

The Castle Hills **Reporter**



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Message

From the Mayor



Tim Howell
Mayor

During the past few months the city has received several requests for changes in zoning districts for the purpose of development. Citizens mobilized, circulated petitions, attended and spoke at meetings to ensure their voices would be heard. This freedom to speak, freedom to vote, freedom to own property are all rights to which we are entitled through democracy. Sometimes this path of democracy is stressful and creates strife. Social Reformer, Fredrick Douglass once said "Without a struggle, there can be no progress." In democracy, our form of government, we respect these times of struggle as part of the process tempered with rules of order and decorum. Revolutionary Thomas Paine, who challenged and struggled against the British and authored the pamphlet *Common Sense* offered a simple concept to which we all must adhere:

"When I was teaching children I began every day writing this on the blackboard: "Do to others what you would like them to do to you", telling them how much better the world would be if everybody lived by this rule." Thomas Paine.

Democracy and the processes in place to govern fairly with respect to rights and liberty must be all inclusive. A single individual, a single group, or a geographical area cannot demand rights beyond the scope and good of the whole. Participation in our governing must be that of the largest possible number of people.

We, the elected officials have the grave responsibilities of engaging in the conversations of the people we serve. It is our duty to know and uphold the laws by which we govern. It is our duty to provide the leadership and integrity of the office we each occupy, given to us by your votes and support. You have called us to the task of facing the struggles, reflect the will of the majority and protect the rights and liberties that we all cherish in this government of democracy. I will continue to grow in leadership, provide the tools needed to support and grow Castle Hills using the intelligent conversation of the people while respecting the rights of all. These are the responsibilities we accept when we take our seat at the dais.

Warmest Regards,

Tim Howell, Mayor
City of Castle Hills Texas
www.cityofcastlehills.com
timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com

CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell
Mayor

Lesley Wenger
Place 1

Matthew Daggett
Place 2

John Squire
Place 3

Frank Paul
Place 4, Mayor Pro Tem

Douglas Gregory
Place 5

CITY STAFF
(210) 342-2341

Diane Pfeil
City Manager, ext. 214

Suzanne Riley
Finance, ext. 224

Jerry Riedel
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Wayne 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

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, 5:30pm
As Needed

IT HAPPENED ON A FRIDAY NIGHT

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

It was a sweltering hot night in August, and I was sitting in my office hoping folks were going to show up for the Movie Night that the Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO) had planned for the evening. This evening, CHCO was showcasing the Castle Hills Animal Shelter and accepting donated items for the shelter.

The scheduled movie was 101 Dalmatians starring Glen Close as the infamous Creulla De Vil. This is one of my favorite movies. Evil versus good and the excitement and drama that builds with the story.

Suddenly it was like the floodgates opened and people started showing up with donations of large bags of dog food, stainless steel bowls and the donation jar was filling up from the generosity of our citizens. I looked across the Commons and was reminded of the great summer days of childhood as the children were running through the sprinkler (the old school oscillating sprinkler), tossing Frisbees all around, and dogs (even a potbellied pig) were frolicking with the kids. What a beautiful sight! There was a long line at the food truck as neighbors waited for their orders to magically appear with generous servings of Big Guido's pizzas, sandwiches, salads and refreshing Italian ices.

The back of Rick Harada's city truck rapidly filled with bags of donated dog food, so even the lost pets of our community who temporarily reside at the shelter will have plenty to eat. I stood back and savored the view for a while. The playfulness of the moment was awe inspiring. This was the scene I had been envisioning for our community for a year. Tranquility, joy, happiness all happening despite the 100 plus degree August heat.

We all settled in for the start of the movie as night began to fall. Families and friends settled into their lawn chairs and blankets on the ground as Perdita and Pongo filled the screen. The suspense grew as the puppies were hidden away in the barn and the dogs across the countryside joined forces with the farm animals to bring down the villains. Cruella De Vil ends up where she belongs covered with manure and mud and the puppies are returned home to their loving family. The strength and love of family, friends and community prevailed on the silver screen and in our community. What a wonderful Friday Night.

The staff and myself wish all of you magical moments as the days turn cooler and more people return to the outdoors. See you at the Commons at the next event!



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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



June 16, 2015 – Special City Council Meeting

- Awarded a construction contract to a qualified contractor, Clark Construction of Texas, for the renovation of certain streets in the City in response to a request for proposals for such work.

