

May / June 2024



# *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,

Did you enjoy our cool Fiesta Castle Hills? It was a delight! The cool weather appears to be gone and now we are on our way to a long summer ready for Concerts in the Commons and movie nights with the family.

## Street Updates

What would a Reporter article be like if you didn't have SOME mention of streets and drainage? At the April Council meeting, City Council voted to approve the reconstruction of Glentower, as part of the shared street improvement plan. The contractors plan to be done by the end of the summer at the latest but they expect to have it done sooner!

Next on the list of streets are North Manton and Carolwood, both of which will be comprehensive street AND drainage projects to finally address the flooding that occurs after the smallest rains. It is worth noting that the drainage improvements that we are making will help with the majority of rains but the 20, 50, and 100 year rains may still present some challenges. Council had discussed "upsizing" but it was incredibly cost prohibitive. Most importantly, the current configuration will help keep properties safe! You can expect to see construction start in the late Summer once we receive all the proposals from contractors.

The Carolwood project truly is an amazing collaboration. As you know we were able to partner with the City of San Antonio and Bexar County for funding. Most recently we met with the San Antonio River Authority and we are exploring collaborative options with them as well. If all goes to plan, we will have support from SAWS too for some of the infrastructure in the work area. Talk about a team effort!

Once Glentower, North Manton, and Carolwood are done, the only straggler should be Moss. Make no mistake that we already have our sights set! We are currently assessing the most practical route to extend its useful life. The hope is to have Moss on the list to be done before 2025!

Lastly, the most trafficked corridor that we are responsible for is West Avenue. Our engineers are currently assembling a 3 phased plan to address West Avenue. The first step is addressing the small spots of base failures that are creating large potholes around Antonian. This will hopefully be done by the time you are receiving this newsletter. The next phase will be reconstruction of a segment between Antonian and Castle Hills Christian Church. This will include assistance from SAWS in regards to the trenching of the road near the drainage channel; this has been an issue for almost 20 years. You can expect to see this during the summer. The last phase will be a sealcoat of all of West Avenue. The plan is to do that during the holidays in November.

Recently, I visited with our City Manager Ryan Rapelye about our street improvements. It is astonishing to see the progress we have made in streets in just 5 years. Nearly every single street has some level of maintenance or reconstruction to help extend its useful life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your confidence in City Staff and City Council in trusting us to be good fiscal stewards of your hard-earned dollars.

## Community Policing

After the tragedy in Uvalde, we have been working extra diligently to train our staff to better handle these unfortunate events. Aside from training our team, it is also important that we share that training. One of our officers, Detective Wright, was invited to instruct an active shooter training called "CRAZE" Citizens Responding to Active Shooter Events to the

(Continued on page 3)



## CITY COUNCIL

**JR Trevino**  
Mayor

**Jason Smith**  
Place 1

**Denise Haley**  
Place 2

**Kurt May**  
Place 3

**Jack Joyce**  
Mayor Pro Tem, Place 4

**Beth Daines**  
Place 5

## CITY STAFF

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

**Nichole Heinrich**  
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, 6:30 p.m.  
Upon Request

**Crime Control & Prevention  
District**  
3rd Monday, 5:30 p.m.  
Quarterly or as needed

(Continued from page 2)

Texas Municipal Clerks Association – Alamo Chapter. The room was full as attendees came as far as Eagle Pass to attend.

The CRAZE program is a program by Texas State University's ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training). Thank you to Detective Wright for helping train our community to better handle these unfortunate events.

### Fiesta Fiesta!

As always Fiesta Castle Hills was an absolute blast! It seems as though each year it gets bigger and bigger! From the parade to the festival, it is great to see how the event has grown. While there is a very long list of volunteers, there are



two people that have tirelessly volunteered, Judy Crawford and Norma McClelland. If you see them out, please thank them! Additionally, if you really enjoyed Fiesta Castle Hills please consider reaching out to see how you can help. There are lots of ways that you

can engage and help contribute your time, talent, or treasure to ensuring a success! Please reach out to me if you are looking for a way to plug in and join the team.

