



# *The Castle Hills Reporter*

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The heat has arrived in full force, hopefully you are staying in the air conditioning and keeping hydrated. Things have been going nonstop at the City of Castle Hills. Below are some of the latest details! As this article is arriving in your mailbox, more good news is coming. It is a great time to live in Castle Hills!

## Streets and Drainage

No Castle Hills Reporter would be complete without an update on your Streets and Drainage. The most recent round of Streets project is coming together nicely. This consists of Glentower Drive. You may have also noticed that the last spurt of rain we had in mid-June did not last nearly as long on Lockhill Selma between Glentower and Gardenvue. This is due in thanks to our friends at the City of San Antonio. The City of San Antonio had their team install improvements on their side that would allow more water to flow, while avoiding the pooling that would often last hours or even days resulting in traffic being detoured into the neighborhood. Now that the water drains consistently, Lockhill Selma is less vulnerable to flooding and Castle Hills has less detour traffic. Thanks San Antonio!

Speaking of great partners. We are proud to announce that we have MULTIPLE partnership agreements in place for one of the largest projects in Castle Hills' history, and we are not done yet! Yes - this is Carolwood Street and Drainage Project. This project will capture water on the San Antonio side and transport it underground to connect to our existing infrastructure. To help lighten the financial load, many of our partners have stepped up. We previously shared that San Antonio and Bexar County allocated real dollars to help match the investment that you the voter approved. Since the last publication, Bexar County Commissioners Court and City of San Antonio City Council approved Interlocal Agreement's commonly referred to as ILA's, allowing the respective entities to partner with Castle Hills. The funding had been allocated in this budget cycle, but this resolution formalizes the partnership. But wait there is more!

Since the last publication, we have also secured support from the San Antonio River Authority who is planning to assist with project management. Considering that this is what is called a "Regional Watershed" issue, it is appropriate for SARA to join in and ensure that the work is being done in accordance with all applicable codes and standards. The bonus is that the City of Castle Hills will also be able to save some of the project management dollars that we would have had to pay otherwise.

Lastly, we are still in conversations with our friends at SAWS and CPS Energy regarding collaboration. We typically try to reach out and determine if their assets are scheduled to be repaired anytime soon. If that is the case, it makes financial and practical sense for us to partner and do everything together at one time. This will be finalized soon, and one would expect that it will be in their best interest to join us.

This will be one of few (if not only) collaborations of this size and complexity. Rest assured that we know that there are other projects that are important in the City of Castle Hills. This Carolwood/ Lockhill Selma project has a significant impact on citizen safety and Public Safety resources. Addressing this issue will allow us to continue addressing issues all over the City. In short, succession will be the Manton Lane Street and Drainage project!

## Castle Hills Police

This past Memorial Day was an opportunity to join the Castle Hills Police Department on a ride along. This is an invaluable opportunity to get to know our Officers and to also see firsthand the challenges that they face in their line of duty. Most importantly, it really allows you to get as close as possible to walking a mile in their shoes. Our Officers are constantly making interactions and each interaction has its own share of surprises. It always leaves people pleased to see how promptly and politely Castle Hills Police respond.

In June, I had the misfortune of witnessing a serious accident, not in Castle Hills. Being the dutiful citizen, it meant waiting to give my witness account directly to the Officer, which took nearly two hours for that Officer to arrive. This story is not intended to degrade another department but rather to show that levels of appropriate staffing directly relate to response time. This City Council has taken some of the most aggressive steps to ensure that City Employees are fairly compensated, the emphasis on fairness is by design. For years, Castle Hills was one of the few Cities that trailed in retirement benefits. This Council made the decision to improve those retirement benefits so that when you need those City resources, they are ready. A perfect story of this is the story of Rex.

