

MARCH 2012

The Castle Hills

Reporter

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fiesta 2012
CASTLE HILLS 12
Fiesta Family Fun

At "The Commons"
on the corner of Lemonwood
and Honeycuckle, next to City Hall

SAT. APRIL 21, 2012
8:00 AM Fiesta 5K Run
10:00 AM Community Parade
Commons at the Commons, Lemonwood and Honeycuckle, next to City Hall
11:00 AM Food Booths
~4:30 PM Arts & Crafts & Kids Area

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DATE OF THE EVENT \$25 per Runner

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FIESTA
EDITION!

CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff
Mayor

Marcella Huff
Place 1

Douglas Gregory
Place 2

Steve McGuire
Place 3, Treasurer

Tim Howell
Place 4

Tom Davis
Place 5, Mayor Pro Tem

CITY STAFF

(210) 342-2341

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msteele@cityofcastlehills.com

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Assistant City Manager, ext. 215

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City Secretary, ext. 216

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Chief Donald Davis
Police Department Chief, ext. 210

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

Rita Hoyl
Code Compliance/Permits, ext. 215
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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, 6:30pm
As Needed

**Message From the Mayor**

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff



In the days of black and white television, a show entitled "This Is Your Life" recapped the guest of

honor's life in an hour. I don't know when that show last aired, but I do know that if any mayor's life were to be reviewed in a like manner, part of the hour would have to include meeting after meeting after meeting.

My schedule includes a myriad of meetings on specific issues, such as energy, billing, water and fees, as well as regular and called meetings of the City Council. I also have meetings with staff, with representatives from surrounding cities and with citizens who have complaints and sometimes a few with compliments.

In addition to meetings, my time is taken up by phone calls and emails, many of which are from Castle Hills' residents suggesting a course of action for our city they would like the council to consider. Emails such as these are appreciated since they help me and my fellow council members know exactly where citizens we represent stand on issues. Of course, there are enough emails and calls complaining about speeding tickets or the "indignities they have endured" because they broke the law and were caught doing so to remind all elected officials that no matter how hard we try, disgruntled constituents are still part of the job.

I also spend time meeting with other cities' elected officials about legislative bills that were passed last year that are impacting our respective cities. In addition, I attend events both at home and in the greater metropolitan area that may have an affect on Castle Hills.

At all the meetings and events I attend, I try to represent you, the people of Castle Hills, to the best of my ability, remembering always that there will be times that you will disagree with me, and I with you. I only hope that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

I also hope that you will come to council meetings and observe your city council in action. City council members want you to attend and to participate in public hearings and forums. I also need you to listen to and meet with the candidates that are running for city council and to vote on Election Day.

Finally, I want you to enjoy the quality of our life in Castle Hills. As someone who recently spent time in the hospital and recuperating at home, I had time to think about how lucky we are to live in Castle Hills, in Texas and in the United States of America. I assure you that I, as your mayor, and all members of the city council are working as hard as we can to ensure that the reasons that led you to reside in Castle Hills remain valid today and in the future.

Anytime I can be of help to you, please call or email me, 210-342-5954 or mayor@cityofcastlehills.com.

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 10, 2012

Consider:

- Proposal to abate traffic hazards on NW Military Hwy – no action taken.
- Resolution imposing an additional penalty on delinquent taxes for tax year 2011 and subsequent years, as provided by Section 33.11, Texas Tax Code, in the amount of 20% of the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest, if the tax becomes delinquent on February 1 of a year and remains delinquent on the 60th day thereafter – passed unanimously.
- Proposal for audit services from Armstrong, Vaughan, & city manager to sign an engagement letter – passed unanimously.
- Resolution honoring Richard Araiza on his retirement – passed unanimously.
- Instructing staff to draft a new sign ordinance – passed unanimously.
- Appeal from Antonian College Preparatory High School requesting to install LED bulbs on the existing information sign at 6425 West Avenue – withdrawn from agenda by Antonian.
- Street repair project for improvements to selected drainage ways, street resurfacing and repairs while utilizing up to \$1,000,000 of the Street Maintenance Fund – passed unanimously.
- Purchasing a replacement Fire Department pickup truck – passed 3 to 2; Councilman McGuire and Gregory voted against.
- Resolution approving adoption of GASB54 and applications – passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 0112-01 An additional penalty on delinquent taxes for tax year 2011 and subsequent years, as provided by Section 33.11, Texas Tax Code, in the amount of 20% of the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest, if the tax becomes delinquent on February 1 of a year and remains delinquent on the 60th day thereafter.

