

SEPTEMBER 2012

The Castle Hills

Reporter

SEPTEMBER 22ND:

FIRST DAY OF
AUTUMN!

OCTOBER 31ST:

HALLOWEEN!

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Contact information
not available online.



Message From the Mayor

Bruce Smiley-Kaliff



Women's Club members have been actively supporting and enhancing the Castle Hills community for 60 years. As one small way of thanking members for their thousands of volunteer hours and beneficial community services, Aldermen Tom Davis, Tim Howell, Mike Catalani and Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff, asked the club to use our spaces in this issue to share with readers the club's history, current activities and future plans. Thank you members for making Castle Hills a better place to live. We honor you on your 60th anniversary.



Tom Davis
Council, Place 5
Mayor Pro Tem



Tim Howell
Council, Place 4



Michael Catalani
Council, Place 1

Celebrate 60 Years of the Castle Hills Woman's Club!

Since its founding in 1952, The Castle Hills Woman's Club has been a multigenerational collaboration of dedicated women who have contributed their time and talents toward countless civic, charitable, and social projects in the City of Castle Hills. This year, 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.

Hitting the ground running its very first year, the Club raised funds for the building of a new Civic Center, the purchase of a fire truck, and the pouring of a concrete slab for the Castle Hills Fire Department. And it hasn't stopped since! Including donations to area schools and charitable organizations, and a host of improvements at City Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Department, the Castle Hills Woman's Club has contributed over \$210,000 toward the betterment of the community. Club members further strive to create a culture of collaboration

Continued on Page 3>>

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<<Continued From Page 2

and service by providing “woman power” at various city events throughout the year.

As interests and lifestyles have evolved over the years, The Castle Hills Woman’s Club has adapted to meet those needs. Outside of traditional club meetings, there are a multitude of opportunities for members to gather informally and connect with their neighbors. Special interest clubs, group outings, and a casual monthly “Happy Hour” in a member’s home are just some of the activities that are enjoying great popularity.


The Castle Hills Woman Club 60th Anniversary is a year-long celebration with many exciting and fun events planned in 2012-2013. We encourage all women who live in Castle Hills to get to know us better and to be an active part of our vibrant community as we celebrate our past - and our future –together! Annual dues are only \$25. Please send us an email at castlehillswomansclub@gmail.com for more information, or drop us a note with your contact information to the Woman’s Club, c/o the City of Castle Hills, 209 Lemonwood 78213.

Celebratingly yours,

Denise Haley
President, 2012-13

P
E
T

C
O
R
E



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.



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



JUNE 12, 2012

Consider:

- Placing a 3-way stop sign at the Trillium @ Gladiola, Bluet @ Gladiola, and Dandelion @ Gladiola intersection – No action taken.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 14, Health and Sanitation, addressing minimum utility requirements for residential structures – passed unanimously.
- Appointment of Councilman Davis to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for a period of one year – passed unanimously.
- Ordinance establishing Records Management Program – passed unanimously.
- Appointing Florence Glover as an alternate member to the Board of Adjustment – passed unanimously.
- Adopting an Investment Policy – passed unanimously.
- Advertising for RFQs for City Attorney and Municipal Court Prosecutor – passed unanimously.
- Withdrawing from VIA and redirect the proceeds from the ½% sales Tax to the Castle Hills Street Maintenance Fund for the repair of streets and necessary drainage – Failed – 3 against; 0 in favor; Councilman Catalani abstained.
- Recommendations from the Sewer & Plumbing Ordinance Committee – passed unanimously.
- A resolution describing the intended use and limitations of articles submitted for the Castle Hills Report the system of review and approval of submissions – no action taken.
- Place manual drop-down signs on existing school on West Avenue - failed.

Continued on Page 5>>

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<<Continued From Page 4

- Request by Ann Marie Edgerton for a Special Use Permit to utilize the ancillary building at 1900 NW Military Hwy. After the Public Hearing and consideration by City Council of the recommendation of the Zoning Commission, the City Council may deny or approve an SUP for the ancillary building – passed unanimously.
- Appeal from Linda Robinson to prevent the city from removing junk vehicles from the property at 204 Tamworth. After the Public Hearing the City Council will consider the appeal and adoption of a Resolution ordering removal of the vehicles – passed 3 – 1; Council McGuire voted against.