(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)

Rex is a year and a half old Golden Retriever mix and Rex's previous owner was trying to get him to cross a street in Castle Hills in the middle of a hot Summer day. Rex was visibly trying to avoid burning his paws on the hot asphalt. At this point the owner begins to abuse Rex violently right on the sidewalk. Many people called 911 and Castle Hills Police were on the scene within MINUTES. CHPD took possession of Rex and our friends at Pet's First here in Castle Hills gave him a medical evaluation. It wasn't long after arriving that Rex earned his name and found his forever home with one of the technicians. As soon as CHPD released Rex to be eligible for adoption, the bond had already formed, and the technician jumped at the opportunity. Meeting Rex you would never imagine that he had been treated so poorly as his demeanor was sweet and loving.

While potentially saving Rex's life is important, the most important takeaway is that living in Castle Hills gives us the ability to have some of the best services around. From Public Safety to Public Works, or even getting a Passport! We should constantly be striving to give you more, because you deserve it.

### U.S. Supreme Court

One of the last Reporters, we shared that our case was heading to the United States Supreme Court. The Court's opinion was issued June 20, 2024. The opinion is what is called a "vacate and remand" where they ask the lower courts to reanalyze a particular component. In our situation they are sending it back to the mid-level court, the 5th Circuit, in New Orleans. There are numerous legal theories as to what the Supreme Courts rationale might have been. What we can tell you with certainty is that all legal expenses for the City continue to be covered by the City's insurer. The continued pending litigation has no bearing on the City's ability to continue providing the level of services that you deserve. We welcome the 5th Circuit's additional review. The City believes in transparency and is committed to the uniform application of the law for all citizens. Therefore, to streamline the public's access to information about the Gonzalez v. Trevino case, the City has developed a resource page with links to pertinent documents, as well as FAQs that answer many of the questions currently being asked about this case. For further information please visit the City's website under News Flash, [www.cityofcastlehills.com](http://www.cityofcastlehills.com).

Last but not least, we are coming up on the time to trim trees. Many neighbors, including myself, are having issues with limbs falling. This may be driven by excessive heat and little rain. With tree trimming season starting July 1st, it is a good time to start vetting a qualified contractor to trim your trees. Aside from ensuring that your trees have room to grow, it is important to make sure that our First Responders can access our streets and homes. Over the next couple of months, you may see the Fire Department out marking low lying limbs. Keep in my mind that while the limb may be at the 14' limit as outlined in our code, we really should try to keep it slightly higher. The reason is that during wet weather all limbs tend to sag due to the additional weight. While our Fire Fighters are very familiar with navigating low-lying limbs, we also need to be mindful of our Mutual Aid Partners like Shavano Park, Balcones Heights, and Alamo Heights.

Know that we are here to serve and if there is anything we can do, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to seeing you in the Commons!

Yours in service,

JR Trevino - Mayor  
JTrevino@CastleHills-TX.Gov  
210-559-5940



## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

By Ryan D. Rapelye, City Manager

As you receive this article, the FY 25 Budget process is well underway and the proposed budget will have been delivered. The proposed budget is balanced and highlights key points important to the residents of Castle Hills and reflects the city's commitment to provide excellent municipal services to the citizens and businesses while maintaining stringent fiscal controls. Last Year, we developed a nine-month fiscal budget. This budget was planned and executed which will conclude on September 30, 2024. The goal to change our fiscal year has now come to fruition and this will aid the city in the future to better prepare, plan and monitor our city budgets moving forward. Over the last two years, we have seen an upswing in several areas related to revenue, including growth in our sales tax revenue collections. We are optimistic about the growth of sales tax, commercial permitting, and the addition of new businesses to the community this year. The city budget document is much more than just financial numbers, it is a fiscal plan that represents the City Council's priorities which is based on estimated revenue and expenses over the next year.