RESOLUTION 0112-02 Commending Richard H. Araiza for 24 years of loyal employment in the Castle Hills Street and Sanitation Departments and honoring Richard H. Araiza for 24 years of faithful and dedicated service to the residents of the City of Castle Hills.

RESOLUTION 0112-03 Approving adoption of GASB54 and applications

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.

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We look forward to working with you!

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March 2012

NO CHANGE

April 2012

NO CHANGE

May 2012

NORTH OF LOOP 410

- Monday, May 28, Memorial Day
- Wednesday, May 30, Garbage Collection
- Thursday, May 31, Recycle Collection

SOUTH OF LOOP 410

- Monday, May 28, Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 29, Garbage Collection
- Wednesday, May 30, Recycle Collection
- Thursday, May 31, Garbage Collection

June 2012

NORTH OF LOOP 410

- Friday, June 1, Garbage Collection

Council Comments



Marcella Huff
Place 1

2012 will be a busy year for elections. Local, state, federal elections all loom ahead. Very little is asked of us as citizens. Obey the laws, serve on juries when called, and the greatest privilege of all: vote.

I encourage all of you to take this privilege and responsibility seriously. It can be difficult with so much information coming at us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Who to believe? Where to turn for an honest reporting of the facts? Talking heads on television are more than willing to tell us what to think. They eagerly interpret a speech for us when we have just heard the same words with our own ears and can think for ourselves.

Whenever possible take advantage of talking to the candidates in person or attending a speech. There is nothing quite as eye opening as seeing for yourself just what kind of individual wants your vote. Attend town hall meetings. Even if the office holder is not running for re-election the information put forth in such an event and any Q & A session may provide you with insight that will help in your own decision making process.

The advantage of living in a city the size of Castle Hills is that it is easy to get to know who holds elected office. Take advantage of this fact. I have always encouraged residents to get involved in their city. Attend council meetings, volunteer for a committee, board, or commission. Ask questions, make suggestions, offer constructive criticism.

2012 will be a busy year for our city. Although it may seem as though we just completed the 2012 budget, we must look ahead and start preparing for the 2013 budget process. Thinking about how the national and global economies affect our city is part of that process. I encourage all of you to take part in the budget process when it begins later this year. Attend at least one budget workshop and one public hearing. It can be an eye opening experience. Share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with your elected officials. See what they think. Ask them to formulate their long term plans and goals for your city. Get involved.

Very little is asked of us as citizens. Obey the laws, serve on juries when called, and the greatest privilege of all: vote. Add one more to that list. Get involved at some level. It's in your best interest to do so.

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



Douglas Gregory, **Place 2**

Fiscal discipline. Two simple words that in today's economic environment mean a great deal. We are living thru some of the most economically dangerous times the country has seen since the 1930's. Because of this, city leaders must understand that every taxpayer dollar has to be spent carefully and on the strict discipline of preparing a budget and sticking to it. The belief that you do not have to live within your means has gotten the Federal Government, many states and countless cities into serious financial peril. Unless a request for additional funds is for an unforeseen emergency, Castle Hills must remain disciplined and not cave into the desires those who want something that they could not get during the budget process. Like it or not, the age of "I want" must be replaced by "fiscal discipline". Hopefully, a majority of the Council will ignore the former and embrace the latter.

Being on the Council requires independent thought and action. Most, but not all, of your Councilmembers understand the importance of independence and not act as a simple echo of another member. But you, the public, have a responsibility, too. Come to the monthly City Council meetings, the annual

budget meetings and judge for yourself who is thinking independently; you might be surprised.

Last year the budget for Castle Hills passed by the slimmest of margins, 3-2. Councilwoman Huff and I voted against the proposed budget while Councilmembers McGuire and Howell reluctantly voted in favor even though they expressed valid reservations and because of artificial time restraints imposed by the Mayor. Councilmember Davis, in favor of tax increases instead of spending restraints voted in favor; the Mayor expressed similar expressions of satisfactions as Councilmember Davis, and was glad the process was completed. This is a completely unsatisfactory way to deal with the people's money. Fortunately at least four members of Council are looking forward to a better outcome for the taxpayer of Castle Hills in 2012.

