

CASTLE HILLS REPORTER



Visit us online:

www.cityofcastlehills.com

Inside this issue:

Council Meeting Highlights	2
Council Comments	4
Staff Comments	7
Your Community	9
Employee Highlights	13
Holiday Garbage Schedule	14
Shop Castle Hills	15

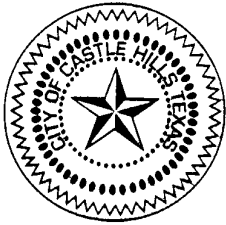


Message From the Mayor Marcy Harper

As we look forward to a new year, let us reflect on 2009 by summarizing specific agenda items that your city council approved:

- Adopted a tax rate of \$0.458668 on each \$100 valuation of property for the 2010 fiscal year.
- Approved the CPS decorative light poles, funded by the CPS CEID fund, to be erected in our residential areas.
- Approved the 2nd monument sign located at the entrance of Travertine and Jackson Keller.
- Adopted the Storm Water Fee and authorized SAWS to provide the billing and technical services in support of the Storm Water Management Plan.
- Approved Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. for our Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services.
- Approved the donation of metal street signage for the Carolwood planters provided by Carlton Catalini.
- Resolution canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the May 9, 2009 election for the purpose of electing two council members; Steve McGuire, Place 3 and Douglas Gregory, Place 4 (re-elected) and Mayor Marcy Harper (re-elected).
- Appointment of Brother William Dooling as Municipal Court Judge and Antonio Cantu as alternate judge for a two year term (Judge Cantu resigned due to a conflict of interest).
- Alderman Marcella Huff, Place 1, re-appointed to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for a period of one year.
- Alderman Douglas Gregory, Place 2, re-appointed to serve as City Treasurer.
- Dr. George Atiee, MD, re-appointed to serve as our Public Health Officer.
- Appointments to Architectural Review Committee for a two year term: Stephen Ackley (Chairman), Joan Buerschinger, Albert Valle, Sarah Burke, Walter von Nimitz and alternate members, David Kellogg and Gene Wellborn.
- Appointments to Board of Adjustment for a two year term: Bill Schluter (Chairman), Pamala Farris, Kathryn Safford, Terry Warth, Frank Paul and alternate members, Dana Poole and Paul Martinez.
- Appointments to Zoning Commission for a two year term: Marc Schnall (Chairman), Walter Beuhler, LaVerne Japhet, Bob Anderson, Harold (Butch) Karren and alternate members, Eve Allen and Scott Simpson.
- Appointments of member to the Crime Control and Prevention District; Jack Joyce, Betty Chandler & Frank Paul.
- Adopted the 2010 General Fund Budget which will raise more total property taxes in the amount of \$164,961 in 2010.
- Approved an annual health benefits plan for employees
- Approved purchase of upgrades to the dispatch center.

You can contact me at 210-524-9200 or email: mharper3@satx.rr.com

**NEW
ORDINANCES****ORDINANCE #1023**

Pertaining to temporary business signs and banners. (PASSED 7/14/09)

ORDINANCE #1026

Limiting the duration of use of temporary portable storage units.

ORDINANCE #1027

Adopting new permit fees. (PASSED 8/11/09)

ORDINANCE #1028

Increasing permit fee for connection of plumbing fixtures to SAWS sewer system.

**ORDINANCE #1029;
#1030; #1031**

Acknowledging FY2010 budget will raise more total property taxes than FY2009; Adopting the FY2010 budget; Adopting tax rate of \$0.45668 for FY 2010 (PASSED 9/8/09)

ORDINANCE #1032

Provide billing for EMT calls to residents and non-residents. (PASSED 10/13/09)

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 14, 2009**Consider:**

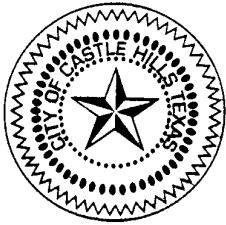
- Resolution recognizing Tim Howell for his service on City Council—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 21 of the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances regarding distribution of advertising materials—passed unanimously to prohibit placement of advertisements on private property.
- Amending Chapter 4 Billboards and Signs—passed unanimously to extend the period of time business can display temporary signs.
- Resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to sign letter of instruction for Mellon Investor Services—passed unanimously to sign letter for the sale of stock.