The proposed budget includes the continuation to address infrastructure projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). In regard to streets, the proposed budget includes \$150,000 for street maintenance and \$300,000 for streets requiring mill/overlay work. Reconstruction of Carolwood from Banyan to Lockhill-Selma and the reconstruction of North Manton, both include drainage improvements. The funding for these two projects are from the issuance of the 2023 Certificate of Obligations. Now that the reconstruction of Glentower is nearly complete, Carolwood and North Manton will be on the two streets left in the reconstruction category in the CIP. As a side note, Street Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores were recently completed. The scores indicated that 85.6% Castle Hills Streets are classified as satisfactory or good. This will only increase once we complete Glentower, North Manton and Carolwood. When the CIP was developed in the Fall of 2018, it indicated that only 22% of the streets were in "Good Condition." The CIP also revealed 50% of all the streets in Castle Hills were in the "Reconstruction Category" and now this number is only 3.2%. All of this done in four years!

In September, we will have a contractor onsite to continue efforts on the street maintenance program. The current program lists 4 streets (South Manton, Halbart, Northcrest and T winleaf) scheduled for maintenance using the micro surfacing technique. This technique helps preserve and protect the underlying pavement structure and provides a new driving surface.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

The proposed budget sustains City operations/services, includes operational expense changes from FY 2024 Adopted Budget to the Proposed FY 2025 Budget, incorporates our debt model and includes capital needs towards the continuation to improve the City infrastructure. The City of Castle Hill's City Council approved the FY 2025 Budget Calendar on May 21, 2024. The FY 2025 Budget Calendar is available on the City's website. We will continue the FY 2025 budget meetings through September. The adoption of the tax rate and annual budget is scheduled for Council consideration at the September 13, 2024 meeting. As we continue towards the adoption process, the goal of these meetings is to discuss and assess community needs, priorities, City services, challenges, and opportunities as a part of the formulation of the FY 2025 Proposed Budget. The proposed budget is available on the City's website for review. As always, I would like to send a THANK YOU 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. We are here for you, Castle Hills!

# COUNCIL COMMENTS



**JASON SMITH**  
PLACE 1

this, the City Council will be in the middle of working out next year's budget with the significant help of the City Manager and City Staff. The budget is the most important job we have, and we do our best to balance current and future needs with the limited funds at the City's disposal. Ultimately this is your money that we're spending, not the City Council's, and you deserve to have it spent in a manner that benefits you and your neighbors. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you a high-level view of how your funds are budgeted for the City's operating expenses this year, some new projects that are in the works, and the challenges that currently lie on the horizon.

Mayor Trevino frequently points out that what sets Castle Hills apart from other cities is the services we provide. We enjoy Police and Fire, and Public Works Departments that are much more responsive and community-oriented than comparative services in other areas, and naturally it's no surprise that they collectively accounted for 81% of expenses (39% Police, 28% Fire, and 14% for Public Works). Next up is Administration, namely the City Manager and Staff who keep the City running smoothly, at the cost of 14% of our expenses. Rounding out the list is the Municipal Court, which accounts for 3% of expenses, and capital expenditures (mainly vehicles and other equipment) at 2%. All of this is from a General Fund budget totaling \$6.2 million. In my opinion, we get the biggest "bang for our buck" from Castle Hills than anywhere else that I've lived. Nevertheless, we will continue working to improve the services the City provides.

Regarding new projects, I've previously mentioned that one of the Council's goals is to increase our sales tax revenue to reduce our reliance on property taxes. In order to achieve that goal, the Economic Development Committee ("EDC") recommended that the City obtain a study to outline the demographics of people who drive on our major thoroughfares and what businesses could ... thrive here as a result. The Council approved the study which will have a budget of around \$7,500.

The EDC is also working on a proposal for the City to start a community reinvestment program offering modest grants to local businesses for improving signage, landscaping, and other storefront beautification. To make our economic development goals a reality, we have to know who we are, what people want, and how to make it happen. These initiatives and others that the Council has approved are an investment in Castle Hills that we hope will benefit our community as a whole.