July 14, 2015 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Approved the Treasurer's Report of June 2015 by minute order.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Castle Hills and the City of San Antonio outlining a jurisdictional agreement that will allow for concurrent jurisdiction for both municipal courts.
- Appointed Harold McCall as Municipal Court Judge and appointed Alvaro Briseno, II and Adrian Spears as Alternate Judges.
- Appointed Ryan Henry as Municipal Court Prosecutor and appointed Justin Coquat and Matthew Gossen as Alternate Prosecutors.
- Approved a resolution to adopt a City of Castle Hills Investment Policy.
- Appointed Scott Gray to the Zoning Commission.
- Held a Public Hearing, and approved, a recommendation of the Zoning Commission concerning an application from Castle Hills Oak, LLC requesting rezoning of the property at 1973 NW Loop 410.

July 23, 2015

- Held a Budget Workshop to discuss the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for the City of Castle Hills.

July 27, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

- Approved amendment to a contract awarded to Clark Construction of Texas, and authorized the City Manager to execute the contract.

July 27, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

- Held a Budget Workshop to discuss the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and the Proposed Tax Rate for the 2015 Tax Year for the City of Castle Hills.

August 11, 2015

- Recognized Corporal Davila for "Enforcement Award" from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and recognized Sergeant Zuniga for Officer of the Year (2014) International Law Enforcement Awards (ASIS-American Society for Industrial Security).
- Approved a Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Levy and Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Adoption Process as follows:
 1. Public Hearings for the Fiscal Year 2015 Tax Levy on August 25, 2015 and September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
 2. Public Hearings for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 City of Castle Hills Budget on August 25, 2015 and on September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
 3. Draft Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 City of Castle Hills Budget be Filed with the City Secretary and made available for taxpayer inspection for 30 days.
 4. Special City Council Meeting be Held on September 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to Adopt a Tax Rate of \$0.501345 / \$100 for the City of Castle Hills for Tax Year 2015.
 5. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2016 City of Castle Hills Budget at a Special City Council Meeting be held on September 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
- Approved an ordinance accepting Priority 1 of the Master Drainage Plan prepared by Klotz Associates for the orderly development of drainage improvements in the City.
- Approved an ordinance amending the 2015 budget to allow for the employment of an additional employee, Permit/Admin Clerk.
- Approved a Proposal to adopt a Tax Rate of \$0.501345 / \$100 for the City of Castle Hills for Tax Year 2015.
- Appointed the following members to the Castle Hills Crime Control Prevention District (CCPD) Board: Glenn Cross, George Booth, Carmen Gamez and Ron Wolma.
- Held a Public Hearing regarding a recommendation from the Zoning Commission concerning an application from Antonian High School requesting a Special Use Permit for the property at 6425 West Avenue for the purpose of installing three portable classroom units on the lower level behind the main school building, which was approved for five years from the date of installation of the portable classroom units.
- Held a Public Hearing on a recommendation of the Zoning Commission regarding an application from Northeast ISD, requesting a Special Use Permit for the property at 1601 Jackson-Keller, for the purpose of installing two portable temporary buildings to have adequate temporary classrooms available for the upcoming school year. This was approved with an expiration date of five years from the date of installation of the portable temporary buildings.



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Lesley Wenger,
Place 1

Residents Defend Their Neighborhood

Organizing, fundraising and researching efforts by homeowners in the Fox Hall to Castle Lane areas, on both sides of West Avenue, succeeded in stopping two developments that could have significantly affected their tranquility and quality of life. We have not seen this level of challenge to zoning proposals for the last 15 years since the Baptist Church parking lot controversy. Both of these proposals had passed the Zoning Commission on a 3-2 vote on July 2nd and were presented at Council on July 30th.

The first proposal was for the rezoning of 6818 West Avenue from residential to commercial. While there is some minimal business use in the area, West Avenue from Adobe to NW Military is heavily residential. Reference was made to St. George's being across the street from E. Castle Lane; but churches & schools are not commercial entities and are allowed in residential areas. Residents of the surrounding area submitted a protest petition signed by 60 residents. Per our ordinance, which incorporates State Law, a petition, signed by 20% or more of property owners whose property touches the area under consideration or is within 200 ft. of same, can only be overturned by a super-majority Council vote which, in our case, means 4 votes. The signatures were checked to verify the percentage and 31% qualified. The problem with rezoning from residential to commercial is that regardless of the good intentions of the applicant, the property remains rezoned and can then be occupied by a less acceptable tenant or owner. Residents felt that

the negative impact was considerable and the rezoning was rejected on a 3-2 vote by Council.

