

JULY 2015

The Castle Hills **Reporter**



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Message From the Mayor

A Huge Leap into the Future

Many people have been asking me what's on my mind now that the election is over. Well, first off, I am thrilled and grateful to have a dream team consisting of city council members who create policy, a forward thinking city manager who provides the leadership to department heads, and staff serving as the boots on the ground working with me for the betterment of our city. I can't thank the voters enough for returning Councilmen John Squire, Frank Paul and Matt Daggett, as well as myself to our leadership positions. In return, with the help of new partners, here are some of the major concerns that I am looking forward to working on for you.

First and foremost, I am looking for ways to partner with the county and other cities in the area. We have so many great things going on in this city that are helping us to continue improving. But if we want to make the next big leap into the future rather than just making slow-and-steady progress, we need to leverage the strengths of the county and other municipalities within our area. I am meeting with the Council of Mayors and Judge Nelson Wolfe on a quarterly basis to brainstorm new ideas and concepts that can be useful in all the target areas for our city and surrounding areas. We discuss a multitude of topics such as rideshare apps, drainage issues that encompass multiple jurisdictions, and growth strategies. We will benefit greatly from the knowledge and innovations both from within our city and from our network of partners.

I make sure to relate all of these topics back to the areas we are concentrating on in Castle Hills. For example, I am leveraging the strengths of the people who surround me by assigning individual council members to take lead on the projects being addressed in the city. John Squire is providing expertise with street repair and working closely with Public Works. Frank Paul is working with Douglas Gregory on the drainage and digital sign initiatives, future planning of neighborhood projects, and business development. Matt Daggett is taking the lead by working with business and housing development, an absolute must for our growing city. Lesley Wenger is making great strides with her networking abilities, including working with our state representatives for the submission and the passage of SB 631 in the House and Senate this legislative session. Her contacts and efforts in these state wide projects and working closely with our police chief, is a great help in keeping crime from encroaching our borders. City Manager Diane Pfeil's leadership and management skills has ensured that council directives are implemented and achieved. Mrs. Pfeil's efforts include improving efficiency within departments, maintenance and repairs on city hall, modernization of equipment and tools needed by staff, and encouraging an open door policy to increase transparency for residents and businesses within our city.

Some of the specific steps we've taken so far are:

We have created and are implementing a methodical plan for street maintenance and repairs. We are currently in the process of selecting a contractor for Phase 1 of the street maintenance program. We are partnering with SAWS to complete Year 1 of the street maintenance program on streets that involve utility improvements. A plan for Year 2 improvements is already under development.

We were instrumental in getting Senate Bill 631 passed by both the House and the Senate, which now allows our police officers to move beyond the formal boundaries of our city to protect the residents and limit undesirable activity from crossing the borders of our city.

We are continuing to take steps to rejuvenate our city. Close to 500 permits were issued from the beginning of 2015 thru May for various types of home improvements, including fencing, foundation repair, plumbing, roofing, sewer line repair, tree trimming, upgrades to electrical structures, accessory buildings, new swimming pools and major home remodels. We are also adding businesses that will expand our sales tax infrastructure, including Pollo Tropical, Bank of San Antonio, Anytime Fitness and the remodel of HEB.

All in all, this is an exciting extension of the great year of progress we have just been through, as well as the beginning of even more exciting steps into the future. Excited? I am! I hope you're with us as we leap into the future!

Warmest Regards,

Tim Howell, Mayor
City of Castle Hills Texas



*Tim Howell
Mayor*

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

Exzentrius Sturdivant
City Secretary, ext. 216

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, 6:00pm
As Needed

UPCOMING STREET REPAIRS & TREE TRIMMING

In the coming months the Public Works Department will be overseeing major road resurfacing repairs to several of the streets in Castle Hills. Before the repairs begin, it will be critical to have all of the trees and bushes trimmed back and ready for the large construction vehicles to operate safely.