Lastly, there are some other projects that the Council will have to address in the near future. City Hall needs repairs and renovations, particularly the areas occupied by the Police Department. A recent review of our Fire Department identified that it needs a new rescue truck, which is an important part of maintaining our ISO 2 rating which has a direct effect on your homeowner's insurance rates.

(Continued on page 7)



## 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

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

### 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**

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## DENISE HALEY

### PLACE 2

Dear Neighbors,

Happy Summer 2024! From families on road-trip vacations to “staycations” out of the heat, summer is a time for recreation and relaxation.

Throughout the summer, the Castle Hills Community Organization continues to offer opportunities for fun and connections, and the Castle Hills Woman’s Club and the Castle Hills Garden Club make plans for their upcoming Club years that begin in September. This issue of the Reporter features articles from these groups, whose members bring their energy and enthusiasm to our city and help make it a more “lovable” as well as “livable” city.

“Lovable?” Maybe that word doesn’t come immediately to mind when thinking of a city or community, but it does to Peter Kageyama, an internationally sought-after community development consultant, speaker, and author. His books include *For the Love of Cities: The Love Affair Between People and Their Places*; the follow-up, *Love Where You Live: Creating Emotionally Engaging Places*; and an updated version of the original book, titled *For the Love of Cities Revisited: The Ongoing Love Affair Between People and their Places*.

In *For the Love of Cities Revisited*, Kageyama writes:

“We tend to think of ‘the city’ or ‘the community’ as an entity, a single identifiable construct to which we assign attributes and characteristics much like we would a corporation or an individual. In the same way, when we look at a beach, we see it as a whole rather than as millions of grains of sand. In asking ourselves how to change a community, we need to remember that any community is made up of millions of acts, positive and negative, which at a distance become the whole we perceive. Each of us contributes to that whole ... Small things, like the grains of sand on a beach, make up the totality of a place.”

Isn’t that a great picture? All those grains of sand – actions, one at a time -- added together to be the beautiful beach we see? Would you “love” (or start with “like”) to find out more about how we can love where we live. Pick up one of Peter Kageyama’s books or watch one of his videos on YouTube, and let’s see what a renewed spirit of friendliness and fun could look like for each of us and for our community. Let’s get together at Pan Dulce Bakery and Café, 8055 West Avenue Suite 107, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27th. and start the conversation.

One last thing. I recently attended the memorial service of a long-time Castle Hills resident and was reminded (again) that there’s always so much more to someone’s story than the tiny chapter we know – and that I would have liked to have known this person better. Let’s keep moving toward having a culture of connection and a healthy, strong community by connecting with our neighbors and knowing one another better.

As always, feel free to connect with me by phone, text, email, or around town – to say hello, or with any ideas or suggestions. You’re also always welcome and encouraged to come to regular City Council meetings on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm at City Hall or any special Council meeting and be informed about what’s going on in our city. Because now more than ever, Community Matters.

**Denise Haley**  
Councilmember Place 2  
(210) 596-9686  
[d.haley@castlehills-tx.gov](mailto:d.haley@castlehills-tx.gov)



## KURT MAY

### PLACE 3

#### PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

The latest Castle Hills Historical Society meeting in June offered a mix of discussions ranging from our city’s past, to the present, to how we foresee our future. It is with renewed urgency that I appeal to our citizens to become involved in our regular meetings and planned projects.

The next meeting of the CHHS will be Saturday, July 27, at 10am in the Council chambers at City Hall. All are welcome. Continuing discussion will focus on our “chapters” of published history—our founding, organizations, families, famous people, crime, important happenings, architecture and development, and city government. We are particularly interested in collecting old photos of our city and residents. To this end the CHHS, has discussed sponsoring a public forum to offer free scanning of old photos on September 15, planting of commemorative trees in public places for our 75th Anniversary, and a variety of public activities to support current efforts of our city’s “rebranding.”

