

May 2021



# *The Castle Hills* **Reporter**

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A bi-monthly newsletter for the residents of the City of Castle Hills published by Neighborhood News, Inc.

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Friends,

I hope you and yours are doing well. I truly feel like we are truly beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Public venues are starting to become busy as people are feeling more and more comfortable to venture out. We can attribute a great portion of that comfort to the excellent job that countless people are doing throughout the community to provide vaccines and ensure necessary safety protocols are in place. As you might expect, Castle Hills is no exception. In the past several months, we piloted two programs designed to ensure that we as City are doing our part to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to those that wanted to receive it. The first program was the 'At Home Vaccination Program', we provided vaccines to our most vulnerable homebound residents.

Truth be told, the design for this program had been finalized months ago. Early on, the San Antonio Fire Department was in the news for providing vaccine to elderly residents. Eager to offer this to Castle Hills residents, I reached out to our partners at San Antonio Metro Health. It was determined that this initiative was a state directive to help identify some of the areas that were experiencing the highest rates of infection. In speaking to Metro Health, it became quite evident that aside from having the vaccine and registrants, we needed to put together a list and have policies in place. In talking to Chief Ladewig, he ran with the idea and set everything up for our team to be ready. Most importantly, Chief Ladewig and the Castle Hills Women's Club put together a list of people that wanted to be vaccinated.

As you all know, vaccine availability has been improving but for a small period it was difficult to come across. Fortunately, Mayor Pro-Tem Izbrand was able to identify a very generous local provider. This is where Castle Hills Shero stepped into the light, Dr. Angela DiPaolo with Legends Pharmacy. (Side note - I referenced Merriam-Webster and "Shero" is in fact a word used to describe a woman regarded as a hero.) Aside from allocating vaccine for Castle Hills residents, Dr. DiPaolo also went to the homes of the homebound Castle Hills residents to administer the vaccine. Dr. DiPaolo did all of this at no additional cost to residents or the City! Our first patients were 95 years old and 100 years old and extremely grateful to have the vaccine administered at their homes.

But wait there is more, Dr. DiPaolo also joined us at City Hall to offer vaccinations for registered and walkup patients. Again, I must thank Castle Hills



(Continued on page 3)

## CITY COUNCIL

**JR Trevino**  
Mayor

**Joe Izbrand**  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 1

**Frank Paul**  
Place 2

**Kurt May**  
Place 3

**Jack Joyce**  
Place 4

**Douglas Gregory**  
Place 5

## CITY STAFF

**Ryan Rapelye**  
City Manager, (210) 293-9673

**Zina Tedford**  
City Secretary  
(210) 293-9681

**Lara Feagins**  
Finance, (210) 293-9674

**James "Jim" Ladewig**  
Fire Chief  
(210) 342-2341, ext. 217

**Steven Zuniga**  
Police Chief  
(210) 342-2341

**Rick Harada**  
Public Works & Animal Control  
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  
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(Continued from page 2)

Women's Club for helping with registration and making certain that all of our patients were well taken care of throughout the entire process! Thank you all for epitomizing Castle Hills Service!

### Community Improvement

We are all counting down the days until we start the long-anticipated Capital Improvement Projects. When you receive this Reporter, we should only be a month or so away from the official start to the first phase which will be the coatings. However, you can expect to see some of the preparation happening around the City. You will see contractors repairing large potholes or in many instances surveyors identifying underground utilities. As wonderful as it is to have improvements, it can be a small headache as we continue to improve the City's infrastructure. As we begin these projects, I kindly ask for your patience and understanding. That being said; if you have a concern, please do not hesitate to call City Hall, send us an email, or call me personally.

In the middle of April, I joined Councilman May and large group of city volunteers for our community trash pickup day. It always amazes me how much trash we accumulate on our thoroughfares. What I find is even more shocking is how much more trash we are picking up. This new tradition is an excellent way to get out, be safe, and help our community. Thank you, all of the volunteers that spent their Saturday morning, beautifying our City!



