Recastle Hills Reporter



The City of Castle Hills is a timeless community that evokes an engaging sense of quality, friendliness, and creativity in a contemporary setting, with homes and businesses nestled in nature's beauty, conveniently located in the heart of America's 7th largest city.

CITY COUNCIL

JR Trevino	Mayo
Jason Smith	Place
Denise Haley	Place 2
Kurt May	Place :
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 **Police Chief** Vacant

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR





Happy Post Holidays Neighbors!

We hope that this article finds you well into 2025 after having a great holiday season with family and friends. Fortunately, the City team did take a few well-deserved days off! This year's New Year's Eve was spent with the Castle Hills Police Department! You may have heard that there have been some changes to the arrest process as implemented by Bexar

County Sheriff Javier Salazar. The new changes require that people arrested who may experience a medical episode must be taken to the hospital instead of jail. This is really targeting drug overdoses and underlying medical issues.

The Bexar County jail has had several medical situations with inmates, and it appears that this effort is attempting to avoid further situations. Naturally, there is confusion and frustration with new policies. More often what is needed is good old-fashioned communication. In an attempt to best communicate with our County colleagues, New Year's Eve was a great opportunity to see things firsthand.

This particular ride-along was with Officer Loera, which is a first with her as she is a relatively new Officer. The great part is that sitting in a vehicle with someone for several hours you get to learn about them, their background, and see them in action. Officer Loera has a unique history in that she originally served as a Dispatcher for Castle Hills. During her time, she had mentioned to Former Chief Zuniga that she might be interested in being a Police Officer. Before you know it, she was in the academy and



now she has been a sworn Officer for about 8 months.

During our ride-along, just after midnight on New Year's Eve, we observed a vehicle driving without its lights on. Officer Loera then initiated the stop. Unfortunately, the driver had their young child in the front seat. Once Officer Loera had determined that the driver was intoxicated, she allowed the driver to explain the situation to the child. The driver distraught for multiple reasons, not to mention the alcohol, asked Officer Loera to wipe the tears from their face. Without thinking twice, Officer Loera used the sleeve of her jacket to wipe the tears off the drivers face so that they could explain the situation in a more composed manner.

The compassion that Officer Loera displayed was palpable. In true Castle Hills form, it got better. Once a relative was called to pick up the child, Sergeant Tomblin stayed behind to ensure he was placed in responsible hands. Sergeant Tomblin, relying on his experience from his own young boys, proceeded to have a conversation about the latest cartoons to help distract the young child from the traumatic experience. To know Sergeant Tomblin, you would know that the interaction was probably the highlight of his shift. After being on so many ride-alongs, CHPD's level of service never ceases to amaze.

Once all the paperwork was completed at the Castle Hills Police Station, we then had to go downtown for the blood warrant process, which was a new experience. Down at the jail, the Bexar County Team did an exceptionally good job. From the Deputy that did the processing to the Sergeant that helped deescalate the tenseness of the blood withdraw. The Bexar County jail has been through a difficult rebuilding process, it was good to see competent and proficient

people in the operations. For perspective, the stop happened just after midnight, and we did not leave the jail until just after 3 AM! On top of that, Officer Loera still had additional paperwork to complete back at the Castle Hills Police Department!

Carolwood and North Manton Projects Kick Off and Looking Forward

Mid-December we officially kicked off the Carolwood and North Manton projects. By now you are very familiar with all the details of our largest and most collaborative project in the City's history. We are scheduled at 365 days for completion but if we can make it happen sooner, that is the plan. Once this project is done, small rain events should have minimal to no impact on our friends that live on Carolwood and North Manton. Aside from the residents' peace of mind, this will help keep our First Responders safe.

The other additional positive side of addressing large drainage projects which have been a priority, such as Carolwood and North Manton allows the ability to focus on other projects as well within the City. Some of the other areas of interest are alleys, especially for our neighbors that rely on them for access to their garages.

