

MARCH 2013

The Castle Hills **Reporter**



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Message From the Mayor

CASTLE HILLS AFFORDS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

I recently received a letter from new business owners, which I am delighted to be able to share with readers.

(Reprinted with permission)

Dear Mayor,

Rita Hoyl and all of the staff at the city office were great to work with as we prepared to open our new restaurant (Jimmy's Egg). They understand the need to merge city requirements with the needs of business and they do their jobs with a level of professionalism that I have not seen in many cities.

I would also like to say thank you to the Castle Hills Woman's Club and the City Council members, Michael Catalani, Douglas Gregory, Steve McGuire, Tim Howell, and Tom Davis for their support of our new restaurant. Cities like Castle Hills that are pro-business and pro-growth will always see prosperous times.

Castle Hills is a beautiful city and the residents have all been very nice to us and I would like to say thank you to this community for your kindness and support. It is exciting to see the number of people joining the "Cracked Egg E-Club" and receiving monthly coupons. The three Egg Omelets made with freshly cracked eggs, Eggs Benedict, Bacon Cheddar Pancakes, and Garbage breakfast are favorites in this community.

Mayor, I would also like to thank you for your support of our new business in Castle Hills. You understand the challenges that a new business encounters before they open and for the first months after they are open and how important support is at this critical time.

I am very proud that the first Jimmy's Egg in the San Antonio area is in Castle Hills!

Sincerely

Jim Chaney

In addition to Jimmy's Egg, other businesses owners have decided that Castle Hills is their city of choice. A long unused historic property, for example, has been purchased, renovated, and is on its way to becoming a world-class catering and event center.

A leading engineering firm is building their world headquarters and supporting office campuses in our city. This facility will be an ultra-modern, Leeds-certified, efficient, state-of-the-art facility with additional space available for another industry's headquarters. The company's 300 employees will work, eat, shop,



Bruce Smiley-Kaliff

CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff
Mayor

Michael Catalani
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

Rita Hoyl
City Manager, ext. 214

Linda Gill
City Secretary, ext. 216

Chief Jerry Riedel
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Chief Donald 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

Achitectural 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

Continued on Page 3>>

<<Continued From Page 2

and spend time and money in Castle Hills.

In addition to new businesses, many new families are investing in, and choosing to call Castle Hills home. Realtors understand that one of Castle Hills' greatest selling points is, "location, location, location."

The city is conveniently located between freeways that offer easy access to a variety of recreational facilities, movie theaters, medical centers, and large malls. Families may enjoy the best of a large city while living in a community that offers the charms of small-city life. Castle Hills' excellent public and private schools are attracting families who are concerned about their children's educational opportunities.

City services continue to be affordably priced, and the city's public safety departments are second to none. Our city staff listens, conducts business in a professional manner, and is concerned about issues that impact our lives.

A variety of clubs and organizations, which are both welcoming and inclusive, gives residents ways to become involved in activities that interest them. Castle Hills is vibrant, fiscally-stable and for the most part a forward thinking community. I believe these reasons are among those that are attracting new people and businesses to do

what many of us have been doing for years – investing our lives and our fortunes in beautiful Castle Hills.

Be assured that there is a strong majority of residents and council members who are committed to keeping our city moving forward in a positive, fiscally sound, inclusive and fair way. Members of your city council work hard to set goals and policies that help facilitate city staffers in doing their jobs while providing needed resources that will keep our residents, investors, business owners and operators, safe, healthy and happy.

This year the Castle Hills Woman's Club is celebrating 60 years of promoting and enhancing our city. This club is a glorious example of what can be accomplished when folks are more interested in good actions rather than derogatory words. Yes! Castle Hills continues to be a good sound investment for us all.

If I can ever be of help to you or your family, please let me know.

Your Mayor,

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



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6708 S. Flores, 4114 West Commerce.

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Boles
Children's Home

Medina Children's Home

COUNCIL MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY 8, 2013

Announcements & Presentations

- Mayor Smiley-Kaliff presented the Citizen of the Year Award to Suzanne Riley.
- Gene Dawson, president of Pape-Dawson Engineers gave a presentation of plans to develop and build new corporate headquarters on the 12 acres at 2000 NW Loop 410.

