

May 2020



The Castle Hills **Reporter**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Mayor.....	p.2-3
City Manager	p.4-5
City Council Comments	p.5-7
Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Reduce Your Risk.....	p.7-8

Code Compliance.....	p.8-9
Police Department News.....	p.9
Castle Hills Fire Department	p.10
Yard of the Month Program.....	p.10
City Snapshots.....	p.11
Food Assistance.....	p.11

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Friends,

It is my hope that this article finds you and your family in good health. By the time that you receive this, I pray that we will be well on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to start off by recognizing the Castle Hills Team for their seamless delivery of unrivaled services to residents and businesses. I assure you that while the continuation of services may have appeared as business as normal, the City Manager and department heads worked tirelessly to ensure that we were staying up to date with the best operating procedures and adjusting protocols as necessary.

I would be remiss if I didn't share how much our Fire Department has been a stabilizing force in our community. Aside from Chief Ladewig constantly working to ensure that we have the necessary amount of Personal Protective Equipment, he also led the way in providing invaluable guidance for City protocols. You may have heard that our Firefighters have been screening all City employees by checking their temperature before they start their workday. The Fire Department has made themselves incredibly available for all City staff, especially for the Police Department which changes shifts 3 times per day.

Being inundated with emails, conference calls, and virtual meetings with subject matter experts, there has been no shortage of information to digest. The biggest struggle has been in keeping up to date with information as it is changing; the entire situation has been extremely fluid. At the City we have done our best to ensure that our declarations mirror the County's orders to help avoid confusion and provide continuity. Some have questioned why the City of Castle Hills made the Emergency Declaration if we fall under the State and County. As you may know, laws "flow downhill." Orders issued by the Governor apply to the entire State, orders issued by the County apply to all Cities and unincorporated areas within the County, and Orders issued by a City only apply within the City limits. Each body has the ability, within reason, to offer more restrictive orders or laws. As your City leaders, it is our responsibility to provide our City with direction. It was important to your Council that we were not silent on this global issue. Furthermore, by issuing the declaration we may be eligible to recover additional expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19.

As you can imagine, we have been essentially "drinking from a firehose" in how much information we have been receiving in regard to the pandemic. Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff has been hosting 2 weekly conference calls for all suburban city mayors. The conference calls have been a great way for us to share information and ensure that we are doing everything that we can for our community. As I have mentioned before, much of what you experience, our sister cities are experiencing as well. In this regard, it is prudent for us to come together to

(Continued on page 3)

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Mayor

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Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 1

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Place 2

Kurt May
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Place 4

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Department Director
(210) 293-9676

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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
Quarterly or as needed

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(Continued from page 2)

share information, best practices, and support. I am grateful to Judge Wolff for helping facilitate those conversations.

You may have some frustrations regarding some of the effects of the pandemic, you are not alone. Personally, and professionally, we have all been inconvenienced, set back, and forced to make difficult decisions. The small business owner in me is saddened by the businesses that have struggled and/or have been forced to close; but I am impressed by the innovation they have exhibited by adapting their operations. As a Mayor, it pained me to see our quiet City go into hibernation, but I take solace in knowing that everyone was taking precautions for their wellbeing and that of their neighbors. As a human, I truly am touched to see the grace that our community has shown during this unprecedented time. Store customers patiently waited in lines, several of our residents were making/providing face masks, and others worked together to check in and protect our most vulnerable. While the orders and shutdowns have provided additional challenges, the truth is that we will never know if we as a Country, State, County, or City did too much, but will almost certainly know if we didn't do enough.

San Antonio/Bexar County COVID-19 Community Action Group

You may have heard that Judge Wolff and Mayor Nirenberg have put together a Community Action Working Group to help get our community back online. This group consists of several committees with each one focusing on a specific area; Federal and State Government Advocacy, Philanthropy, Food Security and Shelter, Business and Employment, and Social Services. These committees have been working to help identify opportunities, address issues, and mitigate liabilities. I am proud to share that I was asked to join the Business and Employment Group led by San Antonio City Councilwoman Ana Sandoval and Bexar County Commissioner Chico Rodriguez. As a member of the group, I will serve as the Suburban Cities liaison representing all Cities in and around Bexar County.