Personally, of interest is improving community quality of life for residents and City Staff. Over the last 15 to 20 years, we have been cobbling together projects and repairs at City Hall in the once Church, with no real plan. As a construction expert, it has always been bothersome that we haven't had a vision for City Hall. Fortunately, that is soon about to change. The City recently went out for RFQ's (Request for Qualifications) from architectural firms to help us put a plan in place for potential improvements to the City Hall facility.

We obviously do not have the funds to have a "dream building" but that doesn't mean that we can't put together a phased plan to work towards one. With this plan, as funds become available, we can do small projects and/or phased renovations working incrementally towards the goal. The beauty of this approach is that it will allow us to be good stewards of your tax dollars by helping us avoid throwing money away on projects that don't line up for future use.

If you have been to City Hall, the Chambers is exceptionally large. Almost as big as the City of San Antonio's City Hall, except for the upstairs portion. The Castle Hills Chamber space can be better used for community benefit, like a larger, better configured community room. Ideally such a community room could be positioned next to the Commons to make it more conducive to being used for events which residents could reserve and use in the future. This isn't a novel idea; other Cities allow residents to reserve or rent community rooms. Aside from the community use aspect, we also want to make sure that we are taking care of our team members. This also follows in-line with our adopted 2023 Comprehensive Plan.

Big thank you to Councilwoman Beth Daines and Councilman Jack Joyce for helping spearhead this project. Both of these great leaders have architectural backgrounds, and their knowledge is undoubtedly helping the City. Similar to all projects, all the "prework" done to advance projects provides extraordinary savings to the City. We are blessed to have these subject matter experts going the extra mile. As we move forward, the hope is to have community feedback sessions to decide what aspects of the new community room and City Hall are important to you. Please keep an eye out to see how you can join us!

City of Castle Hills

Year End Recap

Castle Hills is one year away from celebrating our 75-year Diamond Jubilee, which by research shows that it was originally meant for 75-year anniversaries but also includes 60-year anniversaries. As we inch towards that Diamond Jubilee, it's important that we stop to smell the roses of the success of Castle Hills. However, we must also continue to look forward and make plans to continue

The last several years we have seen explosive growth with Castle Hills becoming a burgeoning culinary destination, we have seen enormous strides with our street and drainage infrastructure improvements, we have made huge investments into keeping and retaining the best team members possible, and we have rebranded the City as we move on to our next Chapter. Thank you for the continued support of all City Staff and City Council; the best is vet to come!

Yours in service,

IR Treviño, Mayor

JTrevino@CastleHills-TX.Gov | 210-559-5940



pg. 3 pg. 2

City of Castle Hills

January / February 2025

January / February 2025

City of Castle Hills



A Look Back at 2024 and What's Ahead for Castle Hills in 2025

As we welcome 2025, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year. This is an exciting time for the City of Castle Hills as we reflect on our achievements in 2024 and look forward to the opportunities and progress that 2025 will bring. As your City Manager, I am thrilled about what we have accomplished, the projects already in motion, and the work that lies ahead for our community.

2024: A Year of Accomplishments

The year 2024 was marked by significant progress for Castle Hills, thanks to the collective effort of our City Council, dedicated staff, and engaged residents. We made great strides in addressing both short-term and long-term goals outlined in our 2023 Comprehensive Plan. Notably, we completed two phases of street reconstruction, including the much-anticipated work on Glendower. These improvements enhance both the safety and aesthetics of our city.

We also made a significant transition by adjusting our fiscal year to begin on October 1. This change allows for better alignment with the calendar year, improving our budgeting process and planning for future projects. Additionally, the Commons continues to see enhancements, ensuring it remains a vibrant gathering place for our community.

One exciting milestone in 2024 was the successful launch of our city's new branding campaign. This initiative will help to define the identity of Castle Hills and set the stage for more effective communication with residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Additionally, our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, which directly impacts property insurance rates for residents, was reclassified from a category rating from 3 to 2. This is a major milestone, and I would like to commend Fire Chief Ladewig and the rest of the Castle Hills Fire Department in making this happen in 2024. The City's efforts to improve our fire services, equipment and emergency response systems have contributed to a higher ISO rating, which helps reduce costs for our residents.

