

MAY 2012

The Castle Hills

Reporter

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May Calendar Dates

- **Tuesday, May 1: May Day**
- **Saturday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo**
- **Sunday, May 13: Mother's Day**
- **Monday, May 28: Memorial Day (Observed)**

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

Michael T. Steele
City Manager, ext. 214
msteele@cityofcastlehills.com

Rita Hoyle
Assistant City Manager, ext. 215

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

Rita Hoyle
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



"City audit passes muster"

This month, I am completing my first year as your mayor, and I have just finished reading the city auditors' preliminary report. I am very pleased with the audit, as I hope you will be.

For the first time in years, our city was legally compliant with state law regarding financial requirements, statements and audit requirements. This was largely accomplished by augmenting staff with a financial assistant, whom city council authorized after the last election. Another first in many years, was the city treasurer's compliance with state guidelines. This compliance was the result of Councilman McGuire having completing the training required by the state in January.

The city's quarterly financial reports were completed and signed as required by law due to the diligence of the city manager and financial staff. The city reduced its' long term debt by 18.9% and increased its general fund by over \$500,000. Our sales tax income exceeded \$1,300, 000, a new record for the city. The sales tax statistics are the result of all of the determination that

has been expended by citizens, staff and council to support our businesses and their owners.

It was acknowledged that the 2012 budget that was prepared by staff and approved by council is built around a property tax decrease of \$13,673 and the expenditures for 2012 have been reduced to a level which is only 3.5% over the city's spending levels of 2010.

This was done while maintaining all citizen services, giving our employees an across the board cost of living increase, maintaining the health benefits of our employees, funding our police and fire departments, public works and sanitation departments, animal shelter, Commons and our all-important 24 hour city emergency dispatch unit.

I believe this is an amazing accomplishment by all involved in this process including staff, council members who chose to participate and citizens who provided input. It is especially amazing since all costs of goods and services that

Continued on Page 3>>

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city government needs to operate efficiently have increased.

Some of these accomplishments came easily while others have been more difficult. Discussion and disagreement are part of any governing body, but of late, the disagreement half has reached the extreme.

A couple of years ago, I stated in this newsletter that I was glad that Castle Hills is a nonpartisan city. I believe nonpartisanship helps move us forward. The accusatory rhetoric that has become part and parcel of our city's political scene is not and should not become the standard of discourse in our beautiful city. This escalation of unpleasant rhetoric started in 1999 and should end now. Don't you agree with me that 13 years is truly enough!

Please, take time to reread city newsletters, which have been published over the last couple of years. If you failed to save them, they are available on line at www.cityofcastlehills.com

Rereading them helps me refresh my memory concerning where the city has been, where council members have stated they would like to see it go, and whether or not certain goals have been realized. This trip down city council's memory

lane also is helpful in reminding me of my own vision for our city's future as well as fellow council members' visions.

Our major challenge this year is to prepare and bring to our citizens for their consideration, a comprehensive street and drainage investment plan that will help us, affordably, move our city back into its historically enviable position as the "city of beautiful homes" located within the San Antonio metropolitan area. Upgrading our streets and drainage systems will not only help maintain property values, it will go a long way to increasing them.

The Mayor of the City of Castle Hills has only three real jobs that he or she can actually do.

- Set the order of the agenda and conduct city council meetings.
- Be the head "cheerleader and promoter" of a forward thinking team selling Castle Hills to possible new residents and businesses looking for a wonderful city to call home.
- Listen to the point of view of every citizen and council member, while trying to keep things in our city moving positively, productively, and optimistically forward.

Please join me in voting this election day and in supporting our city by coming to council meetings and by working with our city's many fine

organizations.

If I can every help you or answer any question please call or email me.

Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff
mayor@cityofcastlehills.com
210-342-595

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.

The Castle Hills Reporter is published by Neighborhood News, Inc.