As you may have noticed, we have quite the assortment of street signs throughout the City. The condition of the signs varies from brand new to some that look like they have been around since Castle Hills was founded. I am excited to share the new initiative that was passed in April to help subsidize the funding of the replacement signs. In short, residents will be able to purchase the old signs and we can in turn utilize those funds to acquire new street signs. As much as I love the look of the new clean uniform signs, there is a big hidden benefit. Many of the signs have lost their reflective properties due to age. Having done my share of Police ride-alongs at night, it is difficult for First Responders to see the street signs. Sign replacement will not just ensure that our First Responders can easily see the signs, but our mutual aid partners that come from surrounding Suburban Cities as well. This initiative has been approved by Council and you can expect to see finalized details in future Reporters.

### Congratulations

It is the Castle Hills team that makes the difference. We have an amazing community but without our Public Works, Admin, Fire, and Police; we are just that, a community. It is the team that provides premier services that makes us one of the best Suburban Cities. That being said, I would like to extend congratulations to several members of the Castle Hills Executive Leadership team.

First off, congratulations to Chief Esteban Zuniga for being selected as the permanent Chief of Police. Chief Zuniga has been with Castle Hills for over 10 years and quickly ascended the ranks. We thank Chief Zuniga for his continued dedication to the Castle Hills Police Department. I have the utmost confidence that his leadership will

ensure that we are continuing to provide the highest level of policing with unrivaled customer service.

Castle Hills has been well known for a couple things. One is our Police Department; people know that Castle Hills Police Department is vigilant. I have heard in many instances people with a heavy foot will opt to drive around Castle Hills rather than through it. Thank you to our State legislators for adopting Senate Bill 631 which allows us to patrol our bordering streets, helps us keep you safe as you pull out on to Lockhill Selma, Jackson Keller, or Blanco.

Unfortunately, Castle Hills has historically had an unfavorable reputation for turnover in the City Manager position. In the last 20 years we have had 10 City Managers, fortunately, our current City Manager, Ryan Rapelye has been serving Castle Hills for 3 years marking him as the longest serving City Manager within the last 15 years. If that wasn't enough of an accomplishment; in April City Council approved Mr. Rapelye's a three-year contract. Stability in the City Manager position is crucial to permanency in staff and completion of long-term projects. I believe that the stability in the City Manager position has afforded us exceptional opportunities and the ability to finally address some of the longstanding multi-year projects that residents have been waiting to see completed. Thank you for your service to our community!

With summer right around the corner, I look forward to seeing people at Castle Hills Fiesta as well as some of the fun events in the Commons!

If you see any of our city staff, please take a moment to thank them for their service. Individually and as a group they protect this City and make it a safe and better place for us to live.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager

In March, I received a new three-year contract as City Manager for the City of Castle Hills. I am appreciative of the Mayor and Council's leadership and the faith they have in me. I am fortunate to work in a community with caring and supportive residents which includes an outstanding team of employees. There have been some unprecedented challenges over the last few years especially 2020 as we all adjusted to the "new normal". I am proud to say that we have made historic strides in progress for the City. We are about to undertake the largest infrastructure program in the City's history and we look forward to further progress in the years to come.

We have completed major road and drainage projects, following the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and now have secured funding for comprehensive street construction and the need to address drainage projects throughout the community. As we move forward with these capital projects, we are working to build a dedicated site on the City's new website to track the progress and provide updates. Later this year, as we began to prepare the 2022 proposed budget, it is our intent to review the cost-effectiveness of providing municipalized sanitation services versus a private contractor.

This summer, the City will begin two major projects, our comprehensive street reconstruction totaling \$3.3 million and Phase III of the Banyan/Carolwood drainage project. The reconstruction project is currently being engineered and we anticipate soliciting for proposals later this summer. City Council has authorized me to solicit for proposals on the next phase of the Banyan/Carolwood drainage project which will start in June. The next phase involves the installation of drainage culverts just past Gardenview on Banyan and around the corner to the bottom of Carolwood at Banyan intersection. This project is expected to take seven months to complete and we will keep you updated as we get more information from the contractors.