Over the last year, our Public Works Department has strived to ensure a high level of service regarding sanitation and collections and the continual maintenance of our City's infrastructure around the community. Their dedication is evident in the continued enhancements to the Commons and the ongoing improvement efforts underway.

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Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

As we step into 2025, we are committed to building on the solid foundation we have laid in 2024. We remain focused on our long-term vision for the city, continuing to implement key elements from the Comprehensive Plan, improving infrastructure related to streets and drainage, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

One of the primary focuses in the coming year will be continuing the work on our street reconstruction program, by closing out the Carolwood and North Manton projects, including the continuation of our street maintenance program to ensure that Castle Hills' roads remain safe and well-maintained. We will also move forward with the first phase of our mill and overlay street project which is supposed to begin early Spring. Also, we will take steps to address drainage concerns with the construction of the Mimosa-Krameria Drainage project, which should start later this year. Further improvements are planned for the Commons such as the installation of pavilions, additional flatwork, and a shade cover for the playground.

I am also proud to share that last year, the City Council adopted a robust budget that supports the services and infrastructure essential to the continued growth and vitality of our community. The FY 2025 Adopted Budget, passed in September, includes projected revenues, operational funds to maintain our high service levels, and a slate of capital projects designed to address both current and future needs. As City Manager, I very much appreciate the Mayor and Council who work collectively with City staff as a team in the best interest of the City of Castle Hills.

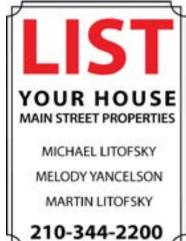
Improving Communication: "Rave" Alerts and More

In line with our new branding campaign, we are taking steps to enhance communication both within our organization and with the public. In 2025, we will roll out a comprehensive communication plan designed to ensure that information reaches residents and businesses in an effective and timely manner. This plan will focus on emergency management, community events, and other important services. This will include a monthly e-Newsletter and further enhancements with our social media presence.

As indicated in my previous article, we are encouraging all residents to sign up for "Rave," a notification system that allows you to receive important alerts about city services, events, and emergencies. This tool will be invaluable as we work to keep everyone informed and engaged.

Thank You, Team Castle Hills

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our employees who make up "Team Castle Hills." Their unwavering commitment to the City and the residents we





serve is the backbone of our success. From our dedicated public safety teams to our hardworking administrative staff, every member of our team plays a vital role in the continued prosperity of our community.

Stay Connected

As always, I am here for you. If you have questions about ongoing projects, City services, or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact me directly at rrapelye@castlehills-tx.gov or call the office at 210-293-9673. We are here for you, Castle Hills! Here is to a prosperous 2025. Together, we will continue to build a better future for Castle Hills!







Pardon Our Dust!

The Castle Hills Police Department is excited to announce that our dispatch center will be getting a remodel thanks to Bexar Metro 911! However, while the remodel is taking place, our dispatchers will be located off-site at the Bexar Metro facility. But support will not change! We will provide the same unrivaled service to the public as we do every day! There will be a few changes, but we are well adapted to adjust as needed. If you need police, fire or EMS, please still call 911 for any emergency. For non-emergencies, please call our regular number (210-342-2341) and we will still be here to answer the call. The remodel should be completed toward the end of February 2025. If you need assistance here at the PD in our lobby, please follow the instructions posted or call our non-emergency number for help. Thank you for your patience!





 City of Castle Hills January / February 2025 January / February 2025 City of Castle Hills



JASON SMITH PLACE 1

Hello, Neighbors.

First of all, I'd like to thank those of you who attended our Town Hall back in December to hear more about the Carolwood/North Manton drainage and street project, meet the engineers and contractors, and review the plans to see how your homes may be affected. Mayor Treviño, City Manager Rapelye, and I appreciated hearing your feedback.