We are asking for everyone's cooperation in trimming back the trees and bushes on your property that may be protruding into the street or walkways. The low hanging limbs may break off, damaging vehicles or injuring workers. Trimming the trees will ensure that the large construction vehicles and crews can pass through the streets safely as they work.

We ask that all residents on all streets trim tree limbs to 12 feet or higher, and make sure that no limbs or bushes are protruding into the street. Please follow the City Ordinance for guidelines (MuniCode Sec. 48-137.) Please be aware that brush pickup is one time per week and on Wednesday only. Each address is allowed three piles of brush approximately 5 feet long by 2 feet wide by 2 feet high. Branches in the brush pile may not be more than 3 inches in diameter. If you need to trim trees that will result in a brush pile that exceeds the pickup limit, please plan your trimming accordingly or have your contractor remove the brush. Make sure to obtain a Tree Trimming Permit from City Hall prior to trimming the trees.



MAJOR STREET REPAIRS WILL OCCUR ON THE FOLLOWING STREETS:

Adobe Drive
E Castle Lane
W Castle Lane
Danube Drive
Gladiola Lane
Halbart Drive

Herweck Drive
Krameria Drive
Mimosa Drive
Tamworth Drive
Twinleaf Lane
Zornia Drive

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Thursday, July 30th, 2015
4:00pm – 6:00pm

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COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



May 12, 2015 - Regular City Council Meeting

- Mayor Howell presented Eli Guerra and the students of Karate Kids of America with a proclamation.
- Mayor Howell recognized former Mayor Bruce Smiley-Kaliff and unveiled the new mayoral portrait of former Mayor Smiley-Kaliff.
- Police Chief Davis recognized Sgt. Waggoner on his weight loss achievement by presenting him with a Personal Achievement Award.
- Police Chief Wayne Davis recognized Captain Johnny Siemens for the Medal of Valor Award he received from the City of Boerne.
- Council unanimously approved the purchase of a camera for video recordings of city meetings to be used in conjunction with written minutes prepared by the City Secretary.
- Council unanimously approved a resolution that would appoint the Bexar County Office of Emergency Management as Emergency Management Plan Coordinator for the City of Castle Hills.

May 18, 2015 (8:00 A.M.)- Special City Council Meeting

- Council unanimously approved an ordinance canvassing the election returns and declaring the results of the May 9, 2015 General Election for the purpose of electing three city council members in Places 2, 3, 4, and the Mayor.

May 18, 2015 (6:00 P.M.)- Special City Council Meeting

- Oaths of Office were administered to the City Council Members Elect.
- Certificates of Election were presented to the newly elected City Council Members and the Mayor.

June 9, 2015 City Council Meeting

- Councilmember Frank Paul was appointed Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Councilmember Douglas Gregory was appointed City Treasurer.

- Council appointed Jack Joyce, Ana Frias, Debbie Sutton, Betty Howard, Barry Middleman, Matari Gunter and Juan Solis to the Architectural Review Committee.
- Council appointed Tim Turner, Dana Poole, Ron Wolma, Carmen Gamez, Tom Reichenberger, Ralph LaBorde and Bonnie Hopke to the Board of Adjustment.
- Council appointed Joe Izbrand, Mike Flinn, Jana Baker, Tom Akin, Eric Friedland, Scott Gray, and Liz Larsen to the Zoning Committee.
- Council unanimously approved the adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Declaration of Trust establishing a single nonprofit benefits trust so that the premiums paid with respect to employee insurance policies may qualify for the exclusion from "taxable gross premiums" within the meaning of Section 222.002 (c)(5) of the Texas Insurance Code.
- Council unanimously approved proposal for LED retrofits for Castle Hills Municipal Buildings and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.
- Council approved establishing a guideline for the use of the proceeds of license agreements for digital signs on Loop 410 which would allocate 20% of the proceeds to street maintenance and improvements and 80% of the proceeds to drainage improvements. The foregoing allocation shall serve as a guideline for future budget considerations.