AUGUST 11, 2009**Consider:**

- Discussion on proposal from SAWS to provide billing and technical services in support of Castle Hills Storm Water Management Plan—no action taken.
- Discussion on findings of the Onsite Sewage Facility Committee—no action taken.
- Ordinance dissolving the Oak Wilt Fund, transferring funds into the general fund of the city and depositing all future fees collected from oak tree permits into the general fund—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 30, Yards, by renaming the chapter title and limited the duration of use of temporary portable storage units—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending permit fees and implementing building plan review fees—passed unanimously.
- Amending FY2009 Budget in the amount of \$2000 for payment to dispose of recyclable material collected in the City of Castle Hills—passed unanimously.
- Proposed FY2010 City Budget—no action taken.
- Placing a proposal to adopt a Tax Rate up to \$0.458668/\$100 on the agenda of a future council meeting—passed unanimously.
- Scheduling public hearings for the FY2010 Tax Levy; scheduled August 27th and September 2nd—passed unanimously.
- Scheduling a public hearing for the FY2010 Budget; scheduled September 2nd—passed unanimously.
- Appointment of members to a committee to study proposed locations for residential street lighting—Robbie Casey, Frank Paul, and Terry Carter appointed to serve on Committee with Mayor Harper.
- Mayor to order draft proposal of the FY2010 City Budget to be filed with the City Secretary and available for taxpayer inspection until the next regular City Council meeting to be held on September 8, 2009—ordered.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**Consider:**

- Annual health benefits plan for city employees—passed unanimously.
- Entering into an agreement with Acadian Ambulance Service Inc. for ambulance and emergency medical services—passed unanimously.
- Interlocal agreement with Bexar Metropolitan Water District to provide billing and collection services for the City's garbage and trash operations—passed 4-1; Councilmember Gregory opposed.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 20 Sewer Service to increase fee for connection of plumbing fixtures to SAWS sewer system—passed unanimously.
- Amending Chapter 11.111 to provide billing for all emergency medical technician calls to residential addresses in the City—tabled.
- Discussion and consideration of an ordinance adopting the FY2010 City Budget—passed 4-1; Councilmember McGuire opposed.
- Adopting a tax rate of \$0.458668 for the 2010 fiscal year and an ordinance in support thereof—passed unanimously.
- Appointment of members to the CCPD; Jack Joyce, Betty Chandler and Frank Paul appointed—passed unanimously.



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ORDNANCES (cont'd)

ORDINANCE #1032

Provide billing for EMT calls to residents and non-residents.

ORDINANCE #1033

Guidelines for temporary disposal receptacles and assessing a fee.

ORDINANCE #1034

*Removing statutory maximum contribution rate limit to TMRS.
(PASSED 10/13/09)*

ORDINANCE #1035

*Addressing solid waste containers and regulations.
(PASSED 11/10/09)*

NEW RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #0906-01

Recognizing Tim Howell for his service on City Council. (PASSED 7/14/09)

RESOLUTION #0910-01

Executing a cable television franchise management service agreement.

RESOLUTION #0910-02

Declaring intent to establish a Drainage Utility. (PASSED 10/13/09)

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Consider:

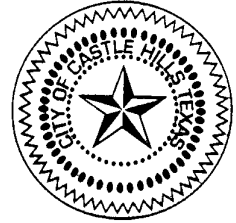
- Amending Chapter 11.111 to provide billing for emergency medical technician calls to residents and non-residents—passed unanimously.
- Proposal from Givler Engineering to provide services for implementing the Storm Water Management Plan—passed unanimously.
- Resolution declaring the intent of the City council to establish a Drainage Utility—passed unanimously.
- Engagement of SAWS to bill, collect, and provide technical services in support of the Drainage Utility and Storm Water Management Plan and authorization for the Interim City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with SAWS on behalf of the City of Castle Hills—passed unanimously.
- Resolution authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Cable Franchise Management Agreement—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance removing the statutory maximum contribution rate limit to TMRS—passed unanimously.
- Adding an item to the Reports Section of the monthly council agenda concerning department budgets—tabled.
- Updating the City's job descriptions, implementing a performance evaluation system, and setting performance objectives—no action taken.
- Amending Chapter 5, Building & Building Code, by adding Section 5.207 setting guidelines for temporary disposal receptacles and assessing a fee—passed unanimously.
- Amending the FY2009 City Budget line item 5005, Building Inspector, in the amount of \$2,000 to reflect an increase in the building inspector's monthly pay—passed 3-1; Councilmember Gregory opposed.

