for unintentional errors and unfortunately places for fraud to occur. I tried to remedy this by voting for new software compatible with all the other city departments and it was approved by council. Then at the next meeting new council members brought back the item and the new software purchase were cancelled. My attempts to bring this back have gone unheeded by others, but if I am being allowed to continue to serve, I will press on with this issue until it has been corrected and taxpayers' dollars is safe.

Things that have been done in the past two years that I am proud to

have been apart of include moving forward with several street projects and several drainage projects. Our street repairs and maintenance are now under control with a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) over the next five years there is a schedule for repairs and maintenance to fix the issues. Also, we now have a CIP for drainage as well. That is a promising look to the future to maintain what we have and partner with Bexar County, the City of San Antonio and others to fix our current flooding and drainage issues.

I fought to maintain City services Police, Fire Department, Public Works and Administration to continue our outstanding services that we rely on daily.

Last but not least, I am proud to have been part of the process and vote to hire our current City Manager Ryan Rapelye. He is the most qualified not only in education, but experience and personal connections throughout the State of Texas. I know with a few more years he can manage our city to an even better place to live with fewer problems and plans in place to handle our needs and eventually our wants for the City.

Thank you again citizens of Castle Hills.



**AMY McLIN**  
PLACE 3

The May article for The Reporter is a difficult one to write when you are up for re-election because it is published after the election. It is both a time for reflection and looking forward into an unknown future. Thank you for allowing me to serve you on the Castle Hills City Council for the last two years. It has been an honor to represent you as your Alderman Place 3 locally, regionally, and state wide. It has been educational. It has been eye opening. It has been humbling.

No matter what the result of the election it is important that local/city elections remain non-partisan. There is no room for party politics on the city level, especially for a small city. We have to put aside the "us" versus "them" or party politics to think about the whole "WE" – the community. I embarked on this journey after the last presidential election partially to show my children that adults can work together for a better result. We all bring unique talents and diverse experiences and perspectives to the table. As of this writing I have not completely achieved this goal. I hope that I am given the chance to achieve this

*Continued on page 6*

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Continued from page 5

goal and show my children that adults can come together and work for the greater good of our community.

Ronald Reagan was President during my childhood from first through eighth grade. He and Tip O'Neill would famously meet after 6 p.m. for drinks at the White House. According to Tip O'Neill's son: "It wasn't drinks or conversation that allowed American government to work. Instead, it was a stubborn refusal not to allow fund raisers, activists, party platforms, or ideological chasms to stand between them and actions – tempered and improved by compromise – that kept this country moving." [Emphasis added] Thomas P. O'Neill, *Frenemies: A Love Story*, N.Y. Times, October 2, 2012 12:35pm, at [campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com](http://campaignstops.blogs.nytimes.com).

I am proud of my work and voting record. I have worked with Council to, among other things:

- Hire a highly qualified and connected City Manager – Ryan Rapelye,
- Preserve staffing for the Police Department and Fire Department,
- Push several street and drainage projects forward through the design, bid, and construction approval process,
- Convert our Court into a Court of Record,

■ Create a new income stream accepting applications for passports for the US State Department,

■ Adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan, Strategic Plan, Capital Improvement Plan for streets, and Capital Improvement Plan for drainage, and

■ Enact a comprehensive nuisance ordinance that provides better protection for residents and enforcement mechanisms for our Police Department and Court.

I am disappointed that my attempts to take the auditors recommendations to protect our city finances with an integrated accounting system ultimately failed when approval for the purchase of INCODE was rescinded, that I was not able to help retain full time Administrative Assistance for Public Works, that I was not able to retain adequate staffing for our City Administration, and that we have not worked as a Council to adopt a Master Plan from which the Project Committee could look for economic development opportunities or the Parks Commission could look to for projects.

Our City cannot afford to take sides, stay in the past, or stand in the present. We must look forward and plan for the future. The world is changing fast and we must adapt our ways of thinking and operating and truly work together or we will not survive as a City.