The second proposal was for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 101 Hibiscus Lane. While residents almost unanimously asserted that they were not opposed to development per se. They were opposed to development that would drastically change the character of their Fox Hall Lane neighborhood which, has been recognized as one of the most unique residential areas in Texas.* On top of collecting 140 signatures of opposing homeowners throughout the city, with 65% of the signatures being within the 200 ft. range, the homeowners packed the Council chambers. Twenty-two people spoke against the PUD rezoning and only one person spoke in favor. 101 Hibiscus is an original property, pre-dating the incorporation of Castle Hills as a city, and is comprised of 4.6 acres. Nonetheless, the configuration does not lend itself easily to a PUD, let alone one with 15 homes. It is understood that one way or another the property will be divided by re-platting or a smaller development which, the applicant was not willing to consider. Council voted unanimously to reject the PUD plan.

Going forward, the challenge for residents and City Council, that was brought to light by these cases, is our need for a comprehensive plan to guide future development in Castle Hills. While we have such a plan, which was approved in 1997, it has not been altered or updated in the intervening years.

**Two residents submitted a copy of the history of Fox Hall Lane. If anyone is interested in seeing it, please let me know at wengertx@satx.rr.com or by phone (210) 377-3636.*

Lesley Wenger, City Council, Place 1
(210) 377-3636
wengertx@satx.rr.com

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Council Comments



Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

Our trees are one of our biggest assets to our homes in Castle Hills. As many of you may know, oak wilt is in our city. We have arranged to have Mark Duff from the Texas A&M Forest Service evaluate our trees and give us an update on techniques on preventing and treating this devastating disease that wipes out our trees. He is an expert on oak wilt in Texas. I encourage all of you to attend. The meeting is scheduled for **September 17th at City Hall at 7:00PM.**

As always, I can be reached at 210-849-6209 or mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Matthew Daggett
City Council, Place 2
mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com



Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

Recently, there has been a great uproar over possible new developments in Castle Hills. This was predicated by proposed projects along West Avenue. Thoughtful development is a must for Castle Hills. Without the taxes that come from new homes, businesses and other buildings, getting out in front of our large infrastructure demands (combined with annual salary increases by our first rate City employees) make raising necessary funds a difficult and expensive proposition.

In 1997, a comprehensive Master Plan for the development of Castle Hills was passed by the then City Council. When I was elected to City Council in 2003, I submitted this plan to Council for further use and found little interest in the proposal. Twelve years later, I was glad that I had held on to a copy, for there now seems renewed interest in updating those recommendations and provide a blue print for growth. Hopefully, this interest will last longer than the latest uproar.

I firmly believe that a City Master Plan for growth is an essential element for thoughtful planned development. Revised every 4 or 5 years, it could provide guidance for development and citizens would not be caught off guard when some proposal had not been carefully thought through. In the long run, it is up to city Council members to listen to what our neighbors want and how those wants, combined with City needs, can come together. Remember, longer term planning, in most cases, has a better chance of success than short term fixes. This is especially true since our long term requirements are growing larger, faster and more expensive with each passing day.

Respectfully,
Councilman Gregory



John Squire,
PLACE 3

By the time this newsletter is delivered; the 2016 budget process should be complete. The budgets for our City's fire, police, public works, and administration departments will have been settled and monies allocated for our continued street maintenance/repairs and critical drainage improvements.

This has been a painstakingly, large undertaking for all city staff involved, and this year is no exception. One thing I wanted to bring forward, however, is the fact that this year's budget is one of the best prepared that I have had the opportunity to review.

Another item I wanted to comment on is the support that the majority of council showed for Priority 1 of our Master Drainage Plan. This plan was developed with the help of Klotz Associates (one of our 3 contracted professional engineering companies). The Master Drainage Plan provides us with the documented proof of the flooding challenges we face and solutions to this long standing problem. Additionally, we finally have the data, supporting the severity of this problem, to go outside of our city to seek and lobby for the additional resources that we, as a city, are entitled.