JULY 10, 2012

Consider:

- Appointing Robbie Casey as a regular member on the Board of Adjustment – passed unanimously.
- Appointing Nick Daines to the Crime Control and Prevention District to fill an unexpired term until September 1, 2013 – passed unanimously.
- Replat establishing CB 208, Block 9, Lots 80 and 81 – passed unanimously.
- Ordinance adopting the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code – failed 3 to 2; Council members McGuire, Gregory and Howell voted against.
- Resolution describing the intended use and limitations of articles submitted for the Castle Hills Reporter including the system of review and approval of submissions. The following motion carried 3 to 2; Council members Catalani and Davis opposed: Councilman Gregory moved that “taken as a whole, Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States, Article 8 of the Texas Constitution, both guaranteeing freedom of speech, and Section 255.003 of the Texas Election Code, shall be the standards by which elected officials should determine the content of their written articles found in the Castle Hills newsletter or its successor”.

JULY 10, 2012 – Executive Session

- City Council retired to Executive Session at 5:33 p.m. as authorized by Section 551.074(a)(1) of the Texas Government Code to review the duties and evaluate the progress of the City Manager – no action taken.

JULY 16, 2012 & JULY 30, 2012 – Budget Workshop

- Presentation and discussion of the preliminary FY2013 Budget for the City of Castle Hills.

Council Comments



Douglas Gregory
Place 2

Money, Money, Money.....\$800,000

CPS has decided to dissolve a fund that had been in existence for street light grants; over \$800,000 will be returned to Castle Hills. Usage is not limited to any one purpose so for all intent the City Council has the responsibility to spend this windfall thoughtfully.

It is my firm belief that at least 80% of the \$800,000 windfall must be spent on the repair of our streets; up to 20% could be designated to fix bad roofs, purchase needed generators or other critical needs. The City has to choose to use this golden opportunity to upgrade the streets or throw the money down the drain on “wish list”

items such as laptop computers for Council members or to redesign City Hall so it does not look like a church.

The money will get here soon and it is burning a hole in the pockets of some Council members. Time is of the essence to demand responsibility and not “wish list” foolishness. Opportunities such as this come once in a lifetime.....let's not blow it.

*More Council Comments on
the next page>>*



Steve McGuire,
PLACE 3, City Treasurer

As summer closed, we put the finishing touches on our 2013 budget, deciding where we will spend funds and how we will generate revenue. Hopefully you participated in the process, either through attending one of our meetings or by conveying your desires to one of your elected officials. By now you know budgeting is never an easy process – competing demands always exceed available resources.

First consider the expense side of the budget. I believe we should always emphasize best value, realizing this will not necessarily be the least expensive. In those instances where we spend more than our neighboring benchmark cities, justification for those additional expenses should be readily apparent. What makes Castle Hills special is our willingness to spend extra for that next level of public service. If you note a difference in a category when you compare our budget to that of similar sized cities such as Shavano Park or Balcones Heights, ask your elected officials to explain.

Next consider the revenue side of the budget. Revenue amounts are a best guess estimate of anticipated revenue. Ad valorem (property) tax is perhaps the most precise – property evaluation predicts revenue based on the tax rate we set. All other categories are best guesses, based on previous budgets and our yearly audit. We tend to underestimate revenue to avoid deficit spending but then this can also lead to unnecessary property tax increases.

Castle Hills remains a wonderful place to live because (1) our citizens remain engaged and (2) we are willing to spend those extra funds where appropriate. But we should always be doing this with an eye towards best value – let's work together to ensure we make every tax dollar a dollar well spent. I encourage you to remain involved, to understand the process, and importantly to talk to your Mayor and Councilmen seeking specific data and explanations.

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Police Department Hosts Physical Challenge



As part of its program to promote physical fitness among members of the Castle Hills Police Department, the Police Department hosted another Physical Challenge on August 4th in the Commons for its employees.

Employees from other City departments were also invited to participate.

The challenge included runs of various distances, obstacles, tire flipping, and a dummy drag. The best time for the course was 2 minutes, 13 seconds and the slowest time was 4 minutes, 14 seconds.

The next physical challenge was on Wednesday, August 22nd at both 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. in order to accommodate City employees on different shifts.

Castle Hills Officers receive MADD awards for 2011 Enforcement



MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) organized an appreciation luncheon to recognize BEXAR County officers for their dedication and commitment to enforcing drunk driving. Officer Chastity Park and Sgt. Steve Zuniga were recognized and presented with two awards. Sgt. Zuniga received the "Enforcement Award". He had over 25% of the entire department's DWI arrests and Officer Park received the "Commitment Award". She had nearly as many, but her move to daylight shift interrupted her DWI arrest momentum.

