

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR





European Dumpling Café

By now you have probably heard about one of our newest restaurants, European Dumpling Café. They are located at 2211 NW Military Highway, in the old Bilia Eatery location. If you remember, Bilia moved to a larger location across from Sushihana; it must mean that the location is good luck! European Dumpling Café owners are Simon and Olga; Simon is from Mexico and Olga is from the Ukraine. We attended the ribbon cutting on March 18th and it was one of the largest ribbon cuttings that has been done in Castle Hills! The San Antonio Ukrainian Society and Ukraine San Antonio showed up with a great presence. My friend, San Antonio District 4 Councilwoman Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia attended as she is the San Antonio City Council European Liaison.

It is really exciting to see the diversity of the restaurants in Castle Hills. For being such a small geographical area, we have quite the worldly culinary experience. At the ribbon cutting Simon and Olga shared that they had previously been operating out of a trailer and that they were excited to have a brick and mortar location. Olga jokingly shared that everyone had



told her to focus on Mexican or BBQ but that she wanted to be different; which is why you will notice that this is the ONLY Ukrainian restaurant in the San Antonio area. We couldn't be more proud that Simon and Olga chose Castle Hills to grow their dream. By the way the food is DELICIOUS!

SA2DC

In March I had the opportunity to attend the SA2DC. If you haven't heard about SA2DC, it is a San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, North San Antonio Chamber, and South Texas Business Partnership delegation to Washington D.C. This delegation provides us with an opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff to share concerns and/or requests. Aside from these events being a great avenue to connect with policy makers on a national level, it is great way to connect and build meaningful relationships with other San Antonio area leaders. Many large companies and organizations send representatives to advocate and in between meetings you never know who you might get a chance to know better.

(Continued on page 3)

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CITY COUNCIL

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Joe Izbrand Mayor Pro-Tem, Place 1

> Frank Paul Place 2

Kurt May

Place 3

Jack Joyce

Place 4

Beth Daines
Place 5

CITY STAFF

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> Maria Franco City Secretary

(210) 293-9681

Nora Davis

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

ALL EMERGENCIES, EMT, FIRE & 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, 7:00 p.m. Upon Request

Board of Adjustment

4th Monday, 5:30 p.m. Upon Request

Zoning Commission

1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Upon Request

Crime Control & Prevention
District

3rd Monday, 5:30 p.m. Quarterly or as needed



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There is much to learn about government on a national level. Fortunately, we were surrounded by friends and subject matter experts who were happy to share about the process. My hope is to find out how to secure Federal funding for projects in Castle Hills. In a short amount of time, we were able to learn that there are countless departments that are responsible for millions (if not billions) of dollars that are allocated across the Country. The challenge then becomes how can we then find a program that we are applicable for and then we began the application process which is another hurdle. My short-term goal is partner with local entities but my long-term goal is get federal funding for our City!

Partnership

On the topic of my short-term goal of funding, we have been talking a lot about the recently voter approved dollars for street and drainage improvements. The City is still currently in a holding pattern. City Engineers are currently working to put together construction plans so that contractors can submit their proposals by June 2023. While there isn't much movement with construction, we have been having VERY productive conversations with our partners at the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. The plan is for the City of San Antonio to help fund the perimeter portion that is officially outside of the City of Castle Hills, as they cannot invest dollars in Castle Hills. Simultaneously we have our partners at Bexar County that we are asking to help with the conveyance of water down Glentower. Additionally, we are going to ask our partners at SAWS to help fund their portion.

As you might expect, there are a lot of moving parts and relationships that are being relied upon to bring all partners to the table to leverage improvements for our City. This is the only way that we can have the meaningful impact and address the flooding issues that have plagued our City for decades. The good news is that we are in the home stretch to getting this finalized.

There are many things currently working in our favor and none of them would have been possible were it not for your support. First, we have a stable City Council that has helped build the confidence with our community partners; our City and City government are in a position of stability. Secondly and most importantly, we have your support and faith. The most recent voter approved certificates of obligations that passed at 74.92% let us and our partners know that you trust us to do the job that we were elected to do for Castle Hills. Lastly, we have a strong City Administration that has successfully managed the numerous projects and most importantly the overall financial health. Our financial performance has repeatedly earned the City of Castle Hills exceptional credit ratings.