Aside from being an "Official Fiesta" event, we are getting visits from some leaders. This year we were joined by Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar and State Senator Jose Menendez, both of whom have been great partners to Castle Hills!

We look forward to seeing you out in the Commons this summer. If we can be of service, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Yours in service,


**JR Treviño**

**Mayor**

**JTrevino@CastleHills-TX.Gov**

**210-559-5940**





**MESSAGE FROM**

**THE CITY MANAGER**

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager

The Fiesta Castle Hills Parade and Fair was a huge success! I would like to thank and recognize all the arduous work by the Castle Hills Community Organization, which involved the planning and preparation for Fiesta Castle Hills. We would like to thank everyone involved including City staff who volunteered their personal time and assisted with the event. Special thanks to Public Works who prepared the Commons during the week before the vendors arrived on Friday. I would also like to thank the Castle Hills Police Department who assisted with the coordination of pre-parade activities including traffic control during the parade. Thank you to the Castle Hills Fire Department for your participation, and thank you to Rick Harada, Public Works Director for towing the City hall staff float. I would also like to recognize all the work by the City staff who decorated and participated in this year's float. We will see you back in April 2025.

The teamwork and commitment by our City staff during Fiesta, including many other events throughout the year, is a stellar example to go above and beyond, displaying their commitment to serving the community and Castle Hills as a whole. As City Manager, I along with our employees have worked diligently to create a culture and/or foundation sustained by customer service, responsiveness, effective management, and unwavering spirit to assist residents in Castle Hills. Our team whether this is Public Works clearing out drainage channels, removing graffiti and out everyday to collect trash, brush and recycle, the Police and Fire Departments responding to emergency services and are staff at City hall staff assisting with residential or commercial permits, this is what I refer to as Team Castle Hills!

I am very appreciative of the Mayor & Council over the last few years who have put the residents and City staff first. This has been illustrated in the development of our annual budgets to ensure we are taking the steps to have superb services and ensuring we are competitive with other cities to retain and hire City staff for the City of Castle Hills.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

This summer, the City of Castle Hills will be taking steps to develop the FY 25 Fiscal Year Budget. The FY 25 Budget will begin on October 1, 2024. We will be wrapping up the current nine-month budget on September 30, 2024. Previously, the City of Castle Hills fiscal budget operated from January 1 through December 31. We have now taken the necessary steps to change the fiscal year to eventually run from October 1 through September 30, which is consistent with many cities in the State of Texas.

This year during the development of the FY 25 Budget, we will start earlier than in previous years. We will have a workshop later in May to kick off the development of the FY 25 budget which was typically done in July. Staff will be working with City Council to prioritize areas of the organization, specifically the Fire department, focusing on the compensation in comparison to other cities to ensure we are competitive to recruit and retain firefighters, also finalizing the allocation of the federal funds related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and evaluating other areas related to services for the City of Castle Hills. Every year when we develop the budget, it is not only about revenue and expenditures, but also a review of City services consistent with best practices for our organization to improve and evolve in the coming years. We will also review the next round of street projects, specifically streets which require a mill/overlay. We will also be considering further improvements for the Commons and review other projects related to City services.

As for the development of the upcoming FY 25 Fiscal Year Budget, we will have a budget calendar presented to City Council in May. This will consist of a series of meetings which will be late May and in June with adoption of the annual budget taking place in September. A copy of the budget calendar will be on the website later this month for anyone who wishes to attend any upcoming budget meetings this Summer.

As always, I would like to send a THANKYOU to all our employees who make up "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 [rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov) or at the office at 210.293.9673 if you have any questions on projects or need assistance with services from the City of Castle Hills.



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## COUNCIL COMMENTS



**JASON SMITH**  
PLACE 1

Hello, neighbors.