Castle Hills Elementary is participating in the Box Tops for Education Program. The community of Castle Hills can help our school in our collection drive this summer and throughout the school year. The funds generated by the program helps to pay for educational field trips, teacher supplies and special events. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school. Box Tops are found on many products including Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Kleenex, Hanes, General Mills cereals, Green Giant Pillsbury and Hefty to name a few. For more information on the Box Tops for Education program, including a full list of products and our school's progress, visit www.BTFE.com.

To help, just look for the Box Tops on products, clip them, bag them and bring them in any time after school starts on July 27, 2015 (Castle Hills Elementary is a year round school), so you can drop your collection of Box Tops in the red mailbox located in the school office.

Thanks for your support!

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ONE YEAR LATER

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

What a great time for our city! I was appointed Interim City Manager a year ago and we had what Mayor Howell called the "perfect storm."

Much like a bird encountering a storm we could have folded our wings and ran for cover, or we could emulate the eagle and soar above the storm. For the eagle does not escape the storm, it simply uses the storm to its advantage to elevate higher, just as we have done. Together, and as one, we all used the strength of the storm to rise above. It took skill and focus to know what we wanted for the city, how to get it and not waver.

Through a lot of hard work and perseverance, the City of Castle Hills has weathered the storm, a little battered, but certainly stronger and much more focused. I am pleased to report that many projects that our council and administration have been working on diligently these past months will be coming to fruition.

Year 1 of the Street Maintenance Program is well underway. Streets are scheduled to be fixed according to a very well thought out plan. We are partnering with SAWS to complete Year 1 of the program that involves utility improvements. It just makes sense to partner with SAWS and get the street and utilities fixed simultaneously.

We will be presenting Year 2 of the Street Maintenance Plan to council shortly. No other council has moved this aggressively, and allocated funding, to address our street situation.

Coupled with that, the drainage committee saw the draft Master Drainage Plan that will be presented to council. Our engineers, Klotz Associates, have come up with some very innovative solutions for some of our drainage challenges. We are chatting with City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and San Antonio River Authority seeking assistance with our drainage challenges.

Again, this is the first time the City has had a Master Drainage Plan with concrete solutions. No other council has moved this aggressively to address our drainage challenges with such a comprehensive plan and solutions.

The Digital Billboard Agreement is also nearing completion. The Digital Billboard Committee has worked for months to bring forward the best and most lucrative plan for the city. This will bring much

needed revenue to our city for streets and drainage repairs. No other council was able to negotiate an agreement for digital billboards.

Code Compliance is working diligently addressing code violations in a timely manner. For the month of May there was one abatement and seven court cases for non-conformity with our codes. This is the first time in the City that administrative staff is working so aggressively and referring code violations to court on a consistent basis.

SB631 was passed by both the Senate and House and sent to the Governor for signature on May 30, 2015. This bill will allow our patrol officers to protect the perimeters of our city and limit encroachment from less desirable activity. Administration and council working together helped move this bill through the legislative process.

There is a lot of interest in different parcels of land in our city. The Zoning Commission, led by the competent chairman Joe Izbrand, will be hearing eight applications for re-zoning and special use permits in the next two months. All of these applications will take a lot of diligence and cooperativeness as we move through the zoning process.

Castle Hills continues to draw new commercial endeavors, creating more diversity in our business environment. Commercial is not the only area experiencing change. Many of the neighborhoods of Castle Hills date back to before the incorporation of the city, and those homes are experiencing change in ownership through attrition. These stately residences are getting the needed upgrades and rejuvenation providing homes for new residents that are joining our Castle Hills family. Castle Hills is a vibrant part of the San Antonio metropolitan area.

The City has certainly weathered the "perfect storm", we have steadied the ship and are moving forward. As I cross one thing off my list I add three more. We still have many challenges ahead of us but I am confident that if we work together we will move mountains and the city and residents will be the better for it.

