

CASTLE HILLS REPORTER



www.cityofcastlehills.com

**City
Launches
New
Website!**



Message From the Mayor Marcy Harper

Our City Website is a valuable asset for our residents and an introduction to our great city for non residents wanting to learn more about us. You can search for information on just about every facet of our city in an efficient

manner.

Our links and navigation elements are well defined. We have strived to provide the information you want.

Meet your Mayor and city council members. Search for council meetings, agendas and minutes. Find data on our Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment and Architectural Review Committee.

Read our quarterly newsletter, mailed to all residents and businesses. Learn a few facts about the history of Castle Hills – originally settled in the early 1920's, many tied to the oil industry. Leonard Yeakel was our first Mayor and our city incorporated in 1951.

You will find an introduction to our administration, fire department, police department, municipal court, public works and animal control. You can download employment applications and provide our dispatch with “out of town” information.

Data is provided on the schedule for garbage, brush and recycling collection. Check out the very impressive “men in blue” group photograph of our police force and our ladder fire truck.

Basic information is provided for the Castle Hills Woman's Club, Castle Hills Garden Club and the Castle Hills Homeowners Association.

For pet lovers – discover our fabulous animal control program, one of the few in existence in smaller municipalities. Our public works director, Rick Harada, is wisely commended for his role as Animal Control Officer. Our city provides lost and found data on all pets recorded in our city.

If you have any comments or suggestions for additions to our website, please call Rita Hoyl at 342-2341 or myself at 524-9200.

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**RESOLUTION # 0804-01**

A resolution commending Gabriel Morales on 28-1/2 years of loyal employment as police officer of the Castle Hills Police Department and honoring Gabriel Morales for 28-1/2 years of faithful and dedicated service to the residents of the city of Castle Hills.

RESOLUTION # 0806-02

A resolution that the City Council and its members, in behalf of themselves and of the citizens of Castle Hills do now hereby recognize and honor Helen Glass for her commendable and exemplary service as a council person over the past 16 years.

CORRECTION - Council Meeting Highlights: January 8, 2008 should read—
"Recommendation of the Zoning Commission on a request for a Special use Permit specified in Section 31.1702(6) to allow more than five (5) non-related individuals to live together in a dwelling as an institution of religious nature at 143 Honeysuckle Lane in the "A" Single Family Dwelling District—Councilman Gregory moved to accept the Zoning Commission's recommendation to deny the Special Use Permit. Passed three to two; Council members Huff and Howell voted against the motion.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 8, 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Resolution commending Police Lieutenant Gabriel Morales upon his retirement for 28-1/2 years of service with the City of Castle Hills—passed unanimously.
- Approval of a replat of a portion of West Oaks of Castle Hills Planned Unit Development subdivision, combining lots 28 and 29, and creating Lot 43, Block 10, C.H.C.B. 213—passed unanimously.
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission for an application to conduct auto sales at Auto-One Concepts located at 7121 Blanco Road—passed unanimously.

- Approval of launching the rebuilt City web site—passed three to two; Council members Davis and Gregory voted against.
- Ordinance revising Section 20.101 of the Municipal Code by removing the words "building permit" - passed four to one; Councilman Gregory voted against.
- Determining whether mosquito control will be provided by the City of Castle Hills—passed unanimously.

MAY 13, 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Resolution canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the May 10, 2008 General Election for the purpose of electing three council members for the City of Castle Hills—passed unanimously.
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission for a request from Angel Rabago for a Special Use Permit to operate an indoor body shop in the existing building located at 2161 NW Military Hwy.—passed unanimously.

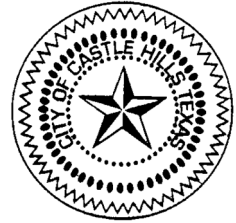
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission regarding proposed changes to "Lighting" language in Chapter 31 (added to three commercial zones) - passed unanimously.
- Type of traffic control to be used on Northcrest Drive—no action taken.
- Hiring Bond Counsel—McCall, Parkhurst, and Horton hired; passed unanimously.
- Prohibiting changeable electronic variable message signs in the City—passed unanimously.