The group has been virtually meeting weekly to dissect what business and employment looks like in the San Antonio Metroplex and what we can do to help. Aside from the group Chairs the other members are San Antonio City Councilwoman Shirley Gonzalez, Michelle Tremillo with the Texas Organizing Project, San Antonio Restaurateur Lisa Wong, and San Antonio Lawyer Jorge Herrera. The true horsepower of the group is the San Antonio and Bexar County staff who work tirelessly to keep the group moving forward. We are working in several directions simultaneously and I am optimistic that in the next Reporter I will be able to share details of some of our successes. In the interim, please know that your thoughts, ideas, and questions are always welcomed

Castle Hills Street Maintenance

I am proud to share that in April, we approved the City Manager to enter into an agreement to apply Slurry Seal to nine streets in Castle Hills. A listing of the streets and blocks is included below:

Mr. Rapelye was able to utilize an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to help save the City substantial funds. ILA's are a great asset for smaller municipalities to be able to collaborate with larger ones. This specific ILA allowed Castle Hills to contract for street maintenance at the

Street Maintenance Project		
Street Name	From	To
Sir Arthur CT	Squires Row	Iron Gate
Squires Row	NW 410 Access Road	Lochaven Lane
Chattington CT	Squires Row	Cul De Sac
Cobblestone CT	Squires Row	Lochaven Lane
Wickford Way	Squires Row	Lou Jon Circle
Lochaven Lane	Squires Row	Before Cul De Sac
Oak Royal Drive	Wickford Way	NW 410 Access Road
Sheffield Place	Squires Row	Before Cul De Sac
Iron Gate	Sir Arthur CT	Cul De Sac

same rate as Bexar County or the City of San Antonio. There are some caveats; for example, the price is only applicable if the street maintenance contractor is in the area. This allows the contractor to basically add in additional work in Castle Hills while they are close by, and it helps Castle Hills by not having to pay the high mobilization (setup) costs that contractors typically charge.

Historically, Castle Hills has not always done the best job in capital maintenance projects for streets. It is often said that we have 40 years of deferred maintenance that has gotten to the point where it is no longer just maintenance but replacement. Like most assets, it is much more cost effective to properly maintain a street than it is to completely replace it. It is important to point out that while maintenance is essential it doesn't have the same aesthetic allure as a brand-new street.

Throughout the years, there have been numerous analogies used to compare street maintenance. My personal favorite analogy is equating street maintenance to vehicle maintenance. It is much cheaper to perform regular vehicle maintenance such as changing your oil, as opposed to having to replace your engine. That being said, regular maintenance does not guarantee that it will last forever but it is a recommended measure to help see its full useful life. The analogies are important because while the road maintenance may not make the streets brand new, it does help prevent the need for a complete replacement.

I look forward to being able to congregate together again with our Castle Hills community. Until then, if we can be of assistance, we are only a phone call away.

Respectfully,
JR Trevino
 Mayor
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Castle Hills Resident



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager

We are here for you, Castle Hills!

Since the last Reporter in March, the impact of COVID-19 has drastically changed our day-to-day existence both personally and professionally. Personally, the anxiety of the potential impact can be difficult since having a young daughter and parents who in their 70's with impaired immune systems due to underlying conditions. This really brings forth the reality of this virus and its potential complications in one's life. Professionally, there is not a guidebook or a play book in place for municipalities to deal with a unique situation pertaining to COVID-19. However, the City of Castle Hills has been proactive as the safety and well-being of our customers, staff, and ultimately the community we serve during this COVID-19 pandemic.

The City developed a plan of action in response to COVID-19 which outlined procedures and protocols for employees during this public health emergency. During this fluid situation over the last two months, we as City staff have conferred with other cities on what procedures and protocols have been undertaken to address COVID-19 concerns.