By the time you read this, the Carolwood/North Manton project will have been in full swing for well over a month. Construction began with the digging of a hole large enough to swallow a car directly across from the home of yours truly, which made backing out of the driveway a daily adventure for us. One day, I came home and found a front-end loader in our yard. Imagine my disappointment when my wife informed me that it wasn't her Christmas gift, and that the lack of a bow on top should've given it away. Oh well - maybe next year.

All that being said, the impact on day-to-day life has been manageable. The team from D. Plata Construction has been very helpful by moving their vehicles and heavy equipment and guiding us in and out of our driveway when necessary. The biggest drawback so far has been the dirt that gets kicked up by cars and trucks driving down the street but, to paraphrase Igor in Young Frankenstein, "It could be worse. It could be mud."

The construction work will be ongoing for a total of 10-12 months depending on the weather, so there's still a long way to go. If anyone has any issues regarding the construction or things our contractors are doing, please reach out to the City Manager Rapelye or me and we will pass your concerns along. In the meantime, please use the detours when you can and be mindful when driving around the construction signs when you can't. Take care.

Jason Smith

jsmith@castlehills-tx.gov | (210)643-9214





DENISE HALEY PLACE 2

Happy New Year, Castle Hills! As we begin 2025, what more can we accomplish and how can we help make life better in our city?

In November, I attended the "O' Dark 30" Breakfast celebrating the Veterans Initiative of I Care San Antonio, a non-profit organization committed to improving lives by providing complete eye care to those in need. I Care San Antonio was founded by long-time Castle Hills resident (now relocated to Nashville), Ophthalmologist Bob Rice. The speaker at the breakfast was retired Special Forces Green Beret Sgt. 1st Class Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, who is the CEO and President of the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Memorial Foundation. During his presentation, Sgt. Rodriguez talked about lives of service and challenged and encouraged the audience to "Do More," which is different from doing our best, whatever that looked like for each person. He also said that his word for the mission of I Care was "Empowerment" - empowerment through love. After reflecting more about Sgt. Rodriguez's words, the more they resonated with me, and when I recently read a story about adopting a word for the year, I knew what mine would be: "More."

"More" is a big word for having only four letters. For our city, we can accomplish more through more communication, collaboration, cooperation, and coordination. Over the past several years, because of the vision and through the efforts of City leadership, we have made great strides to help make life better in our city through infrastructure and other quality-of-life improvements. Stable governance characterized by mutual respect and trust has laid the foundation for having the moving parts of running a city operating (mostly) smoothly. Is it perfect? Of course it isn't. Is excellence the goal? Of course it is!

"More" focus on excellence in serving our customers – our residents; daytime citizens numbering in the thousands in offices, schools, churches, restaurants, retail and service establishments; people who come to Municipal Court or to the permit or passport departments; the 200,000+ people coming through the city every day, as well as inter-departmental relationships – will spur us to serve better, which is what we're here to do. In addition, more community involvement, participation and engagement, and the warm relationships that can come from that, will help make our community healthier and stronger.

Personally, "more" can be attached to many things — there's always more exercise, water, healthy eating, and all those things that resemble New Year's resolutions. And then there's more listening, smiling, patience, enthusiasm, encouragement, appreciation, caring, helping, fairness, being present, being open, starting with yes, welcoming, sincere compliments, and maybe especially, love, that only scratch the surface of what can happen when we start with more. What would you add to this list?

One last thing. Keep watching for the "Love it ... Here." logo and brand to continue to spread throughout our community. Yard signs and stickers are now available at City Hall and at community events, the window cling decals are on their way, the thoroughfare monument signs are being made, and there's more to come, including shirts, visors, and other merch. Would you like to add your hands-on help to this initiative? We'd love to have you on the "Love it ... Here."

Momentum Team! Get in touch with me, a council colleague, or City staff and we'll make it happen.

So move over, Go Spurs Go! Here comes "Love it ... Here." in Castle Hills -- where now more than ever, Community Matters.