JUNE 10, 2008

Consider and act upon:

- Resolution recognizing Helen Glass for 16 years of service on the City Council—passed unanimously.
- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission on a request from Father Thomas Coughlin for reconsideration and issuance of a Special Use Permit to allow more than five unrelated people to live at 143 Honeysuckle Lane—motion to approve the recommendations of the Zoning Commission passed four to one; Councilman Gregory opposed.
- Amending Section 13.109 Brush Regulations—tabled.
- Appointment of a Municipal Court Prosecutor—Lisa Wolff appointed.
- Request from Amanda Alarcon to erect temporary ground signs at 2241 NW Military Hwy.—tabled.

- Amending FY 2008 Budget for new accounting software—tabled.
- Amending FY 2008 Budget for landscaping and design of a monument sign at the entrance of Jackson Keller and Travertine—tabled.
- Appointment of an alderman to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for a period of one year—Council member Huff appointed.
- Determining what type of traffic control is to be used on Northcrest—motion to make Northcrest one-way going north toward Lockhill Selma from IH410 between the hours of 6 am-8 am and 4 pm-6 pm, Monday through Friday—passed unanimously.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

MARCELLA HUFF, PLACE 1, MAYOR PRO TEM



2008 is an election year. A presidential election year. Once again, we have the honor and responsibility of casting our vote for the candidate of our choice. This duty has always left me awestruck. How fortunate to live in a country where each vote counts. Now, some of you may scoff at this notion but I believe it to be very true.

Our votes don't just count when we pull the lever, mark the ballot, or press a button. Our votes count each and every time that we let our elected officials know what we think about a particular issue. The second Tuesday of every month we have first hand experience with this process at our city council meetings. But our voices shouldn't stop there.

It is remarkably easy to contact your representatives both in Austin and Washington. A letter, an e-mail, a phone call will all do the trick. You need look no farther than the local office of each representative. If there is an issue that is of concern to you let your representatives know how you feel and why. If enough constituents contact an elected official their voices will be heard. Of course, there is no guarantee that the response will always be what you want it to be. But, this doesn't mean that you shouldn't express your point of view, offer suggestions, or level warranted criticism. When you express yourself to your representatives you help to insure better government, better decisions, better outcomes. Now, doesn't this show your vote in a whole, new light?

As always, I can be reached at 349-6857. I look forward to seeing you at the next council meeting.

DOUGLAS GREGORY, PLACE 2, CITY TREASURER



Although the exact date has yet to be finalized by Council, it is likely that come November, Castle Hills citizens will vote on a bond issue to start the rebuilding of our infrastructure, i.e., streets and alleys. This will be a very important question to decide, consequently, there will be several "Town Hall Meetings" held to thoroughly outline what is to be done and the cost to the homeowner. Please attend these meetings. If you want to vote knowing the facts and not whispered rumors from uninformed "sources", these meetings will provide you the truth.

Recently, our zoning codes have come under attack from people who feel they should not be subject to those rules and regulations which have been carefully crafted to protect your neighborhood as a "single family neighborhood." Do not be fooled, these attacks will continue and unless you, the citizen/homeowner of Castle Hills, put pressure on your council members to uphold and strengthen these codes, our neighborhoods will never be the same. Active, informed, involvement is paramount in driving home to your representatives that defending codes to protect the long-term economic and physical nature of "single-family" neighborhoods is vitally important to you and will insure the long-term viability of Castle Hills. I have stood for these principles in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

In closing, have a great summer, relax and enjoy these lazy days, but in the fall attend these meetings on the bond issue then, up or down, be sure to vote.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call me on either 342-5442 or 378-4481.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

TIM HOWELL, PLACE 3



“The last thing council wanted to do is cut services or restrict services that were already in place, but we did have the charge to act in a reasonable way to make sure all were treated fairly and our Public Works Department didn’t get over loaded.”

Councilman Tim Howell

Hello Folks!!! I hope everyone is having a good start to their summer. If your yards look anything like mine, we are all going to be in for a dry one this year. I would encourage all to help our community by doing your part to conserve our water, but at the same time follow the guide lines set by our water company to keep our lawns looking beautiful.

