

CASTLE HILLS REPORTER



www.cityofcastlehills.com



Election Day
Saturday, May 9th
7 am—7 pm
Castle Hills City Hall
209 Lemonwood Dr.

*Hours of early voting on
 page 8*

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Message From the Mayor Marcy Harper

At the January 2009 Council meeting, City Council adopted a First Responder ordinance, which establishes a \$55 fee to be charged for all emergency medical technician (EMT) house calls after the first call to the same location in a calendar year. The EMT service is a supplementary service in addition to regular EMS services. While the argument for the fee is that it is needed to cover the cost of service, we have never had such a fee in the past and even some council members who voted for it thought the city should be less rigid. Although I did not have an opportunity to vote, I did express my opposition to the ordinance since I strongly feel that residents should receive this service at no charge. This is just one of the many services the city has an obligation to provide under the city's portion of property taxes.

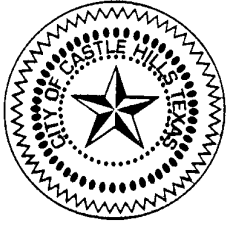
Continuing the beautification of Castle Hills, we have installed one monument sign and will complete the second one this spring along with the new CPS decorative light poles: Cas Hills at Blanco and Travertine at Jackson-Keller. We have also installed the light poles in front of City Hall and are working with CPS and TxDot for placement of the light poles on NW Military Hwy. A vote by council will be required for additional and much-needed lighting on our residential streets.

I have recently appointed a committee to review and revise all building codes, permitting process, inspections, policy and procedure. Chairman Douglas Gregory and committee members LaVerne Japhet, Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, Richard Sceszsy and Diane Pfeil will provide recommendations to council in the near future.

Our first annual pet awareness event, sponsored by Shatha Denno, resident, and her Girl Scout Troop 1111, was held on December 13, 2008. The event was a success and raised over \$1000 for the City of Castle Hills Animal Shelter.

I also want to thank the Castle Hills Homeowners Association and former board member, Pamala Farris for the first publication of "*The Castle Hills Handbook of Information and Services for Residents*" which were mailed to all residents and business's in January, 2009.

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



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ORDINANCE #1011

An ordinance amending Chapter 3 Animals of the Code of Ordinances by adopting regulations pertaining to bees.
(PASSED 12/9/08)

ORDINANCE #1013

An ordinance reenacting the Juvenile Curfew found in Chapter 26 Trespass and Miscellaneous Crimes of the Code of Ordinances, subject to amendments to the enforcement procedure in Section 26.504.
(PASSED 1/20/09)

ORDINANCE #1014

An ordinance amending Chapter 11 Fire Department of the Code of Ordinances by providing for the collection fees and cost recovery for certain emergency medical technician responses.
(PASSED 1/20/09)

ORDINANCE #1015

An ordinance amending Chapter 13 Garbage & Refuse of the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances addressing the amount of brush collected weekly.
(PASSED 1/20/09)

DECEMBER 9, 2008

Consider:

- An ordinance addressing beekeeping—passed unanimously.
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission on a request for rezoning the remaining portion of the property at 108 Peg Sue Ct (CB5004J Blk 1 Lot 1) from “B” Duplex, Residential District, to match the portion of the building at 812 Lockhill Selma—tabled.
- Fees for EMT Calls—tabled.
- Ordinance addressing curfew enforcement—tabled.

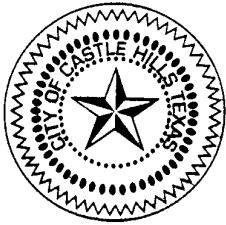
- Casting a vote in support of Bill Martin to serve on the VIA Board of Trustees for the period of March 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 to represent the VIA Suburban cities—passed unanimously.
- Appointment of alternate member of the Architectural Review Committee—withdrawn, no action taken.
- Appointment of chairman and members to a committee to review and revise all building codes, the permitting process, inspections, policy and procedures; nominated were Douglas Gregory as chairman, Bruce Smiley, LaVerne Japhet, Diane Pfeil and Richard Szezsy—passed unanimously.

JANUARY 20, 2009

Consider:

- An ordinance addressing curfew enforcement—passed unanimously.
- Recommendation of the Zoning Commission on an application from Lopez Salas Architects on the proposed design of a single story professional building located at 6511 Blanco Road—passed unanimously.
- Recommendation of the Architectural Review Committee on an application from Morkovsky Architects on the proposed design of a 12,600 sq. ft., 2-story classroom and sanctuary building at Antonian High School located at 6425 West Ave—tabled until February.
- Engagement letter with Virgil W. Crawford, CPA, to conduct the FY 2008 annual city audit—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 11 Fire Department of the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances by providing for the collection of fees and cost recovery for certain emergency medical technician responses—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 13 Garbage and Refuse of the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances addressing the amount of brush collected weekly—passed unanimously.