Not surprising is the fact that efforts of “rebranding” continue to focus on the very things that have made Castle Hills so attractive for residents and businesses—the park like setting, the small-town feel, the community spirit, activities for all ages, and maintaining infrastructure and strong public safety priorities. So, if you like the idea of having a say in how we commemorate our past, live our present, and plan our future, the Historical Society is the place to be. All our residents have an interest in preserving those things that make our city attractive, as well as work toward making improvements.

In addition, this part of the year is the budget season for the City Council. The agenda for discussing the upcoming Budget begins now and ends in September. All Budget workshops, and Council meetings are posted on the city website and all are invited to come, to comment, or provide advice. All planned meetings are in the evenings.

I look forward to seeing more of our citizens at community sponsored events, planning meetings, and City Council. As always, I welcome your input.

**Kurt May**  
[Kurtmay1961@gmail.com](mailto:Kurtmay1961@gmail.com)  
210-273-8134

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## JACK JOYCE

PLACE 4, Mayor Pro Tem

Friends and Neighbors,

As the positive momentum continues to grow in our City, I'd like to spend a few moments reflecting on one of the major reasons for that momentum, and that is the hundreds of citizen volunteers who make up the many organizations that support us.

Beginning with the governmental boards and commissions, the list includes Architectural Review, Zoning, the Board of Adjustment, and Crime Control and Prevention. A few years ago, Parks and Projects was formed; and most recently the Economic Development Committee was added. All told there are about 40 citizens serving on these boards/ commissions.

Then there are the community organizations such as the Castle Hills Community Organization, the Woman's Club, Garden Club and Historical Society. With their hundreds of members, these all make great contributions to our sense of community by sponsoring numerous events, welcoming new businesses, beautifying our city, and planning for the City's upcoming 75th anniversary.

It is also heartening to be contacted by a citizen who offers to help with one of the organizations. We have been quite successful at finding the right spot for these folks and are most grateful for their participation. If you are interested in helping with one of these groups, please contact me or visit the City's website for more information. We'll find the right spot for you.

Hearty thanks to all those citizen volunteers who serve our City. Together let's continue to make Castle Hills an even better place to live.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Enjoy the Summer!

*JackJoyce*  
*jjoyce@castlehills-tx.gov*  
 210-827-7222



## BETH DAINES

PLACE 5

Happy Summer! Even in the heat, we have much to be thankful for. Our city is always working together and moving forward to create a thriving community. Take time to enjoy the amenities of Castle

Hills, the food and recreation, appreciate the community events and just visit with your neighbors.

Residents are invited to participate in the upcoming City Council budget workshops. These workshops offer a valuable opportunity for community members to engage directly with council members and provide input on funding allocation. What is important to you? Upcoming meeting dates are as follows: August 6 - Budget Workshop; August 13 - City Council Meeting; August 20 - Budget Workshop; September 4 - Special Council Meeting; September 10 - Regular City Council Meeting to adopt the budget.

The Castle Hills Community Organization is hosting a Blood Drive on July 20. Please join them for a chance to save lives in the Community Room. Donating blood is a simple yet powerful way to give back to our community and support those in need. Your participation could make a significant difference. For only \$25, you can join the Castle Hills Community Organization and participate in their many fun events, such as Bunco on August 3. Bunco is a simple dice game that evokes friendly competition and a chance to connect with neighbors and friends. Toward the end of summer, the CHCO is hosting Movie Madness Night on September 20 in The Commons. Bring your blankets and chairs for an opportunity for families and friends to enjoy a memorable night out together.

The Historical Society invites you to the next meeting on July 27th. They will be planning events to celebrate our upcoming 75th anniversary. Your stories and ideas are welcome as we prepare to commemorate this 2026 milestone in our community's history. Additionally, on September 15th, join us for a document scanning event at City Hall. Preserve your family's history by digitizing photographs, letters, and documents that hold significance to our community's past. This initiative ensures that these valuable pieces of history are accessible for future generations.