I wanted to give a quick update on our street improvement projects that are coming up.

### *Lockhill-Selma and Carolwood Drainage Improvements*

City Manager Rapelye reports that our City's engineers are working on potential utility conflicts with SAWS and CPS Energy. Once this has been completed, the City will go out to bid on the project. As of right now, we anticipate beginning construction of the drainage and road improvements later this summer. These improvements have been long-needed and will greatly improve our safety and quality of life; however, the work will cause significant upheaval to our neighbors living in the construction zone (including myself). Once we have a better understanding of construction plans and timing, Mr. Rapelye and I plan to have one or more town hall meetings that will be open to the public, but specifically geared at informing the affected residents of what we can expect and how to start planning for the inevitable interruptions to our daily lives. We'll have more information about times and places in a later update, so stay tuned.

### *Calming Traffic on South Winston*

In other street improvement news, I have an update on a citizen request. This Aggie's second-favorite Longhorn Mr. Wayne Carter\* spoke to the Council some months back requesting that we look into traffic calming devices, namely speed humps (which are generally longer and less severe than speed bumps) to reduce speeding on South Winston. As I write, our City's Engineers are finishing up their comprehensive speed study throughout the City and will determine if it is necessary to re-evaluate our city-wide speed limit of 30 MPH. Once we have the study, the City Manager and Council will review the recommendations from the City's engineers on which streets would benefit the most from having a traffic calming device, this will be done on a case-by-case basis for implementation in the FY2025 budget.

As always, we welcome any input or suggestions you have on these or any other matters that affect your life in Castle Hills.

**Jason Smith,**

**Council Member Place 1**

**[jsmith@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:jsmith@castlehills-tx.gov)**  
**(210)643-9214**

*\*Apologies Mr. Carter, but my wife takes the top-billing.*





## DENISE HALEY

### PLACE 2

Dear Neighbors,

With our city's renewed focus on economic development I've been taking a fresh look at our business community as I drive around town, and it has been a real eye-opener. Whether you've just moved in or have lived here for many years, there's a lot to see! Here are some examples of only a part of what's available to us in our 2-1/2-square-mile city.

Our shopping centers offer a variety of retail stores, from pet supplies to furniture to jewelry to sporting goods, and more; restaurants featuring cuisine from around the world and around the country, as well as coffee and special treats; a craft beer brewery; and personal and professional services. Many of these personal and professional services are also located in office parks and buildings. We have auto repair and maintenance businesses, home and window cleaning services, fitness centers, medical and dental offices, a veterinary clinic, and our own supermarket. And that's only the beginning! Whew!

So where ARE all these wonderful places to shop, dine, and do business, and for that matter, where exactly IS Castle Hills? With area neighborhoods and businesses (some nowhere near our city) including "Castle Hills" in their names, that can be confusing for new and long-time residents alike. Here's a turn-by-turn tour of the city.

The city's north boundary is Wedgwood Dr., starting at the back edge of the McGimsey BSA Scout Park on the west side of N.W. Military, across N.W. Military on Lockhill-Selma southeast to Blanco Rd.; right on Blanco Rd., south to Jackson-Keller, then right on Jackson-Keller, northwest on Jackson-Keller across Loop 410 to the railroad tracks and back to the Scout Park. Business zoning is along these "city limit" streets and our interior streets, N.W. Military ("Main Street") from Loop 410 to Lockhill-Selma; West Avenue between Jackson-Keller and Blanco; and Loop 410 between Blanco and Jackson-Keller.

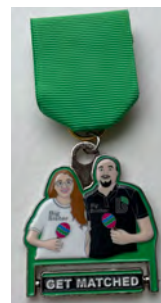
Next time you're out and about and have a few minutes, stop by a shopping center or office park and check out the businesses located there. After a while you will have visited them all. You

might discover all kinds of new stores to shop in and restaurants to dine in or take out. We really can dine around the world right here in Castle Hills!