- Ordinance amending Section 13.105.2 by increasing the base fee for residential garbage collection—passed unanimously.
- Design for the monument sign at the Travertine and Jackson Keller entrance—passed four to one; Councilman Davis opposed.
- Amendment to the 2009 CCPD Budget—passed unanimously.
- Ordinance calling an election to be held on May 9, 2009 to elect a Mayor and two Alderman and addressing matters related to the election—passed unanimously.
- Joint election agreement with Bexar County for the May 9, 2009 elections—passed unanimously.
- Approving the Certified Tax Roll for the year 2008—passed unanimously.
- Appointment of an alternate member to the Architectural Review Committee; Gene Wellborn nominated—passed unanimously.
- Appointment of a member to the Zoning Commission; Doug Steadman move to a full member. Bob Ford and Butch Karren alternate members—passed unanimously.
- Continuation of Crime Control and Prevention District.



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ORDINANCE #1016

An ordinance amending Chapter 13 Garbage and Refuse, Section 13.1502 by increasing the base fee for residential garbage collection.
(PASSED 1/20/09)

ORDINANCE #1017

An ordinance calling an election for the City of Castle Hills, Texas to elect a Mayor and two aldermen; making provision for the conduct of the election, resolving other matters incident and related to such election; and providing an effective date..
(PASSED 1/20/09)

RESOLUTION #0901-01

A resolution requesting the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District to hold a referendum on the question of whether to continue the District for 20 years.
(PASSED 1/20/09)

JANUARY 20, 2009 (continued)

Public Hearing on whether the Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for either 5, 10, 15, or 20 years.

- Adoption of a resolution instructing the Castle Hills Crime Control and Prevention District to order a referendum continuing the district for 20 years—passed unanimously.

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Consider:

- Recommendations of the Architectural Review Committee on an application from Morkovsky Architects on the proposed design of a 12,6000 2-story classroom and sanctuary building at Antonian High School, located at 6425 West Avenue—passed 3-1; Councilman Smiley-Kaliff opposed.
- Recommendations of the Zoning Commission on an application from the Boy Scouts of America for a Special Use Permit to continue the current use of the McGimsey Scout Park facility—tabled.
- Ordinance establishing a Storm Water Fee—tabled.
- Extending maintenance agreement with David Honigblum for one year—tabled.

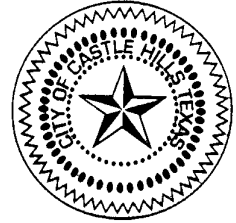
CITY MANAGER'S NOTES



MICHAEL RIETZ
City Manager

At their regular November meeting the City Council made a change to the regulation of signs on City property during an election. Prior to making any changes the City Code prohibited signs, including campaign signs, on public property. This included City Hall and the surrounding property owned by the City and is why you did not see any signs placed in the ground if you came to vote in the November elections.

After the election was completed, the City Council reviewed this policy and decided to make a change that would allow campaign signs here at City Hall when City Hall is used as a polling place. When City Hall is a polling place, the City Manager is required to delineate the approved locations for such signs at City Hall. Placement of signs in road right-of-way and other public property within the city is still prohibited. The placement of signs at City Hall is limited to no earlier than 48 hours prior to the start of early voting and no later than 24 hours after the close of voting.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

MARCELLA HUFF, PLACE 1, MAYOR PRO TEM



The holidays are behind us; a new year has begun. Let us work to accept each others' differences and embrace our similarities.

At the end of last year two exciting events occurred in Castle Hills; the Pet Event and SNOW in Castle Hills. The Pet Event offered information on training, spaying and neutering, and adoption. SNOW in Texas? You had to see it to believe it! Events such as these are the result of hard work on the part of volunteers and city staff. If you were one of the staff or a volunteer a great big THANK YOU! If you are thinking of volunteering for a future event I encourage you to do so. A community working together not only achieves positive results but has a great time in the process.

Difficult economic times affect everyone; local, state and the federal governments as well as individual citizens. It is important to be aware of the decisions made by these various governments and why they are made. Media can provide information on all levels but nothing substitutes for hearing for yourself the whys and wherefores of the decision-making process.

City council meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. Please come and join us. All residents are invited and welcome. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. The agenda is posted at city hall and mailed to all citizens via postcard. As we explore ways to meet the needs of our community many opinions are put forth. We would love to hear yours.

Keep in mind for 2009 that Castle Hills has many boutiques, specialty stores, and restaurants. Please patronize our businesses and help keep Castle Hills strong.

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



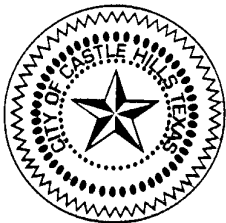
As I write this column, our nation is in the throes of coping with a severe recession. This contraction affects everyone, including cities. Castle Hills is not immune to this downturn and has started to take steps to weather this financial storm. In a few months, the 2010 budget will be constructed. Everything will be on the table for review to produce a lean and mean budget. Excellent fire, police and sanitation services must continue, but anything that does not substantially promote Castle Hills must have a second look.

During the next several quarters, taxpayers should be protected from expenditures that are not directly related to keeping our city desirable for homeowners and commerce. Furthermore, "want lists" involving expenditures which are not substantial in nature must be put on hold.

Everything though is not bleak. Castle Hills remains strong financially. Almost \$2 million are in reserves, therefore allowing us to promote the city and retain quality employees. Citizen committees continue to study how to better our codes, streamline operations and upgrade our infrastructure. It is through citizen input that sometimes new ideas are generated. For example, our new website, www.cityofcastlehills.com, is easy to access and should provide timely information on current events that impact us all.