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 14, 2012

Consider:

- Ordinance calling an election to be held on May 12, 2012 to elect three Alderman and addressing matters related to the election – passed.
- Joint election agreement with Bexar County for the May 12, 2012 General Elections – passed.
- Resolution modifying the use of city owned vehicles for the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Public Works Director – passed.
- Resolution authorizing a car allowance for Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Public Works Director – withdrawn due to action taken on prior agenda item.
- Repeal the second paragraph of subparagraph B.2. Agenda and add new language to the first paragraph of said subparagraph B.2. – this item will be placed on the May agenda for deliberation.
- Withdrawing from VIA and redirecting the proceeds from the ¼% sales tax to the Castle Hills Street Maintenance Fund for the repair of streets and necessary drainage – no action.

MARCH 13, 2012

Consider:

- Policy for use of city owned vehicles – modifications made to policy; passed unanimously.
- Amending Chapter 5 of the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances by adopting the 2012 Edition of the International Building, Residential, Plumbing, Fuel Gas, Mechanical, Fire, and 2011 National Electrical Codes and making amendments thereto – passed unanimously.

Council Comments



Marcella Huff
Place 1

“My one vote doesn’t count, so why bother?” “No one will listen to what I have to say, so why try?”

Sound familiar? If we haven’t said the above at one time or another, then surely we have heard them said by someone we know. But are these statements really true? I don’t believe that they are and this is why.

Recently in our city a proposal for the development of the piece of property along the 410 access road near HEB and backing onto Gladiola took center stage. I learned of this from a citizen who had questions about what was proposed. They wanted answers. I had none to give because I only learned of the proposed development from this telephone conversation. To my surprise and chagrin knowledge of this proposal was

not widespread. Why? More questions. No answers.

I learned that a “by invitation” only meeting was going to be held in the community room at our city hall. I attended that meeting along with other interested citizens. We all wanted to learn more of the proposed development, ask questions, listen to the answers.

This same proposed development was placed on the agenda of the zoning commission meeting for the month of March. I encouraged citizens to attend this zoning commission meeting so that they could learn more about the proposal, ask questions, listen to the answers.

The agenda for the March city council meeting did not include the proposed development and the zoning commission’s recommendation. However, citizens were encouraged to attend the council meeting and address the council during Citizens to be Heard with their concerns and comments about the proposed

Continued on Page 6>>



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development. Although council cannot by law make comments or answers questions during Citizens to be Heard, rest assured they are listening to what you have to say. This issue has not yet been decided, so stay involved and keep making your feelings and concerns known.

Want another example that what you have to say is heard? Remember when the search for a new city manager was about to get underway almost two years ago? I was the lone council member who pushed for a search to find the best possible candidates to interview for the position. I proposed this because it is a sensible and good business practice. The way a city should be run. When citizens heard that the majority of council did not want to conduct a search the council chamber was filled at the next council meeting. The citizens on both sides of the issue expressed their opinions and concerns. Council listened carefully to what was said and then decided to approve a search for the best candidates to interview for the position of city manager. Once again, the citizens spoke and your elected officials listened.

While the decisions that are made may not always fall on the side that you endorse, be assured that your vote counts and when you speak your elected officials listen. At home, in Austin, in Washington. Never forget that.

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



Douglas Gregory, Place 2

There has been a lot of talk surrounding the proposed construction of a 4/5 story, 300+ unit apartment complex that might be built on the old Fink property behind H.E.B., fronting on Loop 410 with Gladiola St. on the reverse side. It is great that a developer has expressed interest in the property but "the devil is in the details".

The time line of events is very odd. Apparently, two weeks prior to the February City Council meeting, an official looking letter which appeared to have the Castle Hills crest on top and signed by Mayor Smiley-Kaliff, went out to a select number of people for a "by invitation only" meeting with the developer. For some reason, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff specifically told our City Manager he was "not invited" and as it turned out neither was most of the City Council. Why? Why did Mayor Smiley-Kaliff

exclude the City Manager? Why did Mayor Smiley-Kaliff deliberately keep the City Council in the dark? Why was this "very important" meeting with the developer kept secret except for a favored few? As a developer himself, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff should realize that a project of this magnitude should be open and above board not "by invitation only".

The next week, the developer went before the Zoning Commission to ask for major zoning changes on the property. At the time of this request, the developer had not secured financing for the purchase of the land and was not the owner. However, the developer came unprepared and lacked answers to many questions such as 1) Had there been a study to determine the effect on the sewer system if there were 300+ new hook ups? 2) Had there been a traffic impact study to determine what hundreds of new cars would have on the surrounding streets? 3) How would this massive new development impact the creek running on the property line; would erosion increase? These and other questions were left unanswered.