I humbly thank you for allowing me to serve you for the last two years! If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**LESLEY WENGER**  
Mayor Pro-Tem, PLACE 4



## Care of our Pets

Last September City Council amended the City Ordinance on the standard of care required by pet owners within Castle Hills. This was done (as is the case with most ordinances) because of complaints received from residents throughout the city about perceived neglect or mistreatment of pets in their neighborhood.

At the same time San Antonio was updating their ordinance on protection of pets, which had been publicized in the newspaper.

Castle Hills Ordinance No. 2018-09-11-A requires an animal owner to provide his animal(s) with:

- Access to adequate supply of fresh air
- Species-specific food
- Fresh water
- Exercise
- Veterinary care to assure health and prevent suffering
- Protection from extremes of the environment including outside temperatures of heat (over 85 degrees or under 32 degrees) and precipitation. This shall include but not be limited to shade, dog house, lean-to-, tent, garage or inside the home

Additionally:

- An animal owner shall not tether any animal unattended outside between the hours of 10 PM and 6 AM and is prohibited from tethering for more than three (3) hours at any other time when temperatures are above 85 degrees or below 32 degrees or when weather is inclement.

At the present time Council opted not to include fines per violation and trust that pet owners in a pet-centric city like Castle Hills will be able to comply when issued a warning by a police officer. So far that seems to be working. If at some point that turns out not to be the case, with persistent violations, Council may address the issue further.

The temperature levels of over 85 degrees and under 32 degrees are applicable to large dogs and younger cats. Anyone who has ever adopted a pet from a protective organization like Animal Defense League or the Humane Society, has been advised that small dogs are more sensitive to weather as are older dogs and cats, puppies and kittens who may be distressed by temperatures in the 40s. Animals suffer from many of the same diseases as humans, including arthritis.

In this case, as in others, our ordinances are not identical to San Antonio's, so residents who are contemplating changes to their property should always contact the City Manager to determine if their plans require a permit from the city because in some instances there are attendant fines that can be avoided with advance knowledge.

Lesley Wenger  
(210) 377-3636 | [wengertx@satx.rr.com](mailto:wengertx@satx.rr.com)



## Oak Wilt Reminder

Oak Wilt is a disease of oak trees caused by a fungus. All species of oaks are susceptible, with some species being somewhat tolerant. Red Oaks, both Shumard and Spanish, are highly susceptible to oak wilt. Live Oaks follow as a close second. Oaks in the White Oak family, such as Bur Oak or Chinquapin Oak, are more tolerant of an infection. Oak Wilt is most prevalent in central Texas and is found in the San Antonio area. Oak Wilt is spread by root to root contact, and Live Oaks regularly form root grafts between trees. A second method of disease transmission is by overland spread when the sap-feeding nitidulid beetle carries the fungal spores from an infected tree or fungal mat to a wound on a nearby tree. The spores can infect the tree only if the wound is fresh and created in the previous 24 to 48 hours. All oaks, including Live Oaks and species in the Red Oak family, can be infected by overland spread or root-to-root contact.

Infected oak trees typically die within 6 months of infection. Symptoms include sudden leaf drop (outside the normal leaf drop), an oily appearance in sections of the tree canopy which rapidly turns brown or red, and/or discoloration of leaves with brown lines that follow the veins of the leaf.

The City of Castle Hills adopted, in Chapter 48 of the Code of Ordinances, guidelines for planting, pruning, and removing of trees. When new oak trees are planted, a certificate of warranty guaranteeing the tree is free of Oak Wilt is one of the requirements of the ordinance. This is just one step in slowing the spread of this disease.

If you suspect a tree is infected, you are required to notify the City Manager by the next business day.

Permits are required for tree trimming and tree removal within the city. There is no fee collected for permits issued to residents that trim their own trees. All others who trim trees will be assessed a fee for the permit. Oak trees must have all wounds painted within one hour of cutting, pruning, trimming, or wounding of a tree with opaque paint (latex) to avoid contamination by a nitidulid beetle carrying the fungus spores.