Enjoy the abundance of sunshine and find a place to get involved in our community.

*Beth Daines*  
*Bdaines@castlehills.tx.gov*  
 210-394-5752

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## Castle Hills Police Department POLICE CAR UPDATE

By Chief E. Zuniga

By now most of you may have noticed the change in our patrol fleet – specifically the color change. While presumably everyone liked the blue color scheme which has been around since 2008, the decision to change the color to silver was due to unit availability. The order for the silver 2024's was placed last year, and we just received seven new units last month. By ordering the blue colored units, it would have taken longer because blue is a special-order color. Because our count of units is so little, they batch our order in with other agencies that are requesting the same color. The other drawback was if the unit is involved in a collision as has occurred in the past, ordering a replacement unit could take six months to a year before we receive a replacement, again because of the special color blue. If a loss occurs with a silver unit, a trace can



be implemented by the dealer and we can have a replacement unit typically within a week because black, white and silver are common colors with other agencies. Presently there are four silver patrol units in full service and the other four are

still getting upfitted and should hopefully be in full service in the next month or so. We hope that you like the change of your new police fleet color.

In addition to the new color change of the patrol fleet, we have also acquired our own nostalgic police car for the police department. It is a 1965 Ford Galaxy Police car that is currently parked at the police department and will be used for special events such as Fiesta Castle Hills, National Night Out, recruiting and any other events that come up. For those that attended the 2024 Fiesta Castle Hills Parade, you may have seen the two leading police cars which were on loan for use in the parade. A big thanks to Ernesto Melendrez, Castle Hills Municipal Court Deputy Clerk and the City of Live Oak Police Department for the use of the Chevy Impala Super Sport and the Chevy Belair.



As always, please call 911 for emergencies and call (210) 342-2341 to report suspicious or criminal activity.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

*Chief E. Zuniga*

(Continued from page 4)

identified that it needs a new rescue truck, which is an important part of maintaining our ISO 2 rating which has a direct effect on your homeowner's insurance rates. The fire department's facility over the last couple of years has gone through some much-needed renovations. It has undergone multiple phases regarding the renovation of the facility. One of the final improvements to be made is the bathroom/shower accommodation for our firefighters. This improvement would be the final phase to the much-needed repairs and renovation conducted over the last couple of years.


Earlier this year, the City budgeted over \$30,000 to replace the bay doors for our engines when exiting the facility. In addition to the report on the Fire Department, the City Council has also reviewed an architectural and engineering report regarding City Hall outlining the repairs that need to be made, what a complete renovation would entail and at what expense, and whether it would benefit the City to build an entirely new city hall. Each of these will be expenses that will have to fit within our future budgets, and the City Manager and the City Council are exploring all options to find the ones that will best serve you.

Have a wonderful summer and stay as cool as possible during what promises so far to be another long and hot one.


As always, your input on these or any other matters affecting your life in Castle Hills is welcomed and appreciated.

**Jason Smith**  
Council Member Place 1  
[jsmith@casdehills-tx.gov](mailto:jsmith@casdehills-tx.gov)  
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2008 to 2020

# Castle Hills Fire Department

By Chief Jim Ladewig



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Soon it will be that time of year when we see the hurricanes approaching the Texas Gulf Coast moving through Texas causing severe thunderstorms, high winds and possibly tornadoes. Disasters can strike at any time and being prepared is the key in getting through the event safely. In a major disaster, your first responders cannot reach everyone immediately. Help may not arrive for hours in a major incident so it is good for you to be prepared ahead of time.

Most disasters are natural disasters, the result of some force of nature, such as tornadoes, wildfires, hurricanes, and floods. Some natural disasters can be predicted, such as hurricanes and severe winter storms, while others, such as tornadoes and severe wind storms happen with little or no warning. Some disasters are the cause of human actions, intentional or unintentional. A disaster plan will help with safety, security, and comfort. Regardless of the type of disaster, there are things you can do to prepare.