Finally, as we move into winter then spring, Fiesta Castle Hills is gearing up for yet another event full of great music, food, vendors and Fiesta fun. The Fiesta Committee has been hard at work making sure that this April event will be great. Viva Fiesta Hills!!

Please feel free to call me at 378-4481 with ideas, problems or concerns. Remember we are all in this together and together we can only succeed.



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Steve McGuire,
PLACE 3, City Treasurer

For this City newsletter I thought I might take a few moments to discuss financial management philosophy. Whether it is my personal finances, my employer's finances, or our City's finances, I always approach the decision in the same manner. First examine the need for the expenditure. Second research all of the various ways to accomplish that need. Third check to see that funds are actually available. Fourth since resources are always limited, prioritize the need considering all other needs to see if this is indeed the number one priority. And last allocate the funds. Unfortunately for many organizations the decision makers do not follow this rigorous process – rather they “fly by the seat of their pants” and instead jump immediately to fund allocation without considering the other issues. As a consequence best value is not always achieved.

So allow me to take a moment to expand. Too often we accept at face value that there is a legitimate need. But when you really analyze the situation, are all of the facts being considered? Does this need actually contribute to the mission statement of the organization? Are we continuing this process simply because we have always followed this process? Has a piece of equipment really reached the end of its useful life? Has technology truly moved far enough forward that old technology is no longer useful?

Second what other means exist to accomplish this need? For instance in medicine do we really need an ICU at every hospital or can we share resources between institutions? The same applies to City services – rather than each entity establishing its own independent service would it not be more efficient and higher quality to combine? We did exactly that for our paramedic emergency response, maintaining high quality service at half the cost. And we did this in January when I took the mandatory Texas Public Funds Investment Act training online rather than spend two days attending the course in Waco.

Third what are the financial resources of the individual or

organization? For example should you take a “pay day loan” or should you instead skip purchasing rodeo tickets or take a less expensive vacation? Using tomorrow's funds to pay for today's expenditures should always make you pause. And this includes bond issues and property tax increases – in both cases to some extent you are mortgaging your future.

Fourth is this need really the most important item on our dream list? I may wish to purchase a new 3-D flat screen but is this really more important than purchasing dance shoes for my daughter? Is having a top-of-the-line new car more important than repairing my roof? These same questions apply to every decision we make when we spend City funds – our resources are not unlimited. Once we exceed our resources the only options are to increase taxes or to take on debt. To me a need must truly be important before I will accept either one of these options.

Finally the easy part is spending the money. If you have truly followed the preceding process, you have no buyer's remorse. But if you ever find yourself asking why you did make some purchase, then you have already experienced the consequences of not being rigorous in your decision making process.

My belief is we on Council have an absolute obligation to you the Citizens of Castle Hills to be absolutely rigorous and meticulous in spending YOUR money. The money does NOT belong to the City or the Council. We owe YOU absolute transparency – you should readily be able to see exactly where your money has gone. And I believe you should be involved in the process – from the decision making to the accounting to holding Council responsible. I would encourage you to ask those hard questions of all of us on Council or of anyone aspiring to be on Council. Ask just how he/she will spend your money. What rigor will he/she apply to the thought process? Make he/she justify every perceived need – does a need truly contribute to the mission of our City which is to provide services to our Citizens in a responsible, cost-effective manner? Or is the need simply an expedient way out of having to be more precise or having to truly consider the issue? And absolutely you must continue to hold your Council accountable not just during the election cycle but importantly throughout the year. Only with our Citizens fully engaged in our processes can we ever hope to receive best value for the dollars we collect from our Citizens.

and enjoy what has now become an annual event.

In other news, we are moving forward with our commitment to improve our streets and aesthetics of our city. Councilman Gregory introduced the street improvement resolution and it passed unanimously. This is a fraction of what needs to be done, but at least it gives us a start and will help us to determine the future use of revenue and the extent of the type of repair that is needed around the city. I personally feel that any money spent from our street fund, should be done in a way that “just serves the streets”, and not some runaway legislation that includes countless hours of study

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Tim Howell, PLACE 4

Hello everyone. I hope you are all ready for “Fiesta Castle Hills”. Its right around the corner, and we here at the city are looking forward to another fantastic celebration. Richard and

Marianne Huizar have been working hard this past year to coordinate the finest Fiesta event that can be offered to our city. I hope everyone will bring out their families and friends

<<Continued From Page 6

or drainage projects. With our infrastructure aging and a tremendous portion of that infrastructure over 50 years old, we must make sure that all decisions are made in a manner that provides us with thoughtful sound solutions.