Any wound to an oak tree caused by weather conditions, such as a windstorm, shall be painted with opaque paint by the owner of the property upon which the oak tree is located during the daylight hours following the damage to the tree.

In addition to the requirements of the ordinance, there are best management practices which can also reduce the possibility of transmission:

In general, avoid pruning or wounding living tissue on all oaks from February through June during the prime opportunities for transmission of the disease. Paint pruning cuts or fresh wounds that affect live tissue immediately. This even includes the remaining stump of a tree in the Red Oak group using a wound dressing or latex paint.

Good sanitary practices include sterilizing all pruning tools before

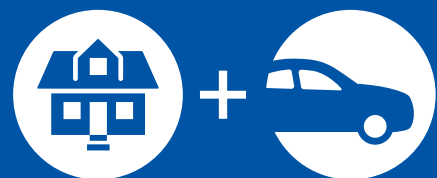
work begins. Sterilizing materials can include a simple mix of 10 percent chlorine bleach and water.

Avoid transporting and storing unseasoned firewood from diseased red oaks. Oak wilt cannot be transmitted by burning infected firewood, but fungal mats may form on unseasoned firewood in storage and can spread the disease into uninfected areas.

If you suspect an oak wilt infection contact a certified arborist to assist with confirmation of the infection and proper methods to remove the infected tree and reduce the possibility of spreading the infection.

The City of Castle Hills has a wonderful tree canopy that helps to reduce urban heating, slows the run-off and improves the filtration of storm water, reduces air pollutions, aids in energy conservation by providing shade, provides wildlife habitat, improves property values, and provides cool esthetic green space for outdoor recreational activities. Protecting our tree canopy benefits all. For more information regarding oak wilt, tree preservation, and tree maintenance contact the Bexar County Extension Offices at (210) 467-6575 or <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/>, the Texas Forestry Service at (210) 494-1742 or <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu>, or <http://texasoakwilt.org/>.

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## Code Compliance

Happy Spring! Swimming pool maintenance time is at hand so here is a quick primer on the Code sections pertaining to pools.

Section 303.1 of the International Property Maintenance Code states that “swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair”.

Section 16-121 of the Castle Hills Code states that (c) No person shall dump, spill, leak, pump, pour, emit, empty, discharge, leach, dispose, or otherwise introduce or cause, allow, or permit to be introduced any of the following substances into the MS4: (14) Any filter backwash from a swimming pool, fountain, or spa; (15) Any swimming pool water containing total residual chlorine (TRC) of 1.0 mg/l or more or containing any harmful quantity of chlorine, muriatic acid or other chemical used in the treatment or disinfection of the swimming pool water or in pool cleaning. Please keep in mind that the pool owner has the burden of proof that discharged pool water contains less than the TRC.

In addition to spending time in pools, some folks may want to build an outdoor living space. Please refer to section 8-81 of the Code for when a permit is needed for such projects. Note that the term “building” in that section is definition in the International Code as “anything placed in, on the surface of or above the ground or grade”.

Finally, please keep in mind that the moratorium for the trimming of oak trees is in effect; “Sec. 48-78. - ...Oak trees of any type growing within the corporate limits of the city may not be trimmed during the months of February, March, April, May, and June due to the increased activity of the nitidulid beetles and the potential for the spread of oak wilt. Any branches posing an immediate threat of danger to persons or property may be trimmed during the prohibited months with the issuance of a special permit and the approval of the city manager.”

As always, thank you submitting your complaints even if they do not rise to an actual violation. You can always file against your neighbor in Municipal Court if you feel that the City Code does not represent your personal interests. Have a great spring!