Denise Haley, Council Member Place 2

(210) 596-9686 | d.haley@castlehills-tx.gov



KURT MAY

Looking Forward to 2025 — A Year of Community

We have completed one of the most productive years (2024) for progress in Castle Hills. Our city finalized the last of the remaining plans for road repair and maintenance, long overdue. This happened through wise stewardship by our City Manager, and conservative, fiscally responsible long-term, low interest loans, and the selection of best practice contractors. This happened through joint efforts with the County and City of San Antonio, which reduced the cost to Castle Hills' taxpayer. Thank you, Mayor Trevino and City Manager Rapelye. City leadership along with community volunteers continues to implement recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan that was finalized in 2023, initiated a citywide rebranding effort, and laid the foundation for maintaining and enhancing the quality of residential and business interests for years to come.

Now we look forward to 2025, where the City Council, standing Community project committees, and various volunteers will put into action the execution of plans to celebrate our city and continued improvements. Volunteers are necessary for making our community events successful. Everything from the Fiesta Castle Hills event, movie nights, Concerts on the Commons, to supporting local businesses, and documenting our historical past requires your input, corporal involvement, and ideas.

Specifically, 2025 will be the year that our citizens plan the 75th Founding Anniversary celebration, for implementation in 2026. Each of the planned events will need coordination and leadership. This is my appeal --- make yourself known now for inclusion in this process. The standing committees and volunteer organizations have discussed celebrating our status as a community dedicated to preserving trees and a small-town environment, for example. Other discussions have involved celebrating our spot, in time and place, where business and entrepreneurial efforts thrive. Sponsorship of events such as farmers' markets, celebrating local restaurants, outdoor festivals, have been discussed as events. Public exhibits of our history, the writing of our history, and community-wide celebration events are already in the works.

Now we need you! Please contact me, the Castle Hills Community Organization, the Woman's Club, the Garden Club, or City Hall (all on the city website) if you would be interested in helping make 2025 a year of community, and 2026 a year of celebration.

Kurt May, City Councilman, Place 3

210-273-8134 | Kurtmay1961@gmail.com

JACK JOYCE

PLACE 4, Mayor Pro Tem

Hello Everyone,

I trust you have all had a terrific holiday. We certainly did, with lots of time with our older son who was visiting from Florida, time with both families and many beautiful meals. The Joyces are truly blessed.

We begin the new year with a great sense of excitement and anticipation as there are many things that are coming to fruition in Castle Hills. Among them are:

- Improvements to the Commons. The shade structures and sculpture pedestals are expected to be complete by Fiesta. A critical part of this improvement is the launch of our public art program. Headed by the Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) Art Committee, the program anticipates our first sculpture exhibit later this year. Depending on funding availability, we also hope to see shade covers for the playground and the stage. For more information about the public art project and the art committee, contact the CHCO at castlehillscommunityorg@gmail.com.
- Continued rollout of the new Branding project. We expect to soon see our new brand highlighted throughout our website, and thanks to the generous support from many businesses and individuals in our community, of many donors, we have funds to purchase several branding items, such as street signs identifying Castle Hills boundaries, T-shirts, tote bags, window stickers for businesses, and other items. The program will help confirm the identity and spirit of our community, thus providing an excellent foundation for our economic development efforts.
- Draft of the proposed economic development plan. The Economic Development Committee has been working faithfully on the plan and expects to deliver a draft in the early part of the year. This will help our City define new ways to generate revenue to be able to weather unexpected expenditures, but importantly to provide more funding for amenities to make our City a more desirable place to live.