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Consider:

- Authorizing Givler Engineering to continue with study for N. Manton drainage improvements and provide design specifications to Interim City Manager for bid requirements—passed unanimously.
- 2010 FY Annual Budget adopted by the Board of Directors of the City of Castle Hills Crime Control & Prevention District—passed unanimously.
- Resolution to pursue the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to be used to assist in improving energy efficiency—passed unanimously.
- Adding an item to the Reports section of the monthly council agenda concerning department budgets—passed unanimously.
- Revisions to the City's Emergency Management Plan—passed unanimously.
- Instructing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance that (1) Amends the sewer connection regulations of the SAWS Sewer Connection Rules; and (2) Requires the City to monitor septic system failures—withdrawn from agenda.
- Reappointment of a City Treasurer—Councilman Gregory retained & Councilmember Huff is signatory on accounts.
- Manifesting a contract with Acadian Ambulance Service—passed unanimously.
- Amending Chapter 13, Garbage & Refuse, addressing solid waste containers and regulations—tabled.
- Discussion on providing a write-up and photographs of the City to be posted on www.SAinfofocus.com interactive website—Interim City Manager authorized to pursue submissions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS



MARCELLA HUFF, PLACE 1, MAYOR PRO TEM



I hope that all of you enjoyed your holidays. I wish you a new year filled with good health, peace, prosperity, and happiness.

2009 was a very interesting year for our city. The economy challenged us all on a personal and municipal level. Those of you who attended the budget workshops and public hearings witnessed first hand the difficulties the city faced. Our interim city manager along with our department heads worked diligently to present budgets that kept expenditures in check while continuing to provide the services our residents have come to expect. This, coupled with only a small increase in income, was no easy task. The need for a balanced budget is still a goal for the city. It is a goal toward which we will continue to work.

The unexpectedly high percent of increase in our employee health insurance premiums resulted in a substantial change to the coverage. The council was provided with several options by our broker. Our intent was to still provide excellent coverage for our employees and their dependents. We believe that our current policy provides this coverage. If health care premiums continue to rise precipitately however, the city will be faced with reviewing other options for sharing the burden of these costs.

For the first time in several years, the property tax rate for the city was increased. Rising costs over the years did not result in subsequent increases in our tax rate. As a result, the gap between income and expenditures increased. Therefore, the council found it necessary to increase the tax rate. To those of you who attended the public hearing on the tax levy and addressed the council with your concerns and suggestions, I thank you. Your input was greatly appreciated.

2010 will be no less a challenging year. I encourage all residents to attend council meetings, contact council members with your ideas, suggestions, and concerns. Working together we can achieve great things for our city.

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

DOUGLAS GREGORY, PLACE 2, CITY TREASURER



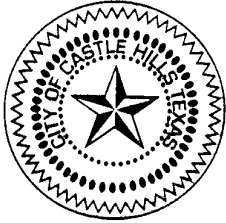
During the last several weeks the City Council struggled to forge a realistic budget for 2010. Whereas some large cost savings were captured, huge increases in health insurance combined with flattening tax revenue, put great strain on our budget. At the same time, the Federal Government reported that since inflation was at zero, COLA'S were not necessary; our City Administration recommended the same.

Castle Hills is one of a very few cities or businesses that pay 100% of employee health premiums. Because of this and other shortfalls due to the Great Recession, property taxes were raised to help close the budget gap. Even after said tax increase we still have a budget deficit; next year will be even more challenging. We simply cannot attempt to balance the budget on the back of the property owner; future reforms must and will be considered.

Despite the economy, Castle Hills remains in sound fiscal shape. Over the years a sizeable surplus has accumulated which gives the City flexibility during tough economic times. A reserve must be used, if necessary, but cannot be relied upon forever. Surpluses can vanish quickly if our national and local economy do not dramatically improve. City services remain at the same high quality they are noted for. The City does the best it can with the funds at hand. This is a long process and there are no quick fixes, but remember we are sound fiscally and our future is full of possibilities.

As I write this column the holiday season is upon us. May the joy of Christmas or Hanakkah bring to you the true richness of life: good health, family and friends. As Tiny Tim said in Charles Dickens', A Christmas Carol, "... God bless us, every one."

Please feel free to call me on this or any other concern at 378-4481.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

STEVE McGUIRE, PLACE 3



What an honor it has been to serve you as your Alderman these past 6 months. Having now observed first hand some of the inner workings of our City, I can state unequivocally we are indeed very fortunate to live in Castle Hills. Consider our City employees – I have been extremely impressed by the professionalism and dedication to service they demonstrate daily. Consistently they strive to make this a better community for us all. The next time you have an opportunity, I would encourage you to express to them how appreciative you are for what they do.