As usual, I continue to ask for, and thank everyone, for their help and involvement in OUR city. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am available to discuss our City's issues and I encourage you to keep in touch. I can be reached via email at jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com, or by phone 210-390-4611.

Respectfully,
John Squire
pg.6

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Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

Have you ever been out at a restaurant and watched a family sitting at an adjacent table with everyone with their cell phones in hand, heads down texting like crazy and no one is speaking to each other? I often wonder if they are texting each other instead of looking up, having eye contact and engaging each other in conversation involving body language, facial expressions and social interaction. The cell phone and social media are not the beginning of the tear in our social fabric. This unraveling of our personal connections began many years ago with advances in technology.

The availability of air conditioning allowed us to close our windows shutting out the world and stay within the confines of our home. Air conditioning actually changed the shape and design of our homes and businesses. Gone are the big wrap around porches, swings out on the porch, and a family outside hoping to catch a breath of air. Without folks sitting outside, gone are the neighborhood monitors who knew all the neighborhood kids and the assurances that if someone misbehaved a scolding was sure to follow.

Where are the moms who once talked across the clotheslines while they were hanging the laundry and linens out to dry? They too are gone with the advent of the clothes dryer. The electric garage door open was another big blow to visiting with your neighbors. Now we arrive home pushing the button one house away from our house allowing the garage door to open as we pull

snuggly into the safety of our garage. We are an isolated bunch who often never meet our neighbors. Having a stranger, someone we once would have called a neighbor and a friend in the close proximity of our castle lets our minds become suspicious of these "unknowns".

I believe it is not too late to create neighborhoods and build community. Join your neighbors on Tuesday, October 6th, for National Night Out. Plan a block party. Pull out the grill, cook up a few hot dogs and hamburgers and invite the neighbors to bring a few sides. Before you know it you have new friends and improved the quality of life on your street. Putting a Castle Hills sticker on the back of your car does help to know that folks who drive your street are actually residents, but wouldn't it be nice to know their names, and feel comfortable to speak with them. We can repair the tatters in our social fabric. We do not have to lose the art of conversation and isolate ourselves. When you pass by a friend's home, don't you naturally turn to look at their house? Maybe you hope to catch a glimpse of them, so you can smile and wave. If I asked you to describe the house across the street from your friend's house you probably could not do so. Getting to know your neighbors gives you a reason to glance their direction and helps to serve as an extra set of eyes and ears to ward off criminal opportunity. And it gives us one more reason to smile and wave.

If you have not attended a movie night at the Commons, or participated in Fiesta Castle Hills take the time in the upcoming months to meet more of your fellow Castle Hills residents. It does improve our quality of life. I hope you consider hosting a block party on National Night Out, and I will stop by to visit with you and your neighbors.

Frank Paul, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilmember, Place 4
fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com

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Oak Wilt Seminar

Thursday, September 17th

7:00 p.m.

City Hall – 209 Lemonwood Dr.

Mark Duff, CF, BCMA with the Texas A&M Forest Service will present **“How to Identify and Manage Oak Wilt in Texas”**. Please plan to attend to learn more about saving the trees in Castle Hills. In addition to their beauty, trees provide shade, help prevent erosion, improve water filtration and retention, decrease temperatures, provide wildlife habitat, improve air quality, reduce urban noise pollution, improve property values and encourage outside activities.

The Castle Hills Woman's Club

The Castle Hills Woman's Club kicks off their club year with two events, a Membership Mixer for new members on September 14, 2015 and a presentation on Cyber Security October 5, 2015 at 6:30p.m., in the Community Room of City Hall, 209 Lemonwood.

The speaker for Cyber Security will be: Dr. Carolyn Green — Director, Center for Information Technology and Cyber Security. Professor, Computer Information Systems, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, Brooks City-Base Campus.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month — It is as good a time as any to remind people that their cyber security hygiene doesn't just affect them, but everyone around them. And, in the globally connected world we live in, that literally is everyone. According to Larry Magid at Forbes.com “cyber security matters to everyone and your cyber hygiene affects others.”

“It's not unlike public health. One of the reasons health officials urge almost everyone to get a flu shot is because people who are infected are more likely to infect others. The same is true for cyber security. Infected devices have a way of infecting other devices and compromised systems can make everyone vulnerable. So your cyber hygiene isn't just about protecting you, it's about protecting all of us.”