This month I would like to talk about a subject that I have received many phone calls about. There is some confusion regarding the brush collection that we as Castle Hills residents enjoy on a weekly basis. At the last meeting we discussed the many options that we had available to us to maintain the service that our Public Works Department has provided over the years. The last thing council wanted to do is cut services or restrict services that were already in place, but we did have the charge to act in a reasonable way to make sure all were treated fairly and our Public Works Department didn’t get over loaded. With fuel costs rising and landfill dump costs at a premium, this was not an easy task to undertake. At the meeting’s conclusion we actually had so many different ideas that we decided to make final decisions at a future council meeting. I have included in my article this month a copy of the ordinance, which is in place at this time. I also have a short explanation which I obtained from our Public Works Director (Rick Harada) on brush pick-up (which seems to be the most confusing). On one single day (which would be your regularly scheduled brush pick-up day) you could have 6 trash bags and three bundles of branches or tied debris. A bundle is defined as a 33 gallon trash container turned on its side, tied and contained for pick-up. Please do not store your bags in the alley ways, but of course you may store your bags and bundles on your property for the next collection. Please contact Rick at City Hall for additional arrangements which can be made for pick-ups for a small fee. He can be reached at 342-2341. I do realize that mulching and composting is not for everyone, and some do not have the room on their property for such things, but I have found it works for me and others I have spoken to. You can find information regarding mulching and composting at the Bexar County Extension website. If you should have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to call me or better yet email me at timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com. My office number is 210-473-8505. Fax 210-979-0839

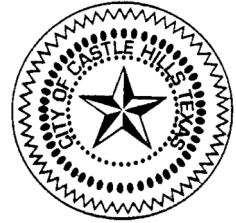
13.106 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

BRUSH. Includes leaves, lawn trimmings, grass cuttings, tree trimmings, hedge trimmings, weeds, flower stalks, and trees and tree limbs not to exceed three inches in diameter or five feet in length (or so cut).

GARBAGE. Includes rubbish and refuse, and as so defined shall include kitchen and household waste of all kinds, food scraps, food containers, ashes, tin cans, glass, paper, trash, and, in addition, all other substances capable of causing noxious odors. ('82 Code, § 13.106)





COUNCIL COMMENTS

§13.109 BRUSH REGULATIONS.

No **BRUSH**, as above defined, shall be mixed with any **GARBAGE** or refuse, as above defined. If a garbage container is used for brush, it shall contain no garbage at the time, and such trash shall be fully contained therein and not project out of same. All brush shall be placed in paper boxes, (or in garbage containers as above provided) except that trees and limbs not to exceed three inches in diameter and five feet in length may be stacked neatly on the ground. Brush shall be placed in the alley, where there is one, and along the front curb line, where there is not an alley. The collector shall not service more than the equivalent of three 30-gallon garbage cans of brush on any one call. Brush collection service shall be provided once a week at such time as may be set by the city. ('82 Code, § 13.109)

§ 13.203 ACCUMULATION OF TRASH IN ALLEYS.

It shall be unlawful for both the owner and for the tenant of any property in the city abutting upon a public alley or way to permit the accumulation of any trash or refuse of any kind therein upon that part thereof from his or her property line to the center thereof, or to permit any shrubbery, brush, weeds, grasses, or other vegetation whatsoever to grow therein to the center line to a height of greater than five inches. Every such tenant and owner is required to keep such alley cleaned up and in a passable, sightly, and sanitary condition, or cause same to be done, at all times. ('82 Code, § 13.203) (Ord. 230, passed 7-14-64)

As always I look forward to seeing all of you at the council meetings

BRUCE SMILEY, PLACE 4

Government works best when citizens participate in the process. Whether it is by voting, being willing to stand for public office or regularly attending city council meetings, it is important for all citizens to be involved in city government.

When citizens do participate, I believe that the men and women who serve on the city council should welcome their ideas and consider each one of them carefully. Because no person's opinion is more important than another's, I want our council to be open to new approaches to issues, while not forgetting that we are standing on the shoulders of those who served before us.

Their efforts have made Castle Hills the place where we want to live, and I, for one, appreciate their years of service.

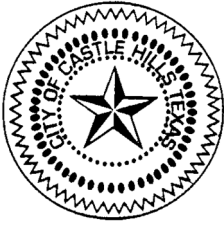
If voting is the only way you choose to participate in city government, there are many other ways to make your contribution. Joining a service club, volunteering to help garden club members beautify our city, welcoming new comers, the list is endless.

Castle Hills is a city on the move, and with all its citizens working together, we can keep it moving in the right direction. Tough economic times may result in city council members having to make some difficult decisions, but I assure you that they will be made thoughtfully and without bias.