Doing business with Castle Hills businesses whenever we can accomplishes several things. Not only does sales tax revenue increase, our being friendly and welcoming and letting our businesses know we live in Castle Hills helps them feel connected to our community and know that their community supports them.

One last thing. Our city is full of interesting people with delightful stories! Maddy Dillon and Armen Babajianian, long-time mentors in the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program, met at a BBBS mixer five years ago. Their shared commitment to mentorship and that extra spark led them to a special "match," and they were married in March. They are even featured on 2024 BBBS Fiesta medal! To add to that, their across-the-street neighbors Aisattou and Stewart Blanton were also "matched" years ago after being longtime BBBS mentors and meeting at a BBBS event. Talk about having something in common!

That's a fun story shared by across-the-street neighbors. What about our stories? We all have them about any number of things, and they're worth telling and hearing. It starts with a conversation that can lead to "tell me about that!" and finding out new and interesting things about our neighbors. It helps us be better connected. The State of Texas' "Know Your Neighbor" campaign puts it this way: "Staying connected can be a challenge, but the negative impacts isolation and loneliness have on our health and wellbeing makes staying socially connected a necessity." So, the more conversations we have and stories we tell and hear, the more connected we become and the stronger and healthier our community will be. Because now more than ever, Community Matters.



**Denise Haley,**

**Council Member Place 2**

**(210) 596-9686**

**[dhaley@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:dhaley@castlehills-tx.gov)**

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## KURT MAY

### PLACE 3

Every Spring the City Council prepares to begin the budget season with research, constituent input, and advisements from the City Manager, Chief of Police, Chief of the Fire Department, and Public Works. I invite citizens to come to City Council meetings, or provide input to any member of City Council, or the Mayor. This provides clear direction as Council votes on the budget toward the end of summer.

This time of year is also the time when newly elected members of Council renew appointments for the standing committees, Commissions and Boards. For those who have recently moved to Castle Hills this is an opportunity to serve the community. Serving on the Zoning Commission, Architectural Review Committee, the Crime Control and Prevention Committee, the Economic Development Committee, the Board of Adjustment, or the Parks and Projects Commission, provides the stability to keep our city poised to maintain our services and plan. Any member of the City Council or Mayor would be pleased to discuss ways you can become more involved in the city's operation and affairs. Their points of contact may be found in this publication and on the City of Castle Hills website.

In addition to the city-sponsored organizations there are several other organizations that are open to citizens without limitation. They include the Castle Hills Community Organization, the Castle Hills Woman's Club, the Castle Hills Garden Club, the Castle Hills Business Association, and the Castle Hills Historical Society. These groups do a great deal to improve the quality of life and community spirit in Castle Hills. I encourage your involvement.

I look forward to your input and seeing you at community sponsored events. Please use the phone number and email below for a point of contact.

Always at your service,

**Kurt May**  
[Kurtmay1961@gmail.com](mailto:Kurtmay1961@gmail.com)  
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## JACK JOYCE

### PLACE 4, Mayor Pro Tem

Friends and Neighbors,

As I write this article, we just completed another successful Fiesta Castle Hills. The parade and festival get larger and more fun with each passing year. There seems to be more and more young families with children, which adds to the fun and bodes well for our future. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Castle Hills Community organization (CHCO) leaders Norma McClelland and Judy Crawford and their team for another job well done. Their year-long planning effort assured a wonderful event enjoyed by hundreds of Castle Hills residents as well as neighbors from many surrounding communities.

In the last edition of The Reporter, I offered updates on the activities of the Parks and Projects Commission (P and P) and Economic Development Committee. The volunteers of P and P continue to make good progress, and we expect the construction of the Commons new permanent stage to begin in the June/July timeframe. If all goes well, construction of seven concrete sculpture pedestals should begin at about the same time.