W. Edwards Deming many years ago espoused the need for innovation and continuous quality improvement. While initially he was an advocate for manufacturing (think reliability of Japanese autos, now duplicated by our American manufacturers), top notch service organizations have also adopted his principles. Our US military is one such organization – dedicated and professional men and women consistently focused on innovation and improvement in service to our Country. Our military recognizes the surety of occasional failure (true anytime humans are involved). But rather than condemning individuals for these lapses, professional organizations utilize these as opportunities for innovation and improvement. As a result our military is second to none.

Our City employees are approaching their jobs with the same professionalism and commitment to excellence I came to cherish during my military service. Equally important is their dedication to continuous quality improvement. Recently Capt. Wayne Davis identified a need for better documentation while Acting City Manager Rita Hoyl recognized a need for a more structured customer advocate system. Both of these will allow us to celebrate the phenomenal deeds our City employees accomplish daily and will enable even better interactions between our citizens and our government.

So celebrate our City employees – our police, our fire fighters, our maintenance personnel, our administrative personnel. Their dedication and professionalism is taking us to the next level of excellence. And be sure to tell them thanks for what they do.

BRUCE SMILEY-KALIFF, PLACE 4



The Holidays are here again!

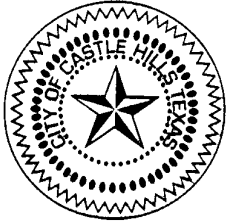
This is the time of the year we all take stock of the last year and look forward with optimism to the promises of the year to come. Many of us mourn the loss of loved ones while we have been blessed by greeting new members of our family and community to this beautiful world. For our city we have had a challenging year, but I am pleased to report that our future is bright. Due to the hard work of all of our staff and City officials, we are strong. We are in excellent shape, prepared to address the very hard issues next year that will come our way.

I have enjoyed representing you, as *YOUR* councilman. I hope we have helped you and your family enjoy being Castle Hills residents, and made things better for you.

Mitch and I want to wish you and your family the warmest Holiday Greetings and a bright a prosperous New Year.

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff 210-342-5954

Bas@Kaliff.com



COUNCIL COMMENTS

TOM DAVIS, PLACE 5



Don't Feed the Animals

Just like the sign in the Zoo says, "Don't feed the animals". Castle Hills is becoming over-run with feral animals that are dangerous to you, your family and your pets. Yes, some are cute and fun to look at, but never forget they are wild animals and not domesticated pets. The problem is exacerbated by residents regularly feeding wildlife. Tourists drive through our city throwing out feed so they can observe these animals, but then go home and leave us with an animal overpopulation problem. As Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz would say, "Foxes, coyotes and deer, on my!".

Since the Holiday Season also brings us the deer rutting season, I'll start with the deer problem. In the next City newsletter, I will concentrate on the fox and coyote problems.

Deer are the ruminant mammals forming the family Cervidae. Deer may be one of nature's most beautiful animals, but urban deer compromise public safety and pose a nuisance to homeowners. Urban deer account for significant number of automobile accidents and injuries. An overabundance of deer will denude small urban forests and remove vital food sources on which other animals rely. Urban deer feed on local vegetation destroying ornamental flower and vegetable gardens, as well as, eating most feed and food scattered to them by residents. While deer appear to be harmless creatures, the number of attacks on humans by deer is on the increase. An attack by a deer can be brutal. Deer antlers can cause puncture wounds and deer hooves can cause serious trauma. Deer attacks have been known to result in severe and permanent injury to people and even death. To reduce the risk of being a victim of a deer attack, people should adhere to the following:

Never provide food to deer. When a pattern of regular feeding has been established deer become protective of the food source and may attack those near the food source - even those people providing the food.

Never, under any circumstance, approach a deer. Deer are wild animals. While they may appear docile, their demeanor can change without warning.

Be especially cautious of deer with fawns. Mother deer are very protective of their young.

Male deer (bucks) can attack people without provocation, especially during the "rut" season (October through December) when female deer (doe) emit a scent that tells the bucks they are ready to breed.

Deer pose a threat to public safety by the possibility of transmitting over 50 diseases to humans. Most common are Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. These diseases can be transmitted to humans through contact with infected parasites such as ticks. To reduce the chance of contracting one or more of these diseases:

Never approach a deer under any circumstance. Touching a deer increases the chances of exposure to disease.

Never attempt to feed a deer by hand or touch food that a deer has eaten. Touching the saliva of a deer increases the chances of exposure to disease.

Bring pet food containers inside at night. Leaving food out overnight encourages deer, and other foraging animals, to rely on humans for food.