I believe that it is a great privilege to serve as your alderman, and I appreciate those of you who voted for me. I will do my best to maintain your trust. For those who chose another candidate, I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve without being prejudged.

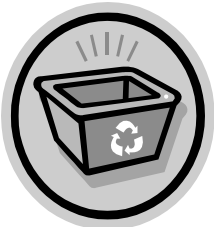
I do not expect everyone to agree with me on every issue, but I truly believe it is time for the residents of Castle Hills to be able to disagree without being disagreeable. This is a goal I feel very strongly about. When we lose all objectivity and buy into pre-judged, hate filled rhetoric, it defeats the very purpose of our city. It alienates our friends and causes strife among our residents.

Sharing ideas, respecting each other's opinion, and working together for the common good, we can make a great city an even greater one.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

“Let’s all become responsible recyclers and help our City, as well as, the environment”
**Councilman
 Tom Davis**



Recycle: glass bottles and jars, dry newspapers, plastic bottles and jugs, plastic medication bottles, tin and aluminum metal cans, and beverage cans.

TOM DAVIS, PLACE 5



As gasoline prices soar, we are all having to watching our budgets. The City of Castle Hills is also feeling the pinch. Each of us can help save money in many little ways that mount up to a big savings. Recycling is one way to stretch our city dollars. A truck load of recycle material cost far less to dispose of than a truck load of garbage. By making a commitment to recycle, we are each saving the city needed funds for other expenses. However, to recycle effectively we must be careful to only put acceptable items in the recycle bins to be picked up by our city crews.

When the trucks reach the recycle facility, if any truck load is found to contain any non-recyclable items, the whole truck load is charged at the higher rate as garbage. Here’s what is acceptable for recycling: glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, plastic medication bottles, tin and aluminum metal cans, beverage cans, and newspapers. Non-recyclable items include: plastic shopping bags (take those back to HEB and put them in the bin provided), magazines, catalogues and advertisements printed on slick paper, junk mail, old telephone books, paper milk and orange cartons that have waxy coverings, and all forms of cardboard, pastry containers, landscape containers, and Styrofoam.

New blue Castle Hills recycle bins can be purchased at the City Administrative Office from Rita Hoyl, Assistant City Manager for a fee of \$10.00 per bin and \$5.00 per lid.

On your weekly recycle day, you may put out multiple recycle bins for pick up. Let’s all become responsible recyclers and help our City, as well as, the environment.

If you have questions about what can be recycled, please call Rick Harada, Director of Public Works/Animal Control at 342-2341 extension 206.

CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION DISTRICT, Michael Rietz, City Manager



The City of Castle Hills has a Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) that was established in 2004 and is supported by a ¼ cent sales tax that brings in about \$170,000 in revenue annually. That district is managed by a seven-member board that is appointed by the City Council.

The CCPD has become a valuable source of support for our Police Department by helping the Department meet most of its major capital needs. The CCPD has established a fleet rotation system that allows us to acquire new patrol vehicles every three years and new vehicles for the criminal investigation division every five years. The CCPD also supports the Police Department’s technology needs by providing funding for computer maintenance, software support fees and the replacement of the mobile data computers in the vehicles. The CCPD is also providing the Police Department with Stinger stun guns, which are another brand of the “Taser”. Stun guns will provide our officers with another non-lethal option for dealing with conflict other than pepper spray or baton weapons. Other cities that have employed stun guns have seen a reduction in injuries both to police personnel and the suspects in their custody. The CCPD also supports various programs such as the National Night Out.

The CCPD provides all of this for our police department without burdening property taxes. There is currently an open seat on the CCPD Board, so if this sounds like something with which you would be interested in being involved, give me a call at 342-2341, ext. 214.

STAFF COMMENTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT, Gerald Riedel, Fire Chief



A concerned resident stopped me recently in City Hall and requested that I offer some safety tips for the use of candles. The following information is taken directly from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website.

Candle Statistics

Candles cause an estimated 15,600 fires in residential structures, 150 deaths, 1,270 injuries, and \$539 million in estimated direct property damage each year.

- Over half (55%) of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to some combustible material.
- More candle fires (38%) begin in the bedroom than in any other room.
- Falling asleep is a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 26% of the associated deaths.

- Half of all civilian candle fire deaths occur between midnight and 6am.
- December is the peak month for candle fires; Christmas is the peak day.
- Young children and older adults have the highest death risk from candle fires. The risk of a fatal candle fire appears higher when candles are used for light.