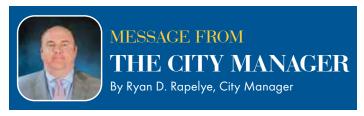
Castle Hills 2030

We are blessed to be living in the resurgence of Castle Hills. In the last few years, we have had an aggressive approach to investing in City infrastructure, an explosion of culinary businesses, and improved City services. The future of Castle Hills is bright!

Yours in service,

JR Treviño Mayor <u>JTrevino@CastleHills-TX.gov</u> 210-559-5940





The City of Castle Hills has taken the steps on our next series of capital projects. Our engineers are in the process of developing the design to reconstruct twelve more streets and undertake four drainage projects which include the need to address long term flooding on North Manton and the final phase to address drainage concerns on Carolwood and Glentower. The drainage component will involve the installation of additional drainage culverts underneath the road and a number of drainage inlets will be installed for stormwater conveyance which will ultimately tie into the work done on Banyan a few years ago. We are targeting this summer to go out for bids to reconstruct the next series of streets to get underway with this project. We will continue to have updates on these projects on the City's website under Capital Improvement Projects.



The City of Castle Hills is geographically surrounded by the City of San Antonio. NW Military, the major corridor through Castle Hills, is owned and maintained by TxDOT. TxDot is also responsible for maintenance related to 410 which includes its access road. SAWS and CPS Energy have ownership of the utility assets in our city and water/sewer lines are maintained by SAWS. The light poles and electrical lines are owned and maintained by CPS Energy. As a result of the various utility companies, another municipality surrounding our city and a state agency, the Mayor & City Council, City staff and myself have worked with these array of partners through "intergovernmental cooperation".

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The previous capital projects completed in Castle Hills, such as the Antler Roadway Project and the Banyan Drainage projects, phase I and II were addressed in partnership with SAWS and CPS Energy. Both of these projects were funded with the assistance of SAWS. Over the last two years, the streets have been reconstructed as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and these streets were also reviewed by SAWS for any future coordination as it relates to utility lines. The City has been able to establish excellent relationships with these various entities to make sure the proper coordination is done with projects and ensure these agencies are doing timely maintenance on their assets in our city.

As mentioned in a previous article, we are working on developing the scope for an eventual agreement for funding with the City of San Antonio to address drainage problems at Lockhill-Selma and Glentower. The City of San Antonio would be responsible for this section of Lockhill-Selma. This has been done through intergovernmental cooperation and it is paramount for us as a City to have these existing relationships with various agencies, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County not only for assistance with infrastructure and maintenance needs but mutual aid in the public safety arena. If you ever need assistance with agencies such as SAWS and CPS Energy, please contact us and we would be happy to connect you with the appropriate representatives from these entities.

Moving forward for future Reporter articles, I would like to have a representative from our City, specifically an employee from a specific area of our organization, provide some insight on a particular city service and/or process which answers questions and highlights the work being done by our city employees. We are calling this "Catching up at "The Castle". The first edition can be found in this month's Reporter, where Priscilla Vasquez, our Permits Clerk, provides some insight on the City's permit process.

As always, I would like to send a **THANK YOU** to all our employees who make up our "*Team Castle Hills*" for their commitment to the City. I appreciate all they do for the City and our organization on a daily basis.

Please contact me at <u>rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov</u> 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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JOE IZBRAND
PLACE 1
Mayor Pro-Tem

Given the Spring theme of this Castle Hills Reporter, I am pleased to share my column with Maddy Dillon, president of the Castle Hills Garden Club, to update our community on the club's many activities.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." - Alfred Austin

The Castle Hills Garden Club was happy to announce an important milestone this past September in the evolution of its 70-year history. For the first time ever, our organization officially opened membership to all residents in Castle Hills who share our love of nature, digging in the dirt, growing beautiful landscapes and expanding our knowledge of all things botanical.