## Shop CASTLE HILLS

### New Businesses

Healing Foot Massage – Foot Massage  
Texas Institute of Medical Aesthetics – Training School  
Allied Integral United – Business Offices  
Too Good To Be Threw, Inc. – Office Space  
Catalyst Physical Therapy – Rehab  
Castle Hills Nutrition – Healthy Shakes and Teas

## ANNIVERSARIES:

5 year – Gary Tomblin – Police Dept  
5 year – Valorie Medellin – Police Dept  
15 year – Justin Garcia – Fire Dept  
20 years – Donald Spears – Police Dept

Castle Hills, TX



### **Were you denied life insurance benefits because your insurance company claims your loved one lied on the policy application?**

While this is one of the tactics used by insurance companies to deny life insurance claims, the standard necessary to prove such misrepresentation is very high in Texas. Don't let a life insurance company take advantage of you. Contact us at **(210) 733-4177** to set up a free consultation on your life insurance denial claim. We will fight to get you the benefits you deserve.

### **¿Se le negó un reclamo de beneficios de seguro de vida porque la compañía de seguro insiste que su ser querido mintió en su aplicación?**

Aunque ésta es una de las tácticas que usan las compañías de seguro de vida para negar reclamos, el nivel de evidencia necesario para probar una representación falsa es muy alto en Texas. No deje que una compañía de seguro de vida se aproveche de usted. Contáctenos al **(210) 733-4177** para fijar una cita de consulta gratis para discutir su reclamo de seguro de vida. Pelearemos por ayudarle a recuperar los beneficios que se merece.

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## Passports

The City of Castle Hills is now officially able to accept paperwork for U.S. passport applications at city hall. The passport application services are available on a walk-in basis:



Mon – 8:30 am to 2:00 pm;

Wed – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm;

Fri – 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Appointments are available for Saturdays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. To schedule an appointment call (210) 293-9674 or (210) 342-2341.

For more information regarding how to apply for or renew your passport, please visit the U. S. Department of State website at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>



## Do you have used motor oil in your home? Used batteries? Old paint?

There is a convenient service offered in your community for you to properly dispose and recycle home-generated special materials- safely, easily and responsibly. These items may include paints, spray paint, wood stain, household cleaners, compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), automotive products, gasoline, antifreeze, pesticide, insecticide, household and vehicle batteries and more, that can be conveniently picked up at your home by simply scheduling a collection.

For a complete list of acceptable items, program guidelines and to schedule a FREE home collection:

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## Garage Sale Tips



- Be sure to get any necessary city/county permits BEFORE holding your sale.
- Some bargain shoppers like to get in VERY early and get the first deals. Try and start around 7 a.m. at least. This also allows you to close up early if your sales are fruitful or it gets too hot to continue comfortably.
- Have your items priced with tags.
- Have plenty of cash and coin change and always keep your money with you. Carry your money in your pocket or fanny packs, or a small crossover purse works well too.
- Display your items on tables, big boxes turned upside down or a blanket or sheet. Customers don't want to have to go digging for items still in boxes. However, kids clothing is okay to have in boxes. Be sure to box them up in sizes and clearly label the boxes.
- Move your vehicles across the street that day to leave parking spaces for the customer or cars to pull into.
- If you live on a side street or towards the back of the neighborhood, make a sign with a poster board or a box and write "GARAGE SALE" with an arrow pointing in the direction of your home, or put your street name on the sign. If needed, put a few out leading to your house. Please remember to take all your signs down at the end of the sale. If you decide to close early, remember to take them down so customers don't show up and there's no sale.



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# CITY SNAPSHOTS



Capt. Zuniga, CHPD on "bike patrol" during Fiesta Castle Hills Parade – 4/20/2019.

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## Downed Hackberry Tree Clean-Up



Public Works employees working to clear out a very large hackberry tree that was downed in a recent heavy storm behind the Lube Center in Castle Hills.