Tragic and Preventable Candle Fires

- Three sleeping boys died when a candle left burning in the living room ignited nearby combustibles.
- A man and his three children died in a fire when hot wax from an unattended candle dripped on curtains, igniting them.
- Eleven members of a family died in a fire when a lighted candle ignited a mattress.
- Two children died in a fire when a lighted candle rolled under the Christmas tree. A mother and young baby died when a burning candle used for

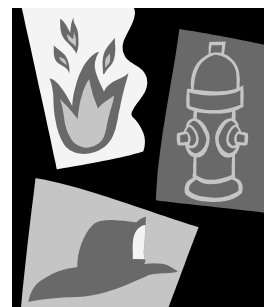
religious observances ignited cabinetry.

Candle Fire Safety Tips

- Avoid using lighted candles.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters, and fire carefully.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Extinguish candles after use.
- Establish a fire-safe home, especially a safe sleeping environment.

And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

Fact: The majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence.



Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - Candle Fires, September 2007

PUBLIC WORKS, Rick Harada, Public Works Director



Hope your summer is off to a good start. It has been a hot one already. Just a reminder that the sanitation and recycle collectors began the seasonal schedule mid June and will continue through the end of August. The collection routes begin at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Another important reminder is disposing of hazardous materials. Please do not combine any hazardous materials with your regular garbage pickup. Of particular concern this time of year is the combustion of pool chemicals when the collectors are not aware of their presence in the garbage container. We had an incident when gasses from various pool chemicals were inhaled by our collectors and both had trouble breathing, along with

irritation to their skin. Please follow label directions when using and disposing pool chemicals, or any hazardous chemicals. I appreciate your calls to inquire about what steps need to be taken. I will gladly remove them from the property and properly dispose them for you....and there is no charge for this service.

Soon you will be observing our street personnel in the drainage ditches removing sediment, trash, leaves, and broken tree limbs. Please do not allow your yardman to place any clippings, limbs, etc. in the drainage ditches. Also, if you observe this taking place, call me or Rita Hoyl right away. We like to catch them in the act, so that they can be cited and summoned to municipal court.

HOT WEATHER ALERT, Submitted by Homer C. Emery, Ph.D., R.S.

Castle Hills and the rest of Bexar County have been in a Hot Weather Health Watch since early June. When a heat index reading of 95 degrees is reached for two consecutive days the Metropolitan Health District issues a Level I Hot Weather Watch. During the Hot Weather Watch residents of Castle Hills are being asked to donate a new box fan to this year's Project Cool Program. Project Cool helps to get fans to those who may be at high risk of heat injury. To participate in Project Cool simply drop off a new box fan at the Castle Hills Fire Department. The Metro Health District Watch will stay in effect the rest of the summer.

In some parts of the country the heat has been deadly. This year Philadelphia has already reported 15 heat related fatalities and numerous cases of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. To keep the same thing from happening here, residents are being urged to "watch out for themselves and to help watch out for their neighbors", especially the very young and the very old.

Watch yourself during hot weather by taking the following precautions:

- * Plan to exercise and do outside work early or late in the day when it is cooler.
- * Drink non-alcoholic and caffeine-free liquids, such as water and juices.
- * Use an umbrella, hat or sun screen to protect your

skin from the sun and wear loose-fitting and light clothing to help heat escape away from your body.

* Ask your physician whether you are at particular risk because of medication. If you feel any symptoms of heat illness such as dizziness, nausea, muscle cramps or headache, immediately stop all activity and move to a cooler area to rest and drink fluids. Medical attention should be sought if symptoms do not improve.

Watch out for others who may be more vulnerable to the heat. Infants, children and the elderly are at higher risk of heat injury. Be on the watch for unattended children in parked cars. Last summer 35 deaths occurred nation wide when children were left unattended in parked cars during hot summer months. If you can't find the owner of the car, call 911 and report the situation.

When electric bills start going up in the summer, elderly neighbors who may be on fixed incomes may leave their air conditioners off and try to simply beat the heat. Make sure that neighbors who may be in this situation have plenty of house fans to help stay a bit cooler. If you think that an elderly neighbor who is over 60 might need a fan contact the Project Cool Program Coordinator by calling for 2-1-1 for information. Better yet, participate in Project Cool by dropping off a box fan at the Castle Hills Fire Department.