W. Davis
Captain, Castle Hills PD



SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS



Anniversaries

1-YEAR

Brian DeHaro – Street
Department

5-YEARS

Curtis Covey - Firefighter
Rose Cortes – Building
Maintenance

15-YEARS

Wayne Davis – Police Captain

New Employees

Gary Reeves – Police Officer



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CASTLE HILLS GARDEN CLUB

The first meeting of the Castle Hills Garden Club was held September of 1952. The Castle Hills Garden Club has adhered to the concepts and principals of fostering greater interest in home and garden as originated by the first Castle Hills Garden Club.

The current membership is 29 members with a maximum potential of 35 members. The club meets at 9:30am on the second Tuesday of the month (September thru May) for thirty minutes of social time before the regular meeting at 10:00am. Most meetings are held in a member's home with a business meeting and followed by a program of interest to all.

The programs for 2012-2013 include: "How to Prepare for a Flower Show Entry", a Flower Show in November and two field trips to Shades of Green Nursery and Shady Oaks Olive Orchard. Our luncheons are held in December and in May.

The Castle Hills Garden Club has excellent attendance at meetings and activities which is a balance of authoritative speakers and member sharing.

Castle Hills Garden Club is affiliated with The San Antonio Garden Center and therefore takes part in many of the Center's activities. Charitable works are also on the agenda throughout the year. Collections are made for Wounded Warriors, Blue Santa/Children's Shelter and

YOUR COMMUNITY

Operation Christmas Cheer. Participation in the Castle Hills Fiesta is marked by an entry in the Parade and a Plant Booth at The Commons.

The objectives of this organization are civic development through home and garden beautification and adhering to other educational and beautification programs in Castle Hills.

We welcome new members. The next meeting will be held September 11, 2012 at the home of Sandie Martin, 113 Cobblestone. Please join us!

Louise McCormick
President- Castle Hills Garden Club

SAVE THE DATE!

CASTLE HILLS AND
GREENSTAR RECYCLING
WILL HOST A SHREDDING &
ELECTRONIC EVENT

Saturday, October 13, 2012
from 9 am to 1 pm
CASTLE HILLS CITY HALL
209 LEMONWOOD DRIVE
FRONT PARKING LOT

Help our landfills.

Bring any documents you want shredded and old electronic equipment you want to have recycled.

Tell your friends and neighbors.

DO YOU HAVE A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

YOU ARE INVITED!
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012
City of Castle Hills
209 Lemonwood Drive.
6:00 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

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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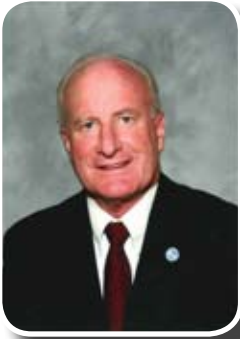
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STAFF COMMENTS



CITY MANAGER

Michael T. Steele

M.P.A.

In my last article in the City's newsletter, I mentioned that the City was negotiating with the recycling company, with which the City contracts, to put on a paper shredding and electronics recycling event at City Hall. Since

that time, I have received numerous phone calls and e-mails inquiring as to when the event will be held. It is good to know that so many of you read the City's newsletter!

The event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the front parking lot at City Hall at 209 Lemonwood Drive.** Bring any documents you want shredded (old income tax returns, bank statements, and any other documents with sensitive information) and old electronic equipment, which you want to have recycled. This will keep this bulky material out of our landfills. Tell your friends and neighbors. You

do not have to live in or have a business in Castle Hills to participate.

The upcoming streets and drainage projects are moving forward. The project bid openings were held on August 17, 2012. As soon as the City Council approves the winning bid, construction will begin.

Perhaps you have noted some construction on NW Military Highway just south of Lemonwood Drive. This is part of a TxDOT project to improve traffic flow and to help mitigate the u-turn problems on both NW Military Highway and Lemonwood Drive. TxDOT has installed a concrete turn-around area on the west side of NW Military Highway. TxDOT will move the northbound left-turn stop line on NW Military Highway at Lemonwood Drive back 80-feet and install delineators along the center of the highway on NW Military Highway south of Lemonwood Drive to discourage u-turns before the signal.

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. And, thank you again for your interest in the City of Castle Hills.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Captain Wayne Davis

Fall is Around the Corner

We hope everyone is having a good summer, but the summer of 2012 is soon to be over. This was a hot summer and hopefully we will get some early cold fronts to get us thinking about the fall. We just want to touch on a few things. First, I want to say thank you for reading and responding to our newsletter articles. We know you are reading them because we are receiving info from you based on what has been put in past articles, especially calling in suspicious activity, persons, and vehicles. This has helped us deter crime better than years past. The bottom line is you, the citizens, is the eyes and ears of the community and without your help we would constantly be playing "catch up". Thanks!

