

January 2014

The Castle Hills
Reporter

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Message

From the Mayor

Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff wishes everyone a very healthy and Happy New Year. He is relinquishing his space this issue to Mr. Joe Izbrand, Chairman of the Zoning commission, to help our citizens to stay informed of important happenings.

Your Mayor,

Bruce Smiley- Kaliff
mayor@cityofcastlehills.com
210-342-5954

The City of Castle Hills holds the distinction of being a highly sought after location for families and businesses. The stability of housing prices, and the influx of new businesses and commercial ventures, is indicative of the popularity of our community.

All one needs to do to appreciate the valued location of Castle Hills is drive by West Avenue and Loop 410 and witness the development taking place there with the construction of the new Pape Dawson Engineering headquarters and Bank of San Antonio. Businesses want to locate to our city.

At the same time, Castle Hills is 'land-locked,' surrounded by the City of San Antonio with no opportunity for expansion of the city limits. This makes for interesting challenges and opportunities as more families and businesses explore the possibility of making Castle Hills their home.

It is during periods of growth like the one Castle Hills is currently experiencing that we are reminded of the importance of our zoning ordinances and designations. Zoning is critical to preserving the integrity of neighborhoods and providing a well ordered 'map' for measured growth and development. Yet, Castle Hills, like so many other cities, has ordinances dating back forty-plus years.

As a result, current zoning ordinances are oftentimes supplemented by special use permits, or SUPs, which allow for a variance of land use within a zoning designation. A general example of a variance would be permitting a small retail shop to operate on the edge of an area designated for residential use. SUPs are most often requested because current zoning ordinances may not adequately address contemporary growth patterns and trends.

It can reasonably be suggested, however, that the frequent use of SUPs removes the "special" and makes variances from zoning designations routine. That is why special use permits should be used with discretion. Good policy dictates that zoning ordinances be the foundation for long-term city planning and orderly growth.

Your Castle Hills Zoning Commission meets monthly, as needed, to consider zoning issues and SUP requests and to make recommendations to city council. In 2014, the commission will begin a transparent review of the city's zoning ordinances for possible revisions and updates. These meetings will always be open to the public and residents and business owners are encouraged to attend, provide comment, and be a part of the process. Together, we are committed to keeping Castle Hills a welcoming community for families and businesses.

Joe Izbrand
Zoning Commission Chairman



Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff
Mayor

Michael Catalani
Place 1

Stacia Spridgen
Place 2

John Squire
Place 3

Tim Howell
Place 4

Tom Davis
Place 5, Mayor Pro Tem

CITY STAFF
(210) 342-2341

Rita Hoyl
City Manager, ext. 214

Janie Willman
City Secretary, ext. 216

Suzanne Riley
Finance/Human Resources, ext. 224

Jerry Riedel
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Wayne Davis
Police Department Chief, ext. 210

Rick Harada
Public Works & Animal Control
Department Director, ext. 206

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 Tuesday, 6:30pm

Architectural Review Committee
3rd Monday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Board of Adjustment
3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Zoning Commission
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm
Upon Request

Crime Control & Prevention District
3rd Monday, 6:00pm
As Needed

City Manager - Rita Hoyl

Happy New Year! The City is abuzz. In 2013 we welcomed 65 new businesses to Castle Hills. They ranged from restaurants, retail, personal services, and offices. The Castle Hills Woman's Club hosted 15 ribbon cutting ceremonies welcoming new businesses. Thank you Christine Catalani for arranging the ceremonies.

Also, several committees have been meeting throughout the year planning for a better Castle Hills. Fiesta Castle Hills, Strategic Planning Committee, Civic Participation Committee, and Streets and Drainage Committee.

2013 Highlights

January

- Assistant Fire Chief Mike Finke retired

February

- New City website developed by Civic Participation Committee
- Castle Hills Garden Club celebrated their 60th Anniversary

March

- Wayne Davis promoted to Police Chief

April

- Adopted new billboard and sign ordinance
- Police Chief Donny Davis retired
- Beautify Castle Hills Day, organized by the Castle Hills Woman's Club

May

- Voters elected new councilmembers Stacia

Spridgen and John Squire and re-elected Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

- May 25th Flood Event caused damaged to homes, streets, alleyways, and drainage ways

June

- Council appointed new Municipal Court Judge Harold McCall and new Prosecutor Matthew Gossen