CODE COMPLIANCE, Rita Hoyl, Assistant City Manager

CITY CODE REMINDERS

CITY EASEMENTS & RIGHTS-OF WAYS:

It is illegal to allow any premises within the city, which consists in part of city-owned easements or rights-of-way (sidewalk, curbs, drainage, or utility) to permit this area to be covered with high grass, weeds or any unsightly conditions.

WEEDS IN ALLEYS

It is a violation for both the owner and the tenant of any property in the city abutting a public alley or way to permit any weeds, grasses, or other vegetation whatsoever to grow to the center line to a height of greater than five inches.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Landscape watering is prohibited between the hours of 10 A.M. and 8 P.M. every day, year-round, except with a hand held hose; carwash fundraisers are permitted only at commercial carwash facilities; and water waste is prohibited at all times

PET CORNER



Registration Required

Are your pets current on their vaccinations? All domestic pets in Castle Hills must be registered with the City. Registration is only \$10. Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for each pet.

Leash Law

Please be reminded that a dog must be under proper restraint at all times if not on the owner's premises.

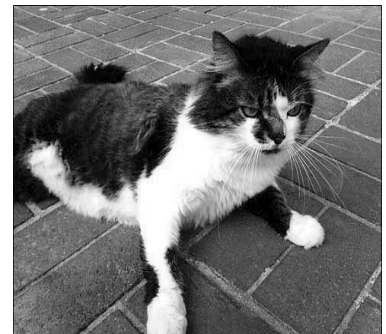
Although cats shall be exempt from the leash requirement while on the premises of the owner, any cat straying on the property of anyone except its owner shall be deemed a nuisance animal and will be subject to impoundment.

Pooper Scooper Law

Be a responsible pet owner. When walking your dog, carry the appropriate materials to pick up and remove waste immediately.

King Louie the First

Crowned El Rey Gato
2008 Fiesta's pussycat king!



King Louie, a former street cat, is owned by Anna Laura Howell, Castle Hills Woman's Club President.

King Louie has a good home and now sleeps on a comfy sofa.



YOUR COMMUNITY

Castle Hills Garage Sale, submitted by Pam Grunwald



"The sale raised \$2,010.03 to help in the beautification of Castle Hills"
Pam Grunwald

On May 2nd and 3rd, Vincent Solis, Scott Pam Grunwald and Vera Howard and a merry band of volunteers held the First Annual City of Castle Hills Garage Sale at Covenant Presbyterian Church. A big thank you goes to the volunteers: Nancy Winkler, Linda Street, Karla Henry-Reid, Dee Carduner, Debbie Hartman, Beverly Rollins, Don Smith, Gordon Heagelin, Gayle Pizzola, Dorothy Sims, Vincent Solis, Scott Grunwald & Buster Grunwald. We would also like to acknowledge the donations we received from U-Haul, the HEB located on West Ave. gave a \$50.00 gift card for supplies and drinks and Century Cash Registers for the loan of two cash registers along with the residents who so kindly donated. The sale raised \$2,010.03 to help in the beautification of Castle Hills. We will be submitting a plan to clean up and fix the planters located on Blanco Road and N.W. Military to the City Council. Keep an eye out for future improvements. As you are doing your spring cleaning, remember to call Pam Grunwald at 341-6655 or 669-4845 for pickup and storage until our next Garage Sale at Covenant Presbyterian Church which will be held on **May 1 & 2, 2009.**

Happy Birthday! Charlie turns 96!



Residents attending the June 10th council meeting celebrated resident videographer Charlie Barbera's 96th birthday.



CITY THANKS HELEN GLASS FOR SERVING ITS CITIZENS 16 YEARS



Helen Glass was recognized at the June 10th Council meeting, for serving 16 years on City Council. She was honored with a resolution, a bouquet of flowers and a plaque.

NEW CITY COUNCIL TAKES OATH



In keeping with tradition, Council member Marcella Huff, Place 1, asked Mayor Harper to administer the Oath of Office and Statement of Elected Officer at a Special meeting held May 29, 2008.

Judge Martha Tanner, administers the Oath of Office and Statement of Elected Official to newly elected Council member Bruce Smiley (left), Place 4.



Tom Davis, takes the Oath of Office administered by Judge Martha Tanner. Councilman Davis was re-elected to serve in Place 5.