If the Zoning Commission voted favorably for the request for rezoning, it would have been virtually impossible for the City Council to reverse the action

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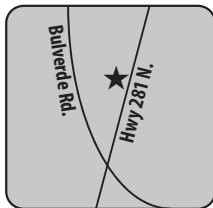




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Here are just a few of the workshops planned for this years conference:

Neighborhood Issues Legal Workshop – Vincent P. Vasquez

This presenter will provide common scenarios that NA's may face and offer general information on possible solutions to Legal issues. Offered at 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Leadership Development – Irma DeLeon with Los Jardines Neighborhood Association

Description: During this workshop, the presenters will offer information on the necessity of developing strong, successful leaders in order to effect positive change within our neighborhoods. Offered at 9:15 a.m.

Code Enforcement/Ranger Program -Albert Mora, Code Enforcement Officer

Learn about the City of San Antonio Code Enforcement and Ranger Program. What are the responsibilities and is this program suitable for you or someone in your neighborhood? Offered at 10:45 a.m.



National Night Out – Patricia Galvan

Description: Learn more about this annual event where neighborhoods build community spirit while taking "a bite of crime". Those neighborhoods who have completed the NNO registration will be eligible to participate in a drawing for NATIONAL NIGHT OUT banners! Offered at 9:15 a.m.



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because rules require that a "super majority" of the Council members voting, to reverse a Zoning Commission vote. In the end, the Zoning Commission voted 3-1-1 against the proposed zoning change. One week later, the City Council was to vote up or down on the Zoning Commission vote but the agenda item was pulled.

I am sorry that the developer was under the impression that a 4/5 story, 300+ unit apartment complex could be approved without a careful and thoughtful process. When this property is eventually developed it must be a huge plus for the neighborhoods on and near Gladiola, vastly improve the Southern part of Castle Hills and bring in hundreds of thousands of new tax dollars. By having a "by invitation only" meeting and trying to ram through in two weeks a huge zoning overhaul on a large new development, there remain many more questions than answers both from the developer and Mayor Smiley-Kaliff.



Steve McGuire,
PLACE 3, City Treasurer

Once again I am discussing what I consider our most significant issue – fiscal responsibility. For the three years that I have served as your Alderman, I've struggled to understand why our sister city Shavano Park can deliver essentially the same services for 10-15% less cost (see <http://www.shavanopark.org/> 2011-2012 Adopted Budget; <http://cityofcastlehills.com/adopted-city-budget-2012>). I can state unequivocally that (1) our employees are highly productive, (2) our employees definitely are NOT over paid, and (3) our department managers do an excellent job of managing daily expenses.

So why are our expenditures more? It comes back to what I discussed in my last newsletter – defining our needs. We are very good at identifying new needs and selecting the most cost efficient solutions to meet those needs. However once a need is established and a process is put in place, we maintain the status quo – forever! We fail to periodically reassess the continuing necessity for a need, to adopt changing best practices and changing technology, or to leverage our limited assets through mutual sharing with our surrounding municipalities. As a result we spend more than we should, more than the apparent benchmarks set by similar cities.

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For a visible example of the consequences simply look at our streets (and perhaps compare to Shavano Park). Our City Engineer tells us we need approximately \$25 million in street repairs. Our City Bond Agent tells us a 20 year bond will increase our City property (ad valorem) taxes by about 50-75%. Our City Engineer notes that the life expectancy of some of the road repairs is 8-10 years. Clearly we need to repair our streets. However should we be paying for all of these repairs with a 20-year bond issue or perhaps pay for some of these repairs out of current revenue? But without addressing our inefficiencies, we lack current revenue for these shorter lifespan repairs.

The way forward is both simple and difficult. The inertia of status quo can be immense. We have the expertise within our City to modernize if we have the vision, the commitment, and the courage. In this my fourth year on Council my intent is to remain focused on our future. We can indeed modernize, becoming more efficient in the process, while simultaneously providing for 100% of our employees as we change. I ask you to join with me in this commitment – help me bring Best Practices to our City.