“Even bad social networking and email security can be contagious. If your accounts are insecure, it makes it easier for others to go online as you and spread infections or social engineering attacks designed to steal data or money. Having an insecure machine or password can be personally devastating. An intrusion into any of your accounts or devices can escalate into a full-scale attack on your financial and reputational well-being. Even something as basic as inadvertently sending out spam, can be embarrassing. There is also the risk of identity theft and financial crime that can leave you with an empty bank account.”

The Castle Hills Woman's Club promotes interest in beautification, safety, friendship, health and good citizenship within the City of Castle Hills.

For more information, please email
CastleHillsWomansClub@gmail.com.

Source: Forbes.com



Castle Hills Police Department Back to School Tips

By the time of this reading most children will be back in school and families will have adjusted to the back to school routines. We would like to take a moment to discuss a few tips when your children arrive home to an empty house or are staying home alone. First, when you're at work and your kids are in school it's a good idea to keep your home looking like someone is home, even when you are not. Leaving a light on – even during the daytime or possibly a radio playing creates the impression that someone is at home. Also, consider dropping off your mail at the post office therefore your flag is not up on your mailbox. Empty trash cans left curbside and uncollected newspapers in the yard are other signs that no one is home. Have your children bring the trash cans back to the house and bring the newspapers inside when they arrive home. Keeping a lived in look gives the "undesirables" a clue that someone is home.

Once your children are inside, remind them to keep the doors locked. In the event someone comes to your home while your kids are home and you are not, please instruct them not to open the door. Simply have them respond through the door. It is a great idea to have a phone nearby just in case your child is concerned that the person is too persistent or continues to hang around. Please do not instruct your children to not go to the door, but to respond through the door. Burglars often knock first to see if anyone is home. If your kids "play possum" the burglar will assume no one is home and proceed to break into the house. If the stranger

happens to ask for "the parents" have your children ask them to wait a minute and then have the children (again without opening the door) tell the person you are unavailable. Another red flag that should prompt the children to call the police is when a stranger asks for someone who DOES NOT live at your residence. If this occurs, call the police and ask for an officer to come investigate a suspicious person. Please instruct your children that they can call 911 for the police ANY TIME they feel uncomfortable with a stranger at the door.

Being home alone is a big responsibility. Only you the parents will know when your child is ready for this responsibility. Role play with your child situations which they may encounter in your absence. Have 911 clearly on or near your telephones. Provide telephone numbers of trusted neighbors who are home before and after school that can serve as additional resources.

We thank you for all your support and will continue to provide the best possible service an agency can offer. If you ever need anything please do not hesitate to call, remember we are here 24/7/365.



Wayne Davis
Chief, Castle Hills PD





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Check thermostat operation	✓	✓
Check/Clean/Replace filter (Customer Supplied)	✓	✓
Check refrigerant	✓	✓
Inspect all electrical components/motors/compressors	✓	✓
Inspect/Clean primary drain line	✓	✓
Inspect indoor and outdoor coils	✓	✓
Lubricate motors (if applicable)	✓	✓
Perform opti-scan of plenum and coils (electronic visualization technology)		✓
Perform temperature optimization of critical components (infrared technology)		✓
Perform duct system inspection (temperature optimization & air loss evaluation)		✓
Perform electronic refrigerant data test (digital refrigerant evaluation)		✓
Verify your home's air flow and cooling temperature output		✓
Digitally measure air temperature differential between system supply and return		✓
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CASTLE HILLS PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES SCHEDULE 2015

REGULAR NON-HOLIDAY WEEK:

Garbage, Leaf Bags, Brush Piles, Recycling

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					

WEDNESDAY HOLIDAY: No Brush or Leaves

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					

MONDAY HOLIDAY: No Brush or Leaves

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					

FRIDAY HOLIDAY: No Brush or Leaves

NORTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					
SOUTH OF LOOP 410	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
					

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE

Limit 3 Cans



RECYCLE

No Limit



BRUSH PILES

Limit 3 Piles



LEAF BAGS

Limit 10

Bags



2015 CITY HOLIDAYS

JAN 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY	Thurs
JAN 19	ML KING, JR DAY	Mon
FEB 16	PRESIDENT'S DAY	Mon
APR 24	BATTLE OF FLOWERS DAY	Fri
MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY	Mon
JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	Fri
SEPT 7	LABOR DAY	Mon
NOV 11	VETERAN'S DAY	Wed
NOV 26	THANKSGIVING DAY	Thurs
NOV 27	DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	Fri
DEC 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Fri

IMPORTANT NOTE:

There is **NO BRUSH OR LEAF PICKUP on a Holiday week**. Do not put out brush or leaves as they will not be picked up. Regular brush and leaf pickup will resume the following non-holiday week.