May 13, 2008, Mayor Harper (far left) read and presented a Certificate of Election to newly elected council members (left to right) Marcella, Place 1, Bruce Smiley, Place 4, and Tom Davis, Place 5

IT'S HERE!



Council members Huff and Howell admire the new Pierce Fire Truck which arrived at the station July 8th.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Rick Harada Awarded Animal Control Officer of the Year!

At the 22nd Annual Southwest Texas Animal Care Conference, in May, Rick Harada, Public Works Director/Animal Control Officer was named Southwest Texas Animal Control Officer of the Year. Rick was out of state vacationing with his family during the conference and was not present to accept the award.

Rick was nominated for this award last year. He was chosen for his many accomplishments as an Animal Control Officer.

♦Rick excelled in remodeling the new shelter. Castle Hills has one of the finest facilities for a city of our size.

♦Rick rescued an injured dog on the Loop 410 exit ramp, took it to an emergency vet clinic for treatment and nursed the dog back to health over a 30-day period.

♦Rick had two incidents with deer last year. First one involved a dead deer entangled in a fence. He was told that the deer had given birth and he began searching for the fawns. The fawns were found and brought to our shelter and held until Animal Wildlife Rescue arrived. The second incident involved an eight-point buck entangled in chains from a swing set. After placing a tarp over the head of the deer and holding it by the horns, the deer was freed and released.

♦Rick obtained certification as an Animal Control Officer on his own time. Without the City's knowledge, he took personal vacation time, spent his own money, traveled to Harlingen, rented a motel room, studied, and took the exam.

Rick is truly a committed employee. We are blessed to have him.



Mayor Harper recognizes Rick Harada for his hard work in the Animal Control Department and presents the plaque awarded him by the Southwest Texas Animal Care and Control Association.

New Employees

Christopher A. Avila—Police Officer

Nathaniel E. Buchanan—Police Officer

Craig Christie—Court

Gilberto Reyes—Street Department

Anniversaries

1 Year Stephen Anderson, Police Officer
Curtis Covey, Fire Fighter
Wendy Reyes, Court
Michael Rietz, City Manager

5 Years Raul Lopez, Sanitation



Sgt. Seyfarth was invited to a question and answer session at Castle Hills First Baptist School. He visited seven classes in all. He is pictured here with Ms. Yvette's Preschool Class.



FOOD NEWS

Advisory for Local Food Service Owners and Operators submitted Homer C. Emery, Ph.D., R.S.

So far the multi-state outbreak of foodborne Salmonella has made more than 1,000 people sick. In Texas, nearly 400 cases of Salmonella have been reported with at least one death. This outbreak has been linked to the preparation and serving of raw tomatoes, jalapeño peppers and cilantro.

Based on recommendations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) local health officials are providing the following advisory to food service owners and operators related to the preparation and serving of raw tomatoes, jalapeño peppers and cilantro. This advisory also pertains to raw products such as fresh pico de gallo made from these ingredients. Products that have been cooked to at least 145 F or 15 seconds are not considered at risk.

FDA Advisory:

Until health officials know that the contaminated product or products are no longer on the market, persons with increased risk of severe infection, including infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems, should not eat raw jalapeño peppers or raw

serrano peppers. They should also only eat raw tomatoes that are on the FDA safe list. Produce grown at home is not part of this warning. Other persons who are concerned and who want to reduce their risk of *Salmonella* infection can take similar precautions. Consumers should be aware that raw jalapeño peppers are often used in the fresh preparation of salsa, pico de gallo, and other dishes.

At this time, FDA is advising U.S. consumers to limit their tomato consumption to specific types and specific sources. These include cherry tomatoes; grape tomatoes; tomatoes sold with the vine still attached; tomatoes grown at home; and red plum, red Roma, and round red tomatoes from specific sources listed at: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html>*. Consumers should be aware that raw tomatoes are often used in the preparation of fresh salsa, guacamole, and pico de gallo, are part of fillings for tortillas, and are used in many other dishes. Consumers everywhere are advised to follow the general food safety guidelines below:

- Refrigerate within 2 hours or

discard cut, peeled, or cooked produce items, including tomatoes and peppers.

- Avoid purchasing bruised or damaged tomatoes, peppers, and other produce items, and discard any that appear spoiled.