As always, I would like to thank all our employees. I appreciate all they do for the City of Castle Hills and our organization on a daily basis. If you would like any additional information regarding upcoming projects, please contact me at [rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov) or at the office at 210.293.9673.



## COUNCIL COMMENTS



**JOE IZBRAND**

PLACE 1  
Mayor Pro-Tem

Dear Neighbors,

As a communications and public relations executive in my professional career, one of the key areas of focus I've brought to the city council has been on improving communication between the city and its residents. Simply stated, the better informed a community is, the better connected it will be with the government that is closest to them in their everyday lives.

One of the first steps we've taken to improve communication is to upgrade the city's website, [www.cityofcastlehills.com](http://www.cityofcastlehills.com), to make it easier to find information, access forms, and connect with city officials and staff. Much of the work, to date, has been done with little cost to the city through the support of a college intern with background in web design. And, while significant progress has been made, there is more to do.

We are now planning for the next round of revisions and will be contracting with our web hosting company to provide their professional expertise to evaluate features, functionality and ease of use, and propose other upgrades to make the website even more beneficial to our residents.

Additionally, those of you who have a social media presence may be aware of the Facebook page I created, [www.facebook.com/izbrandplace1](https://www.facebook.com/izbrandplace1), to share news and information about Castle Hills. Several times each week, I provide updates on happenings at city hall and throughout our community to help keep residents connected. This is in addition to posts on the city's social media channels. During the winter freeze, for instance, I provided updates twice each day regarding weather conditions, power and water service, city resources and response, etc.

While both the website and social media presence have helped to improve communication, there are a number of residents in Castle

*(Continued on page 5)*

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Hills who do not use the Internet or are not on social media. In fact, some may not even own a computer. For this reason, we are taking another significant step to broaden our communication efforts.

At a meeting earlier this spring, the city council unanimously voted to obtain an emergency community notification system for Castle Hills, enabling residents to receive phone calls, texts or emails for emergency messages and other updates.

Residents will have the opportunity to 'opt-in' to choose the messages they receive beyond emergency alerts including information about city events and activities, service notifications and other city-related information.

The cost of this system to the city will be only a few hundred dollars annually, yet the benefits are innumerable in building a greater connection between the city and its residents, and particularly during an emergency. I look forward to sharing more information about how to register for the notifications in the days ahead.

With the work underway on the city's website, with my Facebook page and the city's social media channels, and now with the community notification system, we're delivering on our commitment to improve communication and keep our city well informed.

These efforts will make a real difference for Castle Hills.

I am tremendously honored to serve as your Place 1 Alderman. I invite you to stay in touch at [www.facebook.com/IzbrandPlacel](https://www.facebook.com/IzbrandPlacel). You can also share your thoughts, ideas and comments with me via email at [IzbrandPlacel@gmail.com](mailto:IzbrandPlacel@gmail.com).

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



**KURT MAY**  
PLACE 3

## Castle Hills Community Work Continues

City Hall, City Council, and many members of the community are actively engaged in building new ways to serve the needs of our city. The Castle Hills Business Association (CHBA) is taking form with a cohesive working group of six, led by local business owners, two City Councilman, and now graduate student interns. Specifically, this group is focused on creating an updated website business directory easily accessible to the public. CHBA is planning a series of forums that will allow Castle Hills business owners to collaborate effectively with each other and the City to increase sales tax revenue. It is this group's aspiration to make our city the preferred place to do business, and place to establish new businesses.

The Castle Hills Historical Society (CHHS) has now moved to in-person meetings at City Hall, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 5th at 6:30pm. Our last meeting focused on the plans for the city's 70th anniversary celebration, (currently set for September 26, in the afternoon), collection of individual histories from residents, collecting old photos, reviewing and documenting artifacts from City Hall, researching our history in news publications and land documents, researching the development of our city services and government, and documenting our unique architectural history. CHHS's ultimate plans include publication of our preserved history, conversion to a non-profit entity, preservation and celebra-

tion of our citizen's histories and displaying Castle Hills' historic documents and photos for public viewing. The Society welcomes all citizen's participation.