Shweiki

SAVE THE DATE



**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

Plan your block party.
Register your party
(by 9/29/15).

Enjoy time out with your
neighbors.
Make new friends!



*Cruella De Vil, Cruella De Vil
If she doesn't scare you, no evil thing will
To see her is to take a sudden chill
Cruella, Cruella De Vil*

This song is still stuck in my head!

August movie night was a true success, not only for the movie-goers but for the Castle Hills Animal Control Center as well! We had our best turn-out yet, thanks in large part to Big Guido's food truck and their delicious Italian sandwiches and ice cream. Thanks also to

PetsFirst and the Pawsitively Sweet Bakery booths!

The Animal Control Shelter benefited from generous contributions of cash donations, pet food, stainless steel bowls, and towels. Thanks to everyone who braved the heat to watch the movie and make a donation! The ACS staff and animals sincerely appreciate your generosity.

There will be no movie night in September due to the Labor Day holiday. Our next movie night is scheduled for **Friday, October 2nd**. We will be showing **Mama Mia**. We hope to have a food truck onsite as well. Bring the whole family and come join in the fun and music!

Mark your calendars for our annual community **Halloween Carnival** scheduled for **Saturday, October 24th**. We will need volunteers to help with the food, games, and entertainment. More information to come.

I hope to see more of you at future movie nights and other events sponsored by YOUR Castle Hills Community Organization. Come out and enjoy the comradery of your neighbors. It is an opportunity to meet and greet members of the community you wouldn't ordinarily get to know.

As always, should you have comments, recommendations, or need information on membership, please feel free to contact Stacia Spridgen at Spridgensl@hotmail.com or me, John Kenny at JohnK7802@yahoo.com.

Remember **"One Community, One Family."** See you in October!



2 October
Mama Mia

24 October
(Halloween Party)
Goonies

Movies Presented in the
Commons at Dusk



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TREE TRIMMING, ALLEY MAINTENANCE, TRAILER PARKING & DUE PROCESS

Recently, the City renewed enforcement of the low hanging tree branch ordinance, particularly in areas of town where the street was scheduled for repaving. This enforcement program will continue onto other streets not scheduled for street work. Low branches are not only a code violation, but they also put city crews (like Public Works and Fire Department personnel) directly and unnecessarily in harm's way. This poses a significant potential for damage to very expensive tax-payer purchased equipment and putting the general public at risk if traffic control signs are even slightly obstructed. The code specifies; "ARTICLE IV. - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE; Sec. 48-137. - Height and placement restrictions. (b) It shall be unlawful for any tree, shrub, vine, hedge, palm, or vegetation of any kind to be located, grown, planted, maintained or cultivated in such a manner that any portion of such tree, shrub, vine, palm, or vegetation may overhang or obtrude upon or over any sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement within the city or state right-of-way, unless there is a full 12-foot vertical clearance between the surface of all portions of such sidewalk, curb, roadway, or pavement within the city or state right-of-way and the portion of the tree, shrub, vine, palm or vegetation. The 12-foot clearance must be maintained under all weather conditions and circumstances."

The section, above, also applies to alleyways, as does the following code; "ARTICLE IV. - WEEDS AND TRASH; Sec. 26-118. - Maintaining city easements and rights-of-way. (a) It is unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting, or having under his control any lot or premises, whether improved or vacant, within the city, which lot or premises consists in part of city-owned easements or

rights-of-way (whether sidewalk, construction, utility, or drainage) to permit same to be covered with high grass or weeds or any of the unsightly conditions enumerated in this article. Such city easements and rights-of-way shall be kept mowed, trimmed, and clean at all times."

Note that in neither of the above sections, or anywhere else in the Code, is there language relieving a property owner of landscape maintenance responsibility or handing that responsibility over to the City, County or State. The rule-of-thumb is; if "it" originates on your legal property (whatever "it" may be), it is your responsibility to maintain it up to code or remove it.