Finally, your City Council is accessible and I for one look forward discussing problems and concerns with you. Attend some city council or committee meetings; it is, after all, your money and your city.

Please feel free to call me on either 342-5442 or 378-4481 if you have questions or concerns.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

TIM HOWELL, PLACE 3

“.....it is time for us to work on our own community plan to stimulate Castle Hills.”

*Councilman
Howell*



With the proposed federal legislation of stimulus now out in the “light”, it is time for us to work on our own community plan to stimulate Castle Hills. In past newsletters discussion of business, new sales tax, and “Branding of the City” has been my focus of my articles. Now more than ever we need to come together as a community to support our local business as well as “think out of the box” with the resources that we have to promote our city. There are many ways to come together as a community and make our own “stimulus”

package work for our business's. Providing income to our local business does everything to help the promotion of Castle Hills and business. The opportunities lie in how city and local business interact with each other to work hand in hand to balance the residential and business community. This is not a simple task, and takes planning as well as relationship building with the two parties. This is a goal that must be in the for-front of councils mind, as well as the community as a whole. As in the past, with the reported new influx of cars driving through Castle Hills as well as the growing communities to the north, which NW Military is at the present is the most desired way to obtain access to the northern neighborhoods, this opens up tremendous opportunity for our business owners, as well as obligation on councils part to take advantage of the “Branding of the City”. Castle Hills has always been the city of trees and beautiful homes and should always remain that way. Our economic and financial strength can co-exist. The opportunities of the future, providing income for infrastructure, keeping our taxes low, promoting our city, standing by our business partners, to increase sales tax dollars and most of all keeping “our city” the City of Beautiful Homes will be challenging , but will be the responsibility for our council . I urge everyone to give us your opinion, contact one of the council members, or visit a council meeting. We at council would love your input and ideas to help move our city along. In the back of this publication is a “Shop Castle Hills” section. Please review it. Visit our businesses and meet the owners. They will love for you to come by. If you should have any questions, comments, or would like to propose ideas, please don't hesitate to call me or anyone of the other council members. I can be reached at 210-535-9094, or email

timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com

“In the back of this publication is a “**Shop Castle Hills**” section. Please review it. Visit our businesses and meet the owners”.

*Councilman
Howell*

IMPORTANT DATES

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
MARCH 8, 2009

EASTER
APRIL 12, 2009

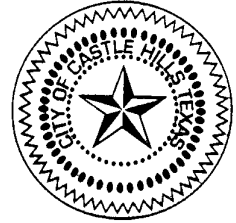
ELECTION DAY
MAY 9, 2009

MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 10, 2009

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 25, 2009

FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 21, 2009

INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 4, 2009



COUNCIL COMMENTS

BRUCE SMILEY-KALIFF, PLACE 4



*For Immediate release
February 19, 2009
Contact: City of Castle Hills, Texas*

Castle Hills Emergency Services Are Worth The Cost

Castle Hills, Texas - Recent media reports about the cost of Castle Hills emergency medical technician calls are both misleading and alarming.

Misleading, because the reports contain incorrect information, and alarming because they might result in citizens not calling 911 for medical emergencies when they are in distress.

First, it should be noted that there is no charge the first time a trained emergency medical technician (EMT) responds to an emergency call at a Castle Hills residence. Should subsequent calls be made from the same location during a calendar year, a \$55 charge will be assessed for each individual EMT call.

Castle Hills EMT first response service is a supplement to regular EMS service. EMTs arrive at the scene with life saving skills and equipment even before an ambulance is dispatched. An EMT's triage skill can save a life when time is of the essence because they have the ability to respond in less than two minutes.

For years, the EMT service has been free, but Castle Hills, like all government entities, is faced with budgetary short-falls which must be offset by charges. The city council believes that a \$55 charge for subsequent EMT calls is extremely reasonable, particularly when compared with nearby cities where they are as much as \$275, and with a slower response time.

In addition, to its first responder EMT service, Castle Hills' traditional emergency services response times are among the state's best and least expensive.

Charges for any service provided by Castle Hills is based on the city manager's analysis of the use of city equipment, man hours involved and supply costs.

While any city would like to provide free emergency services to its citizens, rising gas prices and other high costs of supplies have made that fiscally unwise.

The above press release is an example of the challenges that we face not only as individual citizens concerned about our personal financial security and safety, but the everyday challenges that we as council members are dealing with, in our city government. In these economic times we all are concerned that we will "have enough" to keep ourselves going, while maintaining a lifestyle to which we feel we have become accustomed, and hopefully we can improve our own and the lives of others.

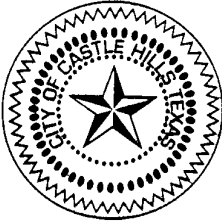
There are times in Chambers, as at home, we wish we could accomplish more. We are fortunate you have chosen a council that is very deliberate and serious about its responsibilities. We have lively and open discussions with our citizen's best interests at heart. We may not always agree, but we agreeably debate the issues.

We have city elections soon. We have a least one contested race and by the time this article goes to print, there could be more.