As a part of these proactive measures, our Fire department has been screening employee's temperatures on a daily basis at the fire station before they report to work during this public health emergency. We have encouraged certain City services like permitting and court operations, including payments, to be done online. We have increased cleaning frequencies at City hall and installed hand sanitizer dispensers around the building.

During our preparation for establishing these procedures and protocols at the inception, I engaged our department directors to identify mission critical priorities and objectives to ensure stability in our City services as it relates to police, fire, sanitation and administration. As a result, and out of an abundance of caution, the City of Castle Hills implemented procedures and protocols for our employees. City departments developed priorities and objectives for mission critical staff to ensure the continuation of City services.

The Castle Hills Police Department and the Castle Hills Fire Department have and will continue to provide the highest level of service to our community. Sanitation services through our Public Works Department has maintained normal operations even though demand has risen. As for administration, we identified employees who can work from home and remotely, and staggered in employees when reporting to work at city hall and limiting the amount of staff at anyone time at city hall. The City developed guidelines for certain employees to work from home, but to remain flexible, and if necessary, may need to report to the office workspace. As a result, City staff is still responsive, but is doing their part to potentially reduce their exposure to COVID-19 to other staff and the citizens they serve. Also, some employees who may be impacted by the prolonged school closures have also been identified and included in the modifications in our workforce during this time.

We have continued to update the community on other potential changes to procedures and protocols based on any developments related to concerns with COVID-19 which might impact the City of Castle Hills. As this situation evolved, we have continued to follow the most recent guidelines from our national and local health authorities especially as the re-opening of businesses as now being conducted.

Moving forward, the City has continued to evaluate employee status and safety, and implement further measures if required in our operations which could potentially impact City services. We would rather operate with extreme caution for our employees and residents, in order to do our part in halting the possible spread of COVID-19 within our community. Any updates or changes have and will be provided to residents via our City website and social media pages as they become available. We developed an informational link on the City's website dedicated to COVID-19.

Over the next couple of months, we will be moving towards the preparation of the City's annual budget and have already started to track and forecast revenue. Sales and use tax is the second largest source of revenue to the City's General Fund which also has ramifications with street maintenance and crime control. We are aware that the impact of COVID-19 will have implications on our local economy in Castle Hills. With this in mind, the City is here to assist our local businesses and will be reaching out to find out what the City can do to assist as we can continue to recover with the hopes to strengthen our local economy over the long-term.

As we developed the City's annual budget, as City Manager, I will be looking to enhance and strengthen one aspect of our City services related to Code Enforcement. The purpose of Code Enforcement is to gain voluntary compliance through education. Our Code Enforcement Officer uses City Ordinances as a vital step in the administration and enforcement of the codes adopted in our community.

This unit of the local jurisdiction enforces the ordinances by acting on received complaints, researching the issues and communicating with the involved parties thereby bringing closure to concerns or violations. Citizens make investments in their properties and neighborhoods. When the integrity of a particular area is jeopardized due to violations those investments are also at risk. The intent is to promote and safeguard property with the goal to ensure a safe environment for citizens to work and play.

The most efficient and effective method for the Code Enforcement Officers to accomplish resolution of any situation in the battle of blight is to enlist the cooperation of the citizens and educate them on the City's Municipal Code and what constitutes a nuisance. The City of Castle Hills is in the process of developing an informational guide/brochure associated with code enforcement to send out to residents as a guide for property maintenance.

The Code Enforcement Officer either self-observes or receive complaints from the public or other governmental agencies. Upon observing a violation, the officer documents a potential violation by visual observation, written report and photographic evidence. All observations are conducted from the public right-of-way unless the officer is given consent by the property owner/tenant to enter the property or by an order from the court granting access to the

(Continued on page 5)

property in question. The property owner is notified of the violation via personal service, posting or mail and advised of the nature of the violation, how to correct the violation, the timeframe to correct the violation and the enforcement avenue which will be taken if the violation is not corrected.