Always wear insect repellent to discourage ticks and other insects from biting when working in your lawn, landscaping or gardening, or when walking or hiking in a wooded area.

Texas A&M University Wildlife Department professor Dr. Donald Davis was helpful in providing research papers and information for this article. Deer proliferation in urban areas is strongly discouraged by the department and measures to limit the deer population are recommended. Urban deer population growth is considered such a serious public health and safety problem, Texas A&M University and the Texas Wildlife Department have programs to relocate urban deer back into safe, open environments.

Have a safe and Joyous Holiday.

Do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns at 342-2341.

STAFF COMMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS, Rick Harada, Public Works Director



NEW GARBAGE CONTAINER RULES & REGULATIONS (Bag it & put a lid on it!)

Hello Castle Hills. I hope everyone had a joyful holiday season and I wish everyone a prosperous 2010.

At the November and December city council meetings new rules and regulations regarding garbage containers were discussed and amendments to the Garbage & Refuse ordinance were adopted. Highlights of the new rules and regulations below.

Definitions:

Garbage. Includes refuse, kitchen and household waste of all kinds, food scraps, food containers, ashes, tin cans, glass, paper, trash; all other substances capable of causing noxious odors.

Trash. Includes, anything other than household garbage and landscape debris. Does not include building materials, debris resulting from building or repair activities, motor oil, or hazardous chemicals.

- Containers shall be a water tight receptacle of a solid and durable grade of metal or plastic, not to exceed 32-gallons in capacity.
- Combined weight of container and contents shall not exceed 40 lbs.
- Container must have suitable lifting handles and a close-fitting cover with its own handle.
- Not more than the equivalent of three (3) 32-gallons cans will be serviced during any one call.
- **Garbage containers shall not be placed curbside or in the right-of-way for collec-**

tion earlier than 6 pm the day before collection.

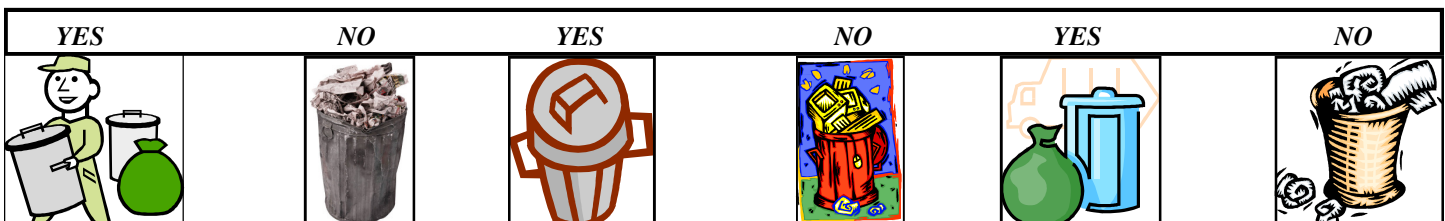
- Garbage must be placed in the container(s) and must be bagged and containers must be covered.
- Bags not containing garbage can be placed next to container. All bags must be tied.
- All boxes and cartons shall be broken down and may not exceed 40 lbs. in weight.
- **After garbage container(s) are emptied by the city it shall be removed from the right-of-way at the earliest possible time on the same day of collection and returned to an area of storage on private property not readily visible from the street.**
- Containers may be placed or stored in the alley abutting the property in an orderly manner so as to not block the alley.

These new rules become effective March 1, 2010.

The Castle Hills Public Works Department includes Sanitation, Streets and Animal Control. Sanitation personnel service household garbage, recycle and lawn trimmings. Street personnel place or replace traffic signs and street name signs, place barricades at low water crossings, and perform street repairs. Animal Control stays busy by picking up deer carcass and other small animals, pets running at large, and administering proper paperwork for animal impoundment.

We are here to serve the citizens of Castle Hills.

Please call me with questions or concerns, at 210-342-2341, ext. 206.



STAFF COMMENTS

CITY CODE REMINDERS

by Rita Hoyl

STREET NUMBER VISIBILITY

- All residences and businesses in the City of Castle Hills, Texas will insure that the number of their address is clearly visible from the street. To insure visibility the numbers should be no less than 4" in height and of a color which contrasts with the background so as to be outstanding.
- All residences and businesses that abut on a rear alley will also insure that the number of their residence or place of business is clearly visible from the alleyway. These numbers will also be of a contrasting color to the background and no less than 4" in height.
- Commercial business should have their address numbers located on or above the entrance to their business as well as on their pole/monument sign. Businesses that are located in a shopping center/mall that has a center/mall directory shall have either their address number or suite number located on or above the entrance to their business. If a shopping center/mall has a single address and the separate businesses within the center/mall are designated by suite number the center's management is responsible for insuring that the address is clearly visible on the center's directory sign(s) and that the suite numbers are properly displayed.