Meanwhile, the city continues to make progress with Comprehensive Plan priorities. Following Council approval, City Manager Rapelye signed a contract with Creative Civilization, a leading advertising, marketing, and public relations firm, to develop a comprehensive branding strategy for our city. This is the #2 priority of the Comp Plan. Please see a description of the project elsewhere in this publication. This undertaking is a critical piece in our economic development effort to develop a marketing plan for Castle Hills. It will be funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant.

Progress is also being made on the next Comp Plan priority, developing more green space for the city. Our city engineers have been engaged to complete the design of the drainage channel that begins at East Castle between S. Manton and Zornia and runs all the way to West Avenue. Although the hydraulics do not allow for the channel to be a linear park as we had hoped, they will study the addition of a walking trail running along the channel, thus allowing residents to enjoy the lovely country feel of this neighborhood. One of the critical pieces of this idea will be acquiring permission of property owners to allow this trail on their property. We look forward to those discussions once a concept plan has been developed.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer.  
 Comments and thoughts welcome as always.

**Jack Joyce**  
[jjoyce@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:jjoyce@castlehills-tx.gov)  
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## BETH DAINES PLACE 5

Castle Hills Friends and Neighbors,

As we start warming up to summer, I would like to share some updates and news from our community.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made last month's Fiesta Catle Hills event a fun and successful celebration of our community's spirit. Our Fiesta Committee's enthusiasm and hard work again put on a festive event that brought joy to all ages. If you enjoyed the Parade or the Fiesta booths in the Commons, please consider volunteering your time and talent next year!

You may notice some changes in the Commons as we gear up for summer activities, like the Concerts in the Commons. We are building a new concrete stage! This will be a permanent installation with a ramp, available electrical, and eventually will have a roof to protect from the elements.

As our city looks to the future, we are reviewing necessary changes to City Hall and the Police Station. Soon we will be hosting a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss options to update City Hall. These meetings will provide a platform for residents to share their thoughts and ideas on how we can best meet the needs of our police, dispatch, administration, and court functions. Please stay tuned for more details on these important meetings.

Council will also be hosting Budget Workshops beginning in June to work through next year's budget. Castle Hills has changed our fiscal year to October 1 - September 30, to better align with other governments and our spending needs. If you would like to learn more, or have ideas to share, plan to attend a budget workshop.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Events and Holiday Calendar

### MAY 2024

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**  
- Spring Bulk Dropoff Event

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**  
- City Council Meeting

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**  
- Concert in The Commons

**Monday, May 20, 2024**  
- Board of Adjustment Meeting

**Monday, May 27, 2024**  
- Memorial Day Holiday - City Hall Closed

### JUNE 2024

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**  
- Splash Day!

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024**  
- City Council Meeting

**Monday, June 24, 2024**  
- Board of Adjustment Meeting

## looking to drive down costs? I see your route to savings



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(Continued from page 7)

As always, I am here to listen to your feedback and ideas. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions you may have. Together, we can continue to make Castle Hills a vibrant and inclusive community of which we can all be proud.

**Beth Daines**  
Council Member, Place 5  
City of Castle Hills  
[bdaines@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:bdaines@castlehills-tx.gov)



## Breaking News! Download the new and improved 311SA Mobile App

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## You are Invited to Participate in the City of Castle Hills Brand Evolution Project

A principal element of the Castle Hills Comprehensive Plan is the challenge and opportunity to elevate our brand visibility and relationship with current and prospective residents, businesses, and community at large. Our brand communications vision is to be true to the inherent values of the City of Castle Hills, while introducing a fresh and engaging image in catapulting a new era of growth and quality of life for all.