What can **you** do as a citizen? The clear answer is to **VOTE**. You may not be able to come to every, or even any, council meeting. You may not be able to volunteer, campaign, or be able to spare one moment for any activities at this time, but you **can** vote. It is your **right**, your **privilege**, and your **duty**.

I will see you at the polls on Election Day! As always, please call me with your comments or concerns.
Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

(basmls@satx.rr.com) 210-342-5954



COUNCIL COMMENTS

TOM DAVIS, PLACE 5



“Whether you are outside enjoying your activities on a bright, warm, sunny day or an overcast, cool, windy day, remember to apply a sun screen, wear a hat and sunglasses.”
Councilman
Tom Davis

Many of our city’s residents have read my past articles on the damage that can be caused by sun exposure. As spring approaches and we begin enjoying more and more activities outside, a reminder of how to protect against over exposure may be in order.

Summer isn’t the only season you need to protect your eyes and skin. Exposure to the mild spring sun can be just as unforgiving as our hot summer sun. Protect your eyes with a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses that are at least 95% UV-absorbent when enjoying outdoor activities like walking, cycling, and gardening. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, spending time in the sun without sunglasses can contribute to cataracts, macular degeneration, and other problems. Make sure your whole family is protected by encouraging your children and grandchildren to wear sunglasses when out in the glare of the sun.

The American Academy of Dermatology suggests that, regardless of your skin type, a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 should be used if you are going to be in the sun for more than 20 minutes. SPF stands for Skin Protection Factor. The higher the number, the greater the sunscreen’s ability to screen or block out the sun’s burning rays. Even on a cloudy day, 80 percent of the sun’s ultraviolet rays pass through the clouds. Sunscreens should be applied to dry skin 15-30 minutes before going outdoors. When applying sunscreen, pay particular attention to the face, ears, hand and the back of neck. Re-apply sunscreen as directed on the container. Don’t forget that lips get sunburned. Apply a lip balm that contains sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.

Unless indicated by an expiration date, the FDA requires that all sunscreens be stable and at their original strength for at least 3 years. To be safe, try to use up sunscreen each year or throw out any sunscreens that have endured more than two summers at the pool. When purchasing a new sunscreen, check the label to make sure it is a broad-spectrum sunscreen that screens both UVA and UVB rays. Both UVA and UVB are harmful rays that contribute to sunburn, skin cancer, and suppress the immune system.

Whether you are outside enjoying your activities on a bright, warm, sunny day or an overcast, cool, windy day, remember to apply a sun screen, wear a hat and sunglasses. Stay healthy and enjoy life.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns, 342-2341.

* **WATERING RESTRICTIONS** *
* Landscape watering is prohibited between the hours of 10 A.M. and 8 P.M. every day, year-round, *
* except with a hand held hose; carwash fundraisers are permitted only at commercial carwash facilities; and water waste is prohibited at all times *



Election Day
Saturday, May 9th
7 am—7 pm
Castle Hills City Hall
209 Lemonwood Dr.

EARLY VOTING AT CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL!
APRIL 27th—MAY 5th
HOURS WILL BE:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26th	27th 8 am—6 pm	28th 8 am—6 pm	29th 8 am—6 pm	30th 8 am—6 pm	1st 8 am—6 pm	2nd 10 am—6 pm
3rd 12 noon—6 pm	4th 8 am—8 pm	5th 8 am—8 pm	6th	7th	8th	9th ELECTION DAY

**CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION DISTRICT
ON THE MAY BALLOT**

In 2004 the City of Castle Hills voters approved a ¼ cent sales tax to fund a Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD). That sales tax is generating about \$175,000 annually. The CCPD is managed by a seven-member board that is appointed by the City Council.

This May voters will be asked to renew the district and the sales tax for another twenty years. Both the City Council and CCPD Board support the CCPD extension. If at any point during that 20 year period there is no longer a need for this Crime Control and Prevention District, citizen, by petition could require a referendum calling for the dissolution of the District.

Over its first five years the district has been able to assist the Police department with meeting a wide variety of its equipment, technology and programming needs. The CCPD helps the Police Department meet most of its major capital needs. The CCPD has established a fleet rotation

system that allows us to acquire new patrol vehicles every three years and new vehicles for the criminal investigation division every five years. The CCPD is also providing the Police Department with Stinger stun guns, which are another brand of the “Taser”, providing officers with another non-lethal option for dealing with conflict.

The CCPD also supports the Police Department’s technology needs by providing funding for computer maintenance, software support fees and the replacement of the mobile data computers and video recording systems in the vehicles. Digital Radios have also been purchased with funds from this District to begin the Police Department’s transition to the high-band radio frequency that will be mandated in the next several years. The voice recorder system used to record the Police Department’s radio traffic was replaced with money from this fund. The CCPD has also supported various programs such as the National Night Out and the D.A.R.E. program in our local schools.

The City Council and CCPD Board encourages everyone to participate in the decision on whether to extend the District by going to the polls this May.

STAFF COMMENTS

PUBLIC WORKS, Rick Harada, Public Works Director



Your street and sanitation departments are here to serve you, the citizens of Castle Hills. However, the sanitation department is asking for your help. Our collectors are very conscientious of their work therefore attempt to

remove everything that has been placed for collection. If they leave something behind it was probably too heavy. If the container you are using is larger than a 30-gallon container, it will likely have so much in the container that the collector cannot manually lift it. Our ordinance prohibits using containers larger than 30-gallon capacity.