From all of us at City Hall, we wish you and your family a safe and fun-filled summer!

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Council Comments



Matthew Daggett,
Place 2

Hello Neighbors,

We live in such a wonderful city, and we have so much to be thankful for. There are so many talented people in our community, but actually only a small number of those talented people get involved. I would love to hear from you all, the talented silent majority, and get your input on the pressing issues facing our city. You can get your voice heard.

I can be reached at 210-849-6209 cell or mdaggett@cityofcastlehills.com

I also encourage you to support our local businesses where and when you can. When businesses prosper, we all do. Drive around and keep an eye out for businesses you have not patronized and give them a try.

Have a great summer!
Matt Daggett



Frank Paul,
PLACE 4

Get Involved, Stay Informed!

I'm sure we all remember what it's like to go to a school and have a principal retire or resign and go through a change in administration. Afterwards the school building is still the same and your friends are still there, but the culture of the school slightly changes. Maybe the tardy slips are more strictly enforced or the attendance policy changes.

This is the growth we're experiencing at City Hall. There has been a change in personnel and the culture of the city is also changing. The things that were previously not addressed in the past will now be addressed with consistency and no bias. We are working diligently at the City to ensure that people abide by the codes and ordinances of the City. But we need your help to ensure this process is started in a timely manner; the City staff can't be everywhere at once. If you see something let the City staff know.

This likely won't be an immediate fix if it's a code violation, unless it's a life threatening issue. For non-life threatening code violations it can be a tedious process to make certain the proper steps are followed. Notifications have to be mailed giving a 10-day compliance grace period before further action can take place.

Your help doesn't just stop with code violations, if you know some pertinent information in regards to some type of ongoing crime, alert the Castle Hills PD. Also, don't get frustrated if you get a vague response or things seem to be moving slowly or not at the pace you want. There may already be a diligent investigation under way.

As always, I encourage all to attend council meetings. It is your city. GET INVOLVED, STAY INFORMED!

I welcome any thoughts or questions. Please send to my address below.

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



John Squire,
PLACE 3

Well the time is finally here to begin the actual repairs, resurfacing and associated drainage improvements on the first set of streets. The following streets which are part of this first set include Galdiola, Halbart, Herweck, Krameria, Tamworth, Twinleaf, and Zornia. As you receive this newsletter, I believe the selected

contractor will be beginning their activities to mobilize their resources in starting their portion of repairing our streets. As we move forward in this process, the residents that live on this first set of streets will surely be inconvenienced in dealing with the challenges associated with the repair process. It is my hope and I ask for the affected residents for their understanding and patience as the contractor and our Public Works city staff work to get this job done as efficiently as possible. I have asked for and our city will be providing updates during the various phases of this work, these updates will be posted on our city's website along with our community's Nextdoor website as well. Additionally, if you have questions or concerns in regards to the work that is being done on this first set of streets please contact me or our City Manager's office.

As usual, I continue to ask for and thank everyone for their help and involvement in OUR city, please contact me with questions and as always, I am available to discuss our City's issues and encourage you to keep in touch. I can be reached at:

- email address – jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com
- phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully,
John Squire





Douglas Gregory,
PLACE 5

At the June City Council meeting the Council elected me your City Treasurer. I urge everyone, if you are the least curious where millions of your tax dollars are to be spent, attend one of the budget workshops. Economic matters are dull to some but I strongly suggest everyone become aware on what the City Council spends our tax dollars.

This July, Castle Hills will have its first Master Drainage Plan addressing water flow and flooding our City. San Antonio, in its wisdom, has allowed a major residential development to be constructed behind the Walgreen's off West Avenue. Consequently, it appears that more water will be roaring into and through our City. This turn of events raises red flags and has heightened to URGENT, the Castle Hills response. Attend the July City Council meeting for the particulars.