That brings us to the subject of our current council, and how I believe things are going. In recent months, the council has worked together to, in my opinion, to "think outside of the box". We have worked together in the decision making process to respect each other's views, and at least tried to keep the personal emotion to a minimum. This is a necessary factor in compromise. We have all learned, and are continuing to learn on all levels, that a refusal to compromise will only lead to an unproductive, delay of the tasks that are at hand. It makes

me proud to know that even though we don't always agree with one another, we all have the ability to understand and respect each other's views, and at the very least recognize that the other opinions come from the same love of our city. This to me is a true strength in our city government. With our non-profits now offering their assistance and coming to our side with generous offers of help, there is nothing that we cannot do together to make this place the best place to live in Texas. I'm glad to be a part of our city government, and hope that each and everyone who is reading this will in some way become involved in our city. It's our home, and in the case of our businesses, their livelihood. Together we will make this the premier city in the state.



Tom Davis, PLACE 5,
Mayor Pro Tem

Why We Chose to Live in Castle Hills

Often I find myself complaining about this or that and sometimes thinking that everything seems to be going downhill. You've probably read articles by me and other Council members that seem, well, a little gloomy if not down right negative. No doubt there'll be an article in this issue complaining about something or other.

I think it's time to start remembering what we like about living in Castle Hills and making sure those virtues continue.

We have a police, fire and emergency response time averaging less than two minutes for each call. When an alarm goes off in Castle Hills, the police are often there before the criminals leave the scene. Not in San Antonio. When you leave town, you can, and should, notify the Castle Hills dispatcher. The police will keep an extra watch over your home while you're gone. Got a neighbor you haven't seen in a while? The police will conduct a courtesy call to make sure everything is as it should be. Not sure how

Continued on Page 8>>



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<<Continued From Page 7

secure your home is? The police will inspect your home and give you suggestions on how to improve your home security. They will even give you suggestions on how to form a neighborhood watch group.

Castle Hills firefighters will come to your home and identify potential safety risks and fire hazards. They are also available to speak to your club or organization on a variety of topics from your fire hazards to smoke detector.

When you acquired your Certificate of Occupancy, you also provided the police, fire and emergency medical services with a record of your home and who to account for in an emergency, including your pets you have registered with the city.

How about services like twice a week garbage pick up and once a week brush pick up? Not in San Antonio. Garbage pick up is once a week and it has to be placed in one gigantic container that average size people have trouble hauling out to the street (not the curb, but in the street). Miss a week putting it out? Too bad; wait until next week. Got too much garbage to put in the container? Go ask a neighbor if they have room because it must be in the single approved container. Brush pick up? Try twice a year. Castle Hills does much better than that. Oh, I know there are some that will say wait a minute. I had over the allowed number of leaf bags per pickup and I had to pay extra for my 30 bags to be hauled off by the city. Really? How much would you

have been charged had you called a private contractor haul them off? Castle Hills gives you a bargain for that once or twice a year problem. In San Antonio, no amount of money will get them to pick up your extra leaves and brush and haul them off. Twice a year and that's it.

Most residents are thrilled that they can call the city offices and actually talk to a person and not hear "If you have a question about permits, push 2 now." Or try calling San Antonio and asking to speak to the City Manager. Good luck. Yes, some Castle Hills residents are angry that they got the answering machine of this or that staff member. But if you left a message as requested, I'll bet you got a return call. Most staff even know your name and say hello when they see you. That only happens in small cities where the city staff personally cares about the citizens. Do they occasionally make mistakes? Who doesn't? However, on those occasions when things aren't done just right, rectifying a mistake is easy and usually swift in Castle Hills. Try getting an error corrected in a big city. They don't care. They don't have to because they're a big city and you're nobody.