PARKING: BOATS, TRAILERS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, INOPERABLE VEHICLES

- A boat with a trailer or a recreational vehicle less than ten feet wide and twenty feet long may be parked in a garage that remains closed to view from the street, alley, and neighboring properties or it may be parked in the rear yard inside the setbacks for a principal building and on a surfaced area accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence enclosing the entire rear yard and meeting the definition of a "screening device," as long as no unhealthy, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions exist and none are created by the parking or storage of the boat, trailer, or recreational vehicle.
- A permit hereunder for boats and RV's only may be issued by the City Manager or his designee for driveway parking for not more than three days in any 30-day period for the purpose of preparation for, and

cleaning after, a recreational outing.

- No vehicle whatsoever shall be parked in the front yard or unenclosed side yard of any residential premises except on the paved driveway thereof, or in a carport or garage. (No parking on grass at anytime).
- Upon obtaining a permit from the City Manager's office, an inoperable vehicle may be parked or stored on the property while undergoing repairs or restoration for a period of up to ninety days if:
 - the vehicle is parked in a garage that remains closed to view from the street, alley, and neighboring properties; or,
 - if parked in the rear yard inside the setbacks for a principal building and on a surfaced area accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence enclosing the entire rear yard and meeting the definition of a "screening device," as long as no unhealthy, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions exist and none are created by the parking or storage of the inoperable vehicle.

TEMPORARY PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS

- **DEFINITION**—temporary portable storage units shall mean storage facilities which are designed and used to store tangible personal property within an enclosed structure and which is typically delivered to the property of a customer and left onsite for some temporary time period.
- **PERMIT REQUIRED**—No temporary portable storage unit shall be placed on a business or residential lot in the City for more than twenty four (24) hours without having first obtained a permit for such placement from the City Manager or his designee. The fee for such permit shall be \$10.00.
- **DURATION OF USE LIMITED**—The onsite placement and use of temporary portable storage units is limited to forty five (45) days per calendar year on any business or residential lot in the City.

PENALTIES—Each separate act or omission which constitutes a violation, and each day's violation of a continuing nature, shall constitute a separate offense.

YOUR COMMUNITY



SAVE THE DATE

ATTENTION! Residents and Businesses of Castle Hills!

APRIL 17, 2010!

FIESTA CASTLE HILLS



“Fiesta Castle Hills” is looking for energetic and motivated residents and businesses who would like to participate in bringing the Fiesta experience to our beautiful City on April 17, 2010. Fiesta fun / family fun right here in our own community at the Commons.

Two (2) parades, food, music, games and more! At 8:30 am a motor parade commences at Commons on Lemonwood next to City Hall; then travels onto Krameria, West Avenue, NW Military, and back to the Commons. Bring your folding chairs and start practicing your *parade wave*!

The second parade of the day is the **Pooch Parade** which will begin right after the motor parade! Kids, dress up the furry ones in Fiesta gear and join in on the parade! Pooch parade route begins at the Commons on Lemonwood, then onto Krameria, Caladium, Persimmon and ends back at the Commons.

Sponsors are needed for FIESTA MEDALS and other incidentals. Give Richard a call to offer your assistance!



For more info contact

Richard Huizar

210-344-9507

richardhuizar@sbcglobal.net



REDUCE STORM WATER POLLUTION

Everyone can help to reduce pollution levels in our creeks and streams. Here is a tip that you can use.

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

Don't over water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.

Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.

Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.

For more information on reducing storm water pollution in Castle Hills

Please contact:

City Manager
City of Castle Hills
210-342-2341

This tip is based on information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and was adapted by

Givler Engineering, Inc.
2161 NW Military Dr.,
Suite 114
San Antonio, Texas



COYOTE SIGHTINGS

by Rick Harada

Recently we encountered several telephone calls concerning coyotes. The fact is that these calls have been coming in over the last two years. The first call we had a couple of years ago, Animal Control attempted to locate the coyotes so that we could capture them and relocate them to another area; we were unsuccessful. I contacted Wildlife Rescue for some guidance or suggestions. They replied that coyotes can only be captured with live bait. Coyotes hunt small prey similar to possum and raccoon. Wildlife Rescue also advised what "not" to do....i.e., do not leave small pets outside unattended. Coyotes do not distinguish between wildlife and a domestic pet. They also advised that pet feeders left outdoors can attract

small critters like possum, raccoon and skunk. Food waste, like grease and fat from meats should be kept frozen in a bag until the day of garbage collection. Put this waste in your trash container and make sure the lid is placed tightly on the container.