(Continued on page 8)



pg. 6 pg. 7

City of Castle Hills January / February 2025 January / February 2025 City of Castle Hills

(Continued from page 7)

- Another initiative underway this year is the architectural study
 of the City Hall building. Its purpose is to identify the best
 approach to modifying or replacing the building to improve the
 longevity, utility costs, safety, functionality, and appearance of
 the existing building. We are also interested in incorporating
 solar energy into the facility. The study should be complete by
 mid-year.
- Pursuing grants from the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). AAMPO is managing the disposition of federal and state money for the purposes of improving street and related projects. This is a great opportunity to obtain funding for street improvements, such as the reconstruction of a portion of West Avenue, the intersection at Jackson Keller and West Avenue, and for the bike/walk projects advocated by the Comprehensive Plan.
- We also expect to meet with the City of San Antonio and other interested parties to discuss the much-needed improvement to the Jackson-Keller area. These meetings should begin in the early part of the year.

2025 will be a great year for Castle Hills!

I would love to hear your thoughts on these topics. Feel free to contact me.

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





BETH DAINES PLACE 5

Happy New Year, Neighbors!

I wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year! Whether you're

reflecting on the past year or looking forward to the future, I hope this season brings joy, peace, and lots of opportunities to connect with your neighbors and community.

It's common to feel the pressure of New Year's resolutions, but let's take the pressure off this year. If you're aiming to make some changes, that's wonderful! But if you're just focusing on enjoying each day as it comes, that's great too. Small steps, like taking time to relax, connecting with friends, or trying new hobbies, can be just as meaningful. Getting involved in the Woman's Club, Garden Club, or volunteering with the Community Organization is a fun way to get to know your neighbors. Castle Hills will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2026, and the Historical Society needs help putting together activities. Jump in to learn more about the colorful history of our city.

In the spirit of health and simplicity, here's an easy recipe to kick off your new year with a nutritious bang! This Chickpea Salad is light, refreshing, and packed with protein and fiber.

Chickpea Salad Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 can (15 oz) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced (any color)
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/4 red onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: feta cheese or avocado for added creaminess

Instructions:

- 1. In a large bowl, combine the chickpeas, cucumber, bell pepper, tomatoes, and red onion.
- 2. Drizzle with olive oil and lemon juice, then toss to combine.
- 3. Season with salt and pepper to taste. For extra flavor, add chopped parsley and toss again.
- 4. Top with optional feta cheese or avocado, if desired.
- 5. Serve chilled, or let it sit for 10 minutes to let the flavors

Here's to a new year filled with possibilities! We're excited to share more events and opportunities to come together as a community. Take care of yourselves, and don't forget to make time for the little moments that matter most. Wishing you all a fantastic start to 2025!

Beth Daines, Alderman, Place 5

Bdaines@castlehills-tx.gov

CASTLE HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Jim Ladewia



The importance of having an address number on your home can not be emphasized enough, so we are asking our residents to take a moment to look at your house number. Make sure your numbers are clearly visible from the street. It will help the fire department, as well as the police and EMS units, find you easier and faster in the event of an emergency. Businesses are required by the fire code to have visible address numbers on their building and we would like to see residents also have their address easily visible from the street during both the day and night. In an effort to serve you better, we are requesting that residents look at their address and see how visible their street numbers on their homes and/or mailboxes are. A street number should be placed at the end of the driveway should your home not be easily visible from the street. The following are some suggestions to assist in making your address more visible.

- The numbers on residences should be at least 3 inches high.
- Numbers should be a contrasting color to the background.
- Numbers should be placed on, above, or at the side of the main entrance, so that they can be easily detected from the street.
- Avoid placing numbers in unusual spots (e.g. decor on porch) and above your garage door.
- If the entrance is more than 50 feet from the street, or cannot be seen from the street, a second set of numbers should also be displayed on the mailbox or on a post at the street or end of the drive. Remember: your mail-carrier always comes the same way. Fire apparatus, ambulances and police cars may come from any direction, so be sure to mark BOTH sides of your mailbox or mark your house number in such a way that it may be easily seen, no matter which direction they are approaching.
- Reflective numbers are highly recommended.
- At the very least, any house number is better than none at all.
- If possible, place the numbers in a well lit area at night to make them more visible from the road.