Consider:

Consent Agenda

- Forming a Strategic Planning Committee; members: Jay Larsen, Chairman; Cosmo Albrecht; Frank Paul; Richard Szecsy; Mike Poole; Merlene Wilson; Debbie Reeves; Mike Spridgen; Guyla Sineni; Jack Joyce; Beth Daines; Jana Baker; Milton Ziontz; Barry Middleman; Michael Catalani, Council Liaison
- Calling an election to be held on May 11, 2013 to elect a Mayor and two Aldermen.
- Joint election agreement with Bexar County for the May 11, 2013 General Election.
- Amending Chapter 13 by establishing payment of garbage fees.

Above items under Consent Agenda – passed unanimously.

JANUARY 22, 2013

Community Infrastructure Economic Development (CIED) Budget Workshop

No action taken on discussion.

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Consent Agenda

- Resolution honoring Assistant Fire Chief Mike Fincke upon his retirement.
- Accepting Intent to Retire letter from Police Chief Donald F. Davis.
- Recommendation of the City Manager to appoint Wayne Davis to the position of Police Chief effective March 1, 2013.
- City Manager to review the city vehicle take home policy and its reporting programs; with the understanding that the review will take approximately 90 days to thoroughly review, and if required, refined to better suit the interests of the city and its citizens and provide an efficient tool for the city council's budget deliberation.

Above items under Consent Agenda – passed unanimously.

Consider:

- The design of the proposed website developed by the Civic Participation Committee – passed unanimously.
- Proposal/resolution to rent out to various show, exhibitors, fairs, sales etc., the Council Chamber and/or the Commons area. Particulars such as pricing, contracts, insurance, etc. are to be determined as the part of the total agreement by the City Manager and the City Attorney – postponed until March Council meeting.
- Proposal/resolution to immediately start having annual debates by those desiring to run for any Castle Hills' public office during that current election cycle. Said debates should be held two to three weeks before Election Day and would be held in Council Chambers. Q and A could be moderated by a local newspaper reporter; length/style of debate, etc., could be determined with full approval by all candidates – postponed until March Council meeting.
- Proposal/resolution to promote traffic safety in the city by requiring the owner of residential property to direct invitees, guests and service providers to park their vehicles on designated parking spots at city owned parking areas if onsite parking and street parking in front of the owner's residential property is insufficient and overflows to street areas in front of the residential property of others. Special events, such as social gatherings, shall be exempt from the overflow parking requirement – no action taken.
- Proposal to establish a \$2,500 limit on all discretionary infrastructure repairs. Any project costing more than \$2,500 must come before City Council for approval. Exceptions to this rule would be an immediate emergency (to be determined by the City Manager) threatening the City, such as a sewer break – no action taken.
- Setting aside \$300,000 from CIED funds to be placed in a new (or already existing) fund, dedicated solely for the purchase of a new fire truck – motion died.

Did you know
that there are
VA Benefits
that can help
offset the cost of living
in a retirement community
or assisted living?



Attend an informational session on the
Veteran's Aid & Assistance Benefit Program
at Independence Hill.

Thursday, March 21st, 2013
2:00pm

20500 Huebner Road, San Antonio, Texas 78258

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by March 19th

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Council Comments



Michael Catalani
Place 1

From April 5th to the 7th, Castle Hills Woman's Club will be celebrating beautification weekend. This will be an event to show off our city and many of its beautiful homes. This event will tie into the 60th year anniversary of the Castle Hills Woman's Club. I for one am proud of our city and of the hard work that the Castle Hills Woman's Club has and continues to do to promote our city and activities.

Along the lines of beautification, we should look at upgrading and beautifying our City Hall and adjacent facilities. If you have not noticed or visited City Hall lately, please drop by and take a look at where our administrative and police employees work and where our business and the public at large conduct business. I think you will be surprised. General refurbishing is needed. Office space is limited for conducting business. Repairs and upgrades are needed such as:

- 1) Reroofing -water damage is present.
- 2) Insulation in attic-little to no insulation is present.
- 3) Safety notification system-fire and smoke, ADA requirement upgrades are needed.
- 4) Parking lot and lighting systems-lot and lighting systems are in need of refurbishing
- 5) Equipment upgrade-database, backup and computers for city technology are needed.
- 6) Remodeling-space for city secretary, city clerk, financial officer.
- 7) Generator for fire/public works department-no backup generator currently exists.