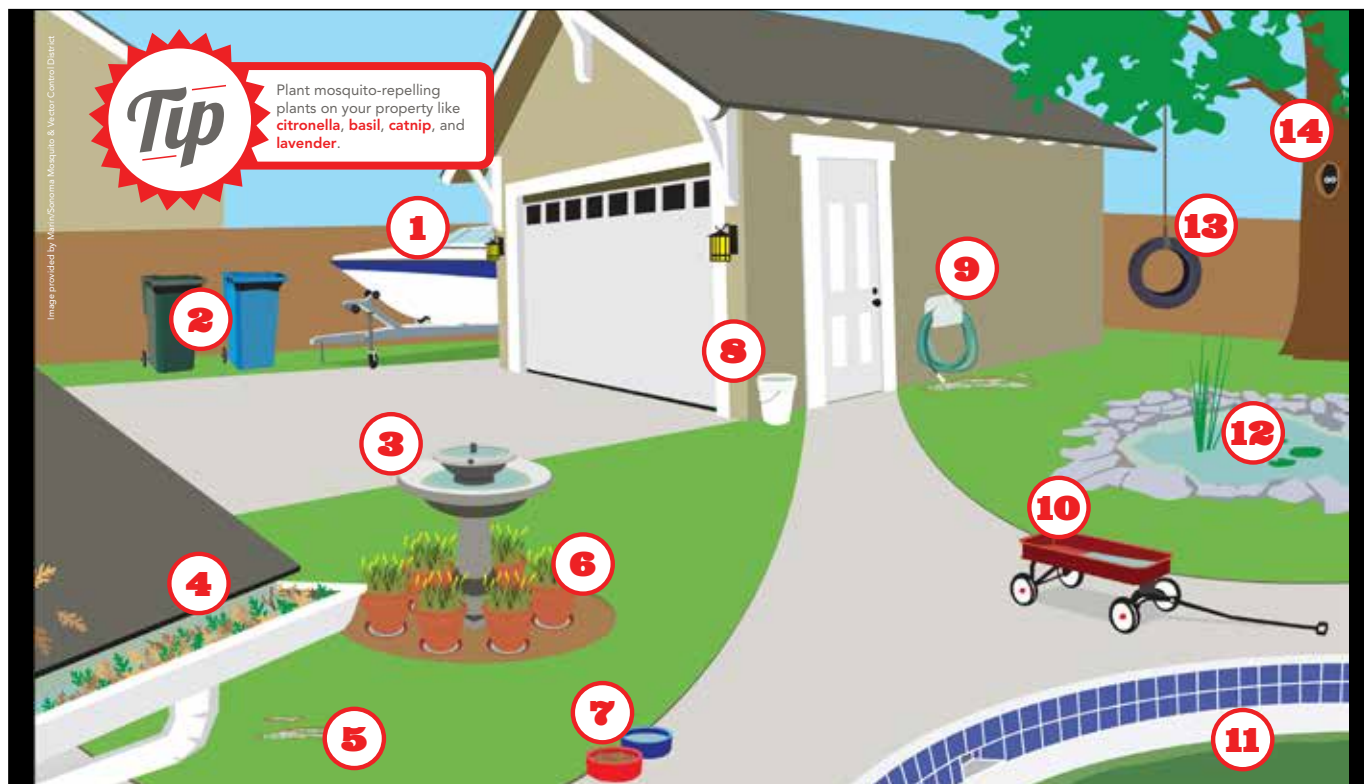
## Cutting up the debris



Public works employees working to remove the debris and clear the ditch to restore water flow.



# HOW TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES!



Adult mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant or slow moving water, and on moist soil or leaf litter in areas likely to collect water. By eliminating these water sources, you can keep new generations of mosquitoes from taking up residence in your yard.

## *Eliminate Standing Water Sources*

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Uncovered Boats          | <b>8</b> Buckets and Barrels    |
| <b>2</b> Open Trash Bins          | <b>9</b> Leaky Hoses            |
| <b>3</b> Fountains and Bird Baths | <b>10</b> Wagons and Other Toys |
| <b>4</b> Clogged Rain Gutters     | <b>11</b> Neglected Pools       |
| <b>5</b> Low Areas                | <b>12</b> Ponds                 |
| <b>6</b> Potted Plant Saucers     | <b>13</b> Tires                 |
| <b>7</b> Water Bowls for Pets     | <b>14</b> Rot Holes in Trees    |