I was happy to welcome the club's very first male member, David Bordelon, a retired environmental science teacher and Castle Hills resident of 25 years. A number of green-minded men in our community have since joined the club, expanding our evergrowing garden of knowledge and social connections.

Now that spring is in the air and last summer's record heat and winter freezes are in the rearview mirror, The Castle Hills Garden Club is pleased to announce the return of the Yard of the Month Awards in the month of April.

We are also particularly delighted to announce our partnership with the Castle Hills Woman's Club (also celebrating their 70th year) on April 29th for Castle Hills Beautification Day. Members of our organization will be busy refreshing several select, long-neglected planters located at the street entrances to some of our city's residential areas.

If you have a planter on your street that needs a little TLC and you can help us as a steward of its ongoing care, please contact

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me at <u>castlehillsgardenclub@gmail.com</u>. We are happy to offer supplies, advice and assistance.

Along with hosting monthly educational meetings with interesting and knowledgeable guest speakers (most recently, Anne Elise Urrutia, author of "Miraflores: San Antonio's Mexican Garden of Memory") and the occasional field trip (David's Garden Seeds in Poteet this past November), the Castle Hills Garden Club is committed to giving back to the community.

We recently contributed to Jackson Keller Elementary's participation in National Crayon Week with a check for \$1,000 to purchase coloring books and crayons for every student. Members of the club have also volunteered to serve as judges for the school's Science Fair in May.

Throughout the year, the Castle Hills Garden Club maintains an active presence in our city with food drives, toy collections, new business ribbon cuttings and National Night Out.

And, back by popular demand, the Castle Hills Garden Club will once again be hosting its "Growing Love for Mother's Day" event on Sunday, May 7th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in The Commons, 207 Lemonwood Drive. Children ages 3-11 are invited to come decorate a clay pot and fill it with a lovely plant as a gift for Mom. There is no charge but we do ask for RSVP's. Please "like" and follow us on the Castle Hills Garden Club Facebook page for more details.

Many thanks to all who have supported us and to all of our hardworking members who give of their time and talents to remind us of the true meaning of community.

Happy spring to all!





KURT MAY

The following article is provided by Judy Crawford, President of the Castle Hills Woman's Club:

We are delighted to tell you more about the Castle Hills Woman's Club ("Woman's Club") as we celebrate 70 years as an organization dedicated to promoting interest in beautification, safety, friendship, health, and good citizenship within the City of Castle Hills.

Who would have ever dreamed in 1952 the impact a group of dedicated women would have on our community? In the Woman's Club's first year, funds were raised for the building of a new Civic Center, the purchase of a new fire truck, and the pouring of a slab for the Castle Fire Department. Through the years, the Woman's Club's fundraising efforts resulted in contributions of more than \$215,000 to charitable organizations, area schools, our Police and Fire Departments, and for a host of improvements to City Hall. This year, the Woman's Club gave a special 70th Anniversary gift of \$7,000 to the City. This gift included \$2,000 in \$25 gift cards to each employee as a small token of our appreciation and \$5,000 to help with electrical improvements to The Commons now underway.

Our 70th Anniversary year is coming to a close with a special event, Beautify Castle Hills Day on Saturday, April 29th. On that day, we'll take a fresh look at our entrances and curb appeal and focus on how we might make them more beautiful. What that will look like will be different for all of us. A quick front porch sweep, wiping down a front door, cleaning light fixtures, a new Welcome mat, adding color to flower pots or planter boxes, a yard project, and everything in between will all help beautify our entire community, one space at a time. How wonderful will it be to step back and look again and see how much more beautiful things are?! We invite and encourage everyone to get in on the "Beautification Action" and enjoy the morning sprucing up their curb appeal! A dumpster will be available at the rear of City Hall for leaf and brush clippings.

The Castle Hills Garden Club is also celebrating 70 years of beautifying and improving our community and will be beautifying several street entrances with plantings and other (Continued on page 6)



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sprucing up as part of Beautify Castle Hills Day. Keep an eye out for how the entrances are transformed!