- Thoroughly wash all tomatoes, peppers, and other produce items under running water.

- Keep produce items that will be consumed raw separate from raw meats, raw seafood, and raw produce items.

- Wash cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and counter tops with hot water and soap when switching between types of food products.

FDA recommends that U.S. retail outlets, restaurants, and food service operators offer only fresh and fresh cut red plum, red Roma, and round red tomatoes and food products made from these tomatoes from specific sources listed at: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html#retailers>*. Cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, and tomatoes sold with the vine still attached from any source may be offered.

IMPORTANT DATES

LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

YOM KIPPUR
OCTOBER 9, 2008

VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2008

HANUKKAH
DECEMBER 22, 2008

ROSH HASHANAH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2008

THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 27, 2008

CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2008



HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2008	1 MONDAY	2 TUESDAY	3 WEDNESDAY	4 THURSDAY	5 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	HOLIDAY Labor Day		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	HOLIDAY Labor Day	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE	HOLIDAY Labor Day		South of Loop	North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				

NOVEMBER 2008	10 MONDAY	11 TUESDAY	12 WEDNESDAY	13 THURSDAY	14 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410		HOLIDAY Veteran's Day	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	Garbage Collection	HOLIDAY Veteran's Day		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE		HOLIDAY Veteran's Day	South of Loop	North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				

NOVEMBER 2008	25 MONDAY	25 TUESDAY	26 WEDNESDAY	27 THURSDAY	28 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410		Garbage Collection		THANKSGIVING Holiday	Holiday
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	Garbage Collection			THANKSGIVING Holiday	Holiday
RECYCLE			North & South of Loop	THANKSGIVING Holiday	Holiday
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				

SHOP CASTLE HILLS

New Businesses



ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS—2211 NW Military Hwy. (School Uniforms)

ADVANCED DATA SALES—812 Lockhill Selma (IBM Computer Intergrators)

BAEZ LAW FIRM, P.C.—1100 NW Loop 410, Suite (Law Firm)

BATCHELDER CONSTRUCTION, INC.—6804 West Avenue (Commercial Contractor)

BATTERIES PLUS—2277 NW Military Highway, #111 (Retail Batteries; auto computer, cell watch, cordless phone, camera, etc)

CERTIFIED AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SPECIALISTS (C.A.R.S.) - 2161 NW Loop 410 (Body shop & financial office)

EYES OF SAN ANTONIO—1009 NW Loop 410 (Practice of optometry, professional services, contact lenses, Optical)

KUPZ—2009 NW Military Hwy (Drive thru coffee shop) (new owner)

NORMA'S GARDENVIEW RESTAURANT—6701 Blanco Rd. (new owner)

SERP INC.—1100 NW Loop 410, #201 (Insurance brokerage)

THE CRUISE CENTER—1015 NW Loop 410 (Travel Agency)

ZORBA'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILL-2110 NW Military Hwy (Restaurant)

New Businesses "Coming Soon" To Castle Hills

ALTERNATIVE THERAPY, DITI IMAGING-1931 NW Military Hwy., #203 (Reflexology, colon hydrotherapy, nutritional counseling)

BIANCO'S CUCINA, LLC—7115 Blanco Rd. (Restaurant)

LUCY'S CHINESE MASSAGE-2211 NW Military Hwy.. #108 (Electrolosis Clinic)

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor:.....Marcy Harper
Place 1:Marcella Huff
 Mayor Pro Tem
Place 2:Douglas Gregory
 Treasurer
Place 3:Tim Howell
Place 4:Bruce A. Smiley
Place 5:Tom Davis

CASTLE HILLS CITY NEWSLETTER

The Castle Hills Reporter is published by the City of Castle Hills. For questions or comments regarding the information contained herein, contact:

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POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief Donald Davis, Ext. 210

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ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT
Director Rick Harada, Ext. 206

CODE COMPLIANCE/PERMITS
Rita Hoyl, Ext. 215

**ALL EMERGENCIES
EMT, FIRE & POLICE**

**CALL 911
24 Hours A Day**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All meetings are held at City Hall unless
otherwise posted

City Council
2nd Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.

Architectural Review Committee
3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m.
Upon request

Board of Adjustment
3rd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.
Upon request

Zoning Commission
1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.
Upon request

Crime Control &
Prevention District
3rd Monday – 6:30 p.m.