This list of advantages could go on and on. I didn't even get into what a bargain it is for your city taxes. When you start hearing "We need to cut city services" or "We can contract out services cheaper," just remember that you get what you pay for. And yes there are those who feel we can eliminate this or that department and have a contract corporation, or a department of San Antonio or Bexar County perform the service for the city. Read my article in the City Newsletter last January and learn of the consequences suffered by cities that chose to contract out city services. As your Alderman, Place 5, and as a resident, I will always vote to keep our own excellent departments of police, fire and emergency medical, dispatch, public works, sanitations, municipal court and city administrative staff. That's a major part of what makes Castle Hills the city in which we have chosen to live.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at jtdsa@grandecom.net.



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P E T C O R R E C T I O N

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 restraints 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.



Council Meeting

At the January 10, 2012 City Council Meeting, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff (far right) presented the 2012 Citizens of the Year plaque to Marianne & Richard Huizar in appreciation for their outstanding service to the Community,

YOUR COMMUNITY



Employee Highlights

Police Chief Donny Davis introduced the newest members of the Castle Hills Police Department at the January 10, 2012 City Council meeting. Pictured back row left to right: Councilman Tim Howell, Chief Donny Davis, Councilman Steve McGuire, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff, Councilwoman Marcella Huff, and Councilman Douglas Gregory. Front row left to right Matthew Cornett and Ramiro Hernandez.



Food Delivery

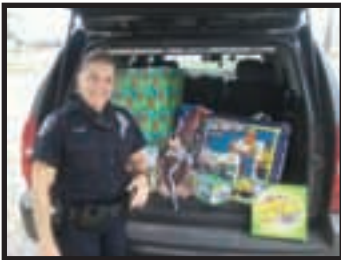
On December 12, 2011, Ron Wolma and members of St. George Episcopal Church prepared and delivered a variety of smoked meats and desert for all the Castle Hills employees. The lunch menu included BBQ venison, alligator, dove, turkey, pork ribs, and sausages and a large tray of chocolate cake. Staff provided the plates, cups, salads, sides, deserts, and Captain Davis' famous ceviche. Thank you Mr. Wolma & St. George for your generosity!



Tamales

Castle Hills resident Bob Harper delivered dozens of tamales to be enjoyed by all employees in the Police, Fire, Public Works,

and Administrative Department. Harper delivered the tamales the second week in January. He has been delivering tamales for employees every year since 1988. Thank you Mr. Harper for your generosity!



Blue Santa

On December 17, 2011 the Blue Santa Program filled the Tahoe's storage and passenger areas with approximately 60 gifts.



Employee Highlights

Richard Araiza was presented his retirement watch, plaque and resolution by Rick Harada, Public Works Director. Richard retired from the Public Works Department with 24 years of service in the street and sanitation departments. Richard retired December 31, 2011. Pictured left to right are Rick Harada, Juan DeLos Santos, Richard Araiza, Robert Sanchez, and Joe Prado.



Legal Exchange

Submitted by Susan Cone Kilgore, City of Castle Hills Trial Prosecutor

Castle Hills Municipal Court was the site of an international legal exchange during the January jury trial docket. Judge William Dooling shared insights into the American legal system and the jury trial procedure with law students Guo Dong (Robbie Guo) and Zhou Yun (Nancy Xue). Prosecutor Susan Kilgore invited Robbie and Nancy to observe the criminal docket, as they are earning their LLM degrees from St. Mary's School of Law.

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STAFF COMMENTS



CITY MANAGER

Michael T. Steele

M.P.A.

Bring on Spring! This is the time of year when the focus of the City turns to outside projects to beautify and improve our City. Soon, you will see paving and drainage projects starting up all around the City. These projects are the beginning of a long-term plan to repair the streets and

drains throughout the City.

In the Commons, you will soon see the Public Works crew, the Garden Club, and volunteers from the First Baptist Church of Castle Hills and Wayside Chapel working their magic to beautify this jewel in the middle of our City.

The Police Department has started a mandatory physical fitness program in order to improve the employees' health and job performance. They have also invited City employees from other departments to participate. The response- especially from the Administration Department- has been outstanding. Congratulations to everyone who is participating!

Planning has already begun for Fiesta Castle Hills. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Richard Huizar at richardhuizar@sbcglobal.net to find out what you can do to make this year's fiesta the best ever!



PUBLIC WORKS

Rick Harada

Public Works Director

ORDINANCE REMINDERS.....