Plus, there will be a Community-Wide Garage Sale on April 29th. Permit fees for garage sales being held that day have been waived by the City, and Woman's Club members will be at The Commons from 8:00-10:00am with maps of the homes having sales. If a Garage Sale is part of your "Beautification Action" plan, get your permit by Thursday, April 27th and we'll put your home on the map.

We're looking forward to more opportunities to work together to help make our community even better and more beautiful. Membership in the Woman's Club is for all women who reside or are in business in Castle Hills. For more information, contact us at castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com. We'd love to have you join us!



JACK JOYCE
PLACE 4

Friends and Neighbors,

Hopefully you all have enjoyed the spring weather as we look ahead to the hot days of summer!

We continue to make progress in Castle Hills. At its February meeting, City Council unanimously approved the sale of \$6 million of certificates of obligation (COs) for the continuing repair/replacement of our street and drainage issues. This round of COs will provide for the completion of all remaining streets that need full reconstruction and will also address critical drainage at Mimosa/Krameria, North Manton, Carolwood and Glentower. In the meantime, Mayor Trevino, Councilman Izbrand and City Manager Rapelye continue to make progress in discussions with San Antonio representatives, in order to stop the flow of San Antonio storm water into Castle Hills and to find a more equitable sharing of the costs of these projects.

We also continue to prepare for the future of our City. I'm pleased to report that the Comprehensive Plan continues to move toward adoption by City Council. Earlier this month (March) Council agreed to a public hearing for the Plan, now in final draft form, at their next meeting on April 11. The timing of adoption



is uncertain as of this writing, but please feel free to review the Comprehensive Plan either with a hard copy available at City Hall or on the City's website.

The Plan was recently presented to a number of Castle Hills organizations and to the public in a workshop back in December. Since then, the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) has updated the Plan, incorporating comments as appropriate. It is important to note that the Plan is seen as a living document, meaning that it can be amended and updated periodically. CPAC will recommend that the Parks and Projects Commission (PPC) be the stewards of the Plan, responsible for managing proposed amendments, conducting regular reviews, and working with Council and the city manager to incorporate the Plan's priorities into the CIP. We do not want this work, representing over two years of hard work by CPAC and numerous citizens, to be put on a shelf and forgotten.

Finally, now that Council has established an Economic Development Committee, we need volunteers to serve with them. We have two but need three more. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please let me know.

Feel free to contact me to discuss these or other topics.

Jack Joyce

jjoyce@castlehills-tx.gov | 210-827-7222

"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."



PERMITS DEPARTMENT

By Priscilla Vasquez, Permits Clerk

Catching up at "The Castle"... Permits Edition

Do I need a permit? How long does it take to get a permit? What will happen if I don't get a permit? If you have ever found yourself asking these questions, then you have turned to the right page. I am the Permits Clerk for the City of Castle Hills, and these questions come into the office everyday via, phone calls, in person and email. I'll give you a quick rundown on the basics of the permitting process. First, if your scope of work needs to be inspected by one of our building inspectors then you need a permit. If you are hiring a contractor for a job, a permit is usually needed with the exception for landscaping and cosmetic work such as flooring, cabinetry, and painting. Some of the more frequent permits applied for are mechanical, electrical, and plumbing, which will require a permit especially if any wire, pipe or HVAC systems will be added, repaired, replaced or removed. Other frequent jobs requiring a permit are the addition or replacement of a fence. Basically, the addition of a new, non-existing fence will require a permit and a site plan, which is a bird's eye view of the property showing the placement of the fence and it's dimensions. The replacement of a fence or any repairs to an existing fence that are less than 25% of the total fence line, is considered maintenance and a permit is not needed. Dumpsters and storage pods of any kind require permits as well. Of course, here at Castle Hills, we all care about the trees and permits are needed for trimming or removal however, right now oak tree trimming is not permitted. Oak tree trimming is only permitted from July 1st through January 31.