The first phase of the City of Castle Hills brand evolution process will be dedicated to identifying current beliefs or perceptions of the Castle Hills brand. It will help build a message strategy foundation for the creation of new messaging, tagline, logo, and communications methods. With that, we invite you to participate in one of three Discovery Sessions that will be conducted at City Hall on the following dates:

### Residents

**May 15, 2024 - 6pm to 8pm**

**May 22, 2024 - 6pm to 8pm**

### Businesses

**May 28, 2024 - 6pm to 8pm**

The Brand Evolution Project will be led by Creative Civilization, a well-known and highly respected local marketing communications firm with a strong history of leading numerous high visibility public and private sector brands. Creative Civilization led the brand evolution of the former City Public Service to what is now known as CPS Energy, the former Municipal Auditorium to the now Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, as well as brand evolution for many other entities. If you have ever chanted Go Spurs Go, then you know the work of Creative Civilization, the creators of that ubiquitous mantra having served as the Spurs ad agency for fourteen years.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the Brand Evolution Discovery Sessions. Please RSVP with an email to

[nheinrich@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:nheinrich@castlehills-tx.gov).



# Castle Hills Police Department

By Tina Vitacco, Assistant Chief of Police



Greetings Castle Hills! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone, my name is Tina Vitacco, and I am your new Assistant Chief of Police. I have been in law enforcement for a little over 41 years and have experience as a records clerk, 911 dispatcher, police officer, detective, and supervisor. I'm very excited to be here starting my next chapter and I hope to continue the unrivaled policing services

you have grown to expect in our engaged and diverse community. At my former agency, I was very involved with our Citizens' Police Academy, National Night Out and Heroes' Weekend. I hope to bring some of these programs and even some new ones to Castle Hills (I'm open to suggestions). As an Adjunct Instructor for AACOG's Law Enforcement Academy, I also hope to host more training opportunities for our officers and telecommunicators. Stay safe!



## VOTE in the 2024 ELECTIONS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that provides the Voters Guide. It is available in public libraries and online [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

**TUESDAY, 28 MAY** – Joint Democratic-Republican Runoff Election

**TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER** – General (National) Election



Your WaterSaver Rewards points will be awarded within two weeks after you have attended an approved event. If you are interested in signing up for the rewards program or want to learn

more information, please visit:

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To view the CPS Calendar of Events, visit:  
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# Castle Hills Fire Department

By Chief Jim Ladewig



## Spring Fire Safety Tips

The weather is getting warmer. While doing your spring cleaning and preparing for summer, don't forget to add some fire safety tips to your list. By following these simple tips, you can help reduce the risk of a fire happening in your home.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent a fire is to keep your home clean. Make sure to dispose of winter foliage and any clutter that was collected over the winter. Here are some additional tips to make sure we all have a fire safe summer.

### 1. Clear out any clutter from your home, especially in hallways and stairways.

Make sure that all of your exits are clear and have a clear path to them. If you have any items blocking an exit, move them immediately. This ensures your family will have good escape routes should you need to evacuate due to fire.

### 2. Check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors

Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are working properly. Now is an excellent time to

install them if you don't have any. Replace your carbon monoxide and smoke detector batteries and look for any corrosion on the batteries or their connection points in the device.

### 3. Don't use electrical appliances or tools with frayed cords

If you have any electrical appliances or tools with frayed electrical cords, replace them as soon as possible. Using damaged electrical cords could start a fire. This is also an excellent time to check your extension cords too. Too many devices plugged in can overload the outlet and cause a fire.

### 5. Check all your appliances to make sure they are in good working condition.

This includes your stove, oven, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, and anything else you use daily. If you notice any issues with an appliance, have it repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

### 6. It's a great time to clean your clothes dryer vent and lint trap

Regularly clean your clothes dryer lint trap. Lint is highly combustible and can easily cause a fire if it isn't removed. Clean your dryer vent and hoses at least once a year to remove and prevent any excess lint buildup or blockages.

### 7. Trim any trees or bushes that are close to your home.

Trimming away any bushes or trees that are too close to your house creates a "defensible space" between your home and potential fire sources. Additionally, if you have dead or dying trees, now is an excellent time to remove them. Dead vegetation is highly flammable and can easily catch fire.