Tim Howell, PLACE 4

I hope everybody is enjoying these warm days like I am. With the summer months approaching, there will be a lot of activities involving the children of Castle Hills, in and around our city. I am asking that everyone be very careful while

out on the roadways, and watch out for our little ones on their bikes, walking and playing, etc. The safety of

our residents is very important to us all, and this is a simple thing we can do to protect one another.

Congratulations go out to our Police Chief Donny Davis and Captain Wayne Davis. The increased patrolling in the neighborhoods has helped our residents become aware that officers are at work keeping us as safe as possible. It also sends a message to those who would enter the City without as much appreciation for it as we have, that Castle Hills is being protected by the very finest of personnel. I would encourage everyone to attend our council meetings, and when seeing our officers out and about, offer up thanks for their efforts. All of our department heads should be congratulated for a job well done.

Since last time the newsletter was published, we have considered and passed the street improvement resolution that was being formulated at that time. Bids are pending on this project, and as soon as they are in we will be starting the effort to “get some asphalt on the ground”. Although this is a very small portion of what needs to be addressed, it is an effort of council to finally move forward with the task of maintaining and improving the aesthetics of the city. I have spoken to many of you who have expressed your concerns, and provided advice on various issues involving the infrastructure and further improvement of our city. I do appreciate all comments. My door is “always open”, so feel free to email me with your comments and ideas. I will then forward them to the appropriate departments. The city will benefit from a well informed city council, and good communication from its residents.

It has come to my attention that our current sign ordinance needs some looking into. This is coming from our businesses mainly along NW Military Highway and the major thoroughfares surrounding our city. I am currently exploring ideas for a new initiative regarding the current sign ordinance by visiting with local businesses, residents, non-profits, churches, other cities, and our attorney Mr. Brennan, for a possible revision of this ordinance that will help the growth of our businesses but maintain the high standards that we are accustomed to in Castle Hills. The nationwide economic recovery is still a work in progress, and our city needs more sales tax and growth to maintain our low tax rate and the premium services we offer. We must help our businesses and storefronts present themselves in a fashion that will entice consumers to “Shop Castle Hills”. I will present my findings to the mayor and council when it is complete, and be prepared to offer a resolution to be considered by council. Please feel free to email me your thoughts on

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<<Continued From Page 8

the subject, and I will be glad to listen to any ideas you might have.

In the next few months there will be some fresh ideas coming through our council and boards. Although some of these proposals will be challenging and at times political, please remember that we all want the same things for our city at the end of the day. These are challenging times, but they are also exciting times with lots of opportunities to move our city forward in a positive direction.

In closing, I am asking all residents to get involved in our city. It is important that we all work together to keep Castle Hills the premier city in the state of Texas. We have it all right here – the best police force, fire protection and sanitation service of any city I know of, and most of all the ability for all to be a part of a local government that is open and easy to get in touch with. I am committed to helping the citizens of Castle Hills be well informed. Please send me your comments, and thoughts.

My contact information is:

210-535-9094--cell

210-473-8505--business

timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com

timothyallanhowellmistercastlehills@GMX.com

timothyallanhowell@facebook.com



Tom Davis, PLACE 5,
Mayor Pro Tem

Names Omitted to Protect the Guilty

At the April City Council Meeting, a Town Meeting in June was proposed by the Mayor to discuss VIA and the City of Castle Hills' participation in the mass transit program. Please attend this meeting because citizen input is important to respond to a City Council Member's repeated desire to alter our participation in VIA public transportation services. I have been asked about this, as well as other subjects and feel it's time to clarify some concerns. Items discussed in open Council Meetings are not always the whole picture. There are thoughts, ideas, proposals, and personal agendas that the public rarely hears or is aware of. All of the notions in this article were concocted in the name of saving money.

Continued on Page 10>>

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One cost saving measure favored by a Council Member is the repeated desire to eliminate the garbage collection in favor of a private company. This time the argument is that since the sanitation department has vacant unfilled job positions, now would be the best time to close the Department. This particular idea has been floating around for a couple of years. The City manager looked into it, and found that only minimal money would be saved by contracting with a private company providing once a week garbage collection rather than continuing with the garbage and brush pick up services we currently enjoy. After a city has disposed of its trucks, phased out the personnel, and the contract needs renewing, guess what? Cities that have chosen this option found that the contract price went up significantly leaving the city no choice but to renew at the more expensive contract rate. Another plan was to have the City pull out of garbage pick up completely. Under this plan, the resident would be billed directly by the garbage company. Does it save the City money? Does it reduce your tax burden? You bet it does because the City just passed the entire direct cost on to you, the resident.