Our City Manager, Ryan Rapelye, continues to work tirelessly along with our city employees to find ways to provide additional services due to the latest storm damage. Plans for additional brush pickup and central depositories for dead vegetation are in the immediate future. Citizens, along with Public Works, and me set Saturday, April 24 for a city Spring Clean, to pick up accumulated trash along our road perimeters, and public spaces. In addition, Mr. Rapelye continues the strategic forward-looking process of completing the city infrastructure needs, improving city services, and coordinating efforts of the city government, businesses, and citizens. He has done an outstanding job, and I am delighted with his three-year employment contract extension.

The Women's Club, the Garden Club and various other Castle Hills organizations are busy planning the Castle Hills Fiesta event on Saturday, June 19. This will be one of the first public sponsored events of the last year and a half. As we continue to practice safe health practices, I encourage all citizens to pursue their vaccinations, continue to wear masks, and follow CDC guidelines, and that we enjoy our Fiesta event with our friends and neighbors. This is a celebration year in so many ways, and I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish to thank Castle Hills citizens for the unique opportunity to serve this community as their Councilman. I am excited about the many future opportunities to continue serving Castle Hills. If any part of the described activities just listed appeal to you, let me know. I will get you involved.

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**DOUGLAS  
GREGORY**  
PLACE 5

Recently, the Mayor Pro Tem, Joe Izbrand and I introduced an item on the April City Council agenda on the City's Emergency Preparedness Planning and response in the event of extreme weather, including severe heat and cold conditions or other prolonged emergencies.

Together, with our City Manager and Fire Chief, we expect to compile a comprehensive blueprint for Castle Hills to reference, when these events occur. Expect a report with recommendation as soon as possible.

On a COVID-19 note, over 60% of Bexar County seniors have been fully vaccinated. If you have not received yours, you can access your vaccine at the Alamo Dome or at many pharmacies. I strongly urge everyone to get a vaccine as soon as possible. Only 28% of the nation is fully covered. If we ever expect to return to "normal" we must pull together and get our shots.

Concerning any update on street / drainage repairs, the City Council has authorized the City Manager to solicit bids for major street projects. Check the City website or ask our City Manager for specifics.

The collection of garbage, leaves and other trash for over fifty years was successfully done by the Public Work but micromanagement by various City Councils have burdened this basic task by technicalities provoking frustration by citizens. Even though the costs for the disposal of trash at the dump has naturally increased. The City Council should review the costs to get back to the job of collecting the trash.

Good government requires citizen input. Vote in elections, come to the meetings by Zoom or in person. You get the Council you deserve when you participate. Have a safe Spring!

*"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."*

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**JACK JOYCE**  
PLACE 4

Friends and Neighbors,

By the time you read this yours truly will have been on City Council for a full year which is hard to believe. It has been a very rewarding year for me and the city, as I believe the Council has achieved a number of critical successes. Here are just a few of our victories:

- Stabilized our city government by working well with one another and with city staff.
- Approved critical new staff including Police Chief and City Secretary.
- Funded the next round of street and drainage repairs and improvements through the issuance of Certificates of Obligation.
- With tremendous help from city staff we assisted citizens and area businesses so they could survive the emergencies brought on by COVID and The Big Freeze.
- Approved a three-year contract with City Manager Ryan Rapelye.

In April, Council was pleased to affirm the nomination of Esteban (Steve) Zuniga as our Chief of Police. Chief Zuniga brings the department a high level of experience, expertise, and stability which is why he was selected from among highly qualified candidates. We wish him well!