Garbage should not be thrown or placed on the ground; it should be in a container, whether the container is a can, bag, or box.

If you have curbside collection, please bring your containers back up to your house after collection on the same service day. This keeps the streets free from containers, and keeps the neighborhood attractive.

You can always call me for a quote/surcharge to remove large bulky items.

Thank you all for your continued cooperation, we look forward to continue our service with pride.

POLICE DEPARTMENT, Donny Davis Police Chief *(Chief Davis is deferring his story to Officer Chris Sill)*



NEW POLICE CRUISERS

Hello to the great citizens of the City of Castle Hills. I would first

like to introduce myself to you, I am Officer Chris Sill and I am proud to have been with the Castle Hills Police Department for about six years. In late 2008 I asked Chief Davis to allow me to help with the ordering of the new police cars for 2009 and would like to share with you what the city and the department have purchased this year.

The cars we purchased this year are the 2009 Dodge Charger, and **WOW** what a car. After a bit of discussion with several members of the department and the administration, I was given the approval to purchase the cars and new equipment using funds from the Crime Control and Prevention District. After looking at all the options we decided to go with a different color scheme and the cars were ordered in deep water blue. The blue symbolizes law enforcement. The new Dodge Charger's have 5.7 liter HEMI engines, with 398 horsepower. The new Chargers are the fastest produc-

tion police vehicle produced this year.

The cars with all that power also are equipped with a Multi-Displacement System (MDS) found beneath the hoods of both the Dodge Durango Hybrid and Chrysler Aspen Hybrid, the '09 Charger is able to average a fuel-consumption rate of 16 mpg city/25 mpg hwy by deactivating 4 of the Charger's 8 cylinders when traveling at low speeds. This saves the city and you the taxpayer money. Dodge also had the foresight to equip the '09 Charger police cruiser with some heavy-duty stopping power, featuring a deceleration rate of 60 to 0 mph in 135 feet.

You will also notice that the markings on the car are different. With the help and input of the department we came up with a graphics scheme that would stand out not just in looks, but in officer safety. The Graphics are reflective at night and provide strong visibility as well as a great appearance. The design was produced by Siddons fire and police out of Houston, Texas with the departments ideas.

(continued on page 13)

STAFF COMMENTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT, Gerald Riedel, Fire Chief



Preplanning for emergencies is common in businesses, but should be practiced in the home as well.

The Home Safety Council offers the following tips on Fire Escape Planning. These tips along with others can be found at <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/>

Have smoke alarms on every level of your home. Make Sure a smoke alarm is inside or near every bedroom. For the best detection and notification protection, install both ionization and photoelectric-type

smoke alarms. Some models provide dual coverage. The type will be printed on the box or package.

Test each smoke alarm every month. Push the test button until you hear a loud noise.

Make a fire escape plan for your family. Sketch out a floor plan of your home including all rooms, windows, interior and exterior doors, stairways, fire escapes and smoke alarms. Make sure that every family member is familiar with the layout.

Make sure windows and doorways open easily. Make sure stair and doorways are never blocked. Look for things that could slow down your escape. Move or fix them.

If you have security bars on doors and windows, have a “quick-release” latch. This makes it easy to get outside in an emergency.

Make sure everyone in your family knows how to use the latch.

Select two escape routes from each room and mark them clearly on the plan.

Children and older people will need help escaping a fire. Plan for this. Know who needs help and pick someone to help them. If anyone in the household has a hearing impairment, purchase special smoke alarms that use strobes and/or vibrations to signal a fire.

Have a place to meet in front of your home. Use a portable phone or a neighbor’s phone to call 911. Once you get out, stay out. Do not go back inside for any reason.

CASTLE HILLS FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS SCORE HIGH IN 2008

- Antonian High School Cafeteria—**100%**
- Cakes & More—**100%**
- Castle Hills 1st Baptist Church Cafeteria—97%
- Castle Hills Elementary School Cafeteria—**100%**
- Clever Kids Camp—95%
- CVS Pharmacy—**100%**
- Denny-s—97%
- Dough Pizzeria—97%
- El Palmar—**100%**
- H2Go—**100%**
- HEB Deli/Market/Bakery—**100%**
- Jackson Keller Elementary—**100%**
- Jack In The Box—**100%**
- Kupz—95%
- La Scala—98%
- Lenny-s—**100%**
- Burch School of Excellence—96%
- Smile Food Mart (Shell) -98%
- Sonic—96%
- St. George School—**100%**
- Starbucks—**100%**
- Star of India—**100%**
- Subway—**100%**
- Sun Stop—97%
- Sushihana—95%

BRAVO!

CODE COMPLIANCE, Rita Hoyl, Assistant City Manager
CITY CODE REMINDERS

ACCUMULATION OF WASTE

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

Please check the area around your dumpster the same day of your garbage service. It's inevitable that some garbage flies away while the dumpster is lifted off the ground and turned upside down to be discarded. When this happens, your neighbors are picking up your garbage. Castle Hills City Code states:

§ 13.112 ACCUMULATION OF WASTE PROHIBITED.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to place, deposit, or throw, or permit or cause to be placed, deposited, or thrown any garbage, brush, loose waste, or refuse of any kind on public or private property (or permit the same to remain thereon) unless the same has been placed for collection in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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.