July

- Angie Borrás, owner of Houses in San Antonio, recruited volunteers to place a US Flag at every property in the City for July 4th
- Hosted the 1st Castle Hills/Shavano Park Business Alliance Meeting
- City Secretary Linda Gill retired
- Detective Sgt. Mark Pardaen retired
- Pape-Dawson Engineers broke ground for their new corporate headquarters

August

- Strongest community participation for National Night Out events in Castle Hills

September

- Council adopted FY 2014 Budget and maintained same tax rate for a 4th year.
- CPS Energy Hosted a Customer Care Fair at City Hall
- Homeowners Association hosted Safety Awareness Night

October

- Burger King broke ground for new restaurant at 6003 West Ave.; opening in January
- Homeowners Association hosted the Annual

Halloween Party at City Hall

November

- Farewell reception for Bill & Sandie Martin

December

- Fiesta Castle Hills sponsored the Annual 5K Run/Walk

THANK YOU TO.....

.....the late Robert (Bob) Harper for the monetary donation to continue the tradition of providing tamales to all city employees;
the late Barbara Melzer for her contribution to the Civic Participation Committee;
Homewood Residence for hosting a Public Safety Appreciation lunch;
St. George Episcopal Church for your kind donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Civic Participation Committee;
the Castle Hills Homeowners Association for the Holiday turkeys;
the Castle Hills Garden Club for the decorative lights for the trees in the Commons and in front of City Hall;
the Castle Hills Woman's Club for the homemade cookies;
Castle Hills resident Ron Wolma and St. George for providing and cooking (for hours) all the delicious meat for the employee holiday luncheon;
Councilman Michael Catalani for the tamales from Pineda's Restaurant on Blanco.

SAVE THE DATE!

Fiesta Castle Hills, April 12, 2014.

It's all about friends, family and the people that care about **you.**

We are known for our **integrity** and reputation that only comes from years of experience and the **knowledge** gained by serving our residents.

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



November 12, 2013 - Regular City Council Meeting

- Approved the Treasurers Report of October 2013
- Approved the Proposal of Audit Services from Armstrong, Vaughan, & Associates, P.C. to Conduct the FY 2013 Annual City Audit and Authorized the City Manager to Sign an Engagement Letter for the Audit Services
- Cancelled the December 10, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting.
- Conducted a Public Hearing and Considered the Recommendation of the Zoning Commission on a Special Use Permit Request from Wayside Chapel to Add 89 Parking Spaces and a Drainage Grass Detention Pond
- Authorized the Special Use Permit from Wayside Chapel for the addition of parking spaces and a drainage grass detention pond
- Considered and instructed the City Manager and the City Attorney to Prepare Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the City of Castle Hills Digital Billboard Signage per the City's existing ordinance
- Considered and voted to cast the City's five votes in the Bexar Appraisal District Board of Directors Election with 2 votes for Jack E. Burton and 3 votes for Rick A. Schroder
- Announced the City Council would consider appointments to a Committee to Address Capital Improvements for Streets and Drainage at a Special City Council Meeting on December 3

November 13, 2013 - Special City Council Meeting

- Adopted an Ordinance Canvassing the Election Returns of the November 5, 2013 Bond Election reflecting 231 votes in favor and 1,015 votes against the Proposition Ballot Language: The Issuance of \$13,000,000 of Bonds for Constructing Street and Drainage Improvements in the City, and Levying the Tax in Payment Thereof; officially finding the result of said election to be that the Proposition submitted did not receive a favorable majority vote and failed to carry

November 25, 2013 - Special City Council Meeting

- Council discussed establishing responsibilities, limitations, goals and milestone dates for a Committee to address Capital Improvements for Street and Drainage. Reached a consensus that the charge to the Committee would be to present a preliminary proposal containing various economic options to address the repair of street, drainage,

and alley deteriorations within the city at the March 11, 2014 regular scheduled City Council Meeting

December 3, 2013 - Special City Council Meeting

- Appointed a group of concerned citizens to serve as the 2013 Street and Drainage Committee: Tom Akin, Douglas Steadman, Angie Borrás, Joyce Buie, Richard Szecsy, Patsy Martin, and Ralph LaBorde. Appointees Ellen Szecsy and John Kenny originally appointed informed the City Council that they would be unable to serve on the Committee.
- Considered an agenda item to authorize the City Manager and her staff to develop a city street maintenance plan with outside support from persons and entities selected by her with expertise appropriate for such endeavor, provided that any such outside support shall be without cost to the city (unless previously approved by the City Council) and that any professionals assisting with the endeavor shall provide to the City Manager certification that the assistance provided is not the provision of services requiring compliance with the Professional Services Procurement Act in Chapter 2254 of the Texas Government Code. The City Council did not discuss the item as the motion on the agenda item died for lack of a second.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Anniversaries