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITO BITES



**USE INSECT REPELLENT**  
Look for active ingredients like DEET, Picaridin, or IR3535.



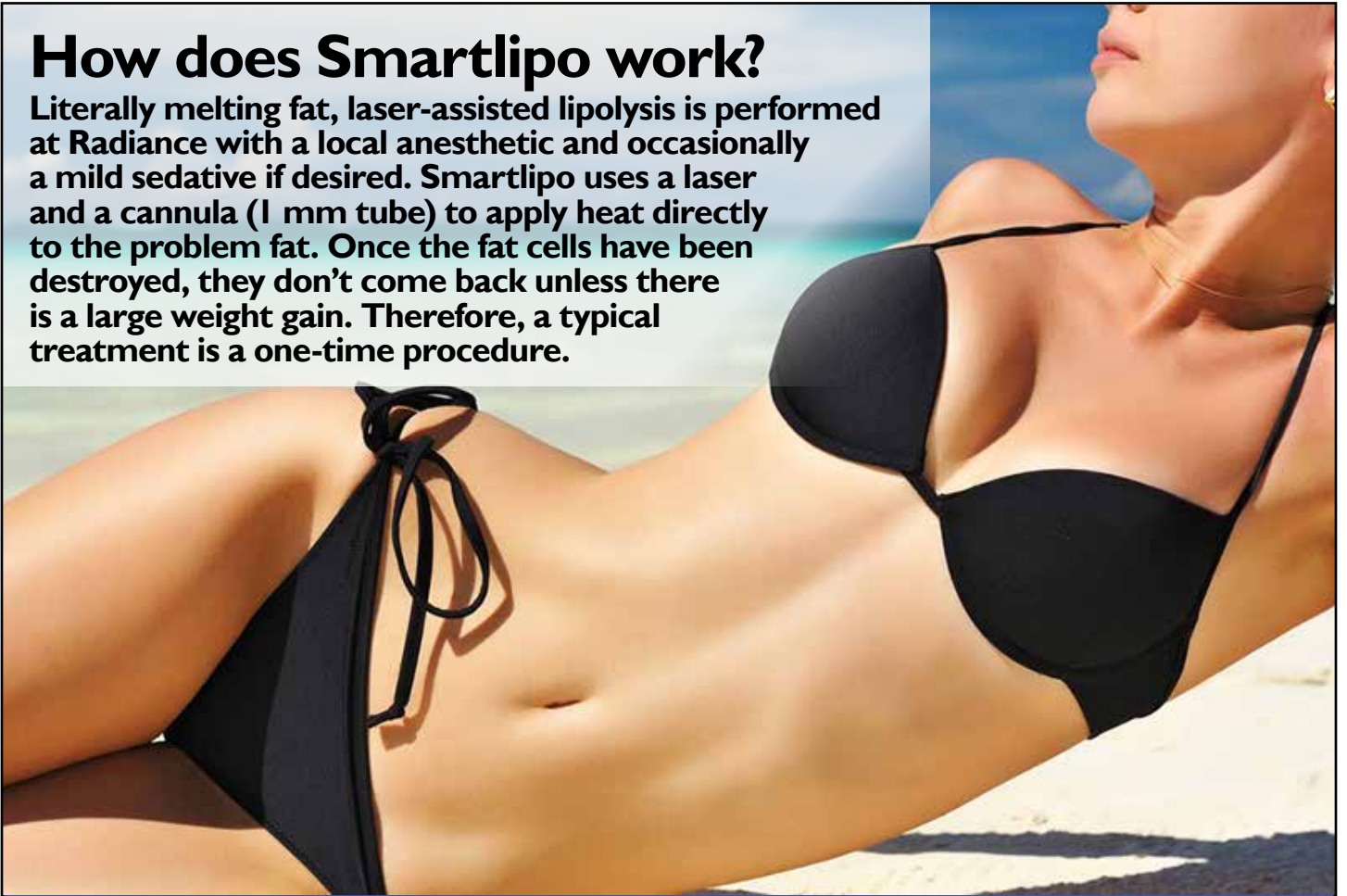
**WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHES**  
Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Treat clothes with permethrin for greater protection.