You never know when you may be the next one to call 911 for an emergency. Be sure your house number is posted AND VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD, so you can be found as quickly as possible. In an emergency, every second counts, so lets try to make finding your residents as easy as possible.

Respectfully,

Chief Jim Ladewig

Download the new and improved 311SA Mobile App

FAQ: www.sanantonio.gov/ CustomerService/MobileApp



CASTLE HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT By Tina Vitacco, Assistant Chief of Police



Attention Castle Hills!

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a police officer? Have you ever wondered how the arrest process works, how cases are prosecuted, or how evidence is collected and processed? We want to answer all your questions!

The Castle Hills Police Department will be offering a Citizen's Police Academy starting on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The class will meet each Thursday at 6pm and go until about 9pm for a total of 10 weeks, ending on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Classes will be taught by Castle Hills Police Officers and Telecommunicators. This is a great opportunity to get to know your first responders as well and meet your fellow Castle Hills residents and workers.

The class will be open to anyone who lives in Castle Hills or works here. You must be 18 years old and pass a background check before being accepted to the class. For an application, please contact Assistant Chief Tina Vitacco by email (svitacco@castlehills-tx.gov) or stop by the PD and pick up an application from Dispatch.

The class is free and will be held in the Castle Hills Community Room located at 209 Lemonwood Dr. The class will be limited to 15 students and if all goes well, and we have a good response, this will be an annual training event.

We hope to see you there!

Tina Vitacco, Assistant Chief of Police



ADVERTISE WITH US

For information, call (210) 558-3160 or email Sales@NeighborhoodNews.com



pg. 8 pg. 9

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

2025







MONDAY HOLIDAY: Garrage & Recycle only. No Erush or Leave



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



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

1	MON	TUE	WED	THU FRI
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*	MON	TUE	WED	THU FRI
\$	8		0	CLOSED

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY HOLIDAY; Garbage & Recycle only. No Brush or Leaves.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
5	0	CLO	SED	
	0		MON TUE WED	CLOSED HOLIDAY

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

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 =		HOLIDAY	2	0	0
1	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	8	HOLIDAY	0	0	

If you have any questions please call Public Works at 210-293-6676 of 210-293-6603 See City Website for more information: https://ewww.cityofcastlehills.com/2162/Garbage-Brush Recycling-Guide



JAN 1	New Year's Day	WED
JAN 20	ML King, JR. Day	MON
FEB 17	President's Day	MON
MAY 2	Battle of Flowers Day	FRI
MAY 26	Memorial Day	MON
JULY 4	Independence Day	FRI
SEPT 1	Labor Day	MON
NOV 11	Veterans Day	TUE
NOV 27	Thanksgiving Day	THUR
NOV 28	Thanksgiving Day After	FRI
DEC 24	Christmas Eve	WED
DEC 25	Christmas Day	THUR

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. Marie Day

MINI ADVENTURES TO BREAK THE ROUTINE

Life can sometimes feel like it's on repeat, especially when the workweek drags on and the days start to blend together. If you're stuck in a rut and craving something different, it might be time to embrace mini adventures. These are simple, low-pressure getaways or experiences that allow you to step out of your usual routine without needing extensive planning or significant time off. Here are a few ideas for mini adventures that can refresh your mind and spark some excitement in your life.

Nature Walks and Hikes

Nature has a magical way of clearing the mind. Whether it's a nearby park, a local trail, or a quiet beach, spending time outside can be the perfect antidote to the daily grind. Go for a spontaneous walk in the woods, hike to a scenic viewpoint, or explore a nature reserve you've never visited before. Disconnect from your devices and let the sounds of nature calm your mind. These little escapes can feel rejuvenating and offer a fresh perspective.

Take a Day Trip to a Nearby Town

Often, we overlook the charming spots just outside our immediate surroundings. Take a short drive or train ride to a nearby town you've never fully explored. Wander around the local shops, try a café you've never been to, and discover hidden gems in the area. This kind of mini adventure can reignite a sense of curiosity and make you feel like a tourist in your own region.