Next year, we expect to have an election to decide whether or not to continue directing over \$500,000 in sales tax revenue to VIA every year or to redirect it to Castle Hills every year for infrastructure and drainage projects. I will do my part by walking the City in order to answer questions you might have. Get involved with facts. Ask questions. Vote.

As summer begins, I hope everyone enjoys the weather and recharges for the fall. The next twelve months will bring exciting challenges and clarify the direction of our City for years to come. So for now, have a great summer and I will see you around the City.

Respectfully,
Councilman Gregory

ANNIVERSARIES

15 years

Travis Lowe, Dispatch

Todd Lux, Fire Department

NEW EMPLOYEES

Daniel Coss
Police Department - 6/15/15

Victoria Beaver
Deputy Court Clerk - 6/01/15

Tony Crawford
Police Department 6/29/15

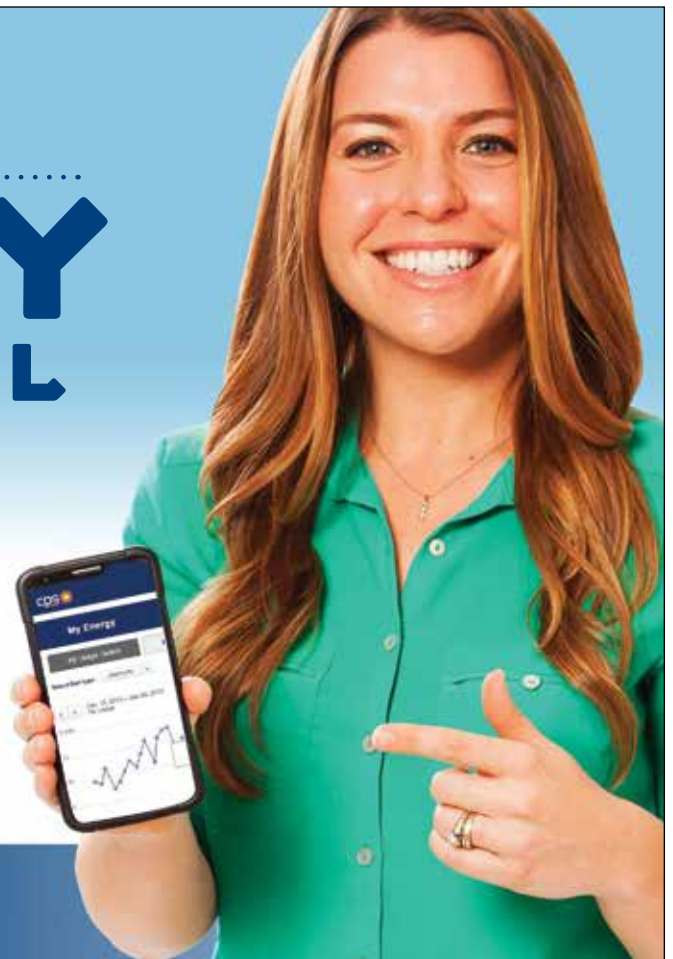
Nathaniel Peck
Police Department 6/29/15

MY ENERGY PORTAL

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I see the energy I buy as I go"



Log in at cpsenergy.com Manage My Account.





Shop CASTLE HILLS NEW BUSINESSES

The Mad Crafter Gift Shop (Retail/Gifts)

A&L Tires (Automotive Repair)

Anytime Fitness (Gym)

**Los Compadres Tax Services
(Tax Preparation Services)**

The Castle Hills Woman's Club

On May 4, at Sushihana Restaurant located at 1810 NW Military Highway, the Castle Hills Woman's Club installed the incoming officers for the 2015-2016 year:

Immediate Past President Melissa McGuire;

Treasurer Marianne Huizar;

Recording Secretary Terri Anderson;

4th Vice President-Communications Bonnie Hopke;

3rd Vice President-Social Denise Haley;

2nd Vice President-Membership Bernie Barnes;

1st Vice President-Programs Helen Reichenberger; and

President Susan Kilgore.