Here's my personal favorite bizarre cost saving measure that's been discussed with me. With so many San Antonio Fire Stations around Castle Hills, let's eliminate our Fire Department and contract with San Antonio. We also could get rid of the Emergency Medical Services and have Arcadia handle those needs. Fire Stations are located by the population density of the specific surrounding areas. Do you really think San Antonio would be interested in adding more responsibility to a larger area without adding more shifts, personnel, and equipment? How much do you think San Antonio would charge Castle Hills for that expansion? The service certainly wouldn't be free. Would the response time be as fast? Save the City money? Really? What are some Council Members thinking?

How about this one? Since Castle Hills is so small, why not consider having the Bexar County Sheriff's Department be contracted to handle our patrol and police needs? Interesting. How much would they charge? Cost savings? Not really. In the last two January issues of the City Newsletter I related what happened to cities that tried this option. With the increase in police response time, the only ones who liked the change were graffiti artists and criminals.

Don't think the Animal Shelter hasn't been considered. In the last two budget workshops, the cost of the Animal Control Department has been questioned both in terms of direct costs and manpower issues. Our no kill Animal Shelter is where your beloved pet(s) will be taken when lost or found out of their yards. Every attempt will be made to return your little family member. If we give up our Animal Shelter your four legged loved ones would go to a San Antonio pound. You must locate where they have been sent and retrieve them in a specific amount of time or they will be gone forever. Also, what department do you think picks up dead animals in our streets and our city? Not your City Council Members.

So let's recount. The City of Castle Hills is not responsible for providing water or managing sewage disposal. If the City abrogates the functions of Police, Fire, Sanitation, Animal Control, and providing access to Public Transportation, what's left? A City Administration that simply processes contracts with other providers. Wow! That does save money. A staff of one or two could easily handle a city like that. Or maybe we should just let San Antonio annex Castle Hills -- don't think that hasn't been bandied around. One misinformed Council Member thinks San Antonio has lower tax rates. I guess that's what happens when you miss Council meetings.

If you have questions or if this article has caused you concern, please feel free to email me at jtdsa@grandecom.net. or contact another City Council Member. If they deny knowing anything about what I've written, it might be one of their ideas that was mentioned in the article.



P
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Registration Required

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

Leash Law

Please be reminded that a dog must be under proper 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.

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YOUR COMMUNITY

In response to Mayor Smiley-Kaliff's proclamation recognizing "Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month", the following is an excerpt taken from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD – Extensions of Remarks

March 26, 2012

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks

CASTLE HILLS' PROCLAMATION FOR "GENOCIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION" MONTH

HON. LAMAR SMITH OF TEXAS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the City of Castle Hills, Texas and Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff for proclaiming April as "Genocide Awareness and Prevention" month. The City of Castle Hills supports the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and its dedication to ensure that individuals and communities have access to information about the history of genocide. The City

of Castle Hills joins with the Texas State Legislature in emphasizing the need to heighten public awareness of genocide and to honor victims and those touched by genocide as a reminder to practice vigilance in protecting human rights. Mayor Smiley-Kaliff signed this proclamation on March 13, 2012.

THANK YOU CASTLE HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CITIZENS OF CASTLE HILLS!

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, the food and fund drive efforts led by Sgt. Steve Hart and your Castle Hills Police Department resulted in 326 pounds of food donated to the San Antonio Food Bank to provide for those in need. Three hundred twenty six pounds of food provided 255 meals. The San Antonio Food Bank states, "Your support will make it possible to continue helping those in need in our community."



FIESTA CASTLE HILLS GRAND MARSHALLS

Paul Penaloza of Penaloza and Sons Jewelers and Gris Guerrero Bank Manager of IBC Castle Hills.