Our Code enforcement officer has a very visible role in the community from the standpoint that the decisions he makes and how effectively he performs his duty can have a major impact on the property values and image of the community. Ideally, code enforcement for our City is not to generate revenue but to gain compliance. The administrative and/or abatement process is part of the tools available to improve the value, health and safety of our community. The City will also be seeking the ability to obtain a third-party vendor to process any necessary abatements to properties in Castle Hills in the future. We will also be looking to strengthen our ordinances as it relates to code enforcement.

We are committed to providing you with superior service during this season of uncertainty. In times like these, we listen, we learn, and we support each other. We ask that our community of citizens continue to be safe and supportive of each other. ***We are here for you, Castle Hills!***

Please contact me at 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.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS



JOE IZBRAND

PLACE 1
Mayor Pro-Tem

With summer upon us, it is both tempting and understandable to wish we could put the past several months out of our minds and replace thoughts of face masks, scrambling for groceries and stay-at-home directives with images of sunshine and warm temperatures, children splashing in swimming pools, and family vacations.

Yet, even as we welcome the sights and sounds of summer, we cannot avoid the undeniable fact that we are living in unprecedented times and our community, like everyone else, has been through many challenges.

Some of our neighbors have lost their jobs. Others have family members, near and far, who have become sick.

Some businesses were forced to shut their doors, and churches and synagogues, the centers of spiritual and social life for many, were left empty.

The high school graduating class of 2020, filled with dreams for the future, were denied the traditional pomp and circumstance of 'walking the stage' and marching confidently into the next phase of their lives.

Each of us has our own personal story about how the pandemic has affected us. Yet, every day, selfless acts have been taking place in Castle Hills that should inspire us.

When the pandemic first hit, organizations including the Castle Hills Woman's Club and the Castle Hills Community Organization immediately recognized the unique challenges to our community, which has a significant population of senior citizens.

The organizations quickly formed teams of members to pick up groceries and prescriptions for our most vulnerable residents, who risked endangering their health if they went into public places.

The Castle Hills Fire Department and Castle Hills Police Department began making routine 'door knocking' welfare checks of our seniors, making sure they were being taken care of and knew who to call if they needed help.

Those who had the skills began making face masks and sharing them for free with their neighbors, our first responders and area hospitals. Others collected fabric and elastic to keep the production line going.

Neighbors called neighbors to check on each other. In some cases, old friendships were renewed. In other cases, new friendships were created.

Certainly, selfless acts like these are not limited to Castle Hills. Yet, without question, we live in a community shaped by acts of kindness, caring and commitment to one another.

No one knows for sure what is yet to come with the coronavirus and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

whether predictions of a second wave this Fall will hold true. Our faith must remain with science to guide us through this.

There is one thing we can say for certain, though. The challenges we have faced as a community have been met with grace and caring. The goodness that people have demonstrated makes us remarkably fortunate to be able to say that we are more than just a city, we are the Castle Hills family.

Enjoy your summer, stay well, and let's keep being a bright light of hope even during the darkest of times.

I am tremendously honored to serve as your Place 1 Alderman. I invite you to stay in touch, and let me know how I can be of service to you. Connect with me at www.facebook.com/IzbrandPlace1. You can also share your thoughts, ideas and comments with me via email at IzbrandPlace1@gmail.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to our community.



KURT MAY
PLACE 3

After all the concerning health care issues with Covid-19, I am heartened by the continued spirit of optimism and cooperation that prevails in our community and City Hall. I am especially pleased that two of our city leaders, Frank Paul and Jack Joyce, will be joining our City Council this month. Both are highly motivated to continue moving Castle Hills forward.

In the next several months the newly constituted City Council will be engaged in designing and passing a city budget for a timely vote. The input of citizens is much appreciated. I encourage your continued attention to helping set priorities, and helping Council make informed decision.

As we work to keep Castle Hills safe during this pandemic, it is my continued hope that we support each other and our local businesses.

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LESLEY WENGER
PLACE 4

Fear Itself

Hopefully, by the time you receive this, the unconstitutional restrictions imposed by the Governor, the County Judge and the Mayor of San Antonio will have been lifted and life will have returned to somewhat normal. The damage they caused, however, will be around for some time.