15-Years

Darrel Dover, Fire Department
Grady Schmidt, Fire Department
Alfonso Castaneda, Sanitation

1-Year

Kolin Jonas, Fire Department

New Employees

Jacob Anderson - Public Works
Maribel Mendoza - PD Administration



POLICE CHIEF

Wayne Davis

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and hope 2014 brings you another great year. 2013 went by too fast; in April 2013 Chief Donny Davis retired. In July, Sergeant Mark Pardaen also retired and he started a second career with the Texas Department of Insurance as an investigator. Castle Hills Police Department hired an outstanding captain, who has brought a wealth of knowledge to the city and continues to prove to be an asset.

Our staff have attended job fairs at police academy graduations. Because we are not the only agency in the room, we have struggled slightly on hiring. We are contending against some 15+ agencies and can't compete with many of them for a variety of reasons. However, we continue to promote the agency, the City, our great working environment and its staff, in hopes of finding the right, most qualified officer(s). We are optimistic going into 2014.

Our highlight over the last few months was the burglary apprehension of three (3) burglars in one day. It is difficult to catch one, but three in one day was outstanding. The burglars broke into a residence with the homeowner inside. The homeowner immediately called the CHPD and less than two minutes later our officers were arriving on the scene only to find the suspects fleeing on foot in all different directions. Within 30 minutes two suspects were apprehended and within 4 hours, all three were in custody. The training and quality of both our dispatch division and officers in the field was a direct result in the apprehension. It was an unfortunate day for two of our residents, but a fortunate day for police and the message that was sent to other burglars considering Castle Hills as a target.

One small but useful tip, please know the whereabouts of your phone at all times. In the event you need us, the quicker the call comes in to Castle Hills dispatch, the quicker the police will be on the way.

We thank you for all your support and will continue to provide the best possible service an agency can offer. If you ever need anything please do not hesitate to call, remember we are here **24/7/365**.

Wayne Davis
Chief of Police



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Council Comments



Michael Catalani
Place 1

My last articles have centered on our city's police and fire departments. This article will focus on the public works department.

In my opinion, we have a terrific public works department that provides some really good service to our citizens. The department is made up of three divisions.

There are ten employees working in the department performing multiple tasks which consists of streets, sanitation, and animal control. Public works also has one part-time employee who helps to maintain city hall.

The street division handles maintenance throughout our city. Some of the maintenance duties include mowing city easements, cleaning drainage ditches, and cleaning cement culverts and removing sediment and trash. Another important responsibility is filling potholes and performing crack sealing on many of our deteriorating city streets. Street signage is also the responsibility of the street division.

The sanitation division is an important function of public works. Garbage is picked up twice a week and brush and recycled items once a week. This is back breaking work and these employees deserve a lot of credit for being on the job day in and day out. Animal control is the third division making up public works. This division has responsibility for picking up domestic pets, dogs and cats, and the impoundment of these animals. Animal control also picks up wildlife including skunks, possums, raccoons, deer and animal carcass. Animals picked up and under the care of animal control are walked and fed daily. The division also places pets on websites for adoption.

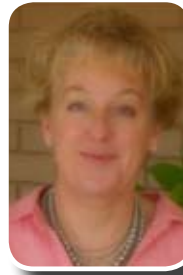
Mr. Rick Harada is the department head in charge of public works. Being on city council for nearly two years now, I have become more acquainted with Mr. Harada. I can tell you he is a very hard working individual who responds to our citizens concerns and requests in a timely manner.

My purpose for highlighting our city's departments has been to give you "the citizens" insight as what it takes to operate a city our size. Citizens are always telling me how much they appreciate the services and level of service they have day in and day out. Our personnel perform their duties with limited resources and city personnel know that they have to perform their duties in a cost efficient manner.

Many of us moved into Castle Hills because we wanted excellent police and fire protection as well as very efficient public works services. Many of us remain in Castle Hills for the same reasons. We have a city to be proud of and brag about as Castle Hills residents.