These are just a few of the things needed to help beatify our city hall, keep pace with modern technology, comply with various regulations and increase our overall security and safety for our employees and the public.

Several suburban cities have recently constructed new facilities. Upgrading our city facilities for our citizens and general public will be a positive step in enhancing our overall city beautification and image in the community.

As a reminder, several city council seats and the mayoral seat will be on the May 11th general election ballot. Please get out and vote.

Always know that you can contact me with your comments or concerns. I can be reached at 342-2087 or at michael.catalani@yahoo.com



Douglas Gregory
Place 2

Over the last ten years that I have served you as a Councilmember, my overriding concern has been to keep the city fiscally strong and to prioritize the spending needs of the city. Castle Hills has received almost \$850,000 from what are known CIED funds. The Mayor has put together a "projects for considerations" list for how to spend these monies. I strongly believe that however the monies are spent, known future expenses should be addressed.

As the longest continuing serving member of City Council, I was present when around nine years ago the Council was informed that approximately \$1,000,000 would be needed for a purchase of the next fire truck. At that time, the City was struggling with \$500,000 budget shortfall and the combination of these two items worried me. I urged the then Council to establish a fund to address this next huge purchase. Since then, the City has set aside around \$250,000 for the future purchase of this fire truck. Currently, the fund is in need of around \$750,000 to pay for this impending purchase. Many cities in our country have the fiscal mentality of borrow, spend, and tax. Consequently their priorities are "goodies for everyone...hang the consequences."

I am a fiscal conservative who believes in planning. Castle Hills weathered the Great Recession because we did not spend money we did not have, on items we did not need and at the same time we had sufficient funds saved for a rainy day. Thoughtless spending and needless tax hikes have not, so far, been our track record.

Castle Hills is fiscally strong. Let us not go down the seductive road of putting goodies on the credit card or simply say, "the bill is not currently due so let us spend and make everyone feel good today...let future taxpayers reap the whirlwind." I am opposed to that way of thinking. I am opposed to that future. Let us dedicate this \$850,000 wisely. If we do not, our taxes will spike higher and the quality of City services will be put at risk.



Steve McGuire,
PLACE 3, City Treasurer

In this my next to last newsletter contribution prior to leaving public service I thought I might comment on what I see as the two fundamental

Council Comments Continued on Page 7>>

positions taken by your elected officials, positions that drive every decision and cost in our City. We have been very successful over the years in developing phenomenal services for our citizens. There is now one group that believes strongly in maintaining this status quo, continuing exactly what we are doing in exactly the way we are doing it for the indefinite future irrespective of cost. Over the past decade we have seen exactly what the outcomes will be from this policy – continuation of our current services at a cost of ever increasing number of employees, ever increasing property tax rates, and persistent failure to maintain our streets in a land-locked City that has experienced no growth in population.

The opposing position is to celebrate our successes but then to build on them, employing some of the more efficient methods already demonstrated to be effective by our sister small cities. While there is certainly associated risk with this approach, our sister cities have already demonstrated this approach will permit maintenance of high-quality phenomenal service at significantly lower cost. And the lower cost of services directly translates into no increase in taxes and yet still having monies available to fund a large portion of our much needed street repair bonds. The challenge is to make these innovations smartly – this can only be done if your leaders are truly willing to discuss all aspects of the issues intelligently, objectively, and openly without any preconceived positions and with avoidance of alarmist statements or hyperbole.

Your elected officials are currently split on these two approaches – you can decide where your favorite candidate stands simply by looking at his stance on the last two proposed tax rate increases at the Council meetings held 9/2011 and 9/2012. Or for those candidates not currently in office, look to see who is endorsing that candidate – most likely the position of that candidate is accurately reflected in the position of the person doing the endorsement. This current election and the 2014 election will truly determine the future course of our wonderful City – do we maintain exactly what we are doing irrespective

of cost or do we demand preservation of quality services but at lower cost through already proven efficiencies? Both have risk – one is pervasive cost and tax increase, the other is the management challenge of pursuit of smart innovation and change. This election I anticipate will be accompanied by the normal political rhetoric and misstatements of our recent elections but I would encourage you to look through this diversion and instead look at the fundamental stance of your candidate – exercise your right to be involved and to truly map the future of our City.