During the so-called crisis we were barraged daily by numbers of the supposed infections and deaths attributed to the coronavirus. Over time we learned, despite the continued hysteria, that the tests to determine infection and anti-bodies were not that accurate. But even if they had been, from start to finish the numbers in Texas were never higher than what they would be for the annual flu, and the numbers in Bexar County were miniscule. Yet the Express-News and other media outlets scream daily if one or two or three people are counted as dying from the virus while the much greater figures of death from other causes are not reported. With no widespread testing for the annual flu epidemic, no control study exists that would be required by real science to prove anything.

Who are the people who were counted as succumbing to the dreaded virus? Primarily people who had other conditions that were severe enough to cause hospitalization—at which point they were tested and if found to have the virus—with or without the symptoms—were counted as COVID deaths. The reason for that was the same as the reason for the official hysteria: without those numbers, neither the state nor the local governments would have access to federal COVID funds. While County officials claimed to be concerned about everyone's health, it was revealed that a large number of deaths were occurring in nursing homes where a lack of cleanliness and rampant bacteria had been longstanding problems. That's the County's responsibility, yet they have failed to protect vulnerable patients for years. One of the worst facilities was on the Southside—an area that has historically been dismissed by elected officials.

The stay-at-home and mask orders were introduced in China by their communist regime. So why were Americans so willing to abide by them and give up our freedom? What gave elected officials the notion that we could all be treated like gullible children? It started with the schools closing. Schools have always been petri dishes of infection, but that has never caused them to shut down before. Over the past 10-20 years the standards for achievement have been almost wiped out in public schools—which is what has caused the rise in charter schools. Children have been constantly praised and rewarded for just showing up. Ultimately, as has been proven in the "broken windows" studies, this attitude spreads. People want to feel good, want to feel they have accomplished something whether they have or not. Someone figured out that if you want Americans to succumb to dictatorship and fascism, just tell them they are helping, and thank them for their sacrifice.

This theory was tested first with the social-distancing requirement. The miniscule number of deaths in Bexar County with 2 Million

(Continued on page 7)

people remained the same as it had been before the social-distancing. But it let the dictators know what they could get away with. So after complimenting the public and telling us how well we had succeeded, they took the next step to require everyone to wear masks in public. Since the distancing was supposedly working, why were more restrictions necessary? Who were the masks helping?

In hospitals—another hotbed of viruses—where masks are normally worn, particularly in operating rooms, they are disposable. Doctors put them on upon entering the OR and throw them away (they're considered hazardous waste) upon leaving. But we did not have that option due to a shortage of masks. People were making their own which served no purpose other than as a fashion statement—and those who were able to get the medical masks had to keep re-using them. This was no help and actually dangerous to the wearer, something well-known to medical professionals. Breathing into cloth or fiber over an extended period propels bacteria onto the surface that you end up breathing back. This unhealthy situation is worsened every time you take the mask on and off, touching both the mask and your face with whatever germs you have on your hands.

The mitigation methods were undertaken to prevent our hospitals from being overrun. Yet due to the low number of COVID patients, hospitals throughout the U.S. have been shut down and medical personnel have been laid off because they have not been allowed to treat non-COVID patients and ailments during the shutdown. Many of the shuttered hospitals have filed for bankruptcy and will never re-open, having become collateral damage due to the large number of empty beds caused by miscalculation.

Finally let's remember where this all started—with the President who has been accused from the inception, by his detractors, of being a dictator. Curiously when he finally had the opportunity to carry this out, as lesser officials did, he instead succumbed to the dictatorship of two doctors, Fauci and Birx, who convinced him that over 2 Million people would die in the U.S. if he did not shut down the majority of American businesses and destroy the economy along with people's livelihoods and savings. As we moved along, they kept lowering the numbers in the daily press briefings claiming that their "modeling" was wrong because we got the wrong numbers from China. No doubt we did, and still do have the wrong numbers, but what was wrong about them was that they were too low. They have yet to explain how creating a model using lower numbers from China with a population 4 times greater than that of the U.S., somehow produced a higher number of estimated infections and deaths here. The death estimate for the U.S. continues to drop to a fraction of the original predictions. Birx studied under Fauci so as her mentor she is unlikely to disagree with him. They are both "recognized" as experts in HIV/AIDS because they have served as bureaucrats in federal agencies dealing with that disease for 36 and 24 years respectively. In all that time they have not been able to come up with a cure. They are renowned as "experts" basically because they "showed up" and got paid. About the coronavirus, as they have reminded us daily, they know next to nothing, but they have become celebrities for the duration.