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.



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Food Safety at Farmers Markets

By- Dr. Homer Emory



Several years ago it was hard to find a Farmers Market. It was also hard to determine if the tomatoes and potatoes you were buying were grown on Texas farms or shipped in from Idaho or Mexico. Today,

there are numerous Farmers Markets in the area you can easily find. With the "Go Texan" program you can be sure that the vegetables and other items you purchase are actually grown in Texas. Markets that participate in the Go Texan program as "certified markets" must ensure that 75 percent of all agricultural products sold are grown in Texas.

Certified markets must also make sure that at least two or more of its vendors are farmers selling their own produce, and that agricultural products are of "merchantable quality". Does this mean that you can expect vegetables and produce to have that same polished look as the products you find at HEB and Whole Foods?

Vegetables and produce sold at Farmers Markets may not receive the same postharvest processing as similar crops sold in grocery stores. So don't be surprised if you find a bit of dirt on the products when you get home. When shopping at Farmers Markets, look for vegetables and produce that are reasonably free of dirt, insects and other visible signs of contamination. You should ask farmers about the application of manure and compost on their fields. During the summer of 2014, a Salmonella outbreak in the Delmarva region of Maryland involving one death with more than 250 people sickened was linked to eating cucumbers harvested from fields where poultry litter had been applied to the soil.

Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) guidelines call for a 120 day wait period for harvesting after the application of natural fertilizers; such as, manure and animal litter. Adhering to GAP guidelines is not a requirement for selling products at a Farmers Market. Ask farmers if they follow GAP guidelines in growing their crops.

You can't expect the vegetables you buy to be completely free of all visible contamination. An unknown English author once said "we all must eat a peck of dirt before we die." No matter where you buy your vegetables and leafy greens, be sure to wash them when you get home. Some health officials recommend double and even triple washing of produce you buy at a Farmers Market. Additional information on GAP guidelines and food safety at Farmers Markets can be found at the following Website: <http://foodsafesa.squarespace.com/farmers-market/>.

Mail Falls Victim to Criminal Opportunity

The business strategy is simple....."If the red flag is up, game on." This is a quote from the leader of an organized crime enterprise that was recently arrested for mail theft and check fraud/forgery. It refers to the flag on your mailbox providing the requisite visual cue for the USPS that you have mail you would like picked up and ultimately delivered. Herein lies the issue. USPS employees are not the only ones looking for mail in your box. A growing trend is for opportunistic criminals to drive neighborhoods while seeking mailboxes with their flags raised, indicating outgoing mail for them to steal. More aptly, mail theft is perhaps the preferred way for criminals to steal your identity

What Thieves Look For in Your Mail

- Money
- Outgoing checks (they can be chemically washed and rewritten)
- Incoming new checks
- Greeting cards (which often have money in them)
- Utility bills (the info on these can be used to open fraudulent accounts in your name)
- Bank statements (the info on these can be used to steal from your account)
- Credit card statements
- Credit card offers (these may be used to open an account in your name)
- Financial statements, especially around tax time.

Steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim

- Remove any obstacles blocking your view to your mailbox
- Stop all paper and mail based banking, elect to go online if your financial institution provides a secure method to do so (most, if not all, do so)
- Where applicable, go paperless with your utility bills (utility bills are often needed to open new accounts to show proof of residence)
- If you will be traveling or away from home, have a neighbor or loved one remove your mail regularly
- Hand deliver outgoing mail to your carrier or take directly to the post office (particularly when mailing checks)
- Remain vigilant and never hesitate to contact your police department for suspicious activity

If you have reason to believe your mail has been stolen or compromised, contact your financial institutions for unauthorized activity and request a free credit check. Mail theft, and subsequently identity theft, can be stopped. Choose to not allow criminals access to your mail and ultimately your identity.