Let us all work to retain these services and not lose sight of what makes our city great.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to you, please contact me. I can be reached at 342-2087 or at michael.catalani@yahoo.com.



Stacia Spridgen,
Place 2

"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."

-Oprah Winfrey

As we close the chapter on 2013, a tumultuous year for the city of Castle Hills, the birth of a New Year can bring a great sense of peace, relief, and happiness. It marks the end of bygones, the sad and bad memories, and sets the pace for a new and fresh beginning. New Year resolutions are plentiful and it gives a lot of hope and audacity to take a resolution and attempt your best to fulfill it through the year. To quote Bill Vaughan, "an optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."

Every year, the New Year gives us another opportunity to set right our mistakes and resolve ourselves not to commit them again. The New Year also marks making new friends, renewing old acquaintances (as the song goes) and delving into the stream of the whole new humanity. Though most of the New Year resolutions are not fulfilled, we continue to make a new one every year with the hope that this year will be different. To the city of Castle Hills, let this hope survive as this is the string that binds us all.



John Squire,
PLACE 3

My sincere thanks go to the Huizar family and all of the volunteers for putting forth the time and effort to organize our Fiesta Castle Hills 5K Holiday Run and working to make this event possible for our city.

I also want to thank our city staff and around a dozen Scouts and Scouters from our Alamo Area Council of Boy Scouts who volunteered to help out with the Fiesta 5K run and show their support of this community event and our city. Even with the near freezing temperatures, I truly enjoyed participating in this event, and even more glad to be able to finish. This annual 5K Holiday Run serves as a precursor to our springtime Fiesta Castle Hills parade and day-long festivities in the Commons.

As this newsletter is received, January will be upon us along with another political season for the upcoming elections in May. I bring this up in that I would like to encourage anyone with an interest in working to give back and serve our city to consider running for a seat on council or volunteering for a position on one of the committees or boards that we have here in our city.

Council Comments Continued on Page 7>>

<<Council Comments Continued From Page 6

As always, I am available to discuss our city's issues and encourage you to keep in touch. I can be reached at:

- Email address – jsquirecastlehills@yahoo.com or
- Phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully,
John Squire



Tim Howell,
PLACE 4

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year, I hope that, like me, everyone celebrated and enjoyed the festivities this Christmas season with family and friends. For me, this is a time to reflect and gather my thoughts for the upcoming New Year.

My recent thoughts have been on all the information that has been obtained throughout the years on the infrastructure of our city. This 1st fiscal quarter should be a time to start anew and come together with all resources to complete this ongoing task. The time is overdue for this project, and with all that we have in our talent pool, our resources and ambition, this will be figured out and completed.

My plan is to work with all, and come up with multifaceted solutions. In everything, difference of opinion is what spurs "outside the box" ideas. In every case, this sort of reasoning works. It has worked for countries, corporations, groups, and individuals. Coming together is the key. I for one am looking forward to hearing the ideas brought forward that will eventually culminate in our final plan. The time is now. I would love to hear your comments.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

Timothy A Howell
Councilman Place 4
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Tom Davis,
PLACE 5, Mayor Pro Tem

As the New Year begins, we bid farewell to the past year and anticipate new beginnings. Few people were surprised at the defeat of the November bond. Passing a bond in this city is frowned upon more than passing gas in a crowded elevator. Whether the bond failure was due the questionable assertions of a poor economy, lack of city planning, being too rushed, or lack of citizen input, we are none-the-less starting over. At residents' insistence the City Council met on November 25 to develop the objective for a new Street and Drainage Committee. Not surprisingly, the usual divisiveness, criticisms, and objections were raised by the various factions, myself included. However, two surprises did emerge. Former Councilman McGuire voiced his opinion that a new committee was not needed because the data and information have been established. He felt that substantial amounts of monies could be found by revisiting the 2014 City budget and cutting some services such as all 6 employees from dispatch, 4 positions from the police force, and 6 fire fighters from the fire department, as well as, contracting out garbage service (another 4 employees). The money saved by eliminating those 20 salaries or approximately 1/3 of the city employees when coupled with other outside resource options could provide sufficient funding to begin street and drainage repairs as expediently as possible. Dr. McGuire's point is that difficult problems demand difficult choices. Whether cutting services the residents enjoy or paying a little more in taxes is a choice the citizens must face. The second, and most surprising, assertion made was from a resident who stated he did not think he or the rest of the city should have to pay to resolve the flooding of the 13 houses during last May's rains. He felt that they knew, or should have known, that those homes were in a flood zone when they bought those houses and they should have had flood insurance. Those were their mistakes, so why should everyone else pay to resolve their flooding problems?