Lesley Wenger
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wengertx@satx.rr.com



2019 (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person.

PREVENTION: There are simple everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include;

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surface

SYMPTOMS: Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of: cough, fever, and shortness of breath.

TRANSMISSION: If you are sick, you should stay home and call your healthcare provider.

How COVID-19 Spreads: COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 7)

through close contact from person-to-person. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. We are still learning about how the virus spreads and the severity of illness it causes.

Person-to-person spread:

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

The virus spreads easily between people: How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious, like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, which means it goes from person-to-person without stopping.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people. Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggest that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious.

Protect yourself and others: The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. You can take steps to slow the spread.

- Maintain good social distance (about 6 feet). This is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

 <p>Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.</p>	 <p>Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.</p>
 <p>Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.</p>	 <p>Avoid close contact with people who are sick.</p>
 <p>If you feel sick, stay home and please contact your healthcare provider.</p>	 <p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.</p>

For more information visit: cityofcastlehills.com/COVID19

Code Compliance

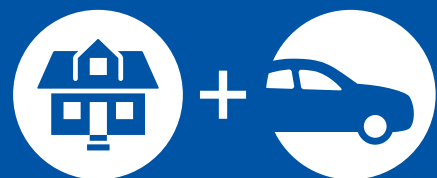
By Luis Zamarron,
Assistant to the City Manager/Code Enforcement

Happy Spring to you. This month, I will discuss an ongoing issue that is quickly becoming a serious situation; trimming of oak trees during prohibited months. Spring is the time when oak trees have the highest chance of contracting oak wilt disease as pruning in spring leaves them very vulnerable to this disease. The Texas Forest Service will tell you that the riskiest time to prune oaks is from February 1st through June 30th and this why the City has adopted that time frame as a seasonal moratorium for trimming oak trees (Sec 48-78). Oak wilt is present in Castle Hills and the surrounding areas.

Once oak trimming is allowed (July 1st), please keep in mind the following information; A resident may trim their own trees at the residence they occupy without obtaining a permit but if a contractor is hired, the contractor or the property owner must purchase the appropriate permit. The permit fee for oak trees is \$50 while non-oak tree permits are \$25. Please ensure that all cuts on oak trees are painted within 1 hour of the cut and with an opaque paint to prevent contact with contaminated nitidulid beetles. Permits are valid for 30 days and are specific to the address for which the permit has been issued.

You can obtain a permit at www.cityofcastlehills.com/how-to-obtain-a-permit. Thank you for doing your part in keeping Castle Hills and its wonderful tree canopy safe and beautiful for all to enjoy.

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What is Oak Wilt?
Oak Wilt is a destructive, incurable and deadly fungal tree disease that is a threat to all oak trees, some of our community's most precious natural resources.

Why should YOU care?
Oak Wilt not only impacts trees it impacts our community. Trees with Oak Wilt generally do not survive. Oak Wilt can affect aesthetics, decrease your property value, and is expensive to manage. Ignoring this disease can be very costly. Prevention is Key.

How does it SPREAD?
Oak Wilt spreads two ways:
ABOVE GROUND through beetles – Diseased red oaks produce fungal mats generally in the spring. These fungal mats attract small beetles and spores become attached to their body. Beetles, which can travel long distances, are then attracted to fresh cuts and other exposed wounds on ALL oak trees.
BELOW GROUND through root connections – Live oak grow in dense groups with interconnected roots and this is how it is most commonly spread. Although less common, it can spread through interconnected roots of red oaks too.