Tim Howell,
PLACE 4

Hello and I hope everyone has survived the winter months. Although I say that in jest, I do believe that the upcoming spring will have a profound effect on our sanitation department with the pickup of tree trimmings, yard clippings, etc.

I have asked our city manager to enclose in this month's newsletter a reminder of days, and rules regarding that service.

In the last council meeting we were informed and pleasantly surprised with the site plans of Pape-Dawson Engineers. Castle Hills has been selected for their new home office. This is very exciting as this new structure will line our section of the 410 corridor, between West Avenue and Honeysuckle, and create yet another addition to our business skyline along 410. These large companies selecting Castle Hills is just another reminder of the diverse community our city has to offer. Be proud, to be here! I am.

On to other news, I recently reviewed our police department's logs and arrest records. I am pleased to announce, that although the actions of people who would otherwise, not have our best interest at heart, our PD department has maintained and exceeded its primary of objectives of keeping us safe. DUI arrests are up, robbery apprehension up, retrieval of stolen property up, and general response

Council Comments Continued on Page 8>>



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time to calls down. This indicates to me a huge effort on the part of all in the department, and a concentrated effort by management to maintain a good working environment for our frontline defense. If you see Chief Davis, or one of the officers, give them a wave or at least, a smile of appreciation.

Please feel free at anytime to contact me if you have any concerns or comments. It's been very quiet out there, which is a good thing. Let me hear your comments; we are here for you.

Timothy A Howell
210-535-9094
timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com



Tom Davis,
PLACE 5, Mayor Pro Tem

Celebrating Our City

As Greater San Antonio anticipates the arrival of Fiesta, we in Castle Hills are preparing to celebrate our city on April 20th with Fiesta Castle Hills. This annual event in its fourth year kicks-off at 8:00 AM with the Fiesta 5K Fun Run/Walk. Our colorful parade of floats, golf carts, and marching bands winds its way through our city streets at 10:00 AM followed by a Fiesta of fun, food, arts and crafts, and live music in the Commons until 4:30. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate the theme of "Uniting Our Castle Hills Community".

In conjunction with those festivities, we have much to celebrate this year as our city continues to move forward in a positive direction and with well-earned enthusiasm. Almost three dozen businesses and restaurants have chosen to locate in our city since January. Azro Moroccan Mediterranean Bistro offers an outstanding menu of Moroccan, Greek, Spanish, Lebanese, and Mediterranean

cuisines prepared by Khalid Said, a gourmet trained chef. Jimmy's Egg with corporate headquarters in Oklahoma chose Castle Hills for its debut in the San Antonio market. Local owner Jim Chaney serves up a breakfast and lunch experience that will satisfy even the most hungry appetite. One door from Agave's outstanding Mexican Restaurant is Sea and Wings which serves the best catfish plate in town. With two new restaurants on the horizon, Castle Hills residents will have even more choices among the many dining favorites gracing our city like Zorba's, Rossini, Garibaldi, Kobe, Sawasdee, Shushihana, Tiapai, China Inn, Ilsong Gardens, Demo's, and Picnikins.

Stores and shops in Castle Hills provide the convenience of everything from dry cleaners to beauty salons, from clothing to furniture, from sports equipment to jewelry and watch repair. Men get your haircut at Clippers, Castle Hills only barber shop, and catch up on the news of the city while you're there. Also, banking, bakeries, and business offices are just blocks away from your home. Shop for food at Fruiteria or HEB; both just minutes away from your kitchen. Pape-Dawson Engineering is relocating its corporate headquarters here and is working closely with our city staff in the construction of their new facilities. Mufungo Unique Gifts was recently voted the best gift shop in the San Antonio area. Dough Pizzeria Napoletana was nationally recognized as one of the best in the country. All of this and more is right here in the city in which you live.