If you happen to come across a coyote in your yard, you may want to startle it, but do not try to corner it because coyotes will charge at you to protect itself.

Coyotes have been sighted in different areas of the City. They will eventually relocate to an area where they feel safe. But in the meantime take care of all your pets.

If you have any questions, please call Animal Control at 342-2341, ext. 206.

PET CORNER

Registration Required

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

Leash Law

Please be reminded that a dog must be under proper restraint at all times if not on the owner's premises. Although cats shall be exempt from the leash requirement while on the premises of the owner, any cat straying on the property of anyone except its owner shall be deemed a nuisance animal and will be subject to impoundment.

Pooper Scooper Law

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





COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

June 9th Council Meeting

Tim Howell recognized for his service to the City



October 6, 2009

National Night Out



October 30, 2009

Castle Hills Homeowners Fall Festival



December 3, 2009

Christmas Tree Lighting

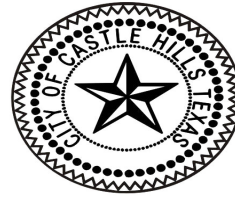


COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

December 8th Council Meeting



Mayor Harper (left) presents a plaque to Castle Hills Woman's Club President Katherine Joyce. The Castle Hills Woman's Club was recognized by Mayor Harper for serving our city. "They promote interest in beautification, safety, friendship, health and good citizenship within the City of Castle Hills. Through its efforts during the past 58 years, the Castle Hills Woman's Club has contributed back to the community funds in excess of \$203,000".



Presented to

CASTLE HILLS WOMAN'S CLUB

ORGANIZED IN 1952

In Appreciation to the Castle Hills Woman's Club. The Generous Contributions Through Their Fund Raising Provide Substantial Improvements to the City. The Members are Dedicated to Their Objectives as a Civic and Charitable Organization for the Betterment and Beautification of Castle Hills.

Mayor Marcy Harper

December 2009



Firefighter Mark Finch (left) was presented a resolution for 15 years of employment with the Castle Hills Fire Department. Finch resigned to accept an officer's position with the Boerne Fire Department. He is pictured with Chief Riedel and his sons, Denver (center), Clayton (left), and Austin (right).

2010 Council Meetings

January 12
February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December 14

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

New Police Officers Take Oath

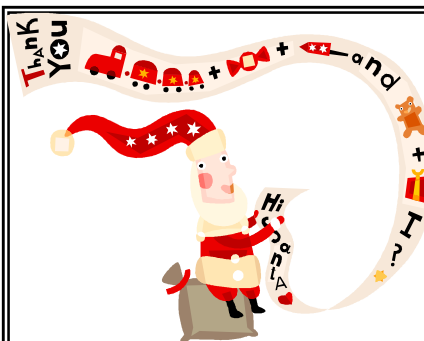


Judge Dooling (back) issued official oath of office to new Castle Hills Police Officers. Left to right are Nathaniel Coy, Chastity Park, and Genevieve Mendoza.



New Employees

Fidel Carreras—P/T Streets
Camille Christie—P/T Dispatcher
Nathaniel Coy—Police Officer
Zane Chumley—Firefighter
Matthew Edwards—Firefighter
Gabriel Gonzales—Street Department
Nicholas Hernandez—P/T Dispatcher
Chastity Park—Police Officer
Beth Perez—P/T Dispatcher
Satin Williams—Admin/Permits



Castle Hills Police Department teams up with SAPD Blue Santa and the SA Food Bank

This year Castle Hills Police Sgt. Steve Hart coordinated with the San Antonio Police Department to host a drop off station at the Castle Hills Police Department for the Blue Santa Program. HEB provided the donation bin.

For the first year and not advertising our participation, I believe it was a success. On December 22nd, SAPD picked up toys and food generously donated for the needy families identified by police officers. Sgt. Hart and the Castle Hills Police Department want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated to this wonderful program. There will be many more happy children and families this Christmas.

Thank you Sgt. Hart for your efforts!