Using such logic, one could surmise that since no full-scale street repairs have occurred in 40 years then when you bought your house, your streets were not in perfect condition. You knew that and still chose to purchase your house; therefore, you should pay to repair your street. Councilman Howell reported that there was precedent for such a strategy in our city's history and maybe that's what we should do. You pay for the half of the street in front of your house and your neighbor across from you pays for the other half. Residents who refuse to pay would have a lien attached to their property. Again, difficult problems demand hard choices.

In America's earlier days when a family needed a barn the community pitched in and held a barn raising. That was the American ideal of helping each other and pitching in for the good of the community. Today the attitude seems to be, "I've got mine and I'm not sharing." What happened to the notion that we all benefit when we work together to take care of our collective selves? That sense of sacrificing a little for the benefit of everyone doesn't seem to be present nationally, on a state level, or sadly, locally. To paraphrase a country sage, it takes many well-meaning people to build a barn, but only one jackass to kick it down. It makes you wonder what kind of city is Castle Hills.

Rick Harada, Public Works Director

Hello Castle Hills!

I would like to highlight garbage pick-up regulations in this article. All household generated garbage (usually kitchen & bathroom) must be placed in bags and then placed inside a garbage container with a tight fitting lid. You cannot place this type of garbage outside of the garbage container.

- Curbside and alley pick-up locations have not changed.
- Not more than the equivalent of three (3) 32-gallons cans will be serviced during any one call.
- Combined weight of container and contents shall not exceed 40 lbs.
- If you have alley collections, containers may be placed or stored in the alley abutting the property in an orderly manner so as to not block the alley.

What is the difference between garbage and trash?

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.

- Bags not containing garbage, i.e., leaf bags can be placed next to the container(s). All bags must be tied.
- All boxes and cartons shall be broken down and may not exceed 40 lbs. in weight.

Families shop for convenience, so we buy in larger size containers which causes more garbage to be generated. For example, packaged foods, pizza boxes, take-out food containers, cereal boxes, pet food containers, etc. Gone are the days of having one small garbage bag or can. So, requiring the garbage to be contained, will eliminate the possibility of wild animals tearing into loose bags looking for food which will help eliminate trash scattered in your yard and the streets.

You may place your garbage containers out for collection not earlier than 6 p.m. the day before your collection day. After the containers have been collected, please remove the containers as soon as possible, on the same day to a location not easily visible from the street. Please DO NOT leave your cans out by the street curb overnight. If you have alley pick up, the containers can remain in the alley, placed upright neatly in the alley.

Let us work together to keep Castle Hills beautiful! We are here to serve the citizens of Castle Hills. Please call me with questions or concerns at 210-342-2341, ext. 206.

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Castle Hills Homeowners Association

By John Strieb, President

The Castle Hills Homeowner's Association ended its' year by providing free turkey's to all City employees. Joyce Buie coordinated with the West Avenue HEB store manager, Eddie Rodriguez for the purchase of 14-15 lb turkeys. On November 25, John Strieb presented the turkeys to City Staff represented by Rita Hoyl, City Manager, Capt. Johnny Siemens, Police Dept., and Suzanne Riley. Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff and Councilman Tom Davis were present to thank us for the gift. Our association was represented by John Strieb, Joyce Buie, and Kathy Friedrich. Thanks to Fire Chief Jerry Riedel and his staff for unloading the turkeys. As usual our Fire and Police Departments are always available to help.

The Association also assisted the Castle Hills Women's and the Garden Club in sponsoring a farewell party on November 21 for Sandi and Bill Martin who are moving at the end of December. Bill and Sandi were very active in our association as well as just about every other activity in Castle Hills. We thank them for their hard work and service in promoting Castle Hills and making our city a better place to live. We wish them well.

I recently had contact with Rowena Nadig, also a long time resident of Castle Hills. During the Spurs playoffs she suffered a stroke and is now in rehab in the Austin area which is near her daughter. She was also very active in our community and our association, serving as President for several years. She was also a long time election judge at City Hall during elections. We wish her well and a full recovery.