Next, we want to remind everyone that now that school has begun, we all need to consider the increased traffic. So get an early start to work and be patient while sitting in traffic. I was recently informed that San Antonio/Bexar County is high on the list for road rage incidents. Be considerate in traffic and please do not pull over if an altercation occurs on the roadway. We recently had two individuals pull over after a road rage incident and we ended up working an unfortunate investigation. This could have been prevented if both, or at least one party, kept driving.

Texas National Night Out will be held Tuesday October 2nd. This year Castle Hills Police Department will not be hosting an event in the Commons. Nevertheless, we do want to know if you are planning a "block" party. If so, please feel free to give us a call and ask for Sgt. Steve Zuniga who will be in charge of making sure the police stop by and visit your block. Until next time stay safe and please call if we can help.

Wayne Davis
Captain, Castle Hills Police Department


PUBLIC WORKS
Rick Harada

Public Works Director

A friendly reminder to residents and businesses of Castle Hills. Because the Castle Hills Reporter is distributed to all addresses, I will use this form of media to remind everyone of our tree ordinance requirements.

Did you know that the city ordinance requires that any tree that overhangs or obtrudes upon or over any sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement, must have a full 12' vertical clearance between the surface of all portions of such sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement? The 12' clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions and circumstances.

I have personally witnessed vehicles driving around low tree limbs overhanging into the street to avoid hitting the tree limbs. This is a very dangerous maneuver when there is a vehicle coming from the opposite direction.

Did you know that alleyways must be kept clear of protruding shrubs, weeds, or other vegetation? Any vegetation growing to the centerline of the alleyway must be kept to a maximum height of not greater than five inches.

Your tax dollars are being spent on replacing equipment on fire trucks and garbage trucks. We have also taken employees to the emergency room because they were injured by a low hanging tree limb or vegetation protruding into the alley.

In order to avoid a dangerous situation on your street or alleyway, please take a look at the trees on your property and if any limbs or vegetation protrude or overhang into the street, please trim back to the required clearance. By doing this, you are saving your tax dollars by avoiding the cost of a first class letter mailed to your home or business. There are so many of these violations right now, that sooner than later the fire department will have to spend your tax dollars driving their ladder truck through the streets, noting addresses with low tree violations. The Department will provide Code Compliance a list of addresses for mailing the letters. We appreciate your assistance in addressing this before we have to mail a letter. Help the City save your money.

If there are questions regarding these concerns please call me and I will visit with you.

Castle Hills thanks you for your help in maintaining a healthy living environment and keeping strong property valuations in your neighborhood.

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Take Time to Read the Fine Print on the Menu

The next time you dine out be sure to read the fine print on the menu. Restaurants serving oysters on the half-shell or undercooked hamburgers are required to provide consumers an advisory about the increased health risk of eating these items. You will usually find the health advisory provided at the bottom of the menu in very small print. The health advisory warning also applies to sushi and other menu items that are served raw or not cooked to required temperatures.

The Texas State Food Code requires a health advisory with wording similar to the following: consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions, to be placed on the menu when these types of items are prepared and served. Restaurants may also provide the health advisory warning by using brochures, table tents or placards.

After numerous illness outbreaks and deaths have been caused by toxigenic E. coli bacteria that may be found in ground meats, few people will argue about the health risk of eating undercooked hamburgers. When it comes to eating raw oysters on the half-shell, it's a different story. Even though oysters are known to carry a number of disease causing bacteria and viruses, raw shellfish on the half-shell are still a popular item on the menu for many.

According to the CDC, about 15 deaths are caused by consuming raw oysters from the Gulf Coast each year. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently proposed a rule that would ban the sale of oysters from the Gulf Coast unless processed with cold pasteurization or another process to reduce the number of bacteria present. Gulf Coast states worked together to stop the FDA from implementing this new Shellfish Safety rule.

Restaurants serving raw oysters on the half-shell have long been required to maintain tags provided by their suppliers with information on when, where and who harvested the shellfish. These "oyster tags" must be kept by the restaurant for a 90 day period in

Continued on Page 13>>




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<<Continued From Page 12

case they are needed in tracking an illness outbreak. Many safety-conscious retailers, such as Legal Sea Foods and Costco, only sell Gulf Coast oysters that have been processed with cold pasteurization. With increasing numbers of illness outbreaks caused by raw oysters contaminated with *Vibrio vulnificus*, *Vibrio gastroenteritis* and Norovirus other retailers can be expected to do the same.