Our city is growing and your city staff and Council are working to sustain this growth and prosperity. The Woman's Club, the Garden Club, the Homeowner's Association, the Civic Participation Committee, and the new established Strategic Planning Committee are embarking on endeavors that will revitalize and beautify our city. Looking around the city, you will notice that your Mayor and City Council have approved the beginning of significant construction work addressing street and drainage issues. This is the beginning of much needed street, drainage, and infrastructure renovation.

Let's keep the positive forward momentum that we are now

Council Comments Continued on Page 9>>

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enjoying. Support your local businesses and restaurants. Become involved with your city activities and committees. Enjoy living in Castle Hills.

Agree or disagree, please feel free to contact me at jtdsa@grandecom.net. I'm always happy to answer your questions.

City Manager – Rita Hoyl

2013 is starting off with many happenings in the City.

Save the Dates! You will find more information on these events throughout this issue.

- March 19th & April 2nd – Bexar County Environmental Septic System Registration, 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.
- April 6th – Castle Hills Beautification Day
- April 18th – Fiesta Kick-off at Garibaldi's Mexican Restaurant, 2267 NW Military Hwy., 5pm-8pm.
- April 20th – Fiesta 5K Run, 8 am; Community Parade, 10 am, Fiesta Castle Hills food and fun, 11 am
- May 11th – Election Day

There are employee happenings at City Hall too!

First, Michael Fincke, Assistant Fire Chief retired last month with 38 years of service with the City of Castle Hills Fire Department. He will be missed by all.

Donald Davis, Chief of Police submitted his intent to retire letter effective April 12, 2013. Chief Davis has been a great friend and co-worker. Please stop by and wish him well. He will be missed.

Captain Wayne Davis, was promoted to Chief of Police effective March 1, 2013. Captain Davis has 17 years of law enforcement experience and is highly qualified for the job. He is well respected in the department and the community. Congratulations!

Welcome Nick Marquez, city manager's administrative assistant. He will issue permits, schedule inspections, work closely with employees, contractors, residents, and the general public. Nick has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, a Minor in Global Analysis and is currently studying for his Masters in Public Administration.

Good job!

A couple of months ago, two of the three sanitation trucks

were in the shop. The sanitation department encountered a few challenges without their garbage equipment. Since we normally use two trucks each day to pick up garbage/recycle/brush, etc., Rick Harada had to get creative. He hooked up the open trailer to the large dump truck and used those vehicles to pick-up your garbage. When the trailer and the dump truck became full, they would come back to the yard, dump the garbage, and go back out again. When the one and only working garbage truck would get back from the landfill, the entire department shoveled and dumped the refuse in the working garbage truck and it headed back out to the landfill. It was quite the scene. The only problem was that they did run a little behind on pickup, BUT, it was picked up.

This scenario is an example that our employees strive to provide our residents with services like no other. Thanks so much!

ALL of our employees are doing a fabulous job for you.

VOTE
May 11, 2013
Castle Hills City Hall
209 Lemonwood Drive
7 am - 7 pm

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Your community

Do you have a Septic System?

YOU ARE INVITED!

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013
&
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013

City of Castle Hills
209 Lemonwood Drive.
5:30 pm

The City of Castle Hills invites all residents with unregistered septic tanks to a one-hour presentation by Bexar County on how to register your septic tank. The class will be informal, open to anyone interested and there will be time at the end for individual questions and concerns. Bexar County is pleased to help Castle Hills residents meet the new city code requiring registration of their septic system. Come prepared to ask questions, we will get you answers.

Presentation by Andy Winter, Bexar County

**Early Voting
Dates & Times
Page 11**



Castle Hills resident & employee Suzanne Riley, was named 2012 Citizen of the Year at the January 8th City Council meeting.



At the February City Council Meeting, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff presents Proclamation to the Castle Hills Garden Club in celebration of its 60th anniversary. The Mayor proclaimed February 12th as CASTLE HILLS GARDEN CLUB DAY.



Assistant Fire Chief Michael Fincke is presented a resolution and plaque by the Mayor and Council at the February council meeting upon his retirement.



Gris Guerrero, IBC Branch Manager, treated the employees to a surprise Singing Valentine. The Marcsmen (infor@marcsmen.org) a Barbershop Quartet, sang three songs for us!