Meanwhile, new initiatives continue to percolate:

- Councilman May and I are making excellent progress with the Business Association. We have developed a talented team with the addition of Kristin Bengoechea, Steven Burch, Scott Gray, and John Squire. We are planning an event for June, so please stay tuned to the website for info.
- The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee will be presenting an update on survey results and progress at the May Council meeting. Can't wait to see all the ideas for our City! Stay tuned for announcements on discussions and workshops.
- Councilman May has the Historical Society up and running, with officer elections slated for the fall. Contact him at [kurtgenemay@gmail.com](mailto:kurtgenemay@gmail.com) or 210-273-8134.
- Councilman Izbrand, working with the Parks and Projects Committee, has designed beautiful new street signs for our City. Check them out on our website and watch for their installation as the new street repair projects are completed.
- Councilmen Izbrand and Gregory have teamed up with City Manager Rapelye to work on the City's Emergency Preparedness Planning and Response, so that we can be better prepared for weather or other emergencies.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to represent you all and welcome your input on these or any other topics, so please email me at [jjoyce@castlehills-texas.gov](mailto:jjoyce@castlehills-texas.gov).



## COMING SOON TO THE CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

### New I-INFO Electronic Communication System

The City of Castle Hills City Council approved the use of i-INFO, an emergency notification system as the source of providing community news, information, user tips, and emergency information. I-INFO will assist in providing local residents with a way to receive critical and important information about the community.

In addition to emergency notifications, residents will be able to receive local information that impacts their lives and their community, and receive it in the way they choose – by text and/or email... and during emergencies by telephone if desired. The new system allows local agencies to offer a variety of information to the people who live and work in their area and who want to be informed of critical emergency information as well as other key information about the City of Castle Hills.

The service is free and is provided by the City of Castle Hills. It is part of a larger, regional effort made up of several counties in the area. We will begin service in the near future.

The registry information is managed by the i-INFO system, a highly secure system that is used by thousands of organizations to manage their information and keep it safe. Likewise, i-INFO allows residents to securely access and manage their own information.



By Chief E. Zuniga

### CHIEF OF POLICE

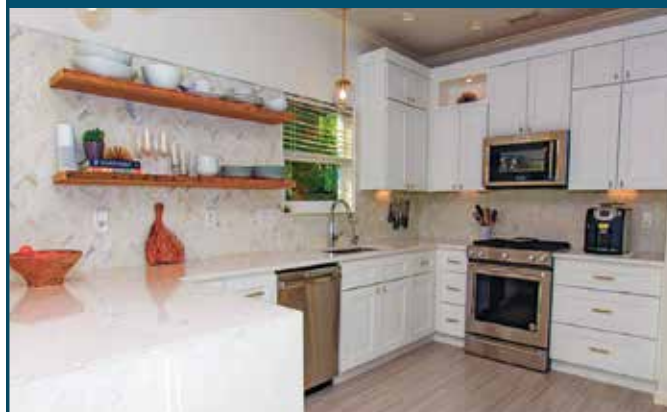
As many of you are already aware that Chief Johnny Siemens left the Castle Hills Police Department to pursue a new challenge as the Universal City Police Departments Chief of Police.

Since his departure on January 18, 2021, I was appointed as Interim Chief until the position could be filled permanently. On Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the Regular Council Meeting, I was confirmed as the new Chief of Police after being interviewed along with other internal and external applicants.

I want to thank everyone one of you for the outpouring support that came in by word of mouth, emails, texts, phone calls and coming to the meeting in person. Thank you for placing your confidence in me and our team to continue providing the best service possible to you, our residents of Castle Hills. We wholeheartedly stand behind our mission statement "To provide unrivaled policing services to an engaged and diverse community". We will also continue to improve where improvement is needed and forecast where changes could be beneficial in the future.

*(Continued on page 8)*

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(Continued from page 7)

## IN OTHER NEWS

The end of school is around the corner. The end of school also marks the end of one journey and the beginning of a new one; the next chapter in their lives, commonly known as High School Graduates.

Many will continue on to college, trade schools and some will join our military forces. Still others will go straight to the workforce. While each graduate will ultimately follow one path or another, they will still have their big day – Graduation Day! As a police officer and father of a 2021 graduating Senior, I am well aware of the tragedies that often occur around the country at various schools and communities. I have always instilled in my son to be vigilant of his surroundings, to be safe, and to help those who cannot help themselves.