Anniversaries

15Years

Lance Bonnette
Police Officer

30 Years

Gerald Riedel
Fire Chief





HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2010	18 MONDAY	19 TUESDAY	20 WEDNESDAY	21 THURSDAY	22 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE	MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY		South of Loop	North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				
FEBRUARY 2010	15 MONDAY	16 TUESDAY	17 WEDNESDAY	18 THURSDAY	19 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	PRESIDENTS DAY		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	PRESIDENTS DAY	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE	PRESIDENTS DAY		South of Loop	North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				
MAY/JUNE 2010	MAY 31 MONDAY	JUNE 1 TUESDAY	JUNE 2 WEDNESDAY	JUNE 3 THURSDAY	JUNE 4 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	MEMORIAL DAY		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MEMORIAL DAY	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE	MEMORIAL DAY		South of Loop	North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				

SHOP CASTLE HILLS

New Businesses



- AEMESA-USA LLC**—2211 NW Military Hwy, #210 (**Hair Salon**)
- BAILEY'S SPORT DOGS**—7103-A Blanco Rd. (**Restaurant**)
- BLUE RIBBON TIRES**—6200 West Ave. (Under New Management) (**New & Used Tires**)
- BUONO DOLCE SIGNATURE DESSERTS**—8055 West Ave. (**Bakery**)
- CHASE BANKING CENTER**—6000 West Ave (**Financial Institution**)
- EL MANA BAKERY & CAFÉ**—2211 NW Military Hwy., #111-A (**Bakery**)
- FUMING'S MASSAGE THERAPY**—1007 NW Military Hwy. (**Massage Therapy**)
- HEI SYSTEMS & SOLUTIONS, LLC**—1100 NW Loop 410, #611 (**IT Solutions Provider**)
- MODA MIA BOUTIQUE**—6449 Blanco Rd. (**Retail Boutique**)
- HEALTHWAY SPA**—6995 Blanco Rd. (**Spa/Massage**)
- MARGIE'S SKIN CARE STUDIO**—6433 Blanco Rd. (**Skin Care Cosmetics**)
- OBLATE CAFÉ**—2112 NW Military (**Restaurant**)
- PHAM FAMILY PHARMACY, INC**—7117 Blanco Rd. (**Pharmacy**)
- ROSENBERGER CONSTRUCTION, LP**—1100 NW Loop 410, #850 (**General Contractor**)
- SOUTH TEXAS VOCATIONAL TECH**—1015 Jackson Keller (**Trade School**)
- THE SOLUTION GROUP**—2211 NW Military Hwy #211 (**Insurance Sales**)
- TG&C FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP, LLC**—2161 NW Military Hwy. #201 (**Financial Planning Services**)
- TU & YO**—802 Lockhill Selma (**Gift Shop**)
- VISTA TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**—1100 NW Loop 410, #615 (**Federal Consulting**)
-

New Businesses "Coming Soon" To Castle Hills

- APPLE ANNIE'S RESTAURANT & BAKERY**—2177 NW MILITARY (**Home Cooking & Bakery**)
- LOTS OF LIFE CHILDREN RESALE**—7103 Blanco Rd. (**Children's Resale**)
- PICNIKINS CAFÉ**—6901 Blanco Rd. (**Deli Shop**)
- SAN ANTONIO SURGICAL ARTS**—6511 Blanco Rd. (**Oral Surgery Practice**)
-

City of Castle Hills

209 Lemonwood Drive
San Antonio, TX 78213

Phone: 210-342-2341
Fax: 210-342-4525

Prst. Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 884

Help us keep the City's mailing list updated. If your name is not on the mailing label of this publication, please call 342-2341, extension 215 with current information.

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor:.....Marcy Harper
Place 1:Marcella Huff
Mayor Pro Tem
Place 2:Douglas Gregory
Treasurer
Place 3:Steve McGuire
Place 4:Bruce A. Smiley-Kaliff
Place 5:Tom Davis

**CASTLE HILLS
CITY NEWSLETTER**

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

City of Castle Hills
209 Lemonwood Drive
Castle Hills, TX 78213
(210) 342-2341
e-mail: rhoyl@cityofcastlehills.com

Visit us at www.cityofcastlehills.com

**CITY STAFF
342-2341**

CITY MANAGER
Vacant

Assistant City Manager
Rita Hoyl, Ext. 215

City Secretary
Linda Gill Ext. 216

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief Jerry Riedel, Ext. 217

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief Donald Davis, Ext. 210

**PUBLIC WORKS &
ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT**
Director Rick Harada, Ext. 206

CODE COMPLIANCE/PERMITS
Rita Hoyl, Ext. 215

**ALL EMERGENCIES
EMT, FIRE & POLICE**

**CALL 911
24 Hours A Day**

**MONTHLY
MEETINGS**

All meetings are held at City Hall unless
otherwise posted

City Council
2nd Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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