**MOSQUITO-PROOF YOUR HOME**  
Keep screens on windows and doors closed. Use air conditioning when available.

# How does Smartlipo work?

Literally melting fat, laser-assisted lipolysis is performed at Radiance with a local anesthetic and occasionally a mild sedative if desired. Smartlipo uses a laser and a cannula (1 mm tube) to apply heat directly to the problem fat. Once the fat cells have been destroyed, they don't come back unless there is a large weight gain. Therefore, a typical treatment is a one-time procedure.



Smartlipo provides surgeons with:

- Greater control
- Reduced side effects
- Faster healing and recovery
- Improved Skin tightening

Treatment Areas:

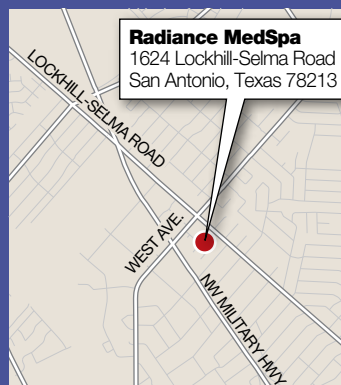
Smartlipo can treat fat virtually anywhere including:

- Knees & thighs
- Hips & waist
- Abdomen, torso & back
- Chest
- Arms, neck

Recovery:

One of the greatest benefits of Smartlipo is its short recovery period. This period is often as short as 24 hours. There may be bruising and swelling lasting longer. The incisions used are incredibly small and the laser reduces damage to surrounding tissue. There is no hospital stay and the treatment can vary from one hour to 6 hours.

Results can be seen as quick as one week with continued improvement over 6-12 months.



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# Memorial Day

Memorial Day (or Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering and honoring persons who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The holiday is observed every year on the last Monday of May. It was previously observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day, particularly to honor those who died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Two other days celebrate those who serve or have served in the U.S. military: Veterans Day, which celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans; and Armed Forces Day, a minor U.S. remembrance celebrated earlier in May, specifically honoring those currently serving in the U.S. military.



# MOTHER'S DAY

**Sunday, May 12, 2019**

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908 in Philadelphia. Mother's Day is a modern celebration honoring one's mother, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Anna Jarvis campaigned to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States in 1905, which was the year her beloved mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Reeves Jarvis was a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor mothers, "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day." Jarvis persevered, and by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

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**Mother's Day Word Search** by K. Khalid

E	F	A	Y	H	M	C	H	N	E	V	O	L	H	E	K
R	E	R	N	N	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	E	I	F
E	L	B	E	L	O	V	E	D	O	M	O	O	N	H	A
B	A	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	Q	D	Y	F	M
M	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	T	H	T	M	R	A	W	I
E	A	L	E	Y	S	R	H	C	R	D	M	L	D	A	L
M	F	L	A	I	C	E	P	S	E	C	U	R	I	T	Y
E	A	M	P	D	R	L	I	D	H	F	I	T	L	R	G
R	M	T	P	R	Y	R	I	R	T	E	F	M	O	U	A
E	I	E	R	A	O	C	E	H	O	H	A	A	H	O	M
N	L	U	E	I	A	N	G	A	M	M	A	R	G	M	G
E	Y	Q	C	T	A	U	O	P	A	R	E	N	T	O	E
T	S	U	I	W	O	R	T	H	Y	O	I	M	K	D	N
S	M	O	A	H	I	O	C	E	Y	T	E	F	A	S	T
I	N	B	T	C	P	F	N	H	O	T	T	W	E	I	L
L	E	S	E	S	O	R	E	D	F	E	T	O	I	W	E

ADORE  
 AFFECTION  
 APPRECIATE  
 BELOVED  
 BOUQUET  
 CHILDREN  
 DEDICATION  
 DOTING  
 FAMILY  
 GENTLE  
 HEART  
 HOLIDAY  
 HONOR  
 HUG  
 KIND  
 LADY  
 LISTENER  
 LOVE  
 MAMA  
 MATRIARCH  
 MAY

MEMORIES  
 MOTHER  
 MOTHERHOOD  
 PARENT  
 REMEMBER  
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