Johnny Siemens
Captain, Castle Hills PD



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Coupon expires at the end of the 2015 summer season.



200000600

GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS | NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS | SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS | Summer 2015 – CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

UNDERSTANDING HEAT EXHAUSTION AND HEAT STROKE

With summer temperatures getting ready to soar, it is important to know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Muscle cramping might be the first sign of heat related illness, and lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Here is how you can recognize heat exhaustion and heat stroke and what to do:

Heat Exhaustion

Heavy sweating
Weakness
Cold, pale, clammy skin
Nausea or vomiting
Fainting

What to Do

Move to a cooler location Lie down and loosen clothing Apply cool wet cloths to as much of your body as possible If you have vomited and it continues, Seek medical attention

Heat Stroke

High Body Temperature (above 103° F)
Hot, red, dry or moist skin
Rapid and strong pulse
Possible unconsciousness

What to Do

Call 9-1-1 immediately. This is a Medical Emergency! Move the person to a cooler environment Do NOT give fluids



For this and more information on heat related illnesses, visit the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov

Shweiki



**FIESTA
CASTLE HILLS 2016**
SATURDAY, APRIL 16!

Organizing Kick-Off
Tuesday, August 4
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Community Room, 209 Lemonwood

All who enjoy this event and would enjoy helping to make it happen, or who would just like to know more about Fiesta Castle Hills, are invited. For more information, call Denise Haley at (210) 349-8889.



Another month has come and gone and two movie nights are now history. The first movie "Superman – Man of Steel" was shown in May and we had a great turn out! I want to take a moment to thank our Castle Hills "Superman Michael Joyce", who made the evening even more enjoyable, as well as Diane and Larry Pfeil for providing and cooking the sausages and wrapping them in tortillas that were provided to residents free of charge.

June's movie night proved to be even more fun as we showed "Big Hero 6". We planned on having a BBQ food truck but unfortunately the truck was a no show. We had a fun time anyway.

Our next movie night will be August 7th where we will be showing "101 Dalmatians." We will be recognizing the hard work and dedication of the Castle Hills Animal Control Center (ACC) and showcasing the MicroChip reader donated to the ACC by one of our city's fine residents. We will also be collecting towels, stainless steel bowls, dry dog and cat food for the ACC. The CHCO will be selling hot dogs and sodas too!

I hope to see more of you at our future movie nights and other events sponsored by YOUR Castle Hills Community Organization. Come out and enjoy the comradery with your fellow neighbors. Remember, movie nights are not just for kids. They are opportunities 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 myself John Kenny at JohnK7802@yahoo.com. Remember "One Community, One Family." See you in August!



7 August
101 Dalmations

2 October
Mama Mia

24 October
(Halloween Party)
Goonies

Movies Presented in the
Commons at Dusk

Nationally Recognized, Award Winning

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

DUCT CLEANING • INSULATION

Free Heating
or A/C Tune-up
for Military, Fire
Fighters, Police
Dept. and EMS!

2012
Best of
San Antonio
San Antonio
Award Program

2013
Best of
San Antonio
San Antonio
Award Program

2014
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Check refrigerant	✓	✓
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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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Common Summer Violations and a Brief Code Compliance Overview

This month, I would like to give you a quick overview of how the code violation system works. But first, I will paraphrase a few of the more frequent summertime code violations I see on my patrol.

RV parking: "Sec. 50-67. - Vehicle parking and storage. (b) Parking of utility and recreational vehicles. (1) No ...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... (d) Boats and recreational vehicles. (2) Permits for driveway parking. A permit hereunder for boats and recreational vehicles only may be issued by the city manager or his designee for driveway parking for not more than three days in any 30-day period for the purpose of preparation for, and cleaning after, a recreational outing. An RV is "a motor vehicle or motor vehicle and attachment primarily designed as temporary living quarters for recreational camping or travel use 15 feet or more in length (Including) a travel trailer, camping trailer, truck camper, pop-up trailer and motor home."