§ 22.401 THROWING TRASH IN DRAINS PROHIBITED.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw or place any trash, brush, cut grass or weeds, debris or physical matter of any kind in, or on, any natural or artificial drain, drainage ditch, drainage easement, or stream, creek, or channel whatever in the city, or to permit the introduction of any such material into any such drain.

Why? Any foreign matter can cause an obstruction to drainage openings; thereby creating water to backup in the drainage way.

§ 22.402 BUILDING OF FENCE OR PLACING OF ANY OBSTACLE IN DRAIN OR DRAINAGE EASEMENT PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to build or place any fence of any kind, or any other structure or physical obstacle in, on, or across any drainage easement, or any natural or artificial drain, or any stream, creek, or channel in the city, or any part thereof, without special permission from the City Council, evidenced by an ordinance duly passed, and then only in strict accord with the terms of such permission, if any.

Why? Such structure or fencing causes an obstruction to drainage ways; thereby creating water to backup.

§ 22.403 PROPERTY OWNER TO KEEP DRAINAGE EASEMENT CLEAN. It shall be unlawful for the owner or tenant of any property in the city which is traversed to any extent by an improved drainage easement to fail to keep such drainage easement on his or her property clean and free of all trash, brush, cut grass, weeds, debris, or other physical matter which is, or could be, an obstacle, to any extent, to the free-flow of drainage waters at all times without regard to the origin thereof.

Why? Any foreign matter can cause an obstruction to drainage openings; thereby creating water to backup in the drainage way.

§ 28.103 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.

Why? Allowing weeds and/or shrubs to protrude into the alley causes injury to sanitation personnel and damage to vehicles.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jerry Riedel

On Tuesday February 7, 2011 the citizens of Castle Hills and the members of the Castle Hills Fire Department lost a very dear friend. Longtime resident Charlie Barbera passed away in his sleep at the ripe young age of 99. Charlie was

very special to us at the Fire Department. The relationship started many years ago. Charlie and his wife Helen loved to travel, and during his travels, he would collect Police and Fire Department patches. Charlie loved to collect the patches and began trading patches with other collectors. As his patch collection grew, Charlie would mount the patches on display boards with hand built frames and donate them to the respective departments. There are currently over 1200 fire department patches from all over the United States as well as some from foreign countries on 19 different display boards in the fire station alone. After the death of his wife, Charlie spent many evenings doing Cellular on Patrol duties with his friend Richard Green. He also spent more time at the fire station and developed close friendships with all of us. Charlie loved to share stories of his vacation trips with his wife, his frequent visits to friends at Medina Lake, his time spent at his Boat and Sporting Goods store in San Antonio, and his love for his family. Charlie loved being involved with the Castle Hills community. He served as the Fire Department photographer for many years. Regardless if it was the middle of the night or freezing cold Charlie would show up at the scene to get some good action photos. The members of the Fire Department even pitched in to buy Charlie his own Fire Helmet and made him an honorary member of the department. He was always

Continued on Page 11>>

very generous and donated many nice items to the fire station, including TV's, furniture, dishes and steak knives. During the last several years, Charlie loved to stop by and share a meal with the fire crew on duty, whether it was a breakfast taco or one of his favorites such as hotcakes or biscuits and gravy. Charlie will always be fondly remembered as a great story teller, and more importantly as a truly great friend to all of us at the Castle Hills Fire Department. One last secret message for you Charlie...We will keep trying to find out where the "YET" is.

Fire Chief Jerry Riedel



Restaurants Recognized for Setting High Standards

The City has implemented the Texas Food Safety Star Certification program which is aimed at improving food safety in local food service establishments. This program is similar to New York City's Golden Apple Award used to recognize facilities going the extra mile for food safety.

To receive Texas Food Safety Star recognition a food service establishment must meet the following criteria; (1) Managers and Supervisors are certified in Food Safety Management and are able to demonstrate food safety knowledge and skills during routine evaluations; (2) have a written Food Safety Plan in place; (3) provide employees continuing training

in food safety; (4) continually exceed minimum food code requirements and; (5) conduct food safety self-evaluations. If requested, foodservice facilities will be provided assistance in establishing food safety plans and provided materials for use in training employees.