SPECIAL REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COLLECTION OF LEAVES

During the months of November through March Castle Hills provides an extra service for residential leaf collection. During these months, you may place up to 10 bags per week, no larger than 30-gallons each, for collection on Monday for residents South of Loop 410 and on Tuesday for residents North of Loop 410. You can place the bags at the curb or alley, depending on where your garbage is collected. Please don't place them at these locations prior to the Saturday before collection.

During the months of April through October, along with the regular brush collection we will provide regular leaf collection on Wednesdays, except when there is a city holiday during the week. During these months, the collectors will service no more than the equivalent of three 32-gallon garbage cans on any one call.

Throughout the year, you may contact Public Works to make arrangements for additional services. The cost for these additional services will be determined by the Public Works Director based on the cost to provide this service.

**Did you know
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of Castle Hills
resident you
receive a
10% resident
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CASTLE HILLS GENERAL ELECTION
209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE
CASTLE HILLS, TX 78213

THE HOURS OF EARLY VOTING WILL BE:

Mon., April 29 thru Fri., May 3
 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sat., May 4, 2013
 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sun., May 5, 2013
 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Mon., May 6 thru Tues., May 7
 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	29 *****	30 *****	1 *****	2 *****	3 *****	4 *****
5 *****	6 *****	7 *****	8	9	10	11 Election Day



fiesta 2013
CASTLE HILLS
FAMILY FUN
 At "The Commons"
 on the corner of Lemonwood
 and Honeysuckle, next to City Hall
SAT. APRIL 20, 2013
8:00 AM Fiesta 5K Run
10:00 AM Community Parade
 Commences at the Commons, travels onto Krameria,
 West Avenue, NW Military, then back to the Commons
11:00 AM - 4:30 PM Food Booths
 Arts & Crafts
 & Kids Area
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EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Anniversaries

1-YEAR

Joshua Jahns, Firefighter/EMT

Jeremy Huffman, Firefighter/EMT



Sgt. Steve Hart thanks the Castle Hills Woman's Club, Castle Hills Garden Club, Young Aggies Club and generous area residents for toy donations. Sgt. Hart said, "I filled the Tahoe four times and my pickup once and a SAPD cruiser full of toys (approx 120 gifts of all sizes, plus over \$300 cash). The large barrels in the foyer were filled four times for the San Antonio Food Bank and are awaiting one more pickup."

THANK YOU!

Sgt. Hart, thank you for giving so much of your time for such a worthy cause.



Fire Chief Jerry Riedel, congratulates Asst. Fire Chief Fincke.

Retirements

Michael P. Fincke – 38 years of service.

Michael Fincke, Assistant Fire Chief retires with 38 years of service to the Fire Department. Approximately 75 people attended a reception on January 31st celebrating his retirement. Former Castle Hills' mayors, firefighters, and a former fire chief were in attendance. Also attending were family members, employees, council members, and firefighters from area municipalities. Fincke was presented with a fireman's helmet, clock, and hunting rifle. Mrs. Fincke was presented with red roses.



Mayor Smiley-Kaliff speaks at a reception held January 31st to celebrate Michael Fincke, Assistant Fire Chief upon his retirement.

New Employees

Kolin Jonas, Firefighter

Nicholas (Nick) Marquez, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager

Kristen Sarabia, Part-time Dispatcher

New Arrival

Congratulations to Brittany & Jesse Campos on the birth of their daughter, Izabella Grace, born January 7, 2013, weighing 5 lbs., 14 oz. Izabella has a big sister, Zoey and big brother, Jesse David. Brittany is the police department's administrator.

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(Management)

Rigos Tacos
(Fast food)

Salon Valentino
(Hair salon)

San Antonio Green Laundry
(Self service Laundromat)

Studio One
(Dance lessons)

The Roberts Group
(Marketing, communications and advertising)

New Businesses

"Coming Soon" To Castle Hills

Artesian Custom Pools INC. (Custom swimming pool design & construction)

DKL Realty Services, dba Apartment Services
(Real estate-apartment locating)

Diversified Employee Benefit Services
(Insurance brokerage company)

Innovative Infusions, LLC
(Healthcare services)

New Frontier, Lou Valdez, MA LPC PLLC
(Marriage & family therapy)

Shann M. Chaudhry, Esq., Attorney at Law
(Legal services)

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Call 811 Before You Dig It's the Law

Submitted by Homer Emery, R.S.