High Grass/Weeds: "Sec. 26-117. - Prohibition of weeds, high grass, and debris. It is unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting, or having under his control any lot or premises (whether vacant or improved) within the city to permit the same to be covered, in whole or in part, with any weeds, high grass, downed timber or brush, old logs, decaying vegetable matter, trash or trash piles, junk, scrap, open garbage, filth, or debris whatsoever..."

Swimming Pools Maintenance and Water Discharge: "303.1 Swimming pools (International Property Code as adopted by the City); Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair. Sec. 8-178. - Swimming pools. (d) Emptying onto public way prohibited. The owner, tenant, or occupant of any property or residence ... on which is situated a swimming pool, is prohibited from emptying, causing to be emptied, or permitting to be emptied the swimming pool in any manner whatsoever that causes or permits any amount of water therefrom to reach any street, alley, or public way in the city."

And now a very quick overview of Code Compliance. A city creates

a Code Compliance department in order to maintain the health and safety as well as the upkeep and quality of life of the city for its residents. Castle Hills has a Code department and follows a system to deal with code violations. To start with, it's important to understand that all code violations must be witnessed by the Code officer from the public right-of-way. The Code officer may also work solely on the complaint of an impartial third party observer such as a Police Officer, a Fire Fighter, an Animal Control Officer, a Building or Health Inspector, or under a direct order from the City Manager. Code violations can be initiated by a citizen complaint but the Code officer or one of the above must still witness the violation. Upon witnessing an infraction, the violator be contacted with a letter of Notice of Violation. Once a Letter of Violation is sent out, the violator shall be provided ample opportunity to respond to the violation and correct it or work with the City in correcting it. Recently, the City has added a new tool to enforce code violations. If, in their discretion, a code official feels that a violation is either an immediate threat to public health/safety, that a resident is either a repeat violator of the same infraction or has chosen not to come into compliance after a warning of a violation(s), a citation to appear in Municipal Court will be issued to the legal owner of the property in lieu of a Letter of Violation. It's important to note that once the violation is in the citation phase, state judicial due-process requirements take priority. In some cases, this could take a significant amount of time.

All citizens are free to stop by the Municipal Court office at City Hall and file a formal complaint upon any other citizen of Castle Hills if you feel that the complaint process is not moving in an timely or adequate manner, and for those cases not witnessed and verifiable by observation by the code official or other parties listed above. Please take note that The City will not risk being placed in middle of civil matters, such as a neighbor dispute, but a citizen still has the right to seek remedy thru the court system.

Thanks for your time. I hope everyone has a safe summer.

By L. Zamarron

Code Compliance Invetigator

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The CH Woman's Club, Mayor Howell, City Manager Diane Pfeil and City Staff Celebrate the Opening of Whispering Waters Day Spa Located at 2108 NW Military Hwy with Owner, Anna Hollister, Manager Barry Genaske and Spa Staff.



Honorable Judge Karen Crouch and Honorable Judge Martha Tanner Administered the Oath of Office for Newly Elected Mayor Howell, Councilman Frank Paul, Councilman John Squire and Councilman Matthew Daggett at the May 12th City Council Meeting.



Mayor Howell Presented Eli Guerra and the Students of Karate Kids of America With a Proclamation at the May 12th City Council Meeting.



Captain Siemens Was Recognized for His Medal of Valor Award From the City of Boerne and Sgt. Waggoner Was presented a Personal Achievement Award by Police Chief Davis and Mayor Howell.

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City Secretary Exzentrius Sturdivant Administered the Oath of Office to Frank Paul, Who Was Appointed Mayor Pro Tempore by Mayor Howell.



Sixteen Castle Hills Residents Participated in the June Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Training Which Included Basic Disaster Response Skills including First Aid, Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression, and Team Organization.



CERT Training Participants Practice Fire Suppression at the McGimsey Scout Camp as Part of the Three Day Training Class.



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