## GENERAL PREPAREDNESS

Here are some tips in helping you to be better prepared in the event of a disaster.

- Discuss what to do in an evacuation, and don't forget to include the needs of those with disabilities. Check with your elderly or disabled

neighbors to see if they will need extra assistance during a disaster.

- When advised by officials, go immediately to a shelter as instructed or to the home of a friend or relative who lives out of the area. Find out about your local shelters beforehand.
- Pre-establish several different routes in case certain roads are blocked or closed.
- Family members can become separated during an emergency. Be prepared by creating a plan for how to reach one another. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses, and know the emergency plans.
- Quiz children every six months so they remember what to do, where to go, and whom to call in an emergency. Have the plans in writing so they are easily referenced available.
- Decide how to take care of pets. Pets may not be allowed in places where food is served, so you will need to have a place to take your pets if they cannot go to a shelter. Pets are an important factor to plan for in case of an emergency. To many pet owners, their pets are part of the family and they will not want to be separated. Every effort will be made to accommodate your pets in case of a disaster.
- Have ample supplies of batteries, candles, bottled water and non-perishable food in case you should shelter in place.
- Possibly purchasing an emergency generator may be an option in preparing for extended power outages.
- Post emergency contact numbers in your phone (neighbors, family, etc.) as well as calling 911 if you need immediate assistance.
- There are many preparedness tips that you can find on-line or you can call your CASTLE Hills Fire Department and they can assist you as well.

*Fire Chief Jim Ladewig*

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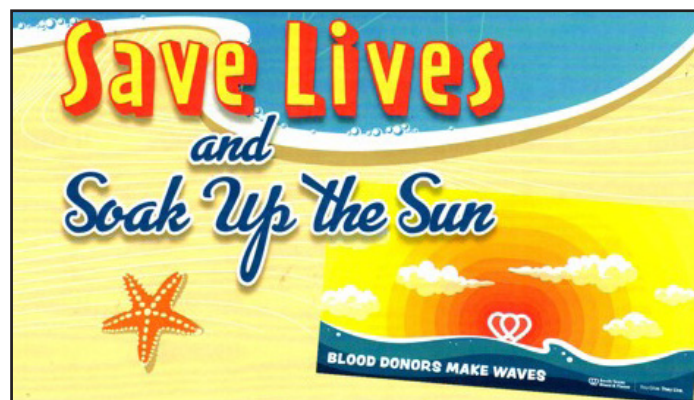


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## Blood Drive

Castle Hills  
Community Organization

Saturday, July 20  
8:00 a.m. – Noon

In the Community Room  
209 Lemonwood Dr

For further information, please contact  
Judy Crawford at [jrcrawford@satx.rr.com](mailto:jrcrawford@satx.rr.com)



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Happy Summer to all our Neighbors!

The Castle Hills Community Organization has had a great start to 2024 and we are excited about the many events we have planned for the remainder of the year.

CHCO is open to residents and businesses of Castle Hills plus small communities surrounding our city. Membership is \$25.00 per family. CHCO hosts a variety of family and public service events throughout the year. Committees within the organization are the Castle Hills Historical Society, Art Committee and Fiesta Committee.

All of these events are organized by our 6-member board and we would love some help. Our current board members have served for 5+ years. Our Fiesta Committee has been so thankful for the volunteers who have stepped up to help us as we have grown. We are in need of many more hands to help if this wonderful community event is going to continue. If you are interested in joining us, please email us at [castlehillcommunityorg@gmail.com](mailto:castlehillcommunityorg@gmail.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**July 20th** – City Wide Blood Drive in the Community Room (8:00 – 12:00)

**July 20th – August 3rd** – School Supply Drive for Castle Hills and Jackson-Keller Elementary Schools

**August 3rd** – Back to School Bunco (6:30-8:30) in the Community Room (209 Lemonwood). This is a lot of fun and so easy to play. Come meet your neighbors.