WELBER HAS A NEW HOME!



Last December, animal control was dispatched to an "animal-at-large" complaint. As always animal control responded quickly and discovered the animal to be a lost pot belly pig. He was given the name Welber and was boarded in our shelter hoping to locate his owner quickly. After posting his cute face on our website, no one came to claim him. Weeks and many pounds of food later the contractor that built our monument sign took a look at him and knew he had a new friend. Needless to say, Welber now has a new family and is living on a spacious farm.

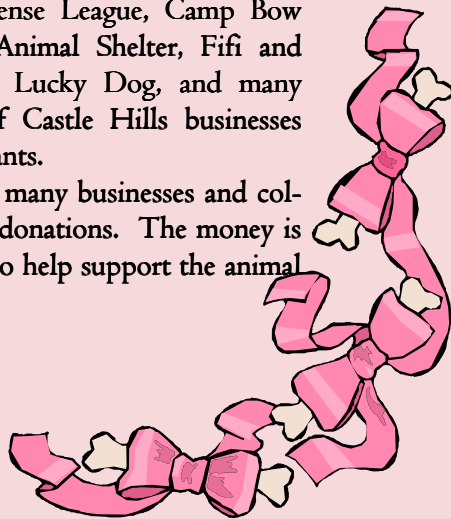
YOUR COMMUNITY

First Pet Event a Success!

Shatha Denno and Girl Scout Troop 1111 worked diligently to put together the first pet event held at the Commons of Castle Hills. On December 13th, the event began with a Dog Walk, and continued with contests for best pet costume, pet look-a-like, most handsome pet and most beautiful pet!

Event participants included Grande Communication Animal Defense League, Camp Bow Wow, Castle Hills Animal Shelter, Fifi and Fido Pet Boutique, Lucky Dog, and many more. A number of Castle Hills businesses were sponsor participants.

The mayor went to many businesses and collected over \$1000 in donations. The money is put in a special fund to help support the animal shelter.



Castle Hills Animal Shelter thanks Mrs. Denno and Girl Scout Troup 1111 for their hard work in making this event a great success. A big THANK YOU to all the sponsors and participants for their generosity!



Nora Denno, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Denno plays Christmas music on her saxophone prior to the commencement of the December City Council meeting.

Thank you Nora—your were great!

Bill Martin Elected VIA Board of Trustees



City Council voted unanimously in support of William "Bill" A. Martin's nomination to the VIA Board of Trustees. He was also nominated for this position by several other cities.

At the Greater Bexar Council of Cities meeting held January 21st, the election results were announced and Bill Martin was officially named as the representative to serve VIA Suburban Cities for a two-year term beginning March 1, 2009.

Bill served on the VIA Citizens Advisory Council for six years. He is a former City Councilman and Mayor of Castle Hills. He has been active in the community since he moved to our City in 1986. He is married to Sandy, an active member, officer and past president of the Woman's Club.



YOUR COMMUNITY

Bill Schluter named Castle Hills Citizen of the Year!



Mayor Harper reads the inscription on the plaque presented to Bill Schluter at the December 2008 City Council Meeting.

At the December 2008 City Council meeting Mayor Harper presented Bill Schluter the 2008 Citizen of the Year award.

Mr. Schluter has been a Castle Hills resident since 1969. He has been active in Castle Hills activities for over 30 years. Mr. Schluter has served as chairman on the Board of Adjustment since 1997, and is also a board member on the Cas-

tle Hills Crime Control & Prevention District.

Bill and his wife Helen were married in Switzerland in 1958. They have two children, Christie Schluter and Robin Brown.

Bill's hobbies are golfing, painting, and hiking and occasional trips to Europe to visit family and friends as well as see new sights.

SNOW IN CASTLE HILLS



That's right....SNOW. Thanks to the Castle Hills Homeowners Association, residents were delighted to see SNOW December 14th.

Everyone, young and old, had a grand time. Even the police and fire departments were able to enjoy the snow (and nobody got hurt).



Councilman Smiley-Kaliff hosts a mock council meeting for a Boy Scout Program on December 30, 2008. Police & Fire also participated in training.

YOUR COMMUNITY



At the February City Council meeting Joyce Buie presented a 3-minute video of an extraordinary non-profit corporation she founded, Red Ribbon Corps, Inc. to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who served the United States.

The video highlighted Red Ribbon Corps premier event which was placing a red velvet bow at the base of each headstone in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008.