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YOUR COMMUNITY



City Council Meeting

At the March 13, 2012 new police officer Torivio (Toby) Quintero, was introduced to the council and audience. Officer Quintero and his wife Cynthia are pictured with Mayor Smiley-Kaliff and City Council members.



GRAND MARSHALLS WITH TRICYCLE

Grand Marshalls Paul Penaloza and Gris Guerrero and Fiesta Castle Hills parade coordinator, Marianne Huizar (center) pictured with the tricycle raffled at Fiesta Castle Hills 2012.



Group with Fiesta Castle Hills Grand Marshalls-2012

Fiesta Castle Hills Committee Members: (L-R) Castle Hills resident Doris Cannon, Danny Garza-IBC Marketing, Castle Hills resident Michael Catalani, Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, Gris Guerrero-Grand Marshall 2012, Paul Penaloza-Grand Marshall 2012, Marianne Huizar-Parade Coordinator & Councilman Tom Davis.



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

At the March 13, 2012 City Council Meeting, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff read a proclamation declaring 2012 as "Year of the Girl" and March 12th as "Girl Scouts Centennial Day." A proclamation was presented to the Girl Scouts in attendance.



TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS

The City of Castle Hills was host to the bi-monthly meeting of The Alamo Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association. The meeting was held in the Community Room on February 22nd. Attending the meeting, were approximately 22 city secretaries from area municipalities, including San Antonio. A representative from the Texas State Library was the guest speaker. Local eatery, Picnikins, catered the lunch. Castle Hills City Secretary Linda Gill serves as the Treasurer of the Chapter.



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Picture 1-AMBASSADOR SIV PICTURED W/COUNCIL

At the March 13, 2012 City Council Meeting, Mayor Smiley-Kaliff read a proclamation recognizing April each year from 2012 through 2020 as "Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month." (L-R) Council members Tom Davis, Tim Howell, Ambassador Sichan Siv, Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, Council members Marcella Huff and Douglas Gregory. Picture 2-AMBASSADOR SICHAN SIV PICTURED W/ MAYOR SMILEY-KALIFF



NEW EMPLOYEE

New police officer, Torivio (Toby) Quintero, Jr. signs the Oath of Office administered by Judge William Dooling.

STAFF COMMENTS



CITY MANAGER

Michael T. Steele

M.P.A.

Hopefully all of you got through our numerous rain storms safely and were able to enjoy Easter or Passover with family and friends.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers- especially Mr. and Mrs. Richard Huizar- and the City employees, who worked so hard to make this year's Fiesta Castle Hills the best Fiesta ever. Also, thanks to the Homeowners' Association for putting on another great Easter Egg Hunt in the Commons.

In my last message, I referred to paving and drainage projects around the City getting underway this summer. The status of these projects is that the preliminary engineering has been completed. All of the utilities (such as water, sewer, electric, phone and cable companies) affected by these projects have been notified. In instances where the utility will have to be moved or modified in any way to complete the proposed project, meetings were held to find the best solutions. The City Engineer will be presenting his findings on all of these paving and drainage projects at the May 8 meeting of the City Council.

Homeowners should be aware that BexarMet (soon to be SAWS) will be conducting fire hydrant testing in the near future. Sometimes when fire hydrants are shut off, the resulting water hammer can shake loose rust or buildup from inside the pipes. Should you discover that your water has a slight brownish tint, simply run your water for a short period of time- preferably on your yard plants- until your waterline clears.

Thanks to all of you who keep your yards and property so well kept and also to those of you who volunteer to do so much to keep our City so beautiful. Take a moment to enjoy the beauty, which our recent rains have brought us before the heat of summer arrives.



PUBLIC WORKS

Rick Harada

Public Works Director

Suddenly it's Spring! It seems like yesterday that it was Winter. With the precious rains we so badly needed our lawns are requiring extra attention. Spring is the time we associate with planting colorful foliage, trimming shrubs, painting and simply tidying up the outdoors. And let's not forget the indoors. We clean out our closets, drawers, cabinets, garages, etc. So now how do you properly dispose of this? Some items you can donate to your favorite charity. Some items aren't salvageable and just need to be thrown away. Because this isn't regular household generated kitchen garbage, you shouldn't put it in the garbage cans for regular pick up. You may have hazardous pool chemicals or other materials that cannot be mixed in with your garbage. Call me at 342-2341, ext. 206 and I can provide you with a quote/surcharge to remove it from the property and properly dispose it for you.