**Sept 20th** – Movie Madness (6:30 – 9:00) - bring your family, friends and pets along with supplies for our kennel in Public Works (dog toys, food, blankets etc...)

**Oct. 26th** – Trunk or Treat (5:30 – 6:30) and Concert in the Commons (7:00 - 9:00)

**November 15th** – Thankful for our Members event (7:00 – 9:00) Community Room – This is a member only event.

## Castle Hills Garden Club

[CastleHillsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:CastleHillsGardenClub@gmail.com)



The Castle Hills Garden Club, organized in 1952, is open to all residents in Castle Hills. The mission is to foster greater interest in home and civic gardening, participate in preserving our natural resources, and contribute to the beautification of our City. The club meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May in the Community Room for social time and educational programs. Interested in joining? Please email [castlehillsgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:castlehillsgardenclub@gmail.com) for more information!

We are now accepting nominations for Yard of the Month! Let us know if you or your neighbor has a stellar yard worthy of recognition. Winners will be announced on our Facebook page. Please email nominations to [CastleHillsGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:CastleHillsGardenClub@gmail.com)

Is the summer heat and drought keeping your yard from thriving? Check out [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) for inspiring designs, drought-hardy plants, and expert advice to transform your yard into a water-saving showpiece.



Castle Hills Woman's Club Since its founding in 1952, the Castle Hills Woman's Club members have proved to be a vital presence volunteering their time and talents toward countless civic, charitable, and social projects in the City of Castle Hills. Our focus is to bring the women of Castle Hills together sharing our ideas, knowledge, and resources to create a positive environment for all residents. In the past month, our members have welcomed Central Park Driving School on Jackson-Keller and Chill-Out Tasty Treats on Blanco, with Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies. We do this to introduce and promote new businesses in Castle Hills. On June 19 th , we held a welcome party especially for our newest members to learn about our club and meet friendly faces prior to our first Membership meeting. Our new year will begin with our Membership meeting on September 9th at 6 pm. If you are interested in joining this amazing group of women, please send an email to: [castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com](mailto:castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com) and we will reach out to you with more information.

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# CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

## PASSPORT



## FAIR

Saturday, July 20, 2024

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*City of Castle Hills City Hall*  
 209 Lemonwood Drive, Castle Hills, TX 78213



**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

### DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR PROCESSING YOUR PASSPORT

#### Evidence of U.S. Citizenship

- Original/Certified U.S. Birth Certificate
- Previous U.S. Passport (must be undamaged)
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship

#### Photo Identification

- Valid Driver's License (plus a second ID if issued in a different state)
- Undamaged U.S. Passport (must be issued less than 15 years ago)
- Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship
- Valid Government or Military ID

#### Photograph

- In color with a white background
- 2x2 inches in size
- Printed on thin, photo quality paper

**\*We do not take pictures\***

#### Children

- **15 years and younger:**
  - Child's Birth Certificate
  - If both parents are present, each must bring a photo ID
  - If one parent present, they must bring a signed & notarized DS-3053 or a signed DS-5525
- **16 and 17 year old:**
  - Proof of U.S. citizenship and one parent must be present with photo ID

### PASSPORT FEES (TWO SEPARATE PAYMENTS REQUIRED)

Payable to U.S. Department of State  
**Money Order or Personal Check ONLY**

Book & Card.....	\$160 (Adult)	\$115 (Minor)
Book.....	\$130 (Adult)	\$100 (Minor)
Card.....	\$30 (Adult)	\$15 (Minor)
Expedited Service.....	\$60	
Expedited Shipping..	\$19.53	

Payable to City of Castle Hills  
**Cash, Check, or Money Order**

**No Credit Cards on Saturday**

Each Application.....\$35





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# Welcome to Castle Hills!



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