This summer take time to read the fine print on the menu, especially if you are among a high risk population such as the elderly or have an impaired immune system. Also be sure those hamburgers you grill in the backyard reach 155 degrees F for at least fifteen seconds.

Homer C. Emery, Registered Sanitarian

Construction Plans

The Castle Hills permit office will be destroying old residential construction plans. We are only required to retain construction plans for one full year after completion of a project.

If you live on any of the streets listed below and had construction performed between the years 2002 – 2009, you may contact my office at 210-342-2341, ext. 215 to inquire if we have plans for your address. You may pick up plans on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Please bring proper identification, i.e., driver's license, when picking up the plans.

°Amerson °Briarcliff °Chattington °Dogwood
°E. Castle Lane °Fox Hall Lane °Hibiscus
°Honeysuckle °Lochaven °N. Manton °Parade
°Peg Sue °Persimmon °Prinz °Riviera °Roletto °S.
Gardenview °S. Winston °Shady Cove °Sheffield
°Squires Row °Sunflower °Tamworth °Towne Vue
°W. Castle Lane °Waydele Circle °West Avenue
°Wickford Way °Wisteria °Zornia.

Construction plans not claimed by October 1, 2012 will be shredded on October 13, 2012.

Thank you,

Rita Hoyl
Permit Office
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HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 3RD - LABOR DAY
NOVEMBER 12TH - VETERANS DAY



September 2012	3 Monday	4 Tuesday	5 Wednesday	6 Thursday	7 Friday
North of Loop 410	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
South of Loop 410	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
Recycle			South of the Loop	North of the Loop	
Brush	NO	BRUSH	COLLECTION	THIS	WEEK

November 2012	12 Monday	13 Tuesday	14 Wednesday	15 Thursday	16 Friday
North of Loop 410	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY		Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection
South of Loop 410	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY	Garbage Collection		Garbage Collection	
Recycle			South of the Loop	North of the Loop	
Brush	NO	BRUSH	COLLECTION	THIS	WEEK

SHOP

CASTLE HILLS

New Businesses

BRICKHOUSE CARDIO CLUB (Zumba fitness studio)

HAWAII SNOW BALLS (Shaved ice)

MODERN JEWELRY (Jewelry store)

PABA (Dance Studio)

PRECISION SPINE & PAIN MANAGEMENT (Pain management clinic)

QUICK FOOD MART (formerly Sun Stop)(convenience store with gasoline sales) (new ownership)

TEXAS EZ PAWN LP. (Pawn shop) (new ownership)



New Businesses "Coming Soon" To Castle Hills

DEBLIN HEALTH CONCEPTS AND ASSOCIATES (Behavioral Health Services office)

DIVERSIFIED EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICES (Insurance brokerage company)

TRUCKERS VOICE IN COURT ATTORNEYS (Sales office: motor club, legal, benefit services)

PSA Healthcare (Pediatric home healthcare)

SAN ANTONIO GREEN LAUNDRY (Self service Laundromat)

STIRISTA, LLC (Advertising agency)

THE LIBERTY GROUP (Temporary staffing agency)



FREE DRY CLEANING

Bring three pay for two- No Limit.

Wearing apparel only. Must present coupon with incoming order. One coupon per day. Not valid on household items, leather, suede or pant special. Least expensive item free. Expires October 13, 2012.

www.myrosecleaners.com



WEDNESDAY ONLY

20% off your entire dry cleaning order- No Limit.

Wearing apparel only. Must present coupon with incoming order. One coupon per day. Not valid on household items, leather, suede or pant special. Least expensive item free. Expires October 13, 2012.

www.myrosecleaners.com



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| • Check & Properly Inflate Tires | • Check Brake Fluid Level |
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22 San Antonio Area Locations

\$8 OFF 19 POINT OIL & FILTER CHANGE
(Up to 5 quarts)

Not valid with other specials. NHN1

No appointment necessary!

22 Convenient Locations

See website for a store nearest you

Mon-Fri 8am - 7pm • Sat 8am - 6pm
Sunday Closed



City of Castle Hills
209 Lemonwood Drive
San Antonio, TX 78213

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Time Dated

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Grandparents Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Rosh Hashanah	18	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn
23 30	24	25	26 Yom Kippur	27	28	29

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