How about tree trimmings and leaves? Brush collection is on Wednesdays of each week, except during a holiday week. How much can be set out? If the work was performed by a hired contractor or landscape company they must remove it. If you performed the work yourself, you can set out not more than the equivalent of three 30-gallon trash cans for collection. This does not mean they have to be in a trash can. Tree limbs can be neatly stacked, but cannot exceed 5' in length and 3" in diameter.

Remember, your household generated garbage must be placed in a bag and inside a trash receptacle. I've received calls that a trash bag was placed next to leaf bags and not picked up. The sanitation crew is picking up the bagged trash in cans and they do not open the bags to determine if the bag contains leaves or trash.

One more reminder. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain any property abutting a public alley or way and to prevent any weeds, grasses, or other vegetation whatsoever to grow therein to the center line to a height greater than five (5) inches. Recently we had an incident that caused damage to our garbage truck due to overgrown bamboo in the alleyway. Luckily the collector on the truck was not injured. Please keep a clear path in the alleyway for "your" collector.

STAFF COMMENTS



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Captain Wayne Davis

Spring is here and summer is near.

Spring is here, the weather is nice, people are out working in their yards and everything is wonderful

here in the City of Castle Hills. We are continuing to improve your police department and want to provide you with some interesting and important points of view, but not exactly from someone you would think of. I found this important information while reading a nearby Homeowners Association news article.

10 THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
2. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
3. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere, ask to clean your gutters, or ask for someone who I know does not live with you.
4. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
5. Your right: I may not have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
6. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never,

ever look like a crook.

7. The two things I hate the most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.

8. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature

9. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.

10. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Above are what I consider to be the top 10 out of the 21 I reviewed. Please take note and keep these things in mind.

Have a safe and festive spring. If you ever need anything just give us a call, we are less than five minutes away.

Wayne Davis
Captain, Castle Hills Police Dept.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs <http://www.crimedoctor.com/> and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book Burglars on the Job.

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MAY EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Anniversaries

1-YEAR

Joe Prado – Sanitation
Jose Regalado – Police Officer

5-YEARS

Glenda Olivier-Police Dispatcher
Wendy Reyes-Court Administrator
Marcial Rivera – Police
Dispatcher

10-YEARS

Donald Davis – Police Chief
Joe Hernandez - Firefighter

35-YEARS

Richard Sill - Firefighter

New Employees

Jeremy Huffman – Firefighter
Joshua Jahns – Firefighter
Gilbert Padilla – Sanitation
Torivio Quintero – Police Officer
Cory Stewart – Firefighter



HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

May 2012

NORTH OF LOOP 410

- Wednesday, May 30, Garbage Collection
- Thursday, May 31, Recycle Collection

SOUTH OF LOOP 410

- 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

July 2012

NORTH OF LOOP 410

- Tuesday, July 3, Garbage Collection
- Thursday, July 5, Recycle Collection
- Friday, July 6, Garbage Collection

SOUTH OF LOOP 410

- Monday, July 2, Garbage Collection
- Thursday, July 5, Garbage Collection
- Thursday, July 5, Recycle Collection

SHOP

CASTLE HILLS



New Businesses

HEAVENLY FASHIONS BOUTIQUE
(Retail boutique)
MAMACITA JEAN CAFÉ
(New owner, formerly Oblate Café)
PIAZZ FROZEN YOGURT
(Frozen yogurt shop)
SAN ANTONIO FAMILY ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
(Medical/chiropractic office)
TEMPLE OF PRAISE DIVINE DANCE STUDIO
(Dance studio)
TEXAS GOLD
(Purchaser of gold and silver scrap, jewelry, coins, etc).
THE VICTOR GROUP, INC.
(Custodial services)
TITLEMAX OF TEXAS
(Specific financial institution)
TRIMERICA INSURANCE
(Auto & home insurance)

New Businesses “Coming Soon” To Castle Hills

DREAMLAND CHILDCARE
(Educational/Childcare)
DUNGEON COMIX
(Retail comic books)
HEAVENLY HANDS CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER
(Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center)