### 8. Check your gas grill for rust, worn parts, grease, and other debris before use

Grilling is a popular spring and summer activity, but it's essential to ensure your grill is clean and in safe operational order. Remove any rust, grease, or debris built up over the winter. Inspect all parts to make sure they are in good working condition. If you notice any worn parts, have them replaced. It's a great time to check your grill's propane tank for gas leaks. Move the grill at least 10 ft. away from the house before using.

### 9. Make sure your home's address is visible from the street.

If your home's address is not visible from the street, it will be difficult for emergency responders to find your home in the event of a fire or other emergencies. Make sure that your house number is visible and easy to read from the street. If you need to, repaint or replace your address sign.

By following these simple tips, you can help reduce the risk of a fire happening in your home. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the fire department for assistance.

Fire Chief Jim Ladewig  
Castle Hills Fire Dept.  
(210) 293-9677

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## 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 11, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 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

Appliances \*\*\*\* Refrigerators, Freezers and A/C

Window Units will be collected only if the  
refrigerant has been removed and the appliance  
is tagged and certified, indicating removal of  
the refrigerant \*\*\*\*



### Materials NOT Accepted:

Household Trash

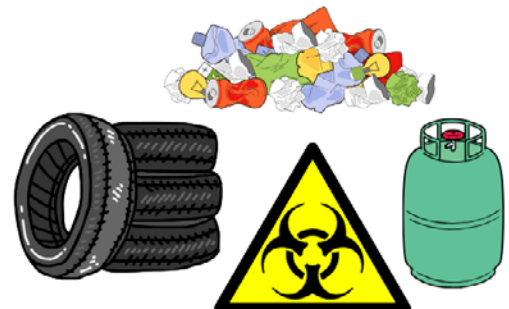
Hazardous Materials (paints, household  
cleaners)

Compressed Gas Tanks

Tires/Batteries

Medical Waste

Appliances with refrigerant that has not been  
removed and certified





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# CASTLE HILLS PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES SCHEDULE

## REGULAR NON-HOLIDAY WEEK:

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

# 2024

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

### HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

Limit 3  
32 Gallon Cans



### RECYCLE

Bins/Containers labeled  
"Recycle" (or a large "R")  
No Limit



### BRUSH PILES

Limit 3 Piles  
approximately 2.5 feet high, 2 feet  
wide, and 5 feet long



### LEAF BAGS

Limit 10  
32 Gallon Bags



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

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

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

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

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

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

**TUESDAY HOLIDAY:** Garbage & Recycle only. No Brush or Leaves.

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

### 2024 City Holidays

JAN 1	New Year's Day	MON
JAN 15	ML King, JR. Day	MON
FEB 19	President's Day	MON
APR 26	Battle of Flowers Day	FRI
MAY 27	Memorial Day	MON
JULY 4	Independence Day	THUR
SEPT 2	Labor Day	MON
NOV 11	Veterans Day	MON
NOV 28	Thanksgiving Day	THUR
NOV 29	Thanksgiving Day After	FRI
DEC 24	Christmas Eve	TUE
DEC 25	Christmas Day	WED

### 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.

*Thank You!*

# 2024

If you have any question, please contact Public Works at 210-293-9676 or 210-293-9683

See City Website for more information: <https://www.cityofcastlehills.com/2162/Garbage-Brush-Recycling-Guide>





BOTH RECIPES THIS MONTH ARE TAKEN FROM  
"The Grace Filled Homestead" book

## STRAWBERRY POUND CAKE TOWER

(A pound cake is named after the measurement needed for each of the first 4 ingredients)

### For Cake:

- 1 lb. (4 sticks) butter
- 1 lb. (2 cups) sugar
- 1 lb. (9 large) eggs
- 1 lb. (4 cups) flour
- 2 Tbsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup sour cream



*This cake makes a large amount -  
feel free to cut in half if only making  
for your family*