OAK preservation PROJECT
OAK WILT PREVENTION PROGRAM

How to PREVENT Oak Wilt
Oak Wilt prevention is fairly simple and should be taken seriously to prevent further spread of the disease. Prevent new infections by following these steps:

- AVOID pruning oak trees Feb 1 – Jun 30**
This is the time beetles are most active and fungal mats produce spores.
- DISINFECT pruning tools**
Disinfect tools prior to cutting. Use an all-purpose household disinfectant or denatured methyl/ isopropyl alcohol.
- PAINT wounds immediately**
Oak tree wounds need to be painted immediately, regardless of the season, with latex or commercial tree wound paint. The paint minimizes exposure to beetles.
- ONLY STORE seasoned firewood from known sources.**
Oak wilt can be transmitted through seasoned firewood from diseased red oaks.

How to manage Oak Wilt if your trees are already infected

- STOP SPREAD THROUGH ROOTS**
Trenching may be an option to break up root connections. To determine if this is the best method, consult with a qualified tree care professional. This type of work can be complex and often requires specific training in Oak Wilt.
- FUNGICIDE TREATMENT**
Propiconazole (Alamo™) is a treatment injected into the oaks root flare. The treatment is most effective when applied as a preventative; however, may sometimes be applied after symptoms have been developed.
- PREVENT NEW INFECTIONS**
Cut and dispose of diseased red oaks immediately. When planting new trees, choose species that are resistant or immune to Oak Wilt.
- More questions?**
or if you suspect your oak trees have Oak Wilt please visit the Texas A&M Forest Service immediately at texasoakwilt.org



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Castle Hills Police Department
IN THE NEWS
By Lieutenant Waggoner

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced all of us to adjust our personal and professional lives. These changes have been from subtle to very obvious. We were all reminded to wash our hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water, maintain social distancing, wear masks and gloves, and the endless use of hand sanitizer. We had to learn which business and employees are classified as essential vs non-essential, how to stand in line at HEB hoping to grab toilet paper, milk and eggs and what we should do if we feel we have been exposed to the Corona Virus. As everyone has been forced to adjust for Covid-19, the police department has made changes to our protocols and procedures for policing the community while balancing our efforts to keep our officers healthy during this extraordinary time.

As soon as the Covid-19 virus was appearing in the United States, the leadership in the police department met and discussed what we can do to keep our officers healthy and safe so they can continue to protect the community. As such, officers were given personal hygiene guidelines, cleared to take police reports over the telephone whenever appropriate, and provided PPE for their protection, along with an ultraviolet light decontamination unit for equipment, and hand sanitizer dispensaries were installed though out the police department by CHFD. All employees currently get screened at the Fire Department before entering city buildings. Additionally, officers are decontaminating the driver's compartment of the patrol vehicles with antiseptic wipes prior to shift.

The immediate question police leadership faced was, "How are we going to police the community, protecting life and property, while adhering to our Mission Statement and limit possible exposure to staff?" Initially we recognized the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) needed to be temporarily suspended. In turn, we began a program to have officers work extra shifts to augment existing manpower to prevent or deter criminal activities in our community. These officers were tasked with directed patrols of the businesses in the city. We recognized the financial impact business owners would see with the "stay at home orders" and we wanted to provide additional protection for the businesses from any property crimes. We have heard of other departments in the area that did not increase patrols and subsequently experienced an increase in said crimes. Officers have also spent time educating business owners as well as members of the public on the Bexar County Declaration of Emergency in effort to not issue citations for violations during this difficult time. Lastly, the police department started a program, brought to our attention by Councilman Izbrand, to provide Welfare Checks in our community. For example, if a family member was worried about another family member's well-being, they could contact the police department, provide us some information, and the patrol officers would check on the family member as requested.

We are all hoping to get past this pandemic as healthy as possible. We want to see our friends in the community getting their lives back to normal as well as our local businesses begin to thrive again. With so many uncertainties that come with these types of events, you can believe the police department will remain resolute to our Mission Statement "to provide unrivaled policing services to an engaged and diverse community".