In looking back over this past year we sponsored our annual Easter Egg hunt, four movie nights, the Halloween Party, participated in Fiesta Castle Hills, held the Safety Awareness Night, and had our big turkey give away. All this could not have been possible without the hard work of Nancy

and Trey Batchelder, Debbie Reeves, Stacia Spridgen, Joyce Buie, Kathy Friedrich and all the unnamed people they recruited to help in making the activities a success. Thanks also goes to Karen Rogerzinsky, Trey Batchelder's assistant at Batchelder Construction who did more than her share of administrative "things" for the Association. Thanks goes to Trey for making her available.

In 2014 we look forward to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, more movies nights, Fiesta Castle Hills participation, a membership event possibly in May, another Safety Awareness Night leading up to National Night Out and the annual Halloween Party. We will also be having our annual meeting in January. Specific dates and time will be posted on the Castle Hills website calendar and notification sent out on Castle Hills Nextdoor and our e-mail list.

Membership renewal notices will be sent out at the end of December. Dues are \$25 per year and anyone who wants to get a jump on renewal or join for 2014 can send the dues to Castle Hills HOA, 6804 West Ave, San Antonio, TX 78213. Please include your e-mail address. All Castle Hills residents are welcome to join.

We will continue to use the Castle Hills Website Calendar, our e-mail list and Castle Hills Nextdoor as our main means of communication. If you think your e-mail address is out of date or that we do not have it, send it to me at jfs@prodigy.net. We will use it to communicate only on events related to the association. Also, if you would like to join Castle Hills Nextdoor e-mail me and I will invite you to join. There is no downside to joining the site and it is there to promote communication among the residents of Castle Hills. Currently there are about 200 members.

I wish to also thank Nick Marquez, our point "guy" at the City for all his behind the scene help in support of our association. He is great to work with.

The Castle Hills Homeowner's Association, its' officers and Board, wish you a very Happy New Year.

oh, the possibilities!

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YOUR COMMUNITY



Webster University located at 1100 NW Loop 410 celebrated their grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on October 22nd.



Pineda Mexican Restaurant, 5515 Blanco Rd. celebrated their grand opening on November 22. They provided tamales and street tacos after the ceremony. Restaurant owner, Mirthala Pineda and Councilman Catalani cut the red ribbon.



The Homeowners Association gave each employee a holiday turkey. Pictured left to right: Kathy Friedrich, Suzanne Riley, Joyce Buie, Councilman Tom Davis, Captain Johnny Siemens, Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, and HOA President John Strieb.



A farewell reception was held in honor of Bill and Sandie Martin on November 21st. They will be missed!



NeuroRestorative, 124 S. Winston held their ribbon cutting ceremony November 19th.



Joyce Buie hosted Thanksgiving dinner at her home and invited three soldiers. She also scheduled a tour of the Castle Hills Fire Department.



C'est La Vie Baking Co, 8055 West Ave., #107, celebrated their Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on December 6th.



Councilman Michael Catalani and Christine Catalani brought hot tamales from Pineda Restaurant (5515 Blanco) for all employees to enjoy on a cold December morning. Sgt. Hart, Nick Marquez, and Rose Trevino were the first to sample!



Chief Davis gave a Crime Prevention and Awareness presentation to the Castle Hills Garden Club at the Petroleum Club December 10.



Garden Club members gathered at City Hall by the Christmas lights they gave to City Hall.



Castle Hills First Baptist Church 5th & 6th grade choir, instructed by Rachel Boeselt, performed Christmas songs for staff December 12th.

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule January 20 - Martin Luther King Holiday February 17 - President's Day

| JANUARY 2013 | 20 MONDAY | 21 TUESDAY | 22 WEDNESDAY | 23 THURSDAY | 24 FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NORTH OF LOOP 410 | MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY | | GARBAGE COLLECTION | | GARBAGE COLLECTION |
| SOUTH OF LOOP 410 | MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY | GARBAGE COLLECTION | | GARBAGE COLLECTION | |
| RECYCLE | | | SOUTH OF THE LOOP | NORTH OF THE LOOP | |
| NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK | | | | | |

| FEBRUARY 2013 | 17 MONDAY | 18 TUESDAY | 19 WEDNESDAY | 20 THURSDAY | 21 FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NORTH OF LOOP 410 | PRESIDENT'S DAY | | GARBAGE COLLECTION | | GARBAGE COLLECTION |
| SOUTH OF LOOP 410 | PRESIDENT'S DAY | GARBAGE COLLECTION | | GARBAGE COLLECTION | |
| RECYCLE | | | SOUTH OF THE LOOP | NORTH OF THE LOOP | |
| NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK | | | | | |



Left to right: Father Ram Lopez, Patti Evans, Director of Lower School, School Ambassadors Sam Hall, Susanna Prieto and Castle Hills Resident Ron Wolma. For the third year, Mr. Wolma on behalf of St. George School & Church, smoked a variety of meats for the employee holiday luncheon. Employees from all departments feasted on pork, turkey, sausage, venison, and brisket. A gracious thank you from Castle Hills employees.

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Facts and ordinances pertaining to alleyways

As your Code Compliance officer, Terri Leone, I had the pleasure to ride in the sanitation truck and I never imagined how large this vehicle is: The sanitation truck is 30 feet in length, (imagine the turning radius that is required) 11 feet high and 11 feet wide, this includes the mirrors that protrude 1.5 feet.

After driving through the alleyways, it appeared that residents have either planted various type of shrubbery/trees for screening their property and have allowed vegetation to grow into the alleyways. This vegetation has grown into the alleyways and is an ongoing concern for our sanitation crew. The sanitation crew stands on the rear of the truck and have been injured, due to the vegetation in the alleys. City vehicles have also been damaged due to this issue.

Residents you may not be aware of the Castle Hills Code that pertains to maintaining alleys. Please read the Codes below that refer to the alleyways. Thank you for your cooperation and help in maintaining the beautiful City of Castle Hills.

ARTICLE IV. WEEDS AND TRASH

Sec. 26-118. Maintaining city easements and rights-of-way.

It is unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting, or having under his control any lot or premises, whether improved or vacant, within the city, which lot or premises consists in part of city-owned easements or rights-of-way (whether sidewalk, construction, utility, or drainage) to permit same to be covered with high grass or weeds or any of the unsightly conditions enumerated in this article. Such city easements and rights-of-way shall be kept mowed, trimmed, and clean at all times.

Sec. 26-120. Weeds in alleys. It shall be unlawful for both the owner and the tenant of any property in the city abutting upon a public alley or way to permit any weeds, grasses, or other vegetation whatsoever to grow therein to the center line to a height of greater than five inches.

Terri Leone
Code Compliance



Stormwater Rules Apply to Restaurants

The City has a duty under state and federal regulations to establish methods for controlling non-stormwater discharges to the storm drainage system to the maximum extent practicable. This applies to both commercial businesses including restaurants, as well as, individual homeowners.

Restaurants are being reminded about the need for the proper disposal of liquid waste, food waste, grease, dirty mop water, cleaning fluids and trash from food service operations. A number of pollutants can end up in the stormwater drainage system and flow directly into local waterways and rivers when restaurant owners fail to properly dispose of liquid waste and to maintain outside waste storage units.

At a minimum food service operators should adhere to the following practices: (1) Maintain outside waste grease storage units provided by rendering companies and to quickly clean up any spills when transferring used grease to these units. (2) Never wash down dumpsters or grease bins with a hose. Check dumpsters regularly for leaks. If a dumpster or grease storage unit must be cleaned or repaired, contact the leasing company. (3) Ensure dirty mop water and carpet shampoo wastewater is disposed of in the mop sink. Restaurant operators need to keep in mind that pouring dirty mop water outside can lead to storm water violations and costly fines.

Other commercial operations are reminded to avoid allowing the following to enter the stormwater drainage system: (1) Used motor oil, antifreeze, or any other motor vehicle fluid; (2) Industrial waste or hazardous waste, including hazardous household waste; (3) Domestic sewage or septic tank waste, grease trap waste, or grit trap waste; and (4) Wastewater from a commercial mobile power washer or from the washing or other cleaning of a building exterior that contains any soap, detergent, degreaser, solvent or any other harmful cleaning substance.

The City's 2009 Stormwater Ordinance #1040 can be downloaded at the following Website: http://cityofcastlehills.com/DocsDownloads/Zoning%20Ords/Ord%201040_CH%20Illicit%20Discharge%20Restrictions.pdf

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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 restrains 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, you must carry the appropriate materials to pick up and remove waste immediately.

Fences

Protect your pet. Please check your fence for any openings that may allow your pet to leave the property. Your pet could get lost, hurt, or hurt others.



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