### For Topping:

- 3 pints (6 cups) strawberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 16 oz. whipped cream

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour 2 8-inch round pans. Beat the softened butter on medium until creamy and then add sugar and sour cream. Mix for 2 minutes. Add eggs to mixture. Add vanilla and then flour gradually, 1/2 cup at a time beating after each. At end - beat for additional 2 minutes. Spread batter evenly in prepared pans. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool for 20 minutes, then invert cakes onto cooling rack. Let them cool in the refrigerator for 1 hour. Using a long, serrated knife - barely cut off the tops of the cakes to make them flat. Then create 2 layers from each cake by slicing them in half horizontally. Wash strawberries, remove stems, and cut berries in half. Mix with sugar and refrigerate for at least 1 hour while juices develop. Assemble the tower in layers, starting with cake, strawberry mixture, and whipped cream. Repeat layers. Top with a couple of whole strawberries as a garnish.

## CINNAMON ROLL COFFEE CAKE

### FOR COFFEE CAKE:

(boxed yellow cake mix can be substituted  
For the first 4 ingredients)

- 2 1/4 c. unbleached all purpose flour
- 1 lb. (2 cups) sugar
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 c. vegetable oil
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon

### For Icing:

- 1/4 c. milk
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 2 Tbsp. butter



### Directions:

Mix first 4 ingredients. Then add eggs, oil, and sour cream. Pour the batter into a 9X13 inch greased pan. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon. Spread mixture on top with a butter knife, swirling it into the top of the batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes and then let cool. Mix the icing ingredients in a separate bowl and add it to the top of the cake. Served well with strong black coffee. Enjoy! create 2 layers from each cake by slicing them in half horizontally. Wash strawberries, remove stems, and cut berries in half. Mix with sugar and refrigerate for at least 1 hour while juices develop. Assemble the tower in layers, starting with cake, strawberry mixture, and whipped cream. Repeat layers. Top with a couple of whole strawberries as a garnish.

## Happy Mother's Day Word Search



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle.  
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |            |                 |                 |             |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Mothers | 6. Holiday      | 11. Respect     | 16. Giving  |
| 2. Day     | 7. Loving       | 12. Thoughtful  | 17. Special |
| 3. Moms    | 8. Caring       | 13. Family      | 18. Happy   |
| 4. Kids    | 9. Children     | 14. Considerate | 19. May     |
| 5. Parent  | 10. Grandmother | 15. Honor       | 20. Spring  |

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**THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY**  
Answers VBS

**Calvary New Spring**  
**June 17th-21st**  
**6:00PM-9:00PM**  
**Ages 5-11**

**Crape Myrtles**, those delightful flowering trees, grace the Texas landscape with their vibrant blossoms. The timing of their blooms can vary based on several factors. Let's dive into the details:



#### **Bloom Times:**

**Some crape myrtles** burst into bloom as early as **May**, with large clusters of flowers appearing on the tips of new branches.

**Other varieties** may wait until **July** or even later to showcase their colorful blossoms.

The blooming season extends into **fall**, ensuring a prolonged display of floral beauty.

#### **Post-Bloom Care:**

After the flowers fade and fall from the tree, consider **trimming the fruit** from the plant. This practice can stimulate additional blooms within **30 to 45 days**.

Keep in mind that the **amount of sunlight** your crape myrtles receive significantly impacts their flowering. They thrive in full sun, and light shade can reduce flower production, while full shade might prevent blooming altogether.

**Late winter or early spring** is the ideal time to **prune your crape myrtles**. Without leaves, you can easily assess the branch structure and selectively remove any necessary branches.

**Light and proper pruning** can lead to larger flowers and more abundant blooms.

Avoid heavy pruning, as it may delay blooming by several weeks.

Applying **high-phosphorus, slow-release fertilizer** in early spring promotes healthy growth, disease resistance, and vibrant blooms.



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