Now, let's talk about the time it takes to get a permit. Fortunately, since Castle Hills isn't as large as some other municipalities, getting a permit isn't very time consuming. Permits are usually processed within the same day except for the permits that require a plan review such as new builds and remodeling which will of course take longer. We strive to get permits processed as quickly as possible. So, what happens if you start work without a permit? Unfortunately, there are penalties and work without a permit will result in a double charge and may lead to a civil court case. If you're still not sure you need a permit, please do not hesitate to call, or come by with your questions. We are happy to help. It is better to ask and avoid that extra charge. One last thing, please keep those permits posted. Posted permits not only help our building inspectors but also lets our code officer and everyone else know there is permitted work in progress.

I hope this little bit of information has helped and you feel comfortable and confident about the permitting process. Thank you for catching up with me at "The Castle".





Last year after the tragic events in Uvalde involving the Active Shooter, the police department conducted an assessment of our own Active Shooter readiness. Because of frequent employee turnover since our last Active Shooter training, we found several officers were lacking this specialized training. The Castle Hills Police Department hosted this class at Antonian High School for our officers as well as officers from other nearby agencies



that would respond for a critical incident. Just over 20 police officers attended the training provided by ALEERT for a period of two days. This training covered the officer's initial response to an Active Shooter/Attack incident.

To build on the Active Shooter training, ALEERT developed training focused on the integrated response of the police and fire departments to provide aid to the victims as well as the reunification of the survivors with their families. This coordinated training between police and fire personnel can effectively save lives by decreasing the time it takes for victims to receive medical attention. Recognizing the importance of this aspect, the police department sent an officer to be trained in this course as an instructor. Sergeant Davila was certified as an instructor after the one week of training. He then provided the training to the police and fire departments over the course of two days. Both departments worked together on practical exercises to apply the tactics we learned.



On Sunday, March 12th, both departments conducted an Active Shooter exercise at Antonian High School. This exercise was conducted in a manner to make it as real as possible. Approximately 20 students from Antonian Drama Club volunteered to help us by playing victim roles. They used moulage makeup to simulate various injuries. I am here to tell you; it looked very real and their acting

skills were on point. They were screaming and actually crying making the situation as real as possible for the first responders. The police department used blank ammunition and simunition rounds to add to the realism. Acadian EMS was also present for the extraction of the wounded from the school as police and fire departments were removing the victims. Mayor Trevino and Councilman Izbrand were also present as observers and both offered positive feedback from the exercises they observed.

Moving forward, the police department is planning to hold two Active Shooter exercises a year at different schools, churches, and businesses in an effort to maintain our readiness if the unthinkable happens in Castle Hills. I would like to thank Antonian High School for allowing us to conduct the training at their facility, the Antonian Drama Club for making the exercise a success, and lastly Mayor Trevino and Councilman Izbrand for their attendance.



CASTLE HILLS PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES SCHEDULE

REGULAR NON-HOLIDAY WEEK:

2023

Pick-up Garbage, Leaf Bags, Brush Piles, Recycling - MUST be out by 7:00 AM



MONDAY HOLIDAY: Garbage & Recycle only. No Brush or Leaves.



THURSDAY HOLIDAY: Garbage & Recycle only. No Brush or Leaves.



FRIDAY HOLIDAY: Garbage & Recycle only. No Brush or Leaves.



HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE Limit 3 32 Gallon Cans RECYCLE Bins/Containers labeled "Recycle" (or a large "R") No Limit of Bins/32 gal Containers BRUSH PILES Limit 3 Piles approximately 2.5 feet high, 2 feet wide, and 5 feet long LEAF BAGS Limit 10 32 Gallon Bags

2023 City Holidays		
JAN 2	New Year's Day	MON
JAN 16	ML King, JR. Day	MON
FEB 20	President's Day	MON
APR 28	Battle of Flowers Day	FRI
MAY 29	Memorial Day	MON
JULY 4	Independence Day	TUE
SEPT 4	Labor Day	MON
NOV 10	Veterans Day	FRI
NOV 23	Thanksgiving Day	THUR
NOV 24	Thanksgiving Day After	FRI
DEC 25	Christmas Day	MON

Important Note:

There is NO BRUSH OR LEAF PICKUP on a Holiday week. Do not put out brush or leaves as they will not be picked up. Regular brush and leaf pickup will resume the following non-holiday week.