As always, please report suspicious activity and follow us on Facebook. **Stay Safe and Stay Healthy Castle Hills.**

Castle Hills Fire Department

By Chief Jim Ladewig

COVID-19 Update

As we continue to manage our way through the COVID – 19 Pandemic we need to be consistent in following the basic guidelines to help prevent the spread of the disease and protect our family and neighbors. Continuance of constant handwashing and disinfecting of your surroundings is of key importance to deterring the spread of the virus. Establishing and maintaining Social Distancing when not only out in public but also at home when possible. We are still discovering data on how the virus spreads and who can spread the virus. Even if someone is not exhibiting symptoms, they could still be able to transmit the virus. The practice of wearing a mask when out in public in areas that social distancing cannot be established should continue while we are all at risk.

Through the Stay at Home/Shelter in Place process, we have all looked at different ways to keep ourselves busy and reduce some of the stress we all have experienced through this pandemic. Getting outdoors, addressing some home maintenance issues that have been neglected, getting an early start on spring cleaning and maybe even beginning a new hobby. Keeping informed of the changing events and safety practices are important but time spent in front of the TV or online watching news broadcast must be limited. Consuming oneself in nonstop viewing causes undo stress which can lead to other health issues and actually makes one more susceptible to viruses. Staying up to date with key information is important and can be achieved by accessing online sites such as the City of Castle Hills, San Antonio Emergency Management and Metropolitan Health, Bexar County Emergency Management and of course the CDC and World Health Organization. The City staff will continue to keep all our residents and business owners abreast of current information and encourage anyone who has any questions to contact City Hall.

We continue to encourage everyone to look out for your neighbors and those at high risk and to donate when possible to the local food banks. The City Hall has a list of Castle Hills and Bexar County organizations that offer assistance to businesses and our high-risk residents.

In closing, I would like to express our appreciation to all of those individuals who have expressed their gratitude and support for what we do here at The Castle Hills Fire Department. We have been the recipients of tremendous acts of generosity from individuals, our residents and local businesses. I would like at this time to recognize some of those individuals.

HEB	Las Palapas	K. London
Jason Schneider	Heather Crawford	Glenda Olivier
Poppy's Pizza	Con10gency	Black Rifle Company
Baptist Health Systems	Tiagos Grill	100 Club SA
Chicago Pizza		

This is just a small list of those who have expressed their appreciation for the services and hard work that your firefighters provide to the community. On behalf of the department let me thank all of you and the countless anonymous individuals for your never-ending support.



At the suggestion of Mayor Trevino, the Castle Hills Garden Club will sponsor a new program, **The Yard of the Month**. The goal of the program is to encourage a renewed interest in yard and landscape beautification throughout the city of Castle Hills. Each month from May through November, one yard from the north part of Castle Hills and one from the south part of the city will be selected to receive the recognition of Yard of the Month.

Residents are invited to send photos of their yard or of a neighbor's yard to the Facebook page for the Castle Hills Garden Club found within the Castle Hills News Events and Discussion site or you may submit an entry via email at: CastleHillsGardenClub@gmail.com

For more information about the Castle Hills Garden Club, please contact us through our Facebook page or email listed above.

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CITY SNAPSHOTS

Public Works



Need a Passport?

City of Castle Hills
209 Lemonwood Dr.

CityofCastleHills.com



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

- Monday: 8:30 am to 2 pm;
- Wednesday: 8:30 am to 4 pm;
- Friday: 10 am to 2 pm

Appointments are available for Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call (210) 293-9675 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>

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Women's Health
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Joint Injections

Food Assistance

People in our community should not have to choose between feeding their family and paying their bills.



FREE FOOD

- **Little Free Pantry** - A grass-roots, crowd sourced solution that facilitates feeding neighbors.
- **Meals on Wheels** - Provides meals to at-risk senior's in the community.
- **San Antonio Food Bank** - Food pantries/mobile food distributions open to the public for help.
- **School Meals Map** - Shows students where they can find breakfast and lunch near them for free.

MONEY FOR FOOD

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** - provides money for food, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children provides resources for pregnant women and people with children younger than 5.

<https://covid19.sanantonio.gov/Assistance/Residents>



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