Ms. Buie said that a great many residents contributed time and money to the project, and that Julie McClue and Diane Pfeil, both Castle Hills residents, are on the Board of Directors. She added that Betty Chandler, Council members Tom Davis and Bruce Smiley have devoted months to the project. Castle Hills resident Cindy Beuhler and four of her ten-year old girlscoouts, over the summer, made more than 2,000 ribbons. Former council member Bob Ford and his boy scouts worked all day to put the bows out. The Castle Hills Garden Club made a great many bows. Ardell Weber, Sandy and Bill Martin, Rita Hoyl, Don Davis, Mike Rietz, and many other residents were very generous. ***"This year the plan is to put 100,000 ribbons out and would very much appreciate everyone's help again if they are so inclined", said Buie.***

An excerpt from a letter Joyce Buie wrote: *"The everyday freedoms we enjoy are protected by the countless men and women who have served and are serving this country. Fort Sam National Cemetery is the final resting place for many of these courageous, who have made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country.*

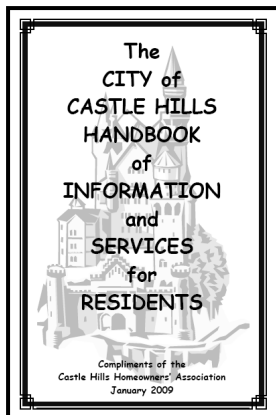
The Red Ribbon Corps, Inc. a 501(c) 3 non-profit was formed to ensure that these brave men and women as well as those families they left behind will be remembered on Veteran's Day. Permission has been granted to the Red Ribbon Corps, Inc. by the Department of Veteran's Affairs in Washington D.C. to place a red velvet ribbon at each of the headstones in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The handmade red ribbon symbolizes the sacrifices and reminds all to "Forget Them Not".

There are some 100,000 grave sites; to remember and honor these fine men and women require the support and efforts of many individuals. This is taking a community wide effort by a number of organizations and individuals donating funds and time to make the bows for placement for Veteran's Day. In the years to come a nationwide effort will take place to honor those that rest in all of the National Cemeteries. "

To become a supporter of Red Ribbons Corps, Inc contact Joyce Buie at 341-0475 or 912-9009. You can also contact by emailing info@redribboncorps.org or visit the website at www.redribboncorps.org

CASTLE HILLS DISTRIBUTES INFORMATION BOOKLET TO HOME & BUSINESS OWNERS

Submitted by Pamala Farris



In January, the booklet was mailed to all current residents and businesses in Castle Hills. The 24-page booklet includes "good to know" information about the city. Topics include city provided services, explanation of the city's commissions, boards and committees, an overview of city government, common city ordinances and required permits, active clubs and associations, a map of the city and much more.

The **City of Castle Hills Handbook of Information and Services for Residents** booklets were provided by the Castle Hills Homeowners' Association Board of Directors as a public service to the community. Entirely funded by local business establishments and a donation by the City of Castle Hills, approximately 2,004 booklets were mailed. Additional copies were provided to city hall for distribution to new residents and businesses as they apply for a certificate of occupancy.

If you didn't get a booklet, contact the Castle Hills Homeowners' Association.

YOUR COMMUNITY

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Chris Sill

2008 Policeman of the Year



Six-year veteran of the Castle Hills Police Department, Officer Chris Sill was presented the *2008 Policeman of the Year* award by Sgt. Kenneth Seyfarth at the December 2008 City Council Meeting. Officer Sill headed several projects for the department including research leading to the purchase of the new 2009 Dodge Charger police cruisers.

Cruisers (continued from paged 9)

The cars have been equipped with Tomar lights bars and controls which are state of the art. The light bars are LED and take less power to operate which save wear on the battery. The light bar controls are different than any other control on the market. The control box allows you to dim the overhead lights for use at night when the officer is making traffic stops, too much lights can be a distraction. The cars also have strobes in each corner of the car along with an additional mini light bar on the back deck and six additional LED lights in the front.

Each car is equipped with a directional light in the light bar as well as the back deck light. This is critical for officer safety allowing the officer to warn oncoming vehicles to move over while working traffic or an accident. Some of the lights on these cars are being used for the first time and our department was the first to have them installed on a working patrol car.

Every car has a Mobile Data Computer installed which allows for the officer to check for wanted persons, registration on vehicles and now auto insurance verification. With technology growing at a rapid pace, we need to keep up with what is out there. And this year our city should be proud of what the police officers of this city are using to protect and serve this great community.

This year I will enter the cars into the 2009 Law and Order police vehicle design contest, because I believe the cars are that great. These cars are unique and will be used to protect you and this community. Please fill free to come by the police department and look at the new cars any time.

New

Employees

Andre Avila
P/T Dispatcher

Juan DeLuna
Street Department

Leticia Sanchez
P/T Dispatcher



Anniversaries

10 Years

Alfonso Castaneda, Sanitation
Darrell A. Dover, Firefighter
Beau W. Obregon, Firefighter
Grady A. Schmidt, Firefighter



HEALTH & SAFETY

Submitted Homer C. Emery, Ph.D., R.S.

Over 3,000 species of mosquitoes are known to exist worldwide. Fortunately, only about 160 species can be found in North America. When it rains, complaints about mosquitoes drastically increase.

Unattended swimming pools often get blamed for mosquito breeding problems. Surprising as it may seem, pools are seldom found to be the source of the problem. Unattended swimming pools, green with algae, typically hold water long enough to also provide a home for frogs and tadpoles, which help to control mosquito larvae.

After a rain, just about anything that can hold water for a few days can become an instant breeding place for mosquitoes around your home. This includes roof gutters, old tires, coffee cans and even tree stumps.

Health Inspectors evaluating private pools that have been neglected and are green with algae normally report an abundance of tadpoles with few if any

mosquito larvae. What they do observe are drain gutters filled with leaves and limbs; accumulated and stored materials (cans, tires, bottles), tree stumps and potted plants in the neighborhood that may allow water to stand long enough to be a potential breeding problem.