Trailers. This is a frequent and on-going issue. The code states; "DIVISION 2. - A SINGLE-FAMILY DISTRICT; Sec. 50-67. - Vehicle parking and storage. (b) Parking of utility and recreational vehicles. (1) No mobile home, manufactured home, trailer, semi-trailer, commercial or agricultural tractor, boat, recreational vehicle or any other towed or self-propelled utility or recreational vehicle or device may be parked, stored, or placed in the A Single Family District unless it meets the conditions of this section." and "ARTICLE VI. - PARKING; Sec. 44-170. - Truck-tractor, semi-trailer, pole-trailer and trailer parking prohibited. It is unlawful to park any truck-tractor, semi-trailer, pole-trailer, or trailer, either singularly or a combination of both, on any residential street for any length of time except when actually loading or unloading property." The "conditions" mentioned above in 50-67 can be found in subsection (c) (d) of the same section. The parking of flatbed trailers, utility trailers (for work-related or hauling uses) and pop-up trailers are a few examples of continuous and common violations.

Finally, if you are in violation of any code and need a small extension of time in order to comply, contact my office for such an extension. Please keep in mind that everyone is afforded due process. This takes time, as the end result of repeated violations or failure to comply with a letter of violation will result in the initiation of the legal process. However, if you feel that your complaint is not resolving fast enough due to the legality of due process, you can always file civilly against the violator through the Municipal Court Office.

By L. Zamarron
Code Compliance Investigator

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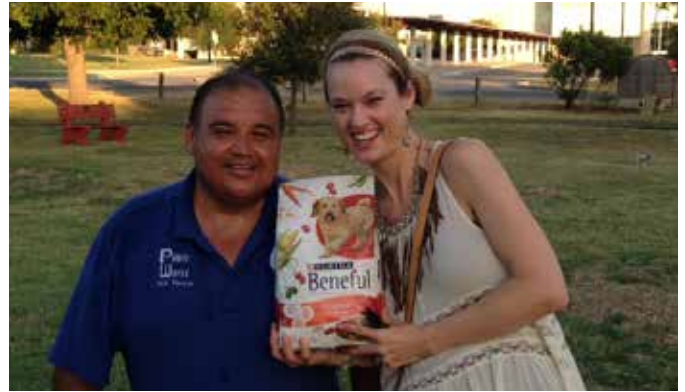
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YOUR COMMUNITY



Castle Hills PD "Asphalt Caballeros" bicycle team for the MS 150 Valero Ride to the River gearing up with new helmets.



Movie Night with Rick Harada accepting dog food donation from our own Dr. Jennifer Krejci-Manwaring. Many Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.



Movie night as the donations poured in! Rick Harada, Councilmember Frank Paul and John Kenny accepting donations from residents of Castle Hills.



Councilmember Lesley Wenger with Mayor Tim Howell greet State Representative Diego Bernal of House District 123 at the August 5, 2015 Listening Tour event.



Resident Stoney Fitch generously donated a large bag of dog food at the August Movie Night showcasing the CH Animal Services Shelter.



Chief Dispatcher Marciel Rivera welcomes Sparky the Fire Prevention Dog to the CH dispatch center.

go green

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OCTOBER 6, 2015

On Tuesday, October 6th, neighborhoods throughout Castle Hills are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities statewide for the **"32nd Annual National Night Out"** (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. NNO is sponsored by National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by Castle Hills Police Department. Corporate sponsors include Target, Associa., and NextDoor.com

This event is designed primarily to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Additionally, this is simply a great time to get to know, or re-introduce one's self to neighbors. During the event, police vehicles and fire trucks will stop by for kids and adults to look inside a police cruiser or learn more about the fire apparatus. City Council members and city staff plan to attend block parties to visit with the citizens they serve. To register a block party

and schedule police and fire visits, or for more information, please contact:

Maribel Mendoza at 210-342-2341 ext. 204,
mmendoza@cityofcastlehills.com;

Robert Riley on NextDoor (City of Castle Hills);

or register directly at:

<http://www.natw.org/national-night-out-registration>.

This is a very simple process requiring less than two minutes of your time. Be sure and enter "Castle Hills" under the "Organization/Agency" section.

Please register by September 29th.

Eight neighborhoods hosted block parties last year and the Castle Hills Police Department hopes to see that number grow this year. Texas has won 1st place 17 years in a row thanks to citizen participation, help make Castle Hills part of that tradition!



Johnny Siemens
Captain, Castle Hills PD



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