I have also spoken to my children about drinking and driving. While there are plans to celebrate graduation with dinners and parties, many Seniors find themselves peer pressured into drinking; being convinced that you are now an adult. It is this time as parents, teachers and friends that we should reinforce to our kids – our young adults about the choices they make from here on out and the consequences that may follow.

### Here are some tips to give your Seniors!

1. Set clear rules about not drinking and consequences for breaking them.
2. If you are hosting a graduation or prom after party, do NOT serve alcohol to anyone under age 21.
3. Take inventory of the alcohol in your home and secure it if needed.
4. Find out who is driving because one-third of the alcohol-related traffic fatalities involving teens each year occur during the prom/graduation season.
5. If a limo is rented check their policy on allowing alcohol in the vehicle.
6. Remind your teens to ALWAYS wear their seat belts not only because it's the law, but because 70% of teens killed on prom/graduation weekends were not wearing their seat belts.
7. Don't rent hotel rooms for your teens or allow them to attend parties that do not have chaperones.
8. Talk to other parents about post-event activities to ensure alcohol won't be present.
9. AND MOST IMPORTANT - Be available to provide a timely and safe ride home if needed and let them know that they should call you if they need a ride or get into a situation, they know isn't safe – no matter what time it is – no matter where they are, no matter the circumstances.

Congratulations to the parents and Graduating Seniors on this milestone! Have a safe summer and as always, report suspicious activity!

## Create Castle Hills

*Determining Our Future Excellence*

Be part of history in the making! The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee for the City of Castle Hills wants your input about the future of our city.

Stay tuned for more information about how to access the Resident and Business Survey and subsequent meetings.

## Castle Hills Fire Department

By Chief Jim Ladewig

Over the past 4 Reporter editions, I have given you a brief description of what we do here at your fire department. I have also introduced you to the individuals that make up the shift crews of your fire department. The last members of the department are the administrative members who are at the station between 7am and 5pm, Monday through Friday.

First of all is Assistant Chief Curt Covey who has been with the department for approximately 14 years. He has served as the Assistant Fire Chief since March of 2020 and was the Captain of C – Shift prior to moving to his current position. Assistant Chief Covey is married with a family and a long-time resident of San Antonio. Curt is an experienced electrician and also a certified EMT – Basic with the Texas Department of State Health Services. Assistant Chief Covey also holds many certifications with The Texas Commission on Fire Protection including Master Firefighter, Master Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer II as well as Incident Safety Officer. He also holds a Bachelor Degree from Texas A&M University at San Antonio in Fire Administration. Curt has done a great job in his current role as Assistant Chief and we look forward to his continued leadership in the department.

(Continued on page 9)

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As for myself, I am the other member of the administrative portion of the department. I am Chief Jim Ladewig and I have had the honor as serving as your Fire Chief since July of 2019. I am also married with a family and was born and raised here in San Antonio. I started my career with the City of Olmos Park Fire Department where I served for 26 years before retiring as their Assistant Chief and Emergency Management coordinator. I served a short time in Maine as Fire Chief of a rural, on – call department before I found myself back here in San Antonio as Fire Chief of your fire department. I currently have 31 years in the fire service and also had a successful remodeling business for 24 years prior to my move to Maine. I am an Advanced EMT and also hold several certifications with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Currently I hold certifications as Master Firefighter, Master Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor II, Fire Officer II, Head of Department as well as Pro-Board Haz-Mat Technician. I currently hold an Associates degree in Fire Science from Southern Maine Community College and I am attending Texas A&M University – San Antonio to receive my Bachelors degree in Fire Administration/ Homeland Security.

I find myself extremely honored to be working with such an accomplished, professional and capable group of firefighters. I look forward to many more years serving with these individuals and serving the residents of Castle Hills. I would like to thank all of you for welcoming me as your Chief and your continued support. I invite all of you to come and visit with myself and your firefighters and ask any questions you may have of us once we get back to a sense of normalcy in our lives.