Even if the unattended pool is not found to be a mosquito problem a letter is normally sent to the owner to remind them of the safety hazards for young children and pets. When you think a green slimy pool next door is a mosquito haven take a few minutes to check your own yard for potential breeding areas shown below. When mosquitoes do become a problem around the home, on the golf course or playground, be sure to use a commercial mosquito repellent and to always follow directions when using.

COMMON MOSQUITO BREEDING AREAS

ROOF GUTTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean out gutters regularly (monthly) during wet months. Consider trimming any overhanging branches to minimize leaf litter. 	PLAY-GROUND EQUIPMENT (Tire Swings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drill holes (20-50 mm wide) in the bottom of the tire so that all water drains out.
DRAIN SUMPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill any space below the drain pipe with concrete, or regularly treat every month using S-methoprene (Altosid) pellets, or Regularly (every 3- months) treat with a cockroach surface spray. 	RUBBISH ITEMS/ BUCKETS, CONTAINERS, ETC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empty, dry and clean any items capable of holding water once a week or store it under cover, or turn it upside down or dispose of it, as appropriate.
POT-PLANT BASES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove base, or Fill base with sand, or Regularly treat (every month) using S-methoprene (Altosid) pellets, or Regularly (every 3-months) treat with a cockroach surface spray. 	DRAINS/ SEPTIC TANKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace any broken lids on trap/tanks. Seal gaps where appropriate.
SELF-WATRING POT PLANT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plug slot with sponge or appropriately sized mesh, or Regularly (every 3-months) treat with a cockroach surface spray. Empty, dry and clean the base of the pot at least once every 7-days. 	PLASIC TARPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove and store under cover, or Treat tarp with cockroach surface spray (every 3-months)
		RAINWATER TANKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen all entry/exit holes with legal-sized mesh(1mm aperture size) of specified material (brass, copper, aluminum or stainless steel)



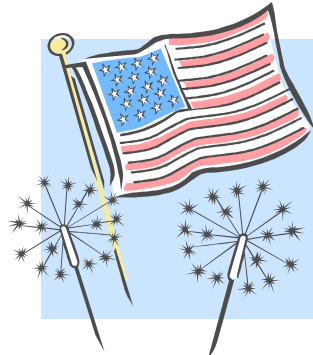
HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

MAY 2009	25 MONDAY	26 TUESDAY	27 WEDNESDAY	28 THURSDAY	29 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	HOLIDAY Memorial Day	Garbage Collection			Garbage Collection
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	HOLIDAY Memorial Day	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
RECYCLE	HOLIDAY Memorial Day	South of Loop		North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				

JUNE/JULY 2009	June 29 MONDAY	June 30 TUESDAY	July 1 WEDNESDAY	2 THURSDAY	3 FRIDAY
NORTH OF LOOP 410	Garbage Collection			Garbage Collection	HOLIDAY Independ- ence Day Observed
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection		
RECYCLE	South of Loop			North of Loop	
BRUSH	NO BRUSH COLLECTION THIS WEEK				



May 25th
MEMORIAL DAY
HOLIDAY



July 4th
INDEPENDENCE DAY
HOLIDAY
Observed July 3rd

SHOP CASTLE HILLS

New Businesses



AAA EXCEL COMPUTERS—7101-A Blanco Rd (Computer Repairs & Service)

COBB FENDLEY & ASSOICATES, INC—1100 NW Loop 410, #546 (Civil Engineering Services)

CORPORATE APARTMENT NETWORK-SA—6609 Blanco Rd, (Apartment Rentals)

DGS WEB DESIGNS—2000 NW Military Hwy #13 (Web Design/Computer Repair/Programming/Photography)

DOLLAR MARK PLUS—7115 Blanco Rd, #113 (Retail Store)

IHOP CAFÉ—2195 NW Military Hwy (Restaurant/Specialty Coffees)

MADISON AVENUE SALON & SPA—2267 NW Military Hwy #111 (Salon & Spa)

PERSONAL TOUCH—2211 NW Military Hwy #110 (Salon & Spa)

WINN NAILS & SPA—2126 NW Military Hwy (Nail Salon & Spa)

New Businesses “Coming Soon” To Castle Hills

AEMSA-USA—2211 NW MILITARY HWY #111-B (Retail Hair Extensions Salon & Products)

CASTLE HILLS FLOWERS—2211 NW MILITARY HWY #113 (Flower Shop)

CENTER FOR TAX AND PERSONAL FINANCE—6907 Blanco Rd (Personal Finance)

FLEX BRAZALIAN JIU-JITSU ACADEMY, LLC—2277 NW Military Hwy (Martial Arts Studio)

PARAMOUNT HEALTHCARE—1630 Lockhill Selma (Office)

RANSTAD—6993 Blanco Rd (Staffing Company)

CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

209 Lemonwood Drive
San Antonio, TX 78213

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

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

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor:.....Marcy Harper
Place 1:Marcella Huff
 Mayor Pro Tem
Place 2:Douglas Gregory
 Treasurer
Place 3:Tim Howell
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
Michael R. Rietz Ext. 214

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.