This March, marks the 76th anniversary of the nation's worst school tragedy. It was March 18, 1937 when a gas leak caused an explosion killing more than 300 school age children and their teachers in the small Texas town of New London.

Located in East Texas about fifteen miles south of Interstate Highway 20 on Texas 42, New London, with a population of less than 900, made worldwide headline news seventy-six years ago. City officials received letters from world leaders in nearly every country. Adolph Hitler even sent a telegram conveying his condolences over the tragedy.

The exact number killed in the explosion that day is not known since many of the parents of the students were transient oilfield workers. Some collected the bodies of their children and transported them to their home towns for burial. This made it impossible for an accurate count of fatalities.

On that day, New London and Texas gained a place in the history books as the site of the worst school tragedy in America. A damaged or faulty pipeline allowed natural gas, at that time odorless, to collect in the crawlspace beneath the school undetected.

Within months after the incident Congress mandated that natural gas be odorized to enable a leak to be easily detected. Today, Texas and other states also require that anyone (contractors, plumbers and even homeowners) planning to dig call 811 before beginning. After calling 811, pipeline officials will mark the location of gas, electrical and other utility lines buried in your yard.

Already this year, damaged gas lines have resulted in home explosions involving at least one death in Texas. Local health officials said that "many homeowners are simply not aware that there is a state law that requires a person to call the 811 number before they start digging. Even if it's just a weekend project involving a new flower bed, you need to call before you dig." Homeowners also need to make sure plumbers and landscapers working in their yards have called 811 prior to digging.

A simple call before you dig can save several thousand dollars in making repairs to damaged pipelines and may just save a life. Additional information on state laws requiring you to call 811 before digging can be found at <http://www.texas811.org/one-call-law>. More information on the March 1937 explosion in New London, Texas is available at <http://newsflavor.com/world/usa-canada/tragedy-in-a-small-texas-town/>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donald Davis

Hello to all!! It's been an exciting quarter for the Police Department. Your officers have been in afterburner mode chasing, catching, and arresting bad guys almost every day!! We're really proud of them and their performance.

This has also been an exciting quarter for me personally. By the time you read this, I will be officially RETIRED, yahoo!! Of my more than 38 years of service, these last 10 years have been the most rewarding, productive and challenging. At this same council meeting that I announced my intent to retire, the council unanimously accepted the recommendation of the City Manager to replace me with Captain Wayne Davis. I firmly believe that this choice was a good one as it maintains the continuity of the agency and allows for a smooth transition.

Captain Davis has spent a large amount of time and effort in preparing for this new phase of his career, both in training and formal education. We continue moving forward in our goal of making Castle Hills a safe environment in which to live and raise families in. I ask that you both support and encourage Captain Davis. If I personally can ever be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to call on me.

Remember that the Police Department provides free home surveys that once completed will qualify you for a reduction in your homeowner's insurance rates. To schedule a survey please call the office and ask for Sgt. Mark Pardaen.

If the Police Department can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call. Until next time, take care of each other and be safe. If you see something suspicious, please call dispatch and report it.

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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, you must carry the appropriate materials to pick up and remove waste immediately. It is a violation to allow your pet to defecate on another person's property and not remove the waste immediately.

Fence Repair

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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INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR
CASTLE HILLS BEAUTIFICATION DAY
Saturday, April 6, 2013

(beau'ti'fî'ca'tîon – n. the act of making something more beautiful)

The Castle Hills Woman's Club proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary with a renewed focus on the future, neighborhood beautification, and building a spirit of community. Join us for a city-wide effort to spruce up, refresh, enhance, and rejuvenate the city of Castle Hills – one front door, porch, or yard at a time. Whether you sweep, trim, plant, mow, clear out, or decorate is entirely up to you. Private residences, apartment complexes, townhomes, retirement communities, churches, schools, and businesses – all are included in this invitation to dress up our community and show it at its very best. Household hazardous waste disposal will be available from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, courtesy of the City of Castle Hills Public Works Department, 209 Lemonwood. Let's get outdoors, visit with neighbors, and have some fun while we make our beautiful city even more attractive!

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