**OAK preservation PROJECT**  
OAK WILT PREVENTION PROGRAM

**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 oaks 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.

**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 (AlamoTM) is a treatment injected (by a certified applicator) 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](http://texasoakwilt.org)



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**24/7 (210) 733-7133 EMERGENCY REPAIR**



## SHRED EVENT

City of Castle Hills will be hosting a paper shredding event on **Saturday, October 9, 2021** at City Hall, 209 Lemonwood Drive from **9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** or until the truck reaches capacity.

Identity theft and fraud crimes continue to be of great concern for all of us. The City of Castle Hills would like to help you avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and fraud, by keeping your personal information away from the hands of identity thieves. One of the methods identity thieves use to steal your information is combing through recycling and garbage for sensitive information that has been thrown away.

For this reason, the City of Castle Hills recommends and encourages citizens to use a shredder (preferably cross-cut) for sensitive documents, such as credit card statements, financial statements, pre-approved credit card offers, old IRS tax forms, bank checks, household bills, and other documents that may contain sensitive information.

Community Shred event will be on site with one commercial-sized shredding truck for this event. Items no larger than staples and paper clips may be attached to the papers. *Because of the popularity of this event each vehicle will only be allowed eight (8) standard size Banker style boxes of documents to be shredded.*

This event is not for business documents. It is for personal documents only that contain personal information that if thrown out could lead to identity theft.

Service will be on a first come, first served basis and limited to the capacity of the commercial-sized shredding truck. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause should the capacity be reached.

## — JOIN US FOR OUR — TOUR OF HOMES

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## Garage Sale or Not? Covid-19 Safety is the Answer

By: Judith J. Castillo, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

Hold a sale or not? That is the question. Following Covid-19 safety protocols is the answer! I have always dedicated the spare room in my home as a catchall; garage sale piles simply start growing there. In the wake of Covid-19 work from home orders, it wasn't long before I realized junk had kicked me out of my home office. Let's take back our spare rooms, donate to the community organizations, and help amateur tchotchke collectors find the ultimate in rare treasures. Read on for ideas on tackling towering piles of stuff, no sticky labels needed.

### Check Community Regulations

You must decide whether or not a live sale is in your community's best interest. Is the spread of Covid very active in your area? Are you or members of your household at a higher risk of complications from the virus? If the answer is yes, then read on for safer options. Don't forget that you must purchase a permit prior to the sale. Visit <https://www.cityofcastlehills.com/2224/How-to-Obtain-a-Permit> for more information.

### Hold a Safe Sale

What can you do to ensure that an in-person garage sale can go on in a safe manner during a pandemic? Keep it outdoors. Let me start referring to them only as yard sales to help remember that the outdoors and not a cramped garage will help keep contagion at bay. Post a list of safety requirements at the front of your yard sale to remind customers that they must wear a mask, keep a distance of 6 feet from other patrons, and utilize hand sanitizer before and after making monetary transactions. Try using cash apps in place of currency.

### Sell through Apps or Consignment Shops

If an in-person yard sale is not in the cards for your family and neighborhood, there are so many online options available. You can sell unwanted items through apps, either locally or nationwide. It will be a much longer process, so you may have to get used to your stuff pile, but you may relax at least knowing progress is being made. Another option would be selling to consignment stores, such as those for children's and women's clothing. Covid has affected how they take in new inventory, so visit the website before you deliver items.

### Donate

Now, if your main goal is to clear it all away quickly, donating would be the best option. It couldn't be a better time for donations, as many folks have struggled amid the pandemic and may be in need of items at a fair price. Procedures for donations are different than they were pre-pandemic. Inform yourself before you show up at the donation station with trash bags full of items. You will save yourself the headache of not being able to donate, and avoid the risk of your stuff ending up right back in your spare room.

## Need a Passport?

City of Castle Hills  
209 Lemonwood Dr.

[CityofCastlehills.com](http://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

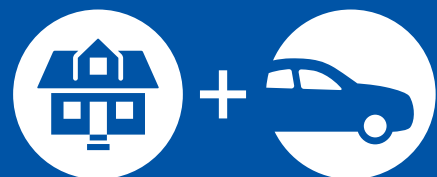
Appointments are available for Saturdays from  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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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