So far the following foodservice facilities have been awarded the Texas Food Safety Star Certificate in recognition of their outstanding food safety efforts: Rossini's Bistro; Picnikins Patio Café; Dough Pizzeria; Sushihana; Bandera Rd Café at West Ave; El Mana Bakery & Café; Zedric's; Demo's Greek Food; HEB Grocery; Jack-In the Box; Subway; Starbucks; Homewood Residence; Castle Hills Elementary School; and Jackson Keller Elementary School.

The following foodservice facilities are recognized for continually exceeding minimum food safety requirements: Sawasdee Thai Cuisine ; Garden View Café; El Palmar Cocina Restaurante; FlourPower Café & Bakery; and Matter of Taste Catering. Once these facilities have developed a written food safety plan they will be eligible to receive the Texas Food Safety Star Certificate.

SHOP CASTLE HILLS



New Businesses

- COMPADRE TAX
(Tax Return Preparation)
- EL SOL DE ZACATECAS TORTILLERIA
(Tortilleria Factory, Barbacoa, Menudo)
- HEALTHWAY SPA
(Spa Service) (New ownership)
- JESSICAS SALON
(Beauty Salon)
- MINDSTREAM
(Consulting Services /Public Sector)
- NICOLE GEORGIOUS EUROPEAN DAY SPA
(Day Spa)
- PC REHAB/VIOLIN VALET
(Electronic Repair & Sales)
- PARTNERS INSURANCE ADVISORS
(Insurance Business)
- RAYTHEON PIKEWERKS
(Computer Security Applied Research)
- TEMPLE OF PRAISE DIVINE DANCE STUDIO
(Dance Studio)
- TEXAS EZ PAWN, LP
(Pawn Shop) (formerly Money Mart)

New Businesses "Coming Soon" To Castle Hills

- DREAMLAND CHILDCARE
(Educational/Childcare)
- SAN ANTONIO FAMILY ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
(Medical/Chiropractic Office)
- THE VICTOR GROUP, INC.
(Custodial Services)



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Time Dated

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS		John Igo Library 13330 Kyle Seale Parkway Johnson	Shavano Park City Hall 900 Saddletree Ct.
MONDAY, APRIL 30	8 AM – 6 PM	Library	Somerset City Hall
TUESDAY, MAY 1	8 AM – 6 PM	6307 Sun Valley Drive	7360 East 6th St, Somerset
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2	8 AM – 6 PM		
THURSDAY, MAY 3	8 AM – 6 PM	Judson Middle School	South Park Mall
FRIDAY, MAY 4	8 AM – 6 PM	9695 Schaefer	2310 S.W. Military
SATURDAY, MAY 5	10 AM – 6 PM		
SUNDAY, MAY 6	NOON – 6 PM	Julia Yates Semmes Library @ Comanche	St. Benedicts Catholic Church
MONDAY, MAY 7	8 AM – 8 PM	Lookout Park	4535 Lord Rd.
TUESDAY, MAY 8	8 AM – 8 PM	15060 Judson Road	
Bexar County Justice Center 300 Dolorosa		Las Palmas Library 515 Castroville Road	Tobin Library @ Oakwell 4134 Harry Wurzbach
Brookhollow Library 530 Heimer Road		Leon Valley Community Center 6421 Evers Rd.	Universal City – City Hall 2150 Universal City Blvd.
Claude Black Center 2805 East Commerce		Lion's Field Adult and Sr. Citizen Center 2809 Broadway	Windcrest Takas Park Civic Center 310 Jim Seal Dr.
Cody Library 11441 Vance Jackson		Maury Maverick, Jr. Library 8700 Mystic Park	Wonderland of Americas @ Crossroads Mall 4522 Fredericksburg
Collins Garden Library 200 North Park		McCreless Library 1023 Ada Street	Early Voting sites are subject to change. ELECTION DAY MAY 12, 2012 7 AM – 7 PM CITY OF CASTLE HILLS 209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE COMMUNITY ROOM
East Central ISD Admin. Building 6634 New Sulphur Springs Road		Mission Library – Cisneros Comm.Center 3134 Roosevelt Ave.	
Fair Oaks Ranch City Hall 7286 Dietz Elkhorn		Northside Activity Center 7001 Culebra	
Great Northwest Library 9050 Wellwood		Olmos Basin Golf Club House 7022 McCullough	