FREE ESTIMATES & 100% FINANCING!



We are Hollywood Park Residents and have been remodeling our town for over 20 years!



Have a "No Plans" Day

One of the easiest ways to break out of your routine is to plan a day with absolutely no agenda. Wake up without any specific tasks, and simply follow your instincts. Maybe you'll end up visiting a museum, trying a new restaurant, or getting lost in a book at a cozy café. The freedom of not having to check items off a to-do list can feel like a mini escape in itself.

Sunrise or Sunset Viewing

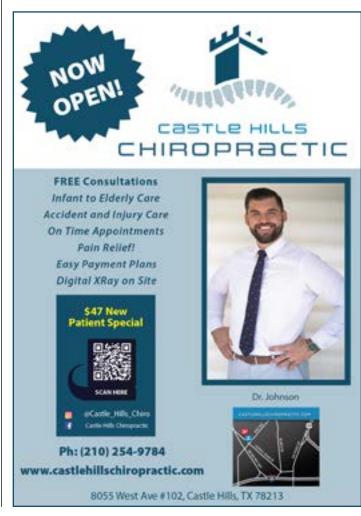
For a simple yet magical experience, wake up early to catch a sunrise at a local park or beach. Alternatively, head out in the evening for a sunset view in a quiet spot away from the crowds. There's something peaceful and awe-inspiring about witnessing the natural beauty of the world, even if just for an hour or two.

Take a Digital Detox

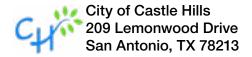
A mini adventure doesn't have to involve leaving home—it could just mean stepping away from technology. Try a digital detox for a day or weekend where you limit or eliminate screen time, social media, and email. Without the constant pull of notifications, you can fully immerse yourself in the present moment and enjoy life without distractions.

Spend Time with Animals

Sometimes, spending time with animals can be the most refreshing thing you can do. Whether it's visiting a local animal shelter, spending time with a pet, or even taking part in a farm experience, animals have an uncanny ability to help us relax and reconnect with the simpler things in life. This is an easy and uplifting mini adventure that can break you out of any routine.



pg. 10 pg. 11



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Time Dated



Castle Hills Community

We love our community and think you will too. Here are some great organizations that are eager to have you join. Please email them for more information.

Castle Hills Woman's Club castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com
Castle Hills Garden Club castlehillgardenclub@gmail.com
Castle Hills Community Organization castlehillscommunityorg@gmail.com



2025 Castle Hills Events *Events subject to change, please check City website for updates - www.cityofcastlehills.com

February 8 - We Love Our Young Families Meet-Up - (2:00pm to 4:00pm) - The Commons

March 22 - Castle Hills Clean-Up Day - (9:00am to 12:30pm) - The Commons

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny - (2:00pm - 3:30pm) - The Commons

April 26 - Fiesta Castle Hills and City Parade - (10:00am - 5:00pm) - The Commons

May 10 - Spring Bulk Drop-Off Event - (9:00am to 11am) City Hall

May 17 - Concert in The Commons - (7:00pm - 9:00pm) - The Commons

June 21 Splash Day/Water Funstival! - (10:00am - 1:00pm) - The Commons

July 18 to July 26 - School Supply Drive for Castle Hills Elementary & Jackson-Keller Elementary - City Hall Lobby

July 26 - Bingo Night - (6:30 - 8:00pm) - Community Room

August 17 - Ice Cream Social (4:00pm - 6:00pm) - Community Room

September 20 - Family Day Cook-Out - (6:00pm to 8:00pm) - The Commons

October 4 - Shred Event - (9:00am to 11:00am) - City Hall

October 25 - Trunk-Or-Treat & Concert in The Commons (5:30pm - 9:00pm) - The Commons

November 8 - Fall Bulk Drop Off Event - (9:00am to 11:00am)

November 30 - Lighting of the Lights (4:30pm - 6:00pm) - The Commons

December 14 - Castle Hills Holiday Road Trip - (6:00 - 8:00pm)