For more information on sanitation services please visit the City's website at cityofcastlehills.com.

Dept of Public Works - (210) 293-9676

Castle Hills Community Organization

Saturday, April 22, 2023	Fiesta Castle Hills
	Parade at 10:00am and Fair (10:00am – 5:00pm)
Saturday, May 20, 2023	
Saturday, June 17, 2023	Splash Day (Time to be decided)
Sunday, July 16, 2023	Come join us for an Ice Cream Social – The Community Room (2:00 – 4:00pm)
, -	benefit Castle Hills Elementary and Jackson-Keller Elementary (9:00 – 11:00am)
Saturday, September 23, 2023	
Saturday, October 28, 2023	Trunk or Treat (5:30 – 6:30) Concert in the Commons to follow (7:00 – 9:00pm)
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	Wine and Cheese Night (members only) (6:30 – 8:00pm)

All activities are free and open to anyone except for the December event, as that is the Board's "thank you" to our current members.



Fiesta Is Upon Us!

Get ready to grab a Chicken-on-a-Stick (and plenty of other good eats!), get hit over the head with a cascarón, enjoy the lively music, and admire the exquisite gowns of the royal courts and the intrinsically beautiful floats passing by in the festive parades.

There is an abundance of activities to choose, including these "fan favorites":

April 21-23	Taste of New Orleans
April 21-22	St. Mary's Fiesta Oyster Bake
April 24	Texas Cavaliers River Parade
April 25-28	NIOSA® (A Night in Old San Antonio®)
April 27	Battle of Flowers Association® Band Festival
April 28	Battle of Flowers® Parade
April 29	King William Fair
April 29	Fiesta Flambeau® Parade

Check out full details and schedules at https://fiestasanantonio.org.









Help Keep Your Neighborhood Beautiful!



WHAT: City of Castle Hills will provide two dumpsters behind City Hall for a bulk drop-off

WHEN: Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please provide proof of

address (i.e., utility bill or driver's license)

WHERE: 209 Lemonwood Dr. (City team will be on-site to assist)

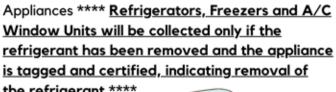
Accepted Materials:

Shrubs/Tree Branches/Woody Vines/Other Herbaceous & Woody Plants

BBQ Grills (without compressed gas tanks)

Carpeting Furniture Mattresses

Toilets Water Heaters





Materials NOT Accepted:

Household Trash

Hazardous Materials (paints, household

cleaners)

Compressed Gas Tanks

Tires/Batteries

Medical Waste

Appliances with refrigerant that has not been removed and certified





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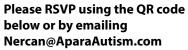
Community Connections

Apara Autism Centers of San Antonio



Come join us for real conversation on topics related to Autism and parenting.

This series is FREE and open to the public.





Reducing Meltdowns

Do you struggle with emotional outbursts with your child? Join us to talk about the "why" behind tantrums and meltdowns. Discuss alternative ways to help children communicate their wants and needs.

All meetings will be held at **Encino Public Library** 2515 E. Evans Rd San Antonio, TX 78259



Enroll Now!

Apara Autism Center (San Antonio North) 1922 Dry Creek Way, Suite 101 San Antonio, TX 78259



For more information:

CALL US AT: 877-789-9659 | WEBSITE: AparaAutism.com | EMAIL: info@aparaautism.com









Ages 15-18 years old March 21st-July 11th, 2023 **Every Tuesday 4:30-6:30pm**

skills in self-awareness, communication skills, social gatherings, and handling teasing or bullying. Topics will discuss current challenges that individuals are facing and provide proactive approaches for problem solving and

Does your child struggle with social interactions or making

friends? Join us for a 16